



Weekly Newspaper

HIGHLIGHTS

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## Tragedy in Haiti



**A week after the devastating earthquake in Haiti the situation remains very hard despite the efforts of the international community**  
**See the article of the UN Secretary General on page 10**

### HIGHLIGHT

**Nikol Pashinian  
sentenced to 7  
years'  
imprisonment**

*By Sona Mashurian,  
IAC Noyan Tapan*

Yerevan Kentron and Nork-Marash communities' general jurisdiction court presided by judge Mnatsakan Martirosian by the January 19 judgement sentenced Haykakan Zhamanak daily's editor-in-chief Nikol Pashinian to 7 years' imprisonment.

The court considered as proved the charge brought to him by part 1, Article 225, RA Criminal Code, on organizing mass disorders on March 1 2008 in Yerevan. The court found him not guilty by part 1, Article 316, RA Criminal Code, on using violence to a power representative not dangerous for his life and health on October 23 2007, due to the lack of proof.

It should be mentioned that prosecutors Koryun Piloyan and Haroutiun Haroutiunian had petitioned to sentence N. Pashinian to

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## Tigran Sargsian: Armenia should be strong to be able to protect its compatriots

RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian visited the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial Complex on January 19, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the massacres of Armenians committed in Baku, to pay a tribute of his respect to crime's victims.

According to the RA government Information and Public Relations Department, the Prime Minister and officials accompanying him laid a wreath to the memorial for the victims. The visitors laid a wreath to the commemorative cross-stone, stood in a minute's silence in victims' memory and participated in the requiem ceremony.

T. Sargsian in his speech, in particular, said:

"Today is a day of commemoration, meditation and learning lessons for us. Twenty years ago our compatriots were killed in Baku only because they were Armenian. When paying the tribute of our respect to the victims we should accentuate this circumstance without fail. Our meditations are whether the Armenians spread throughout the world are

protected today, whether our dream to independently master our fate has completely come true today, whether there are no new dangers, new threats and whether we have a guarantee that there will be no new massacres, that our compatriots spread throughout the world will not be persecuted only because they are Armenian, they want to be Armenian irrespective of the place of their residence. The lesson we should learn from history is the following: the only reliable guarantee that we will be able to solve our national problems and will exist as a people, as a nation is our mighty, independent state. Our only guarantee is that we should have a strong Armenia to be able to protect its compatriots, its citizens throughout the world. The lesson we learnt is also that we should be consolidated and cooperate around our national issues as we should realize very well that we have serious dangers and challenges in the future. The evidence of all this is not only the Baku massacres committed twenty years ago but also

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## Turkey sees problem in the resolution of the Armenian Constitutional Court

On January 18, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey spread a press release, which read:

"The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia has declared its decision of constitutional conformity on the Protocols between Turkey and Armenia signed on 10 October 2009 with a short statement on 12 January 2010. The Constitutional Court has recently published its grounds of decision. It has been observed that this decision contains preconditions and restrictive provisions which impair the letter and spirit of the Protocols.

The said decision undermines the very reason for negotiating these Protocols as well as their fundamental objective. This approach cannot be accepted on our part.

Turkey, in line with its accustomed allegiance to its international commitments, maintains its adherence to the primary provisions of these Protocols.

We expect the same allegiance from the Armenian Government."

The CC resolution adopted on

January 12 recognized the Turkish-Armenian protocols conform to the Armenian Constitution. An explanatory part of the Resolution also stressed that these protocols are solely about establishing diplo-



*Ahmet Davutoglu and Edward Nalbandian*

matic relations between the two countries and opening their de fact land border. The protocols cannot influence any other problems, the Court has decided (see our previous issue for details).

The reaction of the RA Foreign Ministry was that the Armenian minister Edward Nalbandian had said on January 19 that he was

going to have a phone conversation with his Turkish counterpart.

This talk did occur on January 20. According to an official report of the Armenian foreign Ministry, by the initiative of the Armenian side Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Turkey Edward Nalbandian and Ahmet Davutoglu had a phone conversation.

According to the same source, Edward Nalbandian expressed his astonishment with the statement of the Foreign Ministry of Turkey released on January 18 on the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia. Minister Nalbandian mentioned that it is at least surprising to see preconditions and contradiction with the very reason in the decision of the Constitutional Court which confirmed the Protocols correspondence to the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

Foreign Minister of Armenia had also expressed his concern that since October 2009 no progress has been fixed in the process of ratification in Turkey. At the same time the Turkish side is continuously

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## BRIEF NEWS

At the invitation of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan together with his spouse Rita Sargsyan paid a short working visit to Moscow on January 18. During a talk held at the Russian president's residence near Moscow, the sides discussed issues related to the 2010 cooperation programs of the two countries, further expansion of the political dialogue, promotion of trade and economic cooperation and overcoming the economic difficulties caused by the global crisis, development of cooperation between regions of the Russian Federation and marzes of the Republic of Armenia, and further deepening of relations between Armenia and Russia in the humanitarian field.

At the end of 2009 the Armenian ambassador to Russia Armen Smbatian was elected CEO of the Interstate Fund of Humanitarian Cooperation of the CIS States. In this connection Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on January 21 signed a decree on relieving A. Smbatian of his post as Armenian Ambassador to the Russian Federation. The press service of the RA president reports that by another presidential decree signed on the same day, Oleg Yesayan was appointed Armenian Ambassador to the Russian Federation (residence in Moscow). Oleg Yesayan is a former Speaker of the National Assembly of Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

By RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan's decision David Muradian was relieved of the post of RA Deputy Minister of Culture. Noyan Tapan was informed about it by the RA NA Press Service.

RA President Serzh Sargsyan and EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Peter Semneby, at a January 21 meeting, discussed the expanding agenda of Armenia-EU relations. According to RA President's Press Office, P. Semneby said that currently EU was at the stage of active changes. The interlocutors also exchanged thoughts over regional developments, in particular, the Nagorno Karabakh settlement negotiations process and normalization of relations between Armenia and Turkey. Peter Semneby had also met with the Speaker of the National Assembly and leader of the radical opposition, first president of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosian.

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## Nalbandian does not rule out failure of Armenian-Turkish normalization

If Turkey is not prepared to head for the protocols' ratification and it continues to use a language of preconditions, then it is not ruled out that the Armenia-Turkey normalization process will meet with failure. In case of failure, Turkey's efforts to shift the responsibility onto Armenia will not be comprehended by the international community. Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian stated this at the January 22 press conference to summarize the foreign policy in 2009.

As for the Turkish side's claims that the RA Constitutional Court's decision contains preconditions and contradicts the provisions and goals of the protocols signed on

October 10 and that the Armenian side has made some changes in the protocols, E. Nalbandian said that these claims "do not correspond to reality". "We hope that Turks will not attempt to use some artificial, invented pretexts as a reason for not ratifying these protocols," E. Nalbandian said.

In response to the question about whether adoption of a document on the Artsakh conflict is possible in 2010, the foreign minister replied: "It is difficult to say what will happen in 2010. If the Azerbaijani side shows a more constructive approach, progress is possible. However, I wouldn't say that a sudden change may occur in the next 2 months."

## Minsk Group Co-Chairs bring the updated Madrid principles

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs issued the following statement on January 22:

"On January 20, the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs (Ambassador Yuri Merzlyakov, the Russian Federation; Ambassador Bernard Fassier, France; Ambassador Robert Bradtke, United States) met with Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan in Yerevan, Armenia. As instructed by their presidents in L'Aquila in July 2009, the Co-Chairs delivered to President Sargsyan, just as they had to President Ilham Aliyev during their visit to Baku in December 2009, an updated version of the Madrid Document of November 2007, containing the Co-Chairs' latest articulation of the Basic Principles. On January 21, the Co-Chairs met President Aliyev in Baku, Azerbaijan. In their discussions with the Co-Chairs, each

president expressed their commitment to continue to pursue a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and reaffirmed the seriousness of their side in the negotiations.

The Co-Chairs traveled to Astana, Kazakhstan for consultations with the Government of Kazakhstan, upon its ascension to the Chairmanship of the OSCE. Following their consultations in Astana, they will continue on to Sochi, Russia, where Russian President Dmitry Medvedev will host the next meeting between the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia."

It was reported earlier, that a meeting of the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan is to take place on January 25 in Sochi, Russia. Russian president Dmitry Medvedev will also take part in the meeting.

## Armenia-Turkey relations cannot become very warm

By Nare Grigorian,  
IAC Noyan Tapan

Armenia has three main problems: establishment of Armenian-Turkish relations, Nagorno Karabakh settlement, and international recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Sergey Arutyunov, the Head of the Caucasus Department of the RF Academy of Sciences Institute of Ethnography and Anthropology, expressed such an opinion stressing that these three problems should not be linked with each other. In general, according to him, the latest regional developments give a ground to be optimistic about the future: the Russian-Armenian relations remain at a high level, and meanwhile the process of normalizing Armenia-Turkey relations is praiseworthy.

"Russian Foreign Minister's visit to Yerevan once more showed that the issues of Nagorno Karabakh conflict and Armenian-Turkish relations should be viewed separately," Alexander Skakov, an expert of the Russian Institute of International Studies, mentioned in his turn. According to him, there are both new opportunities and new challenges in the normalization process of Armenia-Turkey relations. As A. Skakov declared,

there were also challenges for Russia as Armenia will not need the Russian military base in case Armenia has normal relations with Turkey.

Alexander Iskandarian, the Director of the Caucasian Institute in Armenia, opposing to the speaker said that he does not think that



Armenia-Turkey relations can become so warm that Armenia will not need the Russian military base in its territory. According to him, these troops are of much political significance and strengthen Armenia's and Russia's strategic cooperation.

Vladimir Kazimirov, the former representative of the RF President in the Nagorno Karabakh negotiations, predicted that the Armenian-Turkish rapprochement can have a positive impact on the conflict. According to him, Turkey has a constructive approach and in spite of much liking for Azerbaijan is not for power methods.

## Turkey sees problem ...

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and obviously trying to put preconditions: it creates an impression of seeking artificial pretexts and threatens the whole process of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations.

Assessing positively the fact that in MFA statement of January 18 the Turkish side publicly reaffirmed the danger of putting preconditions, Armenian Foreign Minister suggested his Turkish counterpart to stay committed to the letter and spirit of the Protocols and rapidly go forward.

Minister Nalbandian added that ratification process in Armenia is passing in accordance to defined procedure and without unreasonable delays, and the decision of the Constitutional Court of Armenia made more than one month before the deadline is the evidence of that.

Minister Nalbandian had also reiterated the necessity to act in accordance to taken commitments and pursuit immediate ratification and implementation of protocols, with avoidance of actions, designed to put invented pretexts aimed at the thwarting of the process.

This phone conversation was covered by Turkish media as well. According to their version, Turkish minister Ahmet Davutoglu, had told his Armenian counterpart that there were unacceptable preconditions in RA Constitutional Court's January 12 decision. He had said that Turkey is loyal to the spirit of the signed protocols and expects the same resolution from the Armenian side. According to A. Davutoglu, the notification process started in Turkish society straight after the signing of the protocols, and the protocols were submitted to the parliament, while the Armenian side has not submitted them to the parliament yet.

Hence, a tension has formed in the Armenian-Turkish relations. The more recent information about this issue is the report about a phone conversation between Ahmet Davutoglu and the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. According to media reports, Mr Davutoglu has repeated his concerns about the resolution of the Armenian Constitutional Court and has said Turkey is ready to go ahead with normalization of its relation with Armenia.

## Robert Kocharian meets with Iranian Foreign Minister in Tehran

Former RA President Robert Kocharian met with Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki on January 20 in Tehran. According to the Tehran Times daily newspaper, issues related to the bilateral relations and regional developments were discussed at the meeting. R. Kocharian declared that Armenia was ready to expand cooperation with Iran. It was reported that at the meeting R. Kocharian also spoke about the necessity of being guided by regional approaches in the issue of security and economic development in the region saying that "the recipes of foreign states of settling the crises in the Caucasus are harmful."

In response to news.am's question of who empowered R. Kocharian to come up on behalf of Armenia head of the RA Foreign Ministry Press Service Tigran Balayan advised to ask it at R. Kocharian's office. And head of second President's office Viktor Soghomonian confirming that indeed such a meeting took place meanwhile mentioned that he was not present at that meeting and was not able to say whether R. Kocharian made statements on behalf of Armenia.

On January 22, Armenian foreign minister Edward Nalbandian told reporters that it was "nothing surprising" in the visit of Kocharian to Iran who was invited as a private person.



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## Defeats and victories

By David Petrosyan

*"From defeat to defeat up to a complete victory"*

Mao Tse-tung

The new year of 2010 started with several local defeats of the Armenian opposition.

First of all it is the elections held on January 10 at Yerevan electoral district N 10 for the mandate of deputy Khachatur Sukiasian who had put down his mandate. Extra-parliamentary Armenian National Congress (ANC) nominated for the vacant seat the candidature of editor-in-chief of the Haykakan Zhamanak opposition newspaper Nikol Pashinian being accused on a criminal case. The latter was accused of attacking a power representative in 2007 and organization of mass disorders after the presidential elections of 2008, as a result of which, according to official data, 10 citizens of Armenia died.

N. Pashinian's rival in the elections (N. Pashinian was kept under arrest during the election campaign and had no possibility to carry out the campaign) was a little known person, a representative of the National Unity party Ara Simonian. Party's leader is Artashes Geghamian who ran unsuccessfully for the presidential elections in Armenia in the past three elections.

As usual, the local elections in Yerevan had a low turnout: only 24% of the total number of voters went to ballot. Cases of violation of the legislation, violence and riggings were fixed in the elections. Naturally, the representative of the opposition could not win these elections, "standard" ones by the criteria of Armenia. A. Simonian was announced winner.

At present N. Pashinian's repre-

sentatives try to achieve invalidation of the elections results by the court due to many violations. Opposition representatives partly succeed in this issue, as the Administrative Court presided by judge Ruzanna Hakobian pronounced a judgement, which binds the district electoral commission to accept and examine the complaints of N. Pashinian's representatives. While, CEC Spokesperson Tatev Ohanian has already stated that CEC cannot reconsider the elections results and this right only belongs to the Constitutional Court.

After these elections many articles and reflections appeared in media, in particular, in Armenian Internet, that ANC exhausted itself and we should think of creating a new opposition. At that, a number of authors suppose that ANC has weakened so much that is not able to ensure its supporters' turnout in the elections.

On the one hand, the criticism seems to be fair and, at first sight, it expresses quite grounded opinion that as they failed to ensure N. Pashinian's victory they should not have nominated his candidature. On the other hand, the election results are partly normal as the majority of ordinary voters wishes radical changes in the country in general and not in an individual electoral district irrespective of the fact who is the person running for deputy's post. The point is that voters will go to ballot in national (parliamentary or presidential) elections.

Under these circumstances, in our opinion, ANC made a right decision on taking part in the elections as a political force not running for elections, even if they are rigged, swiftly degrades and loses its political tonus. While certain

level of political tonus can be maintained only at the expense of dynamics, including running for the elections. For ANC, it is important to maintain the political tonus of its structures and of the active minority, which under certain circumstances can swiftly transform into a majority. Stopping the struggle would be a real defeat for the opposition. It has not happened for the present.

All above mentioned does not mean that the ANC leaders and organization men should not look for new participation forms in their



ANC leaders at a rally

working with society and in public-political processes.

On January 19, editor-in-chief of the Haykakan Zhamanak newspaper Nikol Pashinian, according to the judgement of the general jurisdiction court of Yerevan's Kentron and Nork-Marash communities (judge Mnatsakan Martirosian) was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. N. Pashinian was found not guilty by part 1, Article 316, RA Criminal Code, "use of violence to a power representative" and was only sentenced by part 1, Article 225, "organization of mass disorders." It was unexpected as the prosecution demanded six years' imprisonment

by Article 225. In practice courts always reduce the punishment term demanded by the prosecution by a year. However in this case the court acted in the opposite way by adding one more year.

Practically all leading human rights organizations of Armenia made statements that the court judgement was illegal, has a political implication and contains elements of vendetta.

Representatives of ANC and the parliamentary opposition, the Zharangutiun (Heritage) party harshly criticized the court judgement.

As to representatives of the ruling parliamentary majority, first of all the Republican Party of Armenia, its leaders and organization men consider the judgement fair and grounded.

N. Pashinian's lawyers are going to appeal to the Appeal Court and then to the higher instance, Cassation Court, nevertheless, they consider that they can never achieve justice in Armenia. They only hope to achieve justice through the European Court.

N. Pashinian's conviction poses many problems for the Armenian authorities, including within the framework of non-fulfillment of the commitments assumed by PACE Resolution N 1677. Almost for sure this judgement will further complicate official Yerevan's position not only in Strasbourg but also in its all following interrelations with European structures. The latter will receive additional trumps for exerting a political pressure upon the Armenian leadership on the issue of Nagorno Karabakh settlement and on normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations.

Depriving of membership in the

PACE delegation deputy from the parliamentary opposition Zaruhi Postanjian (Zharangutiun faction) was a bad news for the opposition. The leadership and the officials of the National Assembly explain the factual removal from the delegation the only representative of the real parliamentary opposition by the argument that the faction Z. Postanjian represents is too small and the opposition seat in the delegation should be only given to an ARFD representative and the remaining seats should belong to representatives of the three ruling coalition parties. We know that the issue of Armenia is to be heard at the January 25 PACE session. In Z. Postanjian's opinion, the Co-rapporteurs for Armenia, John Prescott and George Colombier reached a secret agreement with the Armenian authorities. This is why the authorities are very much interested in real opposition's voice no longer being heard at PACE.

Whether a regular deal will be concluded between official Yerevan and eurobureaucrats - no one knows, but no doubt the very fact of removing Z. Postanjian from the Armenian delegation in PACE will be used against Armenia in the future.

Summing up the January defeats of the parliamentary (Zharangutiun) and extra-parliamentary (ANC) opposition we can state that they cannot be assessed as political defeats. Rather on the contrary, these are defeats that can turn into political victories in the future.

The Buddhist wisdom written in the epigraph and altered a little by Mao Tse-tung is evidence that imaginary victories day and night broadcast by many Armenian TV channels completely under official Yerevan's control can prove to be defeats.

## Former RA Foreign Minister: Russia has key of Nagorno Karabakh settlement

By Nare Grigorian,  
IAC Noyan Tapan

The court sentence passed on the case of Haykakan Zhamanak newspaper's editor-in-chief Nikol Pashinian was unprecedented in its whole essence. Former RA Foreign Minister, Armenian National Congress member Alexander Arzumanyan stated at a January 21 press conference. In response to the question of why the court sentenced N. Pashinian to seven years' imprisonment while the prosecution party demanded six years A. Arzumanyan said that he does not understand judge Mnatsakan Martirosian's motivation and that question should be asked to the

person giving an instruction to the latter.

Speaking about Armenian-Turkish relations A. Arzumanyan declared that their improvement is closely connected with developments in the Nagorno Karabakh settlement. "Turkey has been declaring it constantly, from the moment of signing the protocols, several times a day, at the highest level," he mentioned.

According to A. Arzumanyan, Turkey and Russia have coinciding economic interests and from that point of view Armenia's vital interests are a "small change" for Russia. Reminding that Armenia's football diplomacy started from

RA President's visit to Moscow the ANC representative said that Russia also has the key of Nagorno Karabakh settlement. "And Armenia as a vassal state does what its elder brother dictates," A. Arzumanyan added.

Commenting upon RA Constitutional Court's decision on the protocols he stressed that it consisted of only one sentence. The rest part of the text, according to A. Arzumanyan, is just a preamble, in which many good wishes, as well as, for instance, the novel 40 Days of Musa Dag can be written. And, according to him, RA CC has a rich experience of writing good wishes.

"If we continue in the same spirit and not demand mandatory execution of the CC decision from our state bodies, then naturally, the Turks will stop the clamor they have raised and they will ratify the protocols after a short delay," A. Minasian predicted.

In the opinion of member of the Republican Party of Armenia faction Gagik Melikian, the CC decision had the effect of a cold shower on the Turks trying to use a language of preconditions with the Armenian authorities. He said that Armenian officials have repeatedly stated that the aim of the protocols is to establish diplomatic relations and open the bor-

der, which was affirmed by the Constitutional Court as well.

Besides, according to G. Melikian, no country has so far agreed with Turkey's claim that Armenian-Turkish relations are linked with the Karabakh problem. "Turkey will not succeed in linking these two issues together, and it will be compelled to ratify the protocols, just as it was compelled to sign them," the NA deputy said. He assured those present that the Republic of Armenia will never give up Western Armenia's territories and the Armenian Genocide recognition process and will not accept the Treaty of Kars.

## Nikol Pashinian sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment

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6 years' imprisonment by part 1, Article 225 and to 2.5 years' imprisonment by part 1, Article



316, with partial addition of measure of punishment, in total to 8 years' imprisonment.

As N. Pashinian's lawyer Lusine Sahakian said in her interview to journalists, they are going to appeal against the judgement at the Criminal Appeal Court.

According to her, passing such a sentence is immorality. According to the lawyer, even the prosecutors had petitioned to sentence N. Pashinian to 6 years' imprisonment by part 1, Article 225.

The National Press Club on January 20 made a statement expressing deep indignation over the judgement sentencing Nikol Pashinian to imprisonment.

The charge of "instigating mass disorders," according to NPC, indeed is nothing else than exercising the right of having convictions, staying loyal to them, receiving and spreading ideas reserved by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "for which Nikol Pashinian will pay by 7 years' imprisonment," NPC's statement read.

According to NPC, such a judgement of the court has a goal of sowing fear of professional activity among journalists and deepening self-censorship.

## Tigran Sargsian: Armenia should be strong to be able to protect its compatriots

from page 1

the current situation, Azerbaijan's official policy of agitating hatred for Armenians. It means we are obliged to be alert. By paying the tribute of our respect to innocent

victims' memory we should realize very well the formula of solving our national problems in the Armenian world. It is strengthening of the national statehood, mighty, strong, independent, free Republic of Armenia."



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- ◆ 2148 Tpagrichneri St, 4/4 floor, 180 sq. m, open household balcony, Spanish tiles, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas supply, central heating system, iron door. Price: 115 million drams.
- ◆ 2132 Baghramian Avenue, 3rd floor, needs redecoration, newly built, plastered walls, leveled floor, European windows and entrance door fixed, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas supply, central heating. Price: 600 thousand drams for a square meter.
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- ◆ 1467 Mashtots Avenue, 4/1 floor, 77.8 sq. m, normal state, 2 rooms, lavatory, 2 windows facing the street, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas supply, suitable for an office. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 1530 Sayat-Nova Avenue, 1st floor - 330 sq. m, 11 rooms, 2 lavatories, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas supply, BAXI system, suitable for an office. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 1386 Papazian St, 150 sq. m. land, cellar + 1 story + attic - 358 sq. m, interior decoration not completed, suitable for a shop. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 1446 near Opera, 5/1 floor, 185 sq. m, "state" condition, 5 windows facing the street, opened entrance, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas supply, suitable for an office, medical center, shop and any other activity. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 1354 Tumanian St, 5/cellar, 200 sq. m, major repairs, big hall, VIP hall, cloak-room, study, lavatory, new furniture and appliances. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 1350 Leningradian St, 2-story stone building - 300 sq. m, height - 4 meters, showcases - 10 m, 2 halls, compartments, 2 lavatories, 2 kitchens, Euro repairs, exterior facing - green granite, suitable for a restaurant, bar. Price: 220 million drams.
- ◆ 1524 Baghramian Avenue, cellar + 1.2 stories, cellar - 50 sq. m, two stories - 356 sq. m, needs redecoration, newly built, plastered walls, leveled floor, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas supply, central heating. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 1377 Artsakh St, 5/1 floor - 400 sq. m, height - 4.5 meters, showcase - 18 m, 12 rooms, kitchen, lavatory, 24-hour water, gas supply, suitable for a bank, office. Price negotiable.

## LANDS

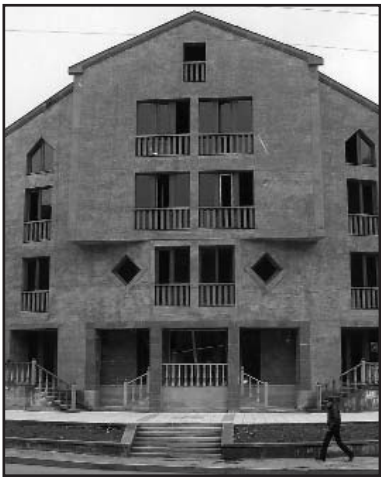
- ◆ 1869. Kaskad, area close to high-speed highway, 720sq/m, front is 26sq/m, convenient for building. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 711. Aygedzor (close to Bass hotel), 900 sq/m., front 18.30 sq/m. has an allowance for building building. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 1393 Cascade, 163 sq. m, privatized, personal plot, empty, nice view, possibility for building communications. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 1402 Hr. Kochar St, 1,100 sq. m, personal plot, front -25 m, privatized, empty, possibility for building communications. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 1365 Avan, 3,500 sq. m, privatized, 2nd line, front - 72 m, for production purposes, possibility for building communications. Price: 40 thousand drams for a square meter.
- ◆ 1351 Monument, 2,000 sq. m, privatized, front - 17 m, APZ permission, for social purposes: suitable for a restaurant, hotel. Price negotiable.

- ◆ 1331 Noah district, 400 sq. m, privatized, permission to construct a building, possibility for building communications. Price: 22 million drams.
- ◆ 115 Isakov, 3000 sq.m., Land (public). Price: 1sq.m-210\$-66,000 AMD
- ◆ 121 Jrvezh, 5400 sa.m., Land in industrial area. Price: 1sq.m-110\$-33,600 AMD
- ◆ 116 Nork-Marash, Hovsepyan, 3000 sq.m., Land (public). Price: 1sq.m-180\$-55,000 AMD
- ◆ 117 Shahumyan, Ashtarak Highway, 3000 sq.m., Land (public).
- ◆ 118 Davitashen, 3rd quarter, 3000 sq.m., Land (public). Price: 1sq.m- 160\$-46,000 AMD

## PRIVATE HOUSES

- ◆ 2928. Jrvej, 3 storied, land 1000 sq.m., building 680sq.m., 2 entrances, 4 lavatories, gas, electricity, central heating, garden. Price 260 0000 USD
- ◆ 2577 Monument, 750 sq. m. land, semi-basement + 2 stories (stone building)+ attic, total area - 370 sq. m., 5 bedrooms, 2 kitchens, laundry, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas supply. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 2874. Next to Ashtarak highway, newly built 3storied stone building 500 sq/m, ferzit lining, land 900 sq.m. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 2835 Arabkir St, 320 sq. m. land, 4 stories - 460 sq. m, newly built, Euro repairs, 1st floor - 2 garages, sauna, 2nd floor - drawing-room, anteroom, kitchen, 3rd floor - 3 bedrooms with their lavatories, 4th floor - big hall, kitchen, lavatory, Spanish tiles, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas supply, BAXI system, heated floor, oak doors, swimming pool, fireplace. Price: 250 million drams.
- ◆ 2555 Silikian district, 850 sq. m. land, 2-story building - 350 sq. m, major repairs, 1st floor - bedroom, drawing-room, dining-room, kitchen, 2 lavatories, garage, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, 2 lavatories, Spanish tiles, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas supply, BAXI system, heated floor. Price: \$300,000.
- ◆ 2525 Noah district, 400 sq. m. land, privatized, semi-basement + 2 stories 500 sq. m, Euro repairs, 5 bedrooms, drawing-room, dining-room, summer and winter kitchen, 5 lavatories, Spanish tiles, kitchen furniture, 2 fireplaces, tonir, swimming pool. Price: \$480,000.
- ◆ 2454 Baghramian Avenue, 650 sq. m. land, privatized, 2.5-story stone building - 350 sq. m, 4 bedrooms, drawing-room, 2 kitchens, 4 lavatories, major repairs, Spanish tiles, 24-hour water, gas supply, BAXI system. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 2452 Yerznkian St, 300 sq. m. land, 3-story stone building - 450 sq. m, each floor - 150 sq. m, on each floor - 4 bedrooms, drawing room, lavatory, Euro repairs, Jacuzzi, Spanish tiles, gas supply, BAXI system, fireplace, swimming pool, garage for 4 cars. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 1569 Gulakian St, 830 sq. m. land, 852 sq. m. building, cellar + 3 stories + attic, 4 bedrooms, garage, 5 lavatories, Euro repairs, swimming pool, 24-hour water, gas supply, electric heating, thick metal fence, fruit bearing trees. Price to be agreed. gas, garage. Price negotiable

## HOTEL TERRITORY FOR SALE



- ◆ 2 Djermuk city, 4 storied, 1200 sq.m., land 306 sq.m. Price: negotiable

## NEWLY BUILT

- ◆ 30. Demirchyan street, from one side it is 7 floors, from the other it is 8 floors, 1st and 2nd floors are parkings for 1500\$, 20 apatmnnts: 1400-1600\$ (1400\$ 70%, 1600\$ 40%), walls are plastered, the



floor is leveled, Euro windows and front door, individual heating and cooling system, monthly service price is 10 000 AMD. Payment by stages.

- ◆ 36. Komitas, 8 storied building, 75-200 sq.m., walls are plastered, floor smoothed, Euro windows, iron door, gas, permanent hot and cold water, parking. Price: negotiable.
- ◆ 33. Kilikia, Tsitsemakaberd highway, 10 storied monolith - concrete building, 80 sq/m and more, will be put into operation on July 2010, walls are plastered, the floor is leveled, will be Euro windows and front door, 2 entrances, each of which has 2 lifts, commercial areas for 1000 sq/m, parking area for 67 cars. Price negotiable, payment by stages.
- ◆ 24. Cheremushka, Fuchiki street, 14 storied building, will be put into operation in 2010, monolith - concrete building, Euro windows and front door. Started from 55 sq/m and more, gas, plastered. The price for 1sq/m is 800-100\$, payment by stages
- ◆ 45. Blur, 12 storied monolith - concrete building, 90 sq/m and more, the building will be ready in Spring 2010, gas, plastered, lifts. The price negotiable, the payment by stages.

## FOR RENT

1 room

- ◆ 882 Sayat Nova str., 7/6, 50 sq.m., euro standard repair, 1 bedroom, telephone, new furniture, kitchen furnished, lavatory. 185000 drams
- ◆ 913. Pushkin str. 50 sq/m, 9/2, European-standard repair, 1 room, gas, running cold and hot water. Price 100000 drams
- ◆ 906. Amirian str., 45 sq/m, 11/4, European-standard repair, 1 bedroom, gas, running cold and hot water, BAXI system, modern furniture. Price 203500
- ◆ 899. Sarian str., 50 sq/m, 5/2, European-standard repair, 1 bedroom, running cold and hot water, lavatory, closed balcony, household items, furniture. Price 129500 drams
- ◆ 897. Komitas, 37 sq/m, 5/3, European-standard repair, gas, running cold and hot water, 1 room, furnished. Price 222000 drams
- ◆ 751 Tumanian St, 4/2 floor, 42 sq. m, Euro repairs, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas supply, geyser, furniture, appliances, air conditioner. Price: 160 thousand drams.
- ◆ 742 Nalbandian St, 6/6 floor, 45 sq. m, repaired, 1 room turned into 2, Spanish tiles, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas supply, furniture, appliances. Price: 130 thousand drams.
- ◆ 477 Tumanian St, 5/2 floor, 42 sq. m, Euro repairs, Spanish tiles, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas supply, shower cabin, furniture, appliances. Price: 140 thousand drams or 10 thousand drams a day.

2 rooms

- ◆ 1914. Cascad, Tamanyan street,5/4, 72sq.m., 2rooms, capital repair, furnished, technique, baxi, AC, sputnik, permanent hot and cold water, gas. Price: 1200\$
- ◆ 1961. Tumanian street, 4/2, 86sq.m., 2 rooms., Euro repair, Euro windows, Furnished, permanent hot and cold water. Price: 1200\$, 1day: 70\$
- ◆ 1143 Khanjian St, 6/2 floor, 60 sq. m, Euro repairs, Spanish tiles, shower cabin, air conditioner, furniture, appliances. Price: 25 thousand drams.
- ◆ 1960. Mashtots avenue. 6/2, 70-75sq.m., 2 rooms, capital repair, furnished, lavatory, 2AC, baxi system, water reservoir 400 l, Price 1000\$.
- ◆ 1912. Abovian str., 53 sq/m, 5/2, European-standard repair, 2 rooms, gas, running cold and hot water, furnished. Price 407000 drams
- ◆ 1923. Terian str., 50 sq/m, 4/2, modern repair, 1 bedroom, gas, BAXI system, running cold and hot water, A.C. household items, washing-machine, furnished
- ◆ 1941. Hin Erivantsu str., Northern Avenue, 68 sq/m, 11/11, major repair, heating system, 1 bedroom, running cold and hot water, furnished. Price 370000 drams
- ◆ 719. Tumanian str., 86 sq/m, 4/3, European-standard repair, given with furniture and without. Price 370000 drams
- ◆ 1103 Baghramian Avenue, 3/1 floor, 70 sq. m, major repairs, Spanish tiles, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas, BAXI, air conditioner, furniture, appliances. Price: 310 000 drams.
- ◆ 1143 Khanjian St, 6/2 floor, 60 sq. m, Euro repairs, Spanish tiles, shower cabin, air conditioner, furniture, appliances. Price: 25 thousand drams.
- ◆ 1018 Tumanian St, 4/4 floor, 70 sq. m, major repairs, Spanish tiles, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas, BAXI, air conditioner, furniture, appliances. Price: 320 000 drams.s.
- ◆ 1923 Terian str., 4/2, 50 sq/m, 2 rooms, modern, repaired, A.C., running cold and hot water, gas, BAXI system. Price: 222000 drams
- ◆ 1900 Tamarian str., 5/3, 58 sq/m, 2 rooms, major repair, furniture modern, running cold and hot water, gas, elevator. Price: 370000 drams
- ◆ 899 Sarian str., 5/2, 50 sq/m, 2 rooms, Europeanstandard repair, running cold and hot water, closed balcony, refrigerator, furnished, household items. Price: 129500 drams

3 rooms and more

- ◆ 1694. Moskovian street., 6/4, 4 rooms., Euro repair., 2 open balcony, 3 lavatories, jacuzzi, 2 AC, furnished, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system. Price 1500 USD
- ◆ 1635 Tamarian str., 75 sq.m., major repair, 2 bedrooms, gas, running cold and hot water, furnished, household items, elevator, lavatory. 407000 drams
- ◆ 1681 North avenue, 6/2,130sq.m., 3rooms, Euro windows, 2 lavatories, not tiled, AC, permanent pot and cold water, gas. Price: 2000 \$
- ◆ 1698 Main avenue, 14/13, 200sq.m., duplex, capital repair., furnished kitchen, cellar, 2 garages, without furniture.Price: 3500\$- including taxes and exploitation expenses.
- ◆ 942. Terian str., 130 sq/m, 4/3, European-standard repair, 3 bedrooms, ceiling 3.50, open lodge, gas, running cold and hot water, furnished. Price 555000 drams
- ◆ 1581 21 Pushkin street, 7/6, Repaired, newly built, 128sq.m., 2bathrooms, Spanish tile, permanent hot

- and cold water, das, central heating, conditioning, Jacuzzi, furniture, technique. Price: 2500 USD
- ◆ 852. Demirchian str., 90 sq/m, 5/2, Europeanstandard repair, 2 bedrooms, 2 lavatories, gas, running cold and hot water, BAXI system, open lodge, A.C., given with furniture and without. Price 370000 drams
- ◆ 1635. Tumanian str., 96 sq/m, 9/2, major repair, 2 bedrooms, gas, A.C., elevator, lavatory, running cold and hot water, furnished. Price 370000 drams
- ◆ 1630. Mashtots str., 75 sq/m, 6/4, major repair, 2 bedrooms, gas, running cold and hot water, lavatory, heating system, furnished. Price 462500 drams
- ◆ 1674. Northern Avenue, 150 sq/m, 8/7, European-standard repair, 3 lavatories, 3 bedrooms, large balcony, gas, running cold and hot water, private heating, furnished. Price 111 0000 drams
- ◆ 1658. Northern Avenue, Hin Erivantsu str., 170 sq/m, 11/5, 2 lavatories, 3 bedrooms, double-sided balcony, major repair, A.C., BAXI system, 2 parking lots. Price \$2500
- ◆ 1484 Amirian St, 12/7 floor, 160 sq. m, Euro repairs, Spanish tiles, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas, BAXI, furniture, appliances. Price: 460000 drams.
- ◆ 1284 Nalbandian St, 5/2 floor, 130 sq. m, Euro repairs, 5 rooms, 2 bathrooms, 24-hour water, gas, BAXI system, 4 windows facing Sayat-Nova Avenue, suitable for an office. Price: 825000 drams.
- ◆ 1433 Sayat-Nova St, 4/2 floor - 90 sq. m, repaired, 3 rooms, Spanish tiles, 24-hour water, gas possibility, suitable for an office. Price: 900 000 drams.
- ◆ 1455 Tpagrichneri St, 4/3 floor, 100 sq. m, 2 bedrooms, Euro repairs, Spanish tiles, 24-hour cold and hot water, gas, furniture, appliances.
- ◆ 1448 Hanrapetulyan Street, 4/2 floor, 115 sq. m, new Euro repairs, 24-hour hot and cold water, furniture, appliances, 2AC. Price: 420 000 drams.
- ◆ 1407 Moskovian St, 5/4 floor, 200 sq. m, Euro repairs, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Spanish tiles, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas, BAXI system, furniture, appliances. Price: 760 000 drams.
- ◆ 1579 Northern Avenue, 8/6 repaired, 150sq.m., newly built, 3bedrooms., 2bathrooms, security system, central heating climate control. Price: 2300USD

## PRIVATE HOUSES

- ◆ 1060.Aygestan street, 2 storied, land 250sq.m., building 250sq.m., newly built, never lived in, furnished, 1st floor- kitchen, lavatory, working room, 2nd floor -4 bedrooms, 2 lavatories, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, security system, garage. Price 4000 USD
- ◆ 1052. Kanaker, Sarkavagi street, 2 storied, land 400 sq.m., building 250sq.m., newly built, Euro repair, without furniture, in the 1st floor, lobby, kitchen, lavatory, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, garage. Price 3000 USD.
- ◆ 1048. Nork Marash, 2 storied, land 160sq.m., building 220sq.m., capital repair, 1st floor - 2 garages in the, 2 cellars, summer kitchen, sauna, 2nd floor - 3 bedrooms, working room, sitting room 25sq.m., open verandah (beautiful view), baxi system, permanent hot and cold water, gas. Price: 2000 USD
- ◆ 742. Blur, Barbyus street, 3 storied stone building, land 400sq.m., building 160sq.m., Euro repair, 5 bedrooms, Chinese room, 2 sitting rooms, kitchen. AC, sport room, pool. Price 5000\$
- ◆ 2933. Charents street, newly built, 3 storied ston building, 400sq. m. land, the building is 350 sq.m., capital repair, permanent water, ferzit covering, never lived. Price 3000 USD.
- ◆ 1522. Komitas, Manushyan street, 2 storied, capital repair, land 300 sq.m., building 110sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, daz, 2 bedrooms, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD.
- ◆ 662. Nork gardens /Amaranotsayin/, 2 floors stone building, 300sq/m, land 100sq/m, fenced, has 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, gas, fireplace. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 674. Antarayin street, newly built, 320sq/m, 4 floors, 6 lavatories, furnished, heating system. Price 4000\$.
- ◆ 800. Jrashat, Plekhanov, land 100 sq/m, construction 140 sq/m, 1-storeyed, European-standard repair, A.C., gas, BAXI system, running cold and hot water, 2 bedrooms, living-room, garage. Price 740000 drams
- ◆ 1045. Blur, construction 850 sq/m, 4-storeyed, European-standard garage on ground floor, hall, kitchen, living-room on first floor, 4 bedrooms, hall, 2 open balconies on second floor, A.C., gas, BAXI system, running cold and hot water, 4 lavatories, large hall 170 sq/m on third floor, Internet, telephone, household items, furnished. Price 740000 drams
- ◆ 1043. Khnko Apor, land 100 sq/m, construction 340 sq/m, 3-storeyed, European-standard repair, garage on ground floor, living-room, lobby, kitchen, 2 lavatories on first floor, large balcony on second floor, gas, running cold and hot water, swimmingpool. Price 444 000 drams
- ◆ 1653 Davitashen, land 370 sq.m., construction 275, major repair, 3 bedrooms, running cold water, 2 lavatories, furnished A.C. 555000 drams
- ◆ 1653 Monument, construction 110 sq.m., 2/2 floor, 2 bedrooms, lavatory,major repair, running cold and hot water, A.C, separate entrance, given with furniture and without 444000 drams
- ◆ 942 Monument, 800 sq. m. land, 3-story building, major Euro repairs, 1st floor - garage, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, 2nd floor - 2 kitchens, 2 drawing rooms, 2 bathrooms, 3rd floor - 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Spanish tiles, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas, BAXI, swimming pool, granite stairs, furniture, appliances.

- Price negotiable.
- ◆ 934 Baghramian St, 500 sq. m. land, 1st floor - 200 sq. m, Euro repairs, 3 bedrooms, drawing room, 2 lavatories, Spanish tiles, 2 fireplaces: inside and outside, tonir, 24- hour hot and cold water, gas, BAXI system, furniture, appli-

- ances, swimming pool, 2 garages. Price: 910 thousand drams.
- ◆ 857 Shiraz St, 700 sq. m. land, 2-story stone building, 1st floor - garage, 2nd floor - drawing room, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, Spanish tiles, 24-hour cold and hot water, gas, furniture, appliances. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 989 Avan, 1,400 sq. m. land, semi-basement + 2 stories + attic, each story - 200 sq. m, basement - 2 rooms, 1st floor - sitting room, anteroom, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - sitting room, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, attic - room with training apparatus, balconies, Spanish tiles, Jacuzzi, 24-hour cold and hot water, gas, BAXI system, furniture, appliances, on-door speakerphone, video cameras, 2 garages, swimming pool, sauna, barbecue equipment. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 540 Bagramyan, cellar+2 floors+mansard, stone building, 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories, garage, privat heating, BAXI, gas, the selling is possible. Price: 3500 USD. Possible for sale.
- ◆ 990 In Monument, Papazian street, 2 storied stone building + half-cellar, has mansard,5bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2bathrooms, laundry, permanent hot and cold water, gas, plot of land 250sq.m, the size of whole construction is 370 sq.m. Price: Negotiable
- ◆ 1019 Nork, 2 storied, separate structure, 700 sq.m. land, 350 sq.m. construction, capital euro repaired, furnished, garage with remote control, pool, 3 bedrooms, one with bathroom, and 2 separate bathrooms. In the first floor sitting-room, gas, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi System, fireplace, view to town, walled. Price: Negotiable
- ◆ 1020 Noy district, 2 storied, 600 sq.m. land, 400 sq.m. construction, capital euro repair. In the first floor: kitchen, sitting room, bathroom. In the second floor: 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Furnished, garage, AC, Baxi system, permanent hot and cold water, walled. Price: Negotiable.

## PREMISES

- ◆ 1330 Proshian St, 5/1 floor + cellar, 1st floor - 64 sq. m, major repairs, 2 rooms, bathrooms, entrance from the street, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas, BAXI system, empty, suitable for a shop, office. Price: 760 thousand drams.
- ◆ 1113 Abovyan Koryun district, 2 storied, 400 sq.m., 2 separate entrances, capital euro repair, convenient for restaurant or shop, has a possibility for open air café. Price: Negotiable
- ◆ 1408 Zarobyan street, 2 storied, 300sq.m.construction, 600 sq.m. land, in a first floor hall and kitchen, in a second floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capital euro repair, gas, baxi system, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, garage, fruit garden. Price: Negotiable.
- ◆ 1436 Down Town, 8/1 floor + entresol, 1st floor - 107 sq. m, entresol- 53 sq. m, newly built, needs redecoration, plastered walls, leveled floor, show window, private heating, suitable for a shop, office. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 1411 Bagramyan Avenue, 3storied stone building, 5 bathrooms, cellar, garage, attic, 537 sq.m., mansard, kitchen in the first floor. Price: 120 000 AMD
- ◆ 1438 Komitas, 6 floors, cellar, mansard. Each floor is 120 sq.m., hasa need for cosmetic repair, walls are plastered, floor is leveled, hanging ceilings, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price: Negotiable
- ◆ 1429. Nalbandian St, 2 stories - 78 sq. m, each story - 38 sq. m, hall, lavatory, 2 show windows, door, two-way entrance, 24-hour water, gas, suitable for any activity. Price: 900 thousand drams.
- ◆ 1289 Mamikoniants St, 5/cellar, 200 sq. m, repaired, height - 2.8 meters, 4 rooms, 2 bathrooms, 24-hour water, gas, BAXI system, air conditioner, suitable for an office, laundry. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 1457 Republic square 1st circle. Capital repaired, hot and cold water, climate- control, central heating, cleaning, parking, (tax included.), 7500sq. Price: Persq. m- 12500AMD.
- ◆ 1461 Amiryan (down-town), 1st circle, 5 stored building, 300sq.m is renovated, the rest is under renovation, central heating, climate-control, parking, (tax included) . The price is available for 5 and more years, 2500sq. Price: Persq.m-40\$, Negotiable
- ◆ 1462 Teryan street, 3 stored, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Rent for a month-10000\$
- ◆ 1463 Bakhramyan- Erznkyan 2nd circle, 4 stored building, capital repaired, climate -control, central heating, parking, (tax included), 5000sq. Price: Persq. m- 22\$
- ◆ 1464 Heraci- Norq Amaranocayin street, capital repaired, 9 stored building, six floor available for business, hot and cold water, climate- control - chiller, central heating, individual toilet, , fitness club, conference hall, summer- café, green field, telephone, internet, 6 floor, every floor 312sq.m/ Price: Per-sq. m-30\$= 9000 dram, Tax included, All the expenses (water, gas, electricity ) also tax is included.





## CALL FOR TENDERS: INTERPRETATION-RELATED SERVICES IN ARMENIA

1. The Council of Europe is organising a **Call for Tenders** with a view to awarding a contract for interpretation-related services in Armenia.

The object of the contract concerns the provision of interpretation between Armenian and another language (i.e. bilingual meetings only), equipment (e.g. booths) and support logistical services (e.g. processing of claims) for meetings in Armenia as well as for study visits outside Armenia and outside Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg, France and its office in Paris, France.

The contract currently represents about 180 days until 31 December 2011; it may evolve in line with the Organisation's needs.

2. The **Council of Europe** is an international organisation with 47 member states, enjoying privileges and immunities under a General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities. Any dispute between the Council of Europe Secretariat and the contractor concerning the interpretation or execution of the contract in respect of which the parties cannot arrive at a friendly settlement will, in accordance with Article 21 of the above-mentioned General Agreement, be submitted to arbitration under the conditions laid down in the Secretary General's Rule No. 481 of 27 February 1976, as approved by the Committee of Ministers.

3. All bidders are required to meet the following **technical specifications**:

- ♦ **Type of interpretation** : simultaneous and consecutive interpretation.
- ♦ **Languages**: Bilingual meetings with Armenian and one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French).
- ♦ **Composition of teams**: The minimum number of interpreters, in case of simultaneous interpretation, shall be two and, in case of consecutive interpretation, shall be one. In the case of scientific or technical meetings or meetings presenting particular difficulties, such as systematic interpretation of documents read out, a large team of three interpreters shall be engaged for simultaneous interpretation, and a large team of two interpreters shall be engaged for consecutive interpretation.
- ♦ **Definition of the working day**: Each working day shall comprise a maximum of two sessions, each session lasting three hours to three and a half hours.
- ♦ **Professional residence**: For the purpose of this contract, interpreters may not have more than one professional place of residence simultaneously. The professional place of residence shall be declared to the Council of Europe thirty days in advance and may apply only to continuous periods of six months or more. In the case of interpreters who are AIIC members, the AIIC yearbook shall be binding.
- ♦ **Size of booths**: The supplier must abide by the requirements set out in ISO 2603 for fixed booths and ISO 4043 for mobile booths.
- ♦ **List of interpreters**: A list of qualified interpreters - with their qualifications, training and professional experience - must be submitted for vetting by the Interpretation Department.

### 4. Selection Criteria

Bidders will be assessed, according to the following weighing factors, on:

- ♦ Their ability to meet the above-mentioned technical specifications (50%);
- ♦ The rate of remuneration per day per interpreter, the rate of remuneration per half-day per interpreter, the level of financial compensation to be paid in case of overtime per interpreter, the amount of per diem requested in case of travel within Armenia and the rates for rent of equipment for simultaneous interpretation per day (30%);
- ♦ Their ability to provide interpretation-related services for several meetings on the same days in different locations throughout Armenia as well as study visits in different countries throughout Europe (10%); and
- ♦ Their understanding and respect for professional standards (10%).

### 5. Exclusion Criteria

Bidders will be excluded from the consultation process if they:

- ♦ Are subject to bankruptcy, liquidation, legal termination, arrangement with creditors or any other similar procedure;
- ♦ Have been finally convicted (with no possibility of appeal) of an offence concerning their professional conduct;
- ♦ Have been found guilty of grave professional misconduct;
- ♦ Have failed to fulfil their obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions;
- ♦ Do not have sufficient company capital to cover the scope of the tasks envisaged;
- ♦ Do not have an annual turnover equivalent to three times the annual value of the market to be awarded.

### 6. Submission of bids

Bids must be submitted, by **no later than 15 February 2010**, in a sealed envelope with the mention:

**" A n'ouvrir que par la Commission des Marchés "**  
**Framework contract for interpretation-related services - Armenia**

and should be enclosed within another one addressed to:

**CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**  
**2009A040**  
**à l'attention de la Commission des Marchés**  
**BP7**  
**F - 67075 Strasbourg Cedex**

They may also be sent by e-mail to the address of the Tenders Board: [cdm@coe.int](mailto:cdm@coe.int).

The decision of the Council of Europe, and its Tenders Board, to accept or reject a bid is not subject to appeal.

The contract will be awarded in **March 2010** based on a recommendation by the Council of Europe's Tenders Board, and the planned starting date for the execution of the contract is **1 April 2010**.

## Russian political scientist: Moscow is filled with Azeri books of anti-Armenian content

*By Nare Grigorian,  
IAC Noyan Tapan*

Moscow bookstores are filled with Azeri books about "aggressions of Armenians" and an attempt is made to prove that allegedly Armenians appeared in the region only in the 19th century. Russian political scientist Vladimir Zakharov reported this at a January 20 press conference. In his words, many specialists are ready to write books based on real facts by presenting the historic truth but they have no sponsors. "In my opinion, there should be state policy in the issue of spreading materials on the massacres of Armenians organized by the Azeris," V. Zakharov said and added that the RA President should personally attend to that issue.

According to Director of the

Museum-Institute of Armenian Genocide Hayk Demoyan, formerly Azeris printed books of anti-Armenian content in Azerbaijan and they had a low quality while now such books are printed in Moscow and at the highest level. He said that no one is able to remove from sale those books of not only anti-Armenian but sometimes of anti-Russian content as according to laws of business those engaged in printing are interested in selling their products.

H. Demoyan said that a memorial complex of "Azeri genocide" is planned to be built in Azerbaijan in the place where in reality 200 Armenian wealthy people and members of their families killed by Azeris are buried. To disprove that absurd Armenia is ready to financially take part in the holding of the DNA analysis of the bodies.

## Azeris permanently spreading of falsehood, information technologies specialist says

*By Nare Grigorian,  
IAC Noyan Tapan*

Azeri information agencies in their anti-Armenian agitation have already moved to obvious falsehood. Information technologies specialist Tigran Kocharian made such a statement at a January 20 press conference adding that those agencies place photos of corpses of Georgian soldiers and women on their websites presenting them as Azeris who perished in Aghdam, who allegedly were killed by Armenians. Besides, Azeris constantly try to invent various stories to veil their own ferocities and to lay their responsibility on Armenians. According to T. Kocharian, the main principle of Azeris in the anti-Armenian agitation is constant spreading of falsehood and thus exaggeration of the number of Azeri victims.

Another specialist, Samvel Martirosian added that on January

20 1990 the Soviet troops entered Baku and opened a fire at Azeris to stop the massacres of Armenians that had started from January 13 1990 in Baku. According to him, today Azeris spread false information that allegedly they saved and protected the Armenians and the Soviet troops killed them. "From their words it comes that it were Armenians that killed Armenians," S. Martirosian mentioned. According to him, it is a method accepted in the sphere of black PR: there are specialists who assert that, for instance, it were the very Jews who organized the Jewish Holocaust. According to S. Martirosian's observation, such misinformation is spread to mislead the international community.

And Nikolay Babajanian, the Chairman of the Our Home is Armenia organization, said that on January 20 1990 the Soviet authorities had to bring troops into Baku as Europe wanted it.

## DPA Chairman: Armenia's diplomatic corps proved to be at a very low level

The RA Constitutional Court with its decision on the Armenian-Turkish protocols corrected and



proofread the mistakes the RA Foreign Ministry had made. Aram Sargsian, the Chairman of the Democratic Party of Armenia (DPA), expressed such an opinion at a January 19 press conference. In

his words, in its time DPA had warned the authorities that the protocols contain not just mistakes but such inaccuracies and formulations which are a result of illiteracy and lack of will. "That is, the representatives of the state failed to protect state's interests. Our diplomatic corps proved to be at a very low level," A. Sargsian concluded.

He answered negatively the question of whether DPA is going to demand Foreign Ministry officials' resignation. According to A. Sargsian, it is up to the RA President to decide the issue of employing or dismissing these specialists. Meanwhile, the DPA leader welcomed RA President's policy mentioning that "unlike the previous two Presidents" S. Sargsyan listens to his opponent's opinion and only then makes a decision.

## Everything is Interesting at Texas

If, while walking in downtown Yerevan you see a stylized inscription from two small wooden bars reading "Texas" and an iron door below it, just ring the doorbell, and the door will surely open.

As if with the help of the time machine, you will find yourself in a completely different world where everything which makes one bar look like all the others is absent: no ceramic tiles on the floor, no tint-glass doors, no mirrors lit by modern lamps.

In the semi-darkness, you can notice a wooden staircase with



wooden handrails and squeaky steps. The tables, the chairs and the counter are all made of wood and are reminiscent of taverns of the past centuries. At the counter, there is a huge wine cask with two stumps around it, and coarse large iron chains hang from the wooden ceiling. There is the American flag next to it. A fence with a wicket (resembling gates of a cattle-pen) is on the far side of the room. The wooden paneled walls are covered with numerous photos of American Indians, cowboys, scenes from westerns, and with a lamp bearing the inscription: "From the coolest girls."

The posters and announcements on the walls immediately attract visitors' attention. The most important thing is to observe the Rules of Texas, which will guarantee you pleasant pastime; otherwise you will be deprived of the pleasure of being this bar's visitor. Visitors are recommended not to provoke quarrels with others and to show respect for the staff.

A poster on the wall informs you about the amount of ordered dishes, which will entitle you to a helping as a gift from the bar. Here are a lot of jocular announcements. All of them are not printed, but are written in bold hand with a highlighter.

The owners of the bar are Marianna Simonian, a teacher and psychologist, and her husband Ashot Simonian, a designer.

They decided to tell the story of Texas, their fourth offspring, together (the couple has three children). "We created Texas together, so we will jointly tell you about it," she explained. They spoke, making corrections and additions to each other's narrative and getting pleasure from their memories.

I was told that the director himself was responsible for the whole design. He likes wood as a natural material. He also chose the "cowboy and country" style.

But what function do the cask and stumps fulfill? What is the chain for?

They explained that the cask is not only an element of design. On usual days, it is used as a table. Many foreigners enjoy a meal in a standing position. "This is not peculiar to our Armenian mentality. At first it was quite unusual for

us. They eat leaning on those stumps. For such visitors, we simply write "Feet" as the number of their table on the bill. (laughs). They like it. But it is done only on ordinary days. Wild Boar's Day is different," Mrs. Simonian says.

Wild Boar's Day is held on Saturdays. A large pig is roasted whole in the tonir and then it is hung on the chains. According to the rules, guests shall cut off a portion for themselves with a big knife, in a cowboy manner. They may take as much meat as they want and do it not only once. They can also order garnish. A Wild Boar's Day starts at 9 pm, admission price is 2,500 drams.

The cask is also used on Thursdays and Fridays, which are Crayfish Days. On such evenings the admission price varies from 500 to 1,000 drams, depending on the price of the crayfish. The hot boiled crayfishes are put on a big tray placed on the cask. The guests approach the tray and take as many crayfishes as they want. After the meal, guests may throw leftovers into a trashcan themselves, without waiting for waitresses ("girls" as the owners call them). If a guest considers it proper, he (she) may throw away the leftovers and should not take offence at that. "Our visitors behave freely, which has a positive effect on them. It is important to find the boundaries of freedom." Not in all restaurants can such things be observed. Not every visitor is willing to clear the table, it may happen only in a special atmosphere when people are not constrained. I know that in other places waitresses can get into trouble if their manager sees a visitor throw away his leftovers.

So we spoke about three days in a week - a Wild Boar Day and two Crayfish Days, but what about the other days?

A Dance Day - Day of Salsa (a Latin American dance) is organized on Wednesdays. Those who cannot dance but want to learn come on these days. Among such visitors are both couples and single persons. Some visit the restaurant on Wednesdays only. After 4-5 dance lessons, that is every 20-25 days, a dance contest is held. The best couple receives valuable prizes. "The peculiarity of this event is its special atmosphere. Our guests have no complexes: they behave without restraint, which they cannot do in any other place," Mrs. Simonian says.

The inner side of the door is covered with metal plates resembling license plates of vehicles. "These are presents of our visitors, license plates of their cars from the State of Texas. We keep each item people gave to us. It is pleasant to give a present to someone and then, some time later to see that the person has kept it. The American flag in our bar is also a present from a U.S. citizen. He visited our bar and then again came to Armenia in order to bring the Texan flag to us," Mrs. Simonian recalls. Mr. Simonian adds: "Once a visitor gave us his photo, in which he and his friends wear cowboy clothes. This photo hangs here. Every year he together with his friends visits Armenia and each time he comes here so as to demonstrate to them that we keep his photo. It is nice that upon returning home, our guests tell their friends about us. Sometimes a foreign

guest informs us that his (her) friends had mentioned Texas as a place worth visiting in Yerevan".

**Do you celebrate any calen-**

**right in this hall, so we gave up this idea.**

**Despite the fact you value freedom so highly, your door is**



**dar holidays at Texas? If so, which ones?**

Every year we celebrate Victory Day on May 9 (the day of the USSR's victory over Nazi Germany). On May 9, we hang Soviet flags and treat all our visitors with brown bread, lard and vodka.

**Why do you celebrate this holiday - May 9?**

We do not forget that our Texas is located in Armenia, a country that once made part of the USSR



and sent its citizens to war.

**Do foreigners mark their holidays here?**

At first we tried to give attention to holidays celebrated in Armenia and abroad, but later we felt there is no such necessity because week-days at Texas are colorful and diverse. To foreigners, their visit to our Texas is a holiday in itself.

**I was told that you do not consider it as a disgrace when a visitor throws nut shells about. Is that really so?**

It is. Once a polite man (he is our frequenter now) came to Texas and ordered peanuts. We said: "You may throw the shells on the floor". He was surprised: "It is indecent!" "Never mind!" we replied. He ate peanuts, brushed the shells aside and remarked: "It is indecent, but very pleasant". (Mrs. Simonian laughs). As the saying goes "forbidden fruit is sweet" and within reasonable limits we derive pleasure from forbidden things. This freedom will do no harm: quite the opposite, you will get a charge out of it.

**I have also heard that your visitors are allowed to smash bottles by throwing them on the floor - with impunity?**

Previously they were given such an opportunity. We even allocated a special place behind the counter for this purpose. The foreigners were aware that for security reasons they could do so only in the envisaged place. Our compatriots do not understand it, in their opinion, if anything is permitted; it means that it is permitted everywhere. They used to smash bottles

**always locked and Point 1 of the Rules of the Texas reads: strict face-control. What can you say in this connection?**

Indeed, we have established strict face-control. Our visitors are well-bred people who know how to have fun and to relax properly. The majority of them are cultured people who enjoy the music of the 1980s.

If our girls feel that the given guest (or guests) is not suitable for us, they politely tell him that there

are no vacant seats, Mrs. Simonian says, and her husband adds: "We try to prevent people from wearing 'our national costumes' at Texas". He smiles, and upon noticing my perplexity, explains: "I mean track suits. Once we told a man that he should be appropriately dressed in order to enter the restaurant, and he said: 'If I wore an Adidas instead of this plain tracksuit, would you let me in?'" (Mr. Simonian laughs).

There are no security guards at Texas. The girls-waitresses decide whether or not to let a visitor in. They also have the right to present a bill and suggest that the guest should leave the restaurant in case of breaking hospitality rules. "A drunken person is difficult to control. It is easier for a woman to set a man straight. Men should be controlled only by women. Our girls

denly behaves in the way he may behave in other places, he will leave our restaurant and never enter it again. Being aware of that, people begin to control their own behavior. At this place, they change - to their own surprise. The reason lies in those around them: they are not aggressive, so there is no necessity for displaying aggressiveness.

**Could you tell us about the staff?**

"Our staff is composed of women, and I should say they are easy to work with. They are not waitresses in the usual sense. We call them 'our girls.' I had called them 'our girls' so often that they started to call me 'dad,' Mr. Simonian puts in. "Everything we have to create, we create together. We select our staff quite carefully. We must speak the same language. While I think about something, my girls say it aloud. Of course, such understanding is not achieved within a day or two, but is formed over the years; however, it should be people of a certain kind. Each of our girls is an individual. They have gradually become psychologists. By one gesture or phrase, they can realize what kind of man and guest the given person is, which are two different things - you should not forget about alcoholic drinks," Mrs. Simonian explains.

During our talk, country music was playing. Various bands are invited to perform on Mondays. Blues evenings are held occasionally when sounds of the piano and the saxophone are heard in the stable (the area behind the fence), and candles are lit.

The Book of Complaints about the Government and Proposals of Marriage is available at the bar. Those interested may put down a couple of lines in it.

**Surely there was an unusual case at Texas. Please tell us about it.**

There have been many such cases. Once a group of 15-16 cheerful middle-aged people, mostly married couples, came here. They were enjoying themselves for a long time, and they got so tired that fell asleep right on the stable's floor.

People often tell us: "We are glad to find Texas because nobody looks at us here; everybody is free here and behaves naturally. Our mentality often impedes us. What a pity!"




successfully carry out this job. Men intervene only in case of an emergency," Mrs. Simonian says.

**Are such emergencies frequent? And why?**

Emergencies occur very seldom. If, God forbid, a visitor sud-

**"Can you recall another interesting case?" this time the director asked a girl-waitress nearby.**

"Everything is interesting at Texas!" she said without hesitation.



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## Ministers should focus on major problems and shortcomings of 2009, prime minister says

By *Hasmik Hakobian,*  
IAC Noyan Tapan

The RA ministers of education and science, finance, economy, environmental protection, Diaspora, agriculture, labor and social affairs, sport and youth affairs, urban development, and transport and communication presented the 2009 reports on their activities at the Armenian government on January 20.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan reminded that the reports will be published and posted on websites of the ministries. Prior to discussing the reports, the prime minister said that he had instructed all the ministers to focus on the following issues. First, the major shortcomings and problems of 2009 that hindered the process of reforms and affected negatively the index of economic growth. Second, the lessons of the year 2009: "in 2010 we should point out the priority problems to be under direct control of ministers, and the ministers will present reports at the end of this year to show what positive changes have been made in relation to these problems," T. Sargsyan noted.

He once again underlined the significance of the programs implemented and three major programs to be implemented in 2010 under immediate control of the ministers. He reminded that the public must be informed about the programs ensuring economic growth this year.

Below are detailed reports on presentations of ministry of finance and ministry of economy.

An economic decline started in Armenia in January 2009 due to

the negative impact of the global financial and economic crisis. In particular, in January a 0.7% decline was recorded, which deepened reaching its culmination in July - 18.5%. Presenting the 2009



*Tigran Davtian*

activity report to Prime Minister, **Minister of Finance** Tigran Davtian said that since August the decline has been characterized by relatively modest indices, amounting to 16% in January-November.

So in early 2009 the fiscal policy, which was developed based on calculations for a developing economy, was rapidly changed into a new fiscal policy in line with the anti-crisis measures. In conditions of a fall in tax revenues, the expenditures were not reduced, but even increased. Therefore a fiscal policy to encourage gross demand was implemented both with respect to revenues and expenditures. The 2009 fiscal policy was aimed at ensuring macroeconomic stability and implementing a policy of economic growth.

According to T. Davtian, there was a decline in state budget revenues, including tax and other rev-

enues, in 2009. Last year state budget revenues made 676.4 billion drams, declining by 16.4% compared to the previous year. Tax revenues and duties amounted to 522.4 billion drams, falling by 15.9% compared to 2008. The tax revenues and duties/GDP ratio will make 16.6% in 2009, declining by 0.4% on 2008. Budget expenditures (without allocations under credit and grant programs from foreign sources, as well as expenses of the State Real Estate Cadastre Committee) will amount to 824.7 billion drams against the envisaged 897.4 billion drams, with the financing plan's execution of 91.8%.

The minister said that in 2009 the state budget deficit will make 7.4% of GDP, while the GDP/foreign debt ratio will make 36% against 13.2% in 2008. Loans received for 35-40 years with 7-10 year grace periods make over half of the foreign state debt. The domestic state debt amounted to 140.6 billion drams, including saving bonds of 244 million drams.

For the RA **Ministry of Economy**, 2009 was marked by the development of priority policies, the initiation of large-scale programs and the start of processes aimed at capacity development. Minister of Economy Nerses Yeritsian stated this during the presentation of the 2009 report.

In his words, with the aim of mitigating the impact of the global crisis on Armenia and preventing the possible social tension, complex measures were taken for efficient use of resources, and resources of donor organizations were mobilized. The minister underlined that loans of \$700 mil-

lion were attracted under programs on cooperation with the World Bank in order to help the priority branches of the economy withstand the crisis and to create prerequisites for long-term develop-



*Nerses Yeritsian*

ment. A package of \$60 million credit resources to assist the development policy was formed as part of the partnership policy, and the package was of importance in terms of fulfillment of state social obligations. Cooperation with the IMF allowed to inject \$500 million into the economy, preventing fiscal and monetary shocks in the country. Foundations for large-scale cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) were laid. Under the assistance program aimed at overcoming the crisis, budget support of \$80 million was provided for rehabilitation of the earthquake zone and implementation of the budget-financed social projects. Besides, an agreement on \$100 million budget support was reached through continued negotiations with the EU.

N. Yeritsian said that an unprecedented infrastructure-relat-

ed program began in Armenia. ADB assumed an obligation to provide concession loans of \$60 million for the first stage of the North-South Road Corridor Investment Program.

Assistance was provided to real sector within the framework of anti-crisis policy, in particular an amendment was made to the law on VAT, by which VAT payments are deferred for 3 years for import of goods over 300 million drams considered as investment, as well as for import of goods under investment programs approved by the government. An operative staff was established to discuss business plans submitted by private businessmen and to determine the form of assistance to them. The staff examined about 300 business plans, of which 24 projects of the total cost of 14.1 billion drams were approved. According to N. Yeritsian, the ministry also carried out consistent work on capacity building and governance improvement necessary for current reforms.

N. Yeritsian said the ministry took serious steps on the implementation of the strategy of industrial policy, the creation of infrastructure necessary for forming an information society in Armenia, and ensuring access to instruments of the European Neighborhood Policy. Special attention was paid to the creation of an assessment system in line with international standards, the formation and strengthening of Armenia's image as a tourism country, and to the introduction of a system for the Sustainable Development Program's implementation.

## CBA raises refinancing rate to 5.5%

By *Gayane Melikian,*  
IAC Noyan Tapan

At the January 21 sitting, the Board of the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) made a decision to raise the refinancing rate by 0.5% and fix it at 5.5%.

The press service of CBA reports that 2% inflation was recorded in December on November 2009, as a result of which 12-month inflation made 6.5%, exceeding the target interval's upper limit by one percentage point.

According to the CBA, under conditions of the current tenden-

cies to the global economy's recovery, inflation pressures from the external sector are becoming stronger due to higher than expected growth rates of international prices of raw materials and main foodstuffs. At the same time, the recovery of domestic economic activity and overall demand are also increasing the inflation background.

The CBA Board believes that a high inflation environment will remain, and for that reason the Board considers it necessary to gradually tighten the monetary policy.

## Government approves 2010 draft program of state assistance to SME

By *Gayane Melikian,*  
IAC Noyan Tapan

During the January 21 sitting, the Armenian government approved the 2010 draft program of state assistance to small and medium enterprises. Minister of Economy Nerses Yeritsian said the program's cost is 150 million drams. In addition, there are agreements of 100 million drams on the implementation of various programs by international organizations.

The minister said that the program aims to gradually enhance the role of SMEs in Armenia's socioeconomic life and sustainable regional development. The

program envisages such measures as raising the awareness of 2,500-3,000 SMEs in Yerevan and Armenian marzes of the RA legislation and the opportunities of entrance into foreign markets and establishment of business links, as well as provision of information and advice on development of their business plans, accounting, and preparation of tax returns.

Besides, it is planned to provide technical assistance to 150 businessmen in all Armenian marzes, first of all in remote and border settlements, to set up 30 new SMEs, give credit guarantees to 20-25 regional SMEs, to draw up business plans, etc.

## Armenia is in need of radical reforms, Hrant Bagratian says

By *Hasmik Hakobian,*  
IAC Noyan Tapan

The economic decline has not receded in Armenia because no positive steps have been taken in this direction. Former Prime Minister of Armenia Hrant Bagratian made this statement at the January 18 meeting with reporters, adding that the country is in need of radical reforms.

"For example, it is necessary to introduce progressive income tax, which was not done. Besides, there should be no private lotteries because incomes from a lottery are risk-free incomes, and the ministry of finance should take this activity in its hand. Or, why provide assistance to developers? The country is in crisis because of them," the former prime minister said, noting that in the past ten years only elite buildings have been constructed in Yerevan, which are not sold now and will not be sold in the next five years. "There is no point in wasting money on construction of 20 thousand luxurious apartments in Yerevan," the economist underlined.

In the words of H. Bagratian, Armenia needs serious "political and economic medical aid". "In other words, it is necessary to prevent the country's economic potential from concentrating in the hands of several people, the president should not be allowed to become a billionaire, and the church should not be allowed to do business," H. Bagratian stated. According to him, the Armenian

National Congress has potential to change this situation.

He said that if the situation continues, the crisis will gradually deepen in Armenia. In his words, 7% economic growth was recorded in Armenia in 1994, whereas the 15% decline in 2009 is currently considered a gratifying fact.

"The Armenian authorities declare that if organizations provide them with loans, it means



they consider them solvent, but this is an incorrect way of thinking", Bagratian added. According to him, today many throughout the world are asking others to take loans from them, for example, Japan gives interest-free loans. And if Armenia says it wants 3% loans, it will immediately be allocated such.

H. Bagratian said that in 2008, \$54 million was spent on foreign debt service, while in 2009, this index had already made \$74 million. According to his calcula-

tions, \$115 million will be spent with this aim in 2010, \$129 million in 2011, \$280 million in 2012, while in 2012 this index will reach \$478 million. In his words, it means that in a few years the amount needed to pay off foreign debts will be 9-10 times as much as in 2008. "In fact, in 3-4 years we will spend more on our debt repayment than on the army," he said.

H. Bagratian considered it possible that in case of non-payment of its debts, Armenia will make political concessions. "For example, in four years we will request such a solution to the Karabakh problem, with which we disagree now," H. Bagratian underlined.

He said that in 2009 Armenia "scattered the Russian loan which was a commercial one - with an annual interest rate of 7-8%". The former prime minister considered it strange that the Armenian government had allocated \$40 million of the \$500 million loan from Russia to ArmRusgazprom company: "they receive a loan from the Russian state and give it to a Russian company. What wise guys!"

In the opinion of H. Bagratian, the Central Bank of Armenia should let the Armenian dram depreciate, which would strengthen the country's economy. "If they let the dram depreciate, it may form a basis for economic revival, whereas now the economy is dead. I don't know how to define their current policy, it is a wrongdoing," H. Bagratian said.

# Armen Baldryan: "Last year the Government realized concrete measures to support IT"

## Despite global crisis, Armenia's IT industry grows

By Gourgen James Khazhakian

Commenting the remarks by the Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan during his news conference on December 25, a journalist wrote: "We could come to a conclusion (from Prime Minister's news conference - G.Kh.) that growth in IT industry is the only bright spot in the state of total recession in 2009." Well, it sounds quite likely, as Mr Sargsyan stressed that IT industry "experienced a test under current crisis and succeeded to get stronger."

As estimated by Enterprises Incubator Foundation, a government-sponsored organization active in stimulating IT enterprises, last year the IT industry grew 17% in Armenia.

"In 2010, we will be able to see that this branch is a driving force of the country's economy, especially as already today its capacity and number of employees exceed those of mining industry", mentioned the RA Prime Minister.

As a journalist wrote (half-jokingly), "the fact that Mr Prime Minister himself started to render habitable Internet" (as Prime Minister's personal blog (<http://tigransargsyan.livejournal.com>) has been started recently - G.Kh.) is a proof that the IT industry is really the crux of the program of his cabinet."

"One key means to fight the current global economy crisis is increasing economy efficiency, and the information technology could play important role in these terms,"

Armen Baldryan, Founding Director of the Unicom CJSC, and a member of IT Development Support Council under the RA Prime Minister (ITDSC), as well as a member of the Intel EMEA Council, told the Highlights' correspondent. "IT was long ago announced as Armenia's economy

providers were forced to do their very-very best to meet the increased demand."

As Prime Minister Sargsyan noted at the above-mentioned press conference, the number of the World Web users has increased in Armenia twofold, from 75.000 to 150.000 during 2009. There are



Armen Baldryan shows a newest PC to Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan

priority and this was reiterated in 2009, and during the last year the Government took a few important, concrete steps in this direction," he said.

In his words, they were first of all connected with telecommunication, Internet accessibility and infrastructure development. "Thanks to this, by the end of the last year we have had Internet tariffs reduction, which, in turn, resulted in unexpected increase in the number of Internet consumers. And it was obvious that the Internet

700,000 GPRS users now, this number increased mainly thanks to appearance of the third mobile operator, Orange.

One of the major reasons of this sphere was, according to Mr Baldryan, the active participation of the RA Government in Digitec - 2009, a hi-tech and ICT annual expo, and indeed in ArmTech-3 Congress which was held in Silicon Valley. He once again stressed that the contacts of the Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, as well as those of Armenian private

IT companies with top managers of the world IT giants such as Intel, Hewlett - Packard (HP), Cisco and others are expected to be very fruitful and the first results are to come soon, in coming few months.

According to Armen Baldryan, another important thing was that the Government has started realize concrete practical steps aimed at implementing the Concept of the 2008-2018 information technology development, and first of all, has launched the pilot stage of the "Computer for All" program, a project aimed at widespread providing PCs among Armenian population through cheap bank crediting.

This project has revealed, in Mr Baldryan's opinion, "an extremely important thing which surprised all of us; it becomes clear that our people are very eager to use PC widely, and to enrich related knowledge. It is absolutely evident that the program applicants are buying not the cheapest, or, in contrary, the most expensive PCs, but the very models, which meet their concrete requirements in the best possible way. And we, the program organizers, have been striving to create all conditions for all and everybody to meet their any individual demands as we offered PC models of a wide range." Mr Baldryan expressed acknowledgement to ACBA Credit Agricole Bank for its "significant contribution" to the successful realization of the program.

At your correspondent's request, Mr Baldryan told some details of the Program's current

stage. "Currently, the second part of the program's pilot stage, in which Unicom, X-art, DOXX Computers, Fine, Survana, LDF, RazArt are included and this stage covers cities of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor," he said. Special training courses were organized by Hewlett - Packard specialists for local PC sellers, and they are also planning to realize such training for secondary school teachers.

The program will be extended to Kapan Siunik province in the next stage. In addition, in Armen Baldryan's words, they have firm intention to cover also Nagorno Karabakh, but only when the pilot stage is over. As to Unicom's agenda for 2010, according to Armen Baldryan, they expect "a drastic growth", in particular in terms of enlargement of the list of services, and for this very goal they are enlarging already the company's staff, and its members are sent abroad for professional trainings.

Member of the ITSDC expressed a hope that this year, under conditions of the weakening of the global crisis, it would be possible to continue realization of the concrete steps aimed at shaping E-society in Armenia, and here the priorities are provision of the widespread Internet accessibility, realization of projects related to E-government and E-governance.

Acknowledgement:  
Nina Daduryan

Photo by Gagik Buniatyan

## Haiti is not Alone

By Ban Ki-moon

The disaster in Haiti shows once again something that we, as human beings, have always known: that even amid the worst devastation, there is always hope.

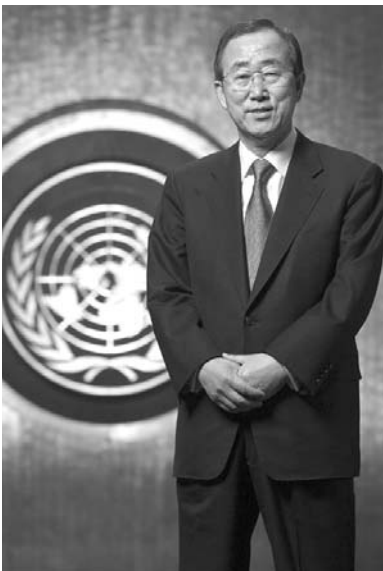
I saw that for myself this week in Port au Prince. The UN suffered its single greatest loss in history. Our headquarters in the Haitian capital was a mass of crushed concrete and tangled steel. How could anyone survive, I thought? Yet moments after I departed, with a heavy heart, rescue teams pulled out a survivor - alive, after five days, buried, without food or water. I think of it as a small miracle, a sign of hope.

Disasters such as that in Haiti remind us of the fragility of life, but they also reaffirm our strength. We have seen horrific images on television: collapsed buildings, bodies in the streets, people in dire need of food, water and shelter. I saw all this, and more, as I moved around the stricken city. But I also saw something else - a remarkable expression of human spirit, people suffering the heaviest blows yet demonstrating extraordinary resilience.

During my brief visit, I met with many ordinary people. A group of young men near the ruins of the presidential palace told me of wanting to help rebuild Haiti. Beyond the immediate crisis, they hope for jobs, a future with dignity, work to do. Across the street, I met a young mother with her children living in a tent in a public park, with little food. There were thousands like her, patiently enduring, helping one another as

best they could. She had faith that help would soon come, as did others. "I came to offer hope," I told them. "Do not despair." In return she, too, asked the international community to help Haiti to rebuild - for her children, for the generations of tomorrow.

For those who have lost every-



thing, help cannot come soon enough. But it is coming, and in growing amounts despite very difficult logistical challenges in a capital city where all services and capacity are gone. As of Monday morning, more than 40 international search and rescue teams with more than 1700 staff were at work. Water supplies are increasing; tents and temporary shelters are arriving in larger numbers. Badly damaged hospitals are beginning to function again, aided by international medical teams. Meanwhile, the World Food Program is working with the U.S. army to distribute daily food

rations to nearly 200,000 people. The agency expects to reach as many as one million people within the coming weeks, building toward two million.

We have seen an outpouring of international aid, commensurate with the scale of this disaster. Every nation, every international aid organization in the world, has mobilized for Haiti's relief. Our job is to channel that assistance. We need to make sure our help gets to the people who need it, as fast as possible. We cannot have essential supplies sitting in warehouses. We have no time to lose, nor money to waste. This requires strong and effective coordination - the international community working together, as one, with the United Nations in the lead.

This critical work began from the first day, both among UN and international aid agencies as well as among key players - the United Nations working closely with the United States and the countries of Europe, Latin America and many others to identify the most pressing humanitarian needs and deliver what is required. These needs must be grouped into well-defined "clusters," so that the efforts of all the various organizations complement rather than duplicate one another. A health cluster run by the World Health Organization, for example, is already organizing medical assistance among 21 international agencies.

The urgency of the moment will naturally dominate our planning. But it is not too early to begin thinking about tomorrow, a point that President Rene Preval emphasized when we met. Though desperately poor, Haiti had been

making progress. It was enjoying a new stability; investors had returned. It will not be enough to rebuild the country as it was, nor is there any place for cosmetic improvements. We must help Haiti build back better, working side by side with the government, so that the money and aid invested today will have lasting benefit, creating jobs and freeing it from dependence on the world's generosity.

In this sense, Haiti's plight is a reminder of our wider responsibilities. A decade ago, the international community began a new century by agreeing to act to eliminate extreme poverty by the year 2015. Great strides have been made toward some of these ambitious "Millennium goals," variously targeting core sources of global poverty and obstacles to development from maternal health and education to managing infectious disease. Yet progress in other critical areas lags badly. The bottom line: we are very far from delivering on our promises of a better future for the world's poor.

As we rush to Haiti's immediate aid, let us keep in mind this larger picture. That was the message I received, loud and clear, from those people on the streets of Port au Prince. They asked for jobs, dignity and a better future. That is the hope of the all world's poor, wherever they might live. Doing the right thing for Haiti, in its hour of need, will be a powerful message of hope for them as well.

Ban Ki-moon is  
Secretary-General of the  
United Nations

## German government to give loans of 105 million euros to Armenia

At the January 21 meeting, the Armenian government gave its consent to the proposal for signing the 2009-2010 agreement on financial cooperation between Germany and Armenia. RA Deputy Minister of Finance, Chief Treasurer Atom Janjughazian said that under this agreement, the German government will give loans of 105 million euros to Armenia as assistance for programs of several directions.

Particularly, in his words, it is envisaged allocating 20 million euros for mortgage market's development. 40 million euros will be provided for community infrastructure, 22 million euros will go for Vorotan-Kaskad complex of hydropower stations, and 18 million euros for crediting renewable energy.

The Armenian government also gave its consent to the proposal for signing the agreement of cooperation on labor and social issues between Armenia and Iran. The document envisages promoting and strengthening cooperation of the two countries on issues related to labor, employment, pensions, social insurance, social assistance for families, women, elderly and the disabled.

## Constitutional Court Limits Protocols' Damage to Armenian National Interests



*By Harut Sassounian  
Publisher, The California Courier*

After months of bickering among Armenians the world over about the Armenia-Turkey Protocols, the Constitutional Court of Armenia on January 12 pronounced its judgment on whether the obligations stipulated by the Protocols comply with the constitution.

The Court's task would have been relatively easier, if it were to simply deal with the legal aspects of the Protocols which would have required a yes or no decision followed by a brief explanation. Yet the fact that the Court's verdict was eight pages long and contained scores of clarifications, interpretations, explanations, and restrictions, indicated that the Justices of the Court had to walk a tightrope between safeguarding Armenia's relations with major foreign powers and minimizing the potential damage the Protocols could cause to the Armenian national interest.

Since the Court was apparently reluctant to reject outright these badly-negotiated and poorly-worded Protocols, it did the next best thing: accept the Protocols after placing a large number of restrictions on their legal interpretation and implementation. Thus, the Court's decision partially vindicates all those who have been expressing their serious reservations regarding the negative aspects of the Protocols.

Here are some of the main interpretations and limitations that the Court placed on the Protocols: 1) The Court made all clauses of the Protocols conditional on the implementation of two main obligations: "establish diplomatic relations" and "open the common border." The Justices thus made these two actions a necessary prerequisite for the fulfillment of all other obligations to be undertaken by Armenia and Turkey.

2) The Court narrowly interpreted the "open the common border" clause of the Protocols, indicating that Armenia was simply making a commitment "to resolve legal-organizational and institutional issues connected to safeguarding the normal operation of

border checkpoints."

Significantly, the Court used the term "checkpoint" rather than "border," thereby indirectly refusing to accord legal recognition to Armenia's present boundary with Turkey. Since it was Turkey that closed the border, it alone is responsible for re-opening it. Armenia's obligation, on the other hand, is limited to simply making the necessary administrative arrangements to permit passage through a checkpoint.

3) The Court ruled that only those international treaties that have been ratified under the constitution of the present Republic of Armenia could be considered legally valid. The clear implication is that border issues regulated by treaties pre-dating the Republic's existence cannot be considered valid. This interpretation contradicts frequent Turkish declarations that the Protocols reconfirm Armenian territorial concessions to Turkey, specifically referencing the 1921 Treaty of Kars. Indeed, the Court pointedly downplayed the overall significance of these Protocols by mandating that all future treaties that establish and further develop rela-

tions between Armenia and Turkey require its specific approval.

4) The Court countered the text of the Protocols which included specific language about multilateral obligations, by asserting that the documents in question were "exclusively of a bilateral interstate nature." The Justices thus precluded Turkey from interfering in the Karabagh (Artsakh) negotiations and making the improvement of Armenia-Turkey relations conditional on the resolution of that conflict.

5) The Court took issue with Turkish statements that the aim of the historical commission envisaged by the Protocols is to review the facts of the Armenian Genocide. The Justices clearly stated that the provisions of the Protocols could not contradict the preamble of the constitution which includes a reference to Armenia's Declaration of Independence. Article 11 of the Declaration stated: "The Republic of Armenia stands in support of the task of achieving international recognition of the 1915 Genocide in Ottoman Turkey and Western Armenia."

The key question now is what happens next?

At a minimum, the Constitutional Court has limited some of the damaging aspects of the Protocols by ruling that any laws emanating from the Protocols, after parliamentary ratification, cannot violate the constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

Of course, it would be far more preferable if the Parliament were to reject these Protocols outright. Regrettably, this is unlikely, as the Parliament is dominated by pro-government deputies. If rejection is not a possibility, the President of Armenia and the Parliament should at least consider specific reservations or changes to these Protocols in line with the Constitutional Court's decision.

Failing that, Armenians who oppose the Protocols must pin their last hope on the Turkish Parliament's insistence that it would not ratify the Protocols until Armenia withdraws from Artsakh. Should the Turkish Parliament not ratify the Protocols, it would be highly ironic if Armenians had to rely on Turkish actions in order to protect their national interest!

## Countdown to the Next War over Artsakh

**From the editor:** This article describes an event which took place long ago. Although since then the situation around Nagorno Karabakh has changed, and the USA works hard with other Minsk group co-chairs to keep peace in the region, we decided to publish the article presented by our author in America. It presents interest today as a warning about the threats in the Karabakh process.

*By David Boyajian*

Meeting at the White House with a group of Armenian Americans, the chief U.S. negotiator for the OSCE peace talks on Artsakh (Karabagh) announced that the United States would be satisfied if a peace agreement were to last for only 10 years.

The official was Joseph A. Presel. It was 1996, and Bill Clinton was president. I happened to be at that meeting.

With Presel were Richard Morningstar, U.S. special envoy to the newly independent states of the Caucasus, Caspian, and Central Asia, Nancy Soderberg of the National Security Council, and others. A key U.S. objective, Soderberg declared, was to pump the region's oil and gas resources west through U.S. sponsored pipelines.

While commenting on the OSCE negotiations, Presel made an astonishing remark, which I paraphrase: "Even if a peace agreement between Armenians and Azerbaijan over Karabagh were to

last just 10 years, that would be sufficient."

Did Presel mean that Washington would risk a quick fix for Artsakh even if it were likely to result in a medium-term renewal of violence? I believe so, and the reasons are clear.

### The Armenian corridor

Like Georgia, Armenia sits in a strategic position between energy-rich Azerbaijan (and the Caspian Sea) and NATO member Turkey.

An Artsakh peace accord would lead Azerbaijan, and probably Turkey, to reopen their borders with Armenia. That, the U.S. State Department hopes, would eventually result in Armenia's serving American interests as a land, air, and gas and oil pipeline corridor between Azerbaijan and Turkey.

None of that will happen without an Artsakh peace accord. But it need last just long enough for the U.S. to gain an economic and political foothold in Armenia. Such a foothold would take several years, which explains Presel's 10-year timeframe.

Why did Presel, an experienced diplomat who had served in Turkey and Russia and was soon to be the ambassador to Uzbekistan, make such a damning disclosure about State Department strategy?

I don't know. It was early in the morning, and Presel looked very tired. Perhaps fatigue caused him to let his guard down.

With Presel's 10-year timeframe in mind, consider the OSCE peace plan for Artsakh that

Washington, Paris, and Moscow have proposed.

### Recipe for disaster

The plan would, for instance, allow thousands of Azeris to resettle in Artsakh. Even Armenia has apparently fallen for this pseudo-humanitarian proposal.

Azerbaijan will ensure that the resettlers include plenty of spies, saboteurs, and provocateurs. Their job? To sow discord over property rights, school curricula, military service, alleged discrimination, and any other pretext they can dream up. The resulting disorder or civil war would give the OSCE and Azerbaijan an excuse to cancel the referendum that would supposedly decide Artsakh's final legal status.

Claiming that Armenians were brutalizing its kin, Azerbaijan - armed with advanced weapons bought with billions in oil and gas revenue - could well launch a massive assault. Azerbaijan has always preferred reconquest over peace.

Even if the resettled Azeris lived peacefully, their higher birth rate would ensure their eventually outnumbering Armenians.

Under either scenario, Armenians could lose Artsakh permanently.

### Major power plays

Would the United States (and Europe) really be unconcerned if an Artsakh peace fell apart after 10 years or so? It depends.

If western-bound pipelines passed through Armenia, or if a new war jeopardized the existing

Azeri pipelines that lie just north of Artsakh, Washington and Europe would oppose a new war by Azerbaijan. It's unclear, however, that they would have sufficient leverage over Baku to enforce their will.

Conversely, if their interests were not threatened, the U.S. and Europe might not particularly care if Azerbaijan reconquered Artsakh. Russia might actually welcome a new war by Azerbaijan if it concluded that an Armenian counterattack would damage western-bound pipelines.

The major powers could prove to be greater enemies of Artsakh than is Azerbaijan.

### Treachery and betrayal

Would Armenia ever agree to a deeply flawed peace plan for Artsakh designed by the U.S., France, Europe, and Russia, all of whom have historically lied to and betrayed Armenians? Probably.

Inexplicably, Armenian governments have rarely, if ever, publicly reminded these countries of their treachery. Brought up in the denationalized Soviet educational system, Armenian leaders may be largely unaware of the details of that treachery.

Moreover, Armenia's recent accord with Turkey - the so-called "protocols" which tend to cast aside Armenian historical rights and may make the factuality of the genocide debatable - demonstrates that its leaders are poor negotiators and more concerned with lining their pockets than heeding the

views of their people.

### State Department doubletalk

Despite Presel's eye-opening revelation, unintentional or otherwise, about a short-term fix for Artsakh, Armenians should know that he also reflects the State Department's doubletalk about the Armenian genocide.

At the White House, Presel referred directly to the Armenian genocide, saying, 'I don't know why Turkey doesn't just acknowledge it.' The statement was strangely disingenuous. Presel had, after all, served in Turkey and certainly knew of Ankara's fear that a genocide acknowledgment could advance long-standing Armenian claims to territory and reparations.

Fast forward to several years ago. Presel was on a panel that discussed Armenian - Turkish relations. He reportedly endorsed Turkey's denialist stance that the 1915 killings were not genocide but rather were caused by Armenian rebellions.

Regardless, Armenians must take Presel's "10-year" warning seriously. There is no reason to believe that the State Department's policy is any different now than when he said it.

When a "peace" agreement on Artsakh is signed, start counting.

###

David Boyajian is a freelance writer. Many of his articles and interviews are archived on Armeniapedia.org.

## Turkey should reconsider its past

On the occasion of the third anniversary of the assassination of the Armenian intellectual Hrant Dink and the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the Assembly of Armenians of Europe (AAE) on January 19 addressed to the international community expressing its gratitude to the international public opinion, ... that condoled and supported the Armenian Cause.

The address also read: "The assassination of Hrant Dink, editor-in-chief of the news-

paper Agos published in Istanbul, committed by a Turk extremist, was not a simple accident. Hrant Dink was a fervent fighter for human rights and was repeatedly condemned for having broken the discreditable law No 301 regarding the "offense to the Turkish nation".

Turkey desires to become a European country and a member to the European Union and continuously promises to undertake positive and effective measures in order to acquire the European

standards and criteria.

Turkey dares to blame the European Union for being a "Christian Club", while violent persecutions towards Armenians, Assyrians, Greeks and other nationalities go on in Turkey itself. Recently the Ecumenical patriarch declared, that the "Christian minorities are crucified like Christ in Turkey..."

Turkey continuously refuses to recognize the Armenian Genocide, and more, it breaks the international law by blockading

Armenia, which has no access to the sea. Recently, under international patronage, Turkey signed an agreement with Armenia, but later on, the president and the prime minister of Turkey, declared that the ratification of the said agreement depends on some unexpected preconditions. Such an unprincipled and irresponsible approach is dangerous not only for its neighbours or Europe, but also for the Turkish people."

On the occasion of the third

anniversary of the assassination of Hrant Dink, the AAE ... thanks the persons and organizations in Turkey, which fight for democracy in their country.

According to AAE, before becoming a member to the European Union, Turkey should reconsider its past, and then introduce radical changes at the legislative level and make practical measures for improving its system of values by choosing a democratic and good-neighboring way.

# Self-control is contagious, study finds

**Before patting yourself on the back for resisting that cookie or kicking yourself for giving in to temptation, look around. A new University of Georgia study has revealed that self-control -- or the lack thereof -- is contagious.**

In a just-published series of studies involving hundreds of volunteers, researchers have found that watching or even thinking about someone with good self-control makes others more likely exert self-control. The researchers found that the opposite holds, too, so that people with bad self-control influence others negatively. The effect is so powerful, in fact, that seeing the name of someone with good or bad self-control flashing on a screen for just 10 milliseconds changed the behavior of volunteers.

"The take home message of this study is that picking social influences that are positive can improve your self-control," said lead author Michelle vanDellen, a visiting assistant professor in the UGA department of psychology. "And by exhibiting self-control, you're helping others around you do the same."

People tend to mimic the behavior of those around them, and characteristics such as smoking, drug use and obesity tend to spread through social networks. But vanDellen's study is thought to be the first to show that self-control is contagious across behaviors. That means that thinking about someone who exercises self-control by regu-

larly exercising, for example, can make you more likely to stick with your financial goals, career goals



or anything else that takes self-control on your part.

VanDellen's findings, which are published in the early online edition of the journal *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, are the result of five separate studies conducted over two years with study co-author Rick Hoyle at Duke University.

In the first study, the researchers randomly assigned 36 volunteers to think about a friend

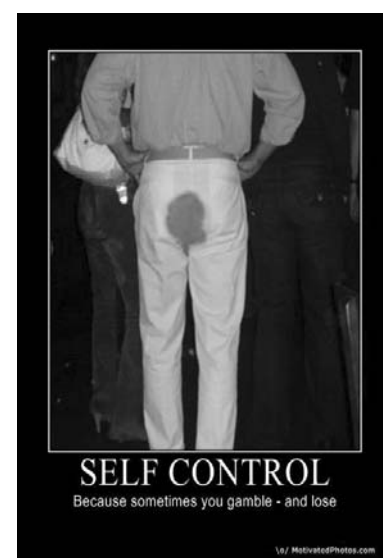
with either good or bad self-control. Those that thought about a friend with good self-control persisted longer on a handgrip task commonly used to measure self-control, while the opposite held true for those who were asked to think about a friend with bad self-control.

In the second study, 71 volunteers watched others exert self-control by choosing a carrot from a plate in front of them instead of a cookie from a nearby plate, while others watched people eat the cookies instead of the carrots. The volunteers had no interaction with the tasters other than watching them, yet their performance was altered on a later test of self-control depending on who they were randomly assigned to watch.

In the third study, 42 volunteers were randomly assigned to list friends with both good and bad self-control. As they were completing a computerized test designed to measure self-control, the computer screen would flash the names for 10 milliseconds-too fast to be read but enough to subliminally bring the names to mind. Those who were primed with the name of a friend with good self-control did better, while those primed with friends with bad self-control did

worse.

In a fourth study, vanDellen randomly assigned 112 volunteers



to write about a friend with good self-control, bad self-control or for a control group-a friend who is moderately extroverted. On a later test of self-control, those who wrote about friends with good self-control did the best, while those who wrote about friends with bad self-control did the worst. The control group, those who wrote about a moderately extroverted friend, scored between the other two

groups.

In the fifth study of 117 volunteers, the researchers found that those who were randomly assigned to write about friends with good self-control were faster than the other groups at identifying words related to self-control, such as achieve, discipline and effort. VanDellen said this finding suggests that self-control is contagious because being exposed to people with either good or bad self-control influences how accessible thoughts about self-control are.

VanDellen said the magnitude of the influence might be significant enough to be the difference between eating an extra cookie at a party or not, or deciding to go to the gym despite a long day at work. The effect isn't so strong that it absolves people of accountability for their actions, she explained, but it is a nudge toward or away from temptation.

"This isn't an excuse for blaming other people for our failures," vanDellen said. "Yes, I'm getting nudged, but it's not like my friend is taking the cookie and feeding it to me; the decision is ultimately mine."

*Provided by University of Georgia*

## Researchers find clues to why some continue to eat when full

Research by Drs. Mario Perello, Michael Lutter, Jeffery Zigman and their colleagues at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas suggests that there are situations in which our brains drive us to seek out and eat very rewarding foods, even if we're full.

**The premise that hunger makes food look more appealing is a widely held belief - just ask**



**those who cruise grocery store aisles on an empty stomach, only to go home with a full basket and an empty wallet.**

Prior research studies have suggested that the so-called hunger hormone ghrelin, which the body produces when it's hungry, might act on the brain to trigger this behavior. New research in mice by UT Southwestern Medical Center scientists suggest that ghrelin might also work in the brain to make some people keep eating "pleasurable" foods when they're already full.

"What we show is that there may be situations where we are driven to seek out and eat very rewarding foods, even if we're full,

for no other reason than our brain tells us to," said Dr. Jeffery Zigman, assistant professor of internal medicine and psychiatry at UT Southwestern and co-senior author of the study appearing online and in a future edition of *Biological Psychiatry*.

Scientists previously have linked increased levels of ghrelin to intensifying the rewarding or pleasurable feelings one gets from cocaine or alcohol. Dr. Zigman said his team speculated that ghrelin might also increase specific rewarding aspects of eating.

Rewards, he said, generally can be defined as things that make us feel better.

"They give us sensory pleasure, and they motivate us to work to obtain them," he said. "They also help us reorganize our memory so that we remember how to get them."

Dr. Mario Perello, postdoctoral researcher in internal medicine and lead author of the current study, said the idea was to determine "why someone who is stuffed from lunch still eats - and wants to eat - that high-calorie dessert."

For this study, the researchers conducted two standard behavioral tests. In the first, they evaluated whether mice that were fully sated preferred a room where they had previously found high-fat food over one that had only offered regular bland chow. They found that when mice in this situation were administered ghrelin, they strongly preferred the room that had been paired with the high-fat diet. Mice without ghrelin showed no preference.

"We think the ghrelin prompted the mice to pursue the high-fat chow because they remembered how much they enjoyed it," Dr. Perello said. "It didn't matter that the room was now empty; they still associated it with something pleasurable."

surable."

The researchers also found that blocking the action of ghrelin, which is normally secreted into the bloodstream upon fasting or caloric restriction, prevented the mice from spending as much time in the room they associated with the high-fat food.

For the second test, the team observed how long mice would continue to poke their noses into a hole in order to receive a pellet of high-fat food. "The animals that didn't receive ghrelin gave up much sooner than the ones that did receive ghrelin," Dr. Zigman said.

Humans and mice share the same type of brain-cell connections and hormones, as well as similar architectures in the so-called "plea-



sure centers" of the brain. In addition, the behavior of the mice in this study is consistent with pleasure- or reward-seeking behavior seen in other animal studies of addiction, Dr. Zigman said.

The next step, Dr. Perello said, is to determine which neural circuits in the brain regulate ghrelin's actions.

*Provided by UT Southwestern Medical Center*

## Being straight with your boss cuts stress: study



**Telling your boss what you really think of them is good for your health -- and helps managers improve, according to research published Wednesday.**

Firms should be even be encouraged to let employees regularly rate their line managers, to produce "happy, healthy, stress-free employees," said the study presented at a conference of the British Psychological Society.

Researchers split a group of 150 managers into two groups, one of which received training and feedback from some 500 staff on their management skills while the other bosses did not.

"When managers received feedback from their staff, they were more likely to change their management style and subsequently be seen as more effective line managers," said the study.

Employees benefit as it allows them to let off steam, said expert Emma Donaldson-Feilder, presenting the research at a conference in Brighton, southern England.

"The consequences of stress are

pervasive; those under stress may experience psychological symptoms, such as anxiety or depression, physiological symptoms, such as palpitations or raised blood pressure and/or cognitive symptoms such as reduced mental capacity.

"Stress is a significant cause of sickness absence and this puts pressure on those left behind to run the business, creating a cycle of uncomfortable pressure with costs to the individual and to the company," she said.

Donaldson-Feilder and her colleagues are developing a number of resources including a questionnaire that staff can use to rate their line manager and learning materials for managers, which will be available free online.

"Without holding a mirror up to a person, they can have blind spots about how they come across and if they think they are already good enough, why should they change," she said.

*2010 AFP*



DID YOU KNOW?



Heading by  
Marina Harutiunyan  
marina@nt.am  
Comments are  
welcomed!

# What Goes Down, Also Goes Up

Even if you eat food standing on your head, the food will still end up in your stomach.

In one of the more bizarre experiments having to do with the function of the human body, someone stood on their head and discovered that even if you were eating upside down, the food swallowed would still travel to your stomach.

At least, we hope that was a scientific experiment, although no doubt, many a child has tried it just out of curiosity. But what researchers were confirming, was the power of the digestive system to take the food that is input, and pass it through a process that is totally independent of our will, with the exception of eating, and eliminating the subsequent waste.

The human esophagus has a series of

powerful muscles that contract and push



the food chewed in your mouth, down

into the stomach. In the natural process, other muscle structures at the top and bottom of the stomach close, in order to prevent the food from being passed through before it has been processed. While in the stomach, acids will start breaking it down, and additional muscles will move the food around. To protect the lining of the stomach, mucous will be produced at the same time as the acid.

When the "mixing" and a certain amount of absorption is done, the digesting meal is passed into the intestines, where our body selectively deals with the fats, proteins, and carbohydrates, and leaves the material it can't use, to be eliminated as waste.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Diana  
Der Hovanessian

## MIXED MARRIAGE

He marries the lilac from the Taurus Mountains.  
He marries the Cilician Church.  
He marries the snows of the Caucasus,  
and the Cossacks who will drive  
across his dreams. He marries waking  
to the sound of the thousand bells of Ani.

He marries the blood sea.  
He marries the heart with two million scars  
to whom he owes a healing.  
He marries unrequited love.  
He marries village music  
and red scarves flying.  
He marries pagan dances  
and Christian quiet.  
He marries the step-child of Russia.

She marries the Mississippi  
and Mark Twain,  
and the pioneers pushing across the plains.  
She marries recipes from Wales.  
She marries the blue-eyed West.  
She marries Europe's errant son,  
the prodigal who made good.

He marries the ashes of Smyrna,  
and the dried bones of Dersim.  
He marries spring in Kharpert,  
the autumn caiques on the bosphorus.  
He marries the Gregorian chant,  
a thousand smiling relatives.  
He marries a house with an open door.  
He marries the knowledge of the fragility  
of life. He marries an Armenian.

She marries the red soil of Texas,  
and generosity and the blue Navajo Turquoise.  
She marries Lockheed Aircraft,  
Wall Street and the New York Times,  
Seventh Avenue and East  
Main Street and the St. Louis Blues.  
She marries the Boston Symphony,  
the Cleveland Museum  
and popcorn.  
She marries Harvard, shrimp boats  
in Louisiana and California raisins.  
She marries the Great Lakes, psychoanalysis,  
the PTA and the great white shopping center,  
U.S.A.

# April Fool's joke may leave you red-faced, but it's a good sign, expert says

Although blushing after an April Fool's joke might worsen your embarrassment, there is a bright side, says a Duke University professor who is an expert on embarrassment and blushing.



"Everybody blushes to some degree," said Mark Leary, a professor of

psychology and neuroscience at Duke. "It's a sign that you're attuned to the social norms. Those who don't blush tend to be indifferent to behaving appropriately."

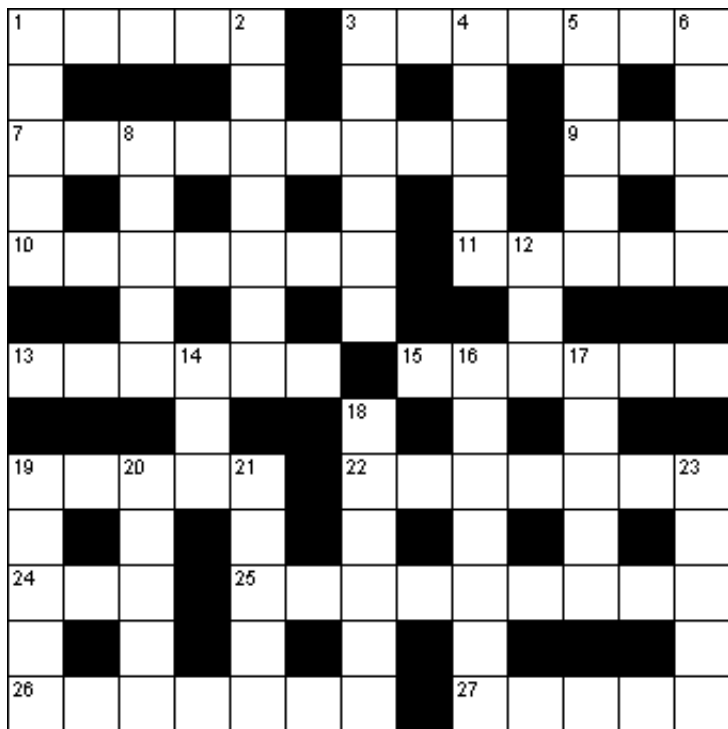
Embarrassment arises when you present an image of yourself to others that you didn't want to present, Leary said. And, even though falling for that April Fool's trick might make you worry that others will view you badly, in fact, visible signs of embarrassment actually help your social situation, he said.

He said humans' reaction to being embarrassed is similar to "appeasement behavior" in chimps -- the silly grin, the body language -- that tells others that the individual recognizes his or her transgression and asks for forgiveness.

"Other people like you better if you appear embarrassed," Leary said.



## CROSSWORD



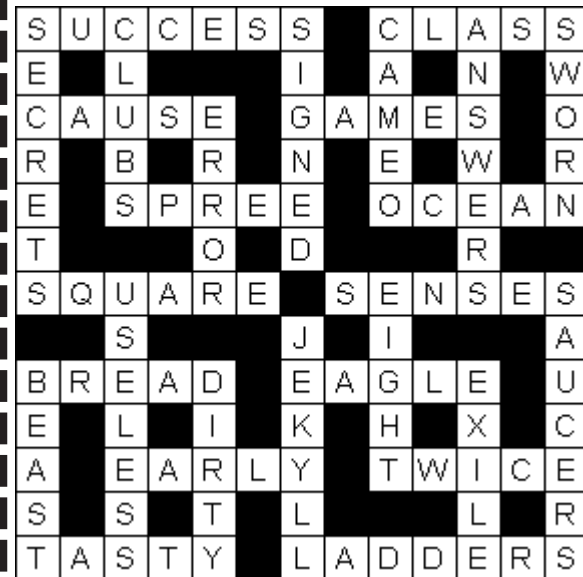
### Across

- Too many cooks spoil the \_\_\_\_ (5)
- The \_\_\_\_ of power (7)
- The \_\_\_\_ to the rule (9)
- Fruit & \_\_\_\_ (3)
- Wheeling and \_\_\_\_ (7)
- Don't look a gift \_\_\_\_ in the mouth (5)
- Kinetic \_\_\_\_ (6)
- Bogart movie, The Maltese \_\_\_\_ (6)
- All \_\_\_\_ on deck (5)
- \_\_\_\_ sports (7)
- \_\_\_\_ guitar (3)
- Roll out the \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ (3,6)
- Side - \_\_\_\_ the issue (7)
- \_\_\_\_ firma (5)

### Down

- No man can live by \_\_\_\_ alone (5)
- \_\_\_\_ mad (7)
- Don't cross the \_\_\_\_ before you get to it (6)
- There's no such thing as a free \_\_\_\_ (5)
- It's now or \_\_\_\_ (5)
- The \_\_\_\_ has landed (5)
- A wild-geese \_\_\_\_ (5)
- Burning the \_\_\_\_ midnight \_\_\_\_ (3)
- A \_\_\_\_ - letter day (3)
- Opposites \_\_\_\_ (7)
- \_\_\_\_ and nasty (5)
- \_\_\_\_ bliss (6)
- \_\_\_\_ or tails (5)
- Hold your \_\_\_\_ (5)
- Comic \_\_\_\_ (5)
- An added \_\_\_\_ (5)

### Answer of previous crossword



## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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



Any effort toward becoming more acquainted with the deeper parts of yourself will be well rewarded. Positive results can be achieved through psychotherapy, dream work, meditation, hypnosis and/or prayer. Assistance will come to you through unexpected (and possibly mysterious) sources. Your own desire to contribute to the greater social good will increase and yield good "karma".

### Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 19):



Effort invested in organizational or group social causes will be returned in bounty. Networking with friends and acquaintances may play an active role toward helping you attain personal goals in life. Relationships with stepchildren (and more generally to other people's children) will improve and become a source of pleasure. Corporate financial resources may increase.

### Gemini (May 20 - June 20):



Any reasonable effort in the area of profession, career or social status should meet with favorable results during the next few months. There may be additional travel, or educational/teaching opportunities associated with career endeavors. Relationships to superiors will be more supportive. Opportunities develop to improve relationships with the family of origin.

### Cancer (June 21 - July 21):



Jupiter augurs improvements and good fortune through any or all of the following: legal or ethical issues, contacts with foreign lands or people who live at a distance, the internet, higher education, teaching, publishing and long distance travel. Events of the next year will broaden your perspective on all of life and expand your sense of connection to a larger circle of others.

### Leo (July 21 - Aug 22):



Gain comes to you through areas of shared financial resources. These may include: compensation from insurance or other group holdings, increases in partner's income, sale of property, gains through inheritance or gifts, increase in the value of stocks, bonds or other mutually held property, or tax benefits. Debts owed to you will be paid, whether financial or favors. Intimate life is on the upswing.

### Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sep. 22):



The year brings improvements in all your most intimate relationships. This may be the year to get married or develop a beneficial business partnership. Those with client bases will note considerable expansion. The period is favorable for attracting positive assistance through professional consultants, e.g., doctors, counselors, etc. Travel and/or education are on the increase.

### Libra (Sep. 23 - Oct. 22):



Jupiter will increase the physical vitality, heal anomalies, and offer improvements in work conditions. Relationships to coworkers will be enhanced and equipment may be updated. This is the time to look for a better job (or it may find you). Any type of self-improvement program, but especially those relating to the physical body, will have highly beneficial results. Many will adopt pets.

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



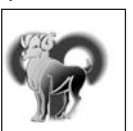
The time has come to relax and let yourself remember how to play. All types of creative work will be enhanced and those with children will find greater satisfaction and a more rewarding relationship in the next year. Those who want children or a new love affair will likely be granted their wish. Give yourself permission to explore new possibilities in creative self-expression.

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



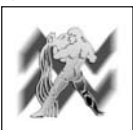
Jupiter will bring improvements to your domestic life. This may manifest in a new home or other property, such as a car. It especially favors home decorating or expansion projects. Domestic problems of the past may be improved or resolved during this period. Opportunities to improve and augment relationships to the family of origin will be presented.

### Capricorn (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19):



During the next year opportunities for travel will probably increase. Relationships with siblings, roommates and/or neighbors will be more rewarding and your overall daily attitude becomes more optimistic. Focus of attention on communication (written or oral) will be highlighted. Educational opportunities are attractive and expanded. You may become a teacher in your field.

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



You will likely have improvements in financial income or other personal resources. This may develop either as the result of general good luck or increased effort. Optimistic attitudes concerning money could lead you to overextend resources. Your sense of self esteem is increased by several notches as you demonstrate what you have learned in recent years.

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



Jupiter in your sign will lighten any load, renew your sense of optimism and reinforce your self esteem. Help and cooperation of others will be more available to you, especially if you make your requests in person. The spiritual dimension of your life will improve and travel or education becomes more prominent. The only difficulty with this transit is the tendency to weight gain.

## Apartment For Rent

A comfortable, new repaired western style apartment in the center of the city, attached to "Bass" hotel. The second floor of the private house with a separate entrance from the street. The apartment /115 sq. m /has a dining room, two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, two balconies, garage. It has a central heating system, TV satellite, high speed wireless internet, air conditioners, permanent cold and hot water (no tanks) and all other facilities. A garage with remote control. A nice view to Mount Ararat. The house has a nice garden.

**Price:** For a long term negotiable and daily from 60 -80 USD

**The photos you can see at the website:**

<http://www.menuatours.com/Menua%20apartments/features/feuA0214.htm>

**Address:** Aygedzor Street, house 3, Yerevan.

**Tel.** (010) 278 -709; **mob.** 093. 229-570



## WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? Enjoy your leisure

### K. STANISLAVSKI STATE RUSSIAN DRAMA THEATER

**January 26, 27, at 7 p.m.**

"Don Juan AVIA"

Cast: Hrant Tokhatian, Narek Durian, Luiza Nersisian and others

**January 29, at 7 p.m.**

"The Moon Beast"

**January 30, at 7 p.m.**

"I am Getting Married to an American Lady"

### YEREVAN CHAMBER THEATER

**January 29, at 7 p.m.**

"Get Armed"

**January 30, at 7 p.m.**

"The Moon Beast"

### AREGATSI ART INSTITUTE

**January 25, at 4 p.m.**

Meetings with Director Don Askarian

Master Classes

**January 25, at 6 p.m.**

Movie "Parajanov"

Director: Don Askarian

**January 27, at 7 p.m.**

Movie Nights on Wednesdays

"De illusionist" /Netherlands, 1984, 90 min.

Director - Jos Stelling

**January 29, at 5 p.m.**

"We and Our Dances"

Participants: "Karin" Folk Song and Dance Ensemble

Artistic Director: Gagik Ginosian

### NATIONAL GALLERY OF ARMENIA

**January 30, at 12:00**

Films by Jim Jarmusch

*Year of the Horse: Neil Young and Crazy Horse Live, 1997*

**January 30, at 2 p.m.**

*Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai, 1999*

**January 31, at 12:00**

*Coffee and Cigarettes, 2003*

**January 31, at 2 p.m.**

*Broken Flowers, 2005*

### ALBERT AND TOVE

### BOYAJYAN EXHIBITION HALL

**January 26, 27, 28, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

"Rock, Paper, Scissors"

British Council Art Collection

### STOP CLUB

**January 26, at 8 p.m.**

*Orpheus, 1949, 95 min*

**January 29, at 9 p.m.**

"E.V.A." /rock/



Information from [www.armeniainfo.am](http://www.armeniainfo.am)  
For ticket reservation you may call: 52-64-77 or (091) 50-16-63  
Ticket reservation and delivery is FREE.

## HUMOR

### Investigating a terrible accident

There was a terrible bus accident. Unfortunately, no one survived the accident except a monkey which was on board and there were no witnesses. The police try to investigate further but they get no results. At last, they try to interrogate the monkey. The monkey seems to respond to their questions with gestures. Seeing that, they start asking the questions.

The police chief asks, "What were the people doing on the bus?"

The monkey shakes his head in a condemning manner and starts dancing around; meaning the people were dancing and having fun.

The chief asks, "Yeah, but what else were they doing?"

The monkey uses his hand and takes it to his mouth as if holding a bottle.

The chief says, "Oh! They were drinking, huh?!" The chief continues, "Okay, were they doing anything else?"

The monkey nods his head and moves his mouth back and forth, meaning they were talking.

The chief loses his patience, "If they were having such a great time, who was driving the stupid bus then?"

The monkey cheerfully swings his arms to the sides as if grabbing a wheel.

### A PARIS

A LOUER  
QUARTIER CHAMPS-ELYSEES  
STUDIOS MEUBLES  
Location par mois

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