

Armenian-Iranian consultations in Yerevan



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President Sargsyan congratulates Putin on Russia Day, visits Russian Embassy

President Serzh Sargsyan on June 12 visited the Embassy of the Russian Federation (RA) in Armenia and congratulated Ambassador Ivan Volynkin and the embassy staff on the occasion of the RF public holiday - Russia Day.

On the occasion of the holiday, the Armenian president has also sent congratulatory messages to RF President Vladimir Putin and the Chairman of the RF Government, Dmitry Medvedev.

In his congratulatory message to Russian President Vladimir Putin, Serzh Sargsyan underscored that this remarkable date is part and parcel of the immense transformations in Russia's political, sociocultural and public life. According to Serzh Sargsyan, the relationship between the two countries' peoples deeply rooted in ages-old traditions of friendship, brotherhood and mutual support are what now ensure progressive development in Armenian-Russian allied collaboration. The president expressed confidence that the joint efforts aimed at developing the entire range of bilateral relations and the effective collaboration in regional integration unions, the CSTO, the EAEU and the CIS, as well as the enhanced international coordination fully correspond to the key interests of the two countries and their citizens. On the occasion of the holiday, President Serzh Sargsyan wished the Russian president good health, well-being and further success in his statesmanship, concurrently wishing all Russians hap-



piness and prosperity.

In his congratulatory message to the Chairman of the RF Government, Dmitry Medvedev, Serzh Sargsyan noted that the holiday is related to the multifarious systemic transformations in Russian statehood and to the further reinforcement of Russia's role and place in the international arena. According to Serzh Sargsyan, at present, Armenian-Russian strategic relations keep on developing consistently, thereby embracing new areas of mutually beneficial cooperation.

President Sargsyan receives head of CoE Office in Armenia Natalia Voutova

President Serzh Sargsyan received Natalia Voutova, the newly-appointed Head of the Council of Europe (CoE) Office in Armenia.

The Armenian president congratulated Mrs. Voutova on her appointment and wished her success. Stressing the CoE key and unique role in Europe's general architecture, Serzh Sargsyan noted that Armenia, as a CoE member country, is keen on promoting cooperation with all the CoE institutions.

According to the president, the CoE standards regarding human rights, democracy and the rule of law provide effective guidelines for Armenia, and our country has achieved some results as a CoE member state having membership obligations which tries to fulfill its obligations.

The RA president and the head of the CoE Office in Armenia agreed that Armenia, as a CoE member country, is actively involved in the organization's activities at all levels.

The Armenian president greatly appreciated the CoE support for the ongoing democratic reforms in our country and presented the implementation status of various reforms, touching upon, inter alia, the process of RA constitutional amendments which are being carried out in close cooperation with the Venice Commission. Natalia Voutova underscored that the CoE supports Armenia's path to reform implementation and democratic consolidation.



The head of the CoE Office in Armenia expressed satisfaction with Armenia's chairmanship in the CoE Committee of Ministers in 2013, stressing that Armenia's six-month mission fulfilled excellently and creditably and the priorities set forth by it have received high praise from the organization. According to her, that chairmanship will remain in the CoE history as a successful one.

Natalia Voutova expressed the hope that taking into account Armenia's effective cooperation with the CoE and the positive results achieved previously in the course of the RA-CoE Action Plan implementation, the new CoE action plan will likewise be implemented successfully.

Armenian-Iranian consultations in Yerevan

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ebrahim Rahimpour briefed Armenia's top diplomats on the current state of Iran's nuclear talks with world powers during annual "political consultations" that were concluded in Yerevan on June 12.

Rahimpour began the consultations on Thursday with a meeting with Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian which focused on Iranian-Armenian relations and regional security. Nalbandian was reported to praise bilateral ties as "warm and mutually beneficial."

A statement by the Armenian Foreign Ministry said Rahimpour presented "the latest developments in the ongoing negotiations on Iran's nuclear program." The ministry released a virtually identical statement on the Iranian diplomat's separate two-day talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan.

Following marathon negotiations held in Switzerland, Iran and the United States, the European Union, Russia and China reached in April a tentative agreement to curb Tehran's controversial nuclear program that has long raised concerns in the West. The negotiating parties thus moved much closer to a comprehensive deal that would lead to a gradual lifting of crippling international sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

Armenia was quick to welcome the April agreement, with Nalbandian saying that it will contribute to "stability and cooperation in the region." Kocharyan, for his part, said that the looming sanction relief would substantially facilitate Armenian-Iranian commercial ties. "The sanctions have inhibited our relations with Iran," he said on April 3.

They have specifically hampered the implementation of Armenian-Iranian energy projects such as the \$350 million con-



struction of a big hydroelectric plant on the Arax river separating the two countries. Yerevan and Tehran also plan to build a new high-voltage transmission line that will enable Armenia to export much more electricity to the Islamic Republic and import larger volumes of Iranian natural gas.

Rahimpour discussed the energy projects in detail at a separate meeting with Armenia's Energy and Natural Resources Minister Yervand Zakharyan. According to "The Tehran Times" daily, the two men reaffirmed their governments' plans to complete the transmission line by 2018. The paper said its construction will be financed from a \$122 million Iranian loan to be provided to the Armenian side. The Armenian-Iranian diplomatic consultations coincided with a visit to Yerevan by a delegation of Iranian parliamentarians representing an Iran-Armenia "friendship group." They were received by Nalbandian on Friday.

U.S. Hails Armenian Participation in Baku Games

The United States praised Armenia on June 10 for deciding to participate in the upcoming European Games in Baku despite widespread security concerns that have led some Armenian athletes to boycott them. James Warlick, the U.S. co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, met with members of the Armenian delegation, among them 25 athletes, just hours before they flew to the Azerbaijani capital via Tbilisi.

"We welcome the Armenian government's and your brave decision to participate in the European Games in Baku. We wish all Armenian athletes good luck in the competitions," the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan quoted Warlick as telling them.

"The U.S. Embassy joins the Ambassador [Warlick] in wishing the Armenian athletes well!" it added in a statement. The first-ever European Games will take place from June 12-28. They will bring together some 6,000 athletes from across wider Europe.

The Armenian National Olympic

Committee (ANOC) officially decided to send a team to the multi-sport event in March. The move, endorsed and possibly dictated by the Armenian government, came after months of heated debates that effectively split the country's sporting community. The decision was openly challenged by some of Armenia's leading athletes and coaches, including practically the entire national Greco-Roman wrestling team. Its most successful members, reigning world champion Artur Aleksanyan and Olympic silver medalist Arsen Julfalakyan, were not among the Armenian wrestlers who headed to Baku.

Julfalakyan, who already competed in a world wrestling championship in Baku in 2007, has been particularly vocal in opposing Armenian participation in the Baku games. He has said that very tight security involving around-the-clock armed protection, coupled with extreme hostility from Azerbaijani spectators, will prevent Armenian athletes from properly concen-

trating on their respective competitions.

Davit Torosyan, the head coach of the national boxing team, also defied the ANOC decision in March, dismissing the security guarantees given by the Azerbaijani authorities and the European Olympic Committee (EOC). Torosyan claimed that hostile crowds and pressure from Azerbaijani officials will preclude fair refereeing at the competitions involving Armenians.

Many in Armenia share these concerns. Some, among them pro-establishment public figures, say that the Baku games should be boycotted for political reasons as well. They argue that Azerbaijani President Aliyev will use the games to promote his repressive regime known for its tough anti-Armenian rhetoric.

The ANOC's secretary general, Hrachya Rostomyan, again defended Armenian participation in the games late last month. He said that a boycott would only damage Armenia.

U.S. Envoy Hopes For Armenian-Azeri Summit

The chief U.S. mediator in the protracted Nagorno-Karabakh peace process visited Yerevan on June 10 on the first leg of a regional tour which he hopes will pave the way for renewed face-to-face negotiations between Armenia's and Azerbaijan's presidents.

James Warlick told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) that he and the two other co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group representing France and Russia are now trying to "frame the issues" that would be on the agenda of the next Armenian-Azerbaijani summit.

Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Ilham Aliyev most recently met in Paris in October. Both leaders gave positive assessments of that summit which was aimed at kick-starting the peace process.

However, tensions in the conflict zone were reignited in November by the shooting down by Azerbaijani forces of an Armenian combat helicopter near Karabakh. Also, there was a renewed upsurge in deadly truce violations in January. The mediating troika implicitly blamed Azerbaijan for that escalation.

"Now we are looking to dates where both presidents are free and can meet," Warlick said ahead of a meeting with Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian. "And we also need some time to be able to frame the issues."

"I look forward to talking today to the foreign minister [Nalbandian] about that and I will be in Baku later in the week," added the diplomat. He gave no possible dates for the next Aliyev-Sarkisian meeting. The Armenian Foreign Ministry reported no details of Nalbandian's meeting with Warlick.

The Minsk Group co-chairs held separate talks with Nalbandian and his Azerbaijani counterpart Elmar Mammadyarov in Paris just over a month ago. In a joint statement issued after the



talks, they said the two ministers agreed to help "shape the agenda for the Presidents' discussion."

The conflicting parties have reported virtually no deadly fighting along "the line of contact" around Karabakh and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border since the beginning of April. Observers in Armenia link this relative calm on the frontlines with the upcoming European Games in Baku. They say that Azerbaijan de-escalated the situation there in order to ensure that armed incidents do not scare away foreign athletes planning to participate in the games.

Accordingly, there are fears that serious truce violations in the conflict zone will again intensify after the multi-sport even in the Azerbaijani capital.

"The sides need to work to maintain and respect the ceasefire," Warlick said in that regard. "The worst outcome is renewed violence. That does not serve the peace process."

"We can't work to achieve a negotiated settlement if a widening conflict breaks out," he warned.

Yerevan hosts conference on Armenia-NATO relations

An international conference on "NATO-Armenia relations in the context of new challenges" initiated by the Analytical Center for Globalization and Regional Cooperation (ACGRC) was held in Yerevan on June 11.

According to ACGRC Head Stepan Grigoryan, Armenia's cooperation with NATO is rather constructive, but it cannot go too deep because we are part of a different security system.

"There is no doubt that the cooperation with NATO comes to supplement our security. I think NATO has chosen the right way of cooperation with Armenia to the extent the latter wants, without any noise and ambitions," Grigoryan said.

The cooperation with NATO has risen to a certain level in the field of peacekeeping operations, which has led to the improvement of Armenia's international standing, Stepan Grigoryan said. He added that the "humanitarian and scientific programs are also on a high level."

Gerlinde Niehus, Head of Communications at NATO's Public Diplomacy Division, said Armenia is a very important country for NATO. She hailed the cooperation in international peacekeeping and voiced hope that the collaboration would further succeed.

German Ambassador to Armenia Rayner Morel voiced his appreciation for the level of Armenia's relations with NATO.



Amb. Morel noted that Armenia is a good member of the CSTO and added that there are other opportunities the country should use.

As for statements from Azerbaijan suggesting that the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship should be extended to include Germany, the Ambassador said "Germany supports the OSCE Minsk Group, but has no wish to join it."

Speaking about the Armenian Genocide Resolution pending at the Bundestag, Rayner Morel said he can make no predictions, but voiced confidence that discussions will take place. He reminded that the German President made it clear that the what happened in 1915 was genocide.

Russian official against Iran-Armenia rail link



The influential head of Russia's state-run rail network has spoken out against the construction of a railway connecting Armenia with neighboring Iran, saying that it would not be commercially viable.

According to the Arminfo news agency, Vladimir Yakunin compared at the weekend the ambitious project worth an estimated \$3 billion with "cutting through a window in the wall leading nowhere ... to the wall of the adjacent house." Yakunin, whose RZhD network manages Armenia's national railway company, said chances for its implementation are therefore nil.

Yakunin, who is widely regarded as a member of Russian President Vladimir Putin's entourage, described the project as "realistic" as recently as three years ago, during a visit to Armenia.

The Armenian and Iranian governments officially approved it in 2009. But they have still not found concrete sources of funding for the 470-kilometer rail link that would mainly pass through Armenian territory.

The Armenian side has repeatedly expressed hope that Russian firms will participate in the railway construction and partly finance it. The Russian government and RZhD have not ruled out such a possibility before Yakunin's remarks cited by Arminfo.

President Serzh Sargsyan called for China's "active" involvement in the project when he visited Beijing in March. He said that the Armenia-Iran railway could be part of a transnational "Silk Road economic zone" which China would like to create

along a vast geographic area.

The China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) has already conducted a feasibility study and recommended a cost-effective route for the rail link.

The study was commissioned in 2013 by the Dubai-based company Rasia that had in turn received a 30-year Armenian government concession to build and manage the 305-kilometer Armenian section of the railway. Earlier this year, Armenia's Deputy Transport Minister Artur Arakelyan said that Rasia has been holding "very active negotiations" with unnamed Chinese investors.

Visiting Yerevan in January, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif spoke of further progress made towards the construction of the railway. "There have been very good trilateral discussions and we hope that [the project] will quickly move forward," Zarif said without elaborating.

Minister rejects Russian skepticism over Iran-Armenia railway



Transport and Communications Minister Gagik Beglaryan dismissed on June 11 a senior Russian official's objections to the Armenian government's long-standing plans to build a railway connecting Armenia to neighboring Iran.

Vladimir Yakunin, the influential head of Russia's state-run rail network RZhD, said at the weekend that the ambitious project is not economically viable. He compared it to "cutting through a window in the wall leading nowhere."

"That is Mr. Yakunin's subjective opinion which has nothing to do with reality," Beglaryan told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "But I can understand him. That statement stems from the interests of the company headed by him."

Beglaryan would not say why he thinks RZhD is disinterested in the Iran-Armenia rail link. "That project is very important

for our state and people," he said instead, adding that the Armenian government will press ahead with its implementation.

Yakunin called the project "realistic" when he visited Armenia in 2012.

Shortly after taking office in April 2008, President Serzh Sargsyan promised that work on the railway will start "in the coming years." However, his government has still not attracted an estimated \$3 billion in investments needed for building its 305-kilometer Armenian section. The figure is roughly equivalent to Armenia's entire state budget.

Accordingly, the government has been vague about possible dates for the start of the railway's construction. Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan seemed to have added his voice to domestic skepticism about the project during a cabinet meeting in February.

"Mr. Beglaryan, is there any hope on this issue?" Abrahamyan asked the transport minister. "We are working on the project's implementation," replied Beglaryan.

The planned railway would not only facilitate Armenian-Iranian trade but also make it much easier for Armenia to use Iranian territory for import and export operations with other nations and China in particular. Much of Armenian-Chinese trade, which amounted to \$590 million last year, is already carried out through Iran's Persian Gulf ports.

The issue was reportedly high on the agenda of Sargsyan's official visit to China in March. The Armenian president called for "active" Chinese involvement in the project.

World Bank supports exploration of geothermal resources in Armenia

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors today approved a US\$8.55 million grant for the Geothermal Exploratory Drilling Project (GEDP) for Armenia. The new project is to confirm whether the geothermal resource at the Karkar field is suitable for power generation and, if confirmed, to involve the private sector in the development of a geothermal power plant.

The objective of the Government is to construct a geothermal power plant at the Karkar site in Sjunik region upon the confirmation of the availability of the resource. Unlike other renewable energy technologies, such as wind, solar, and hydro, it is not possible to validate the geothermal resource with sufficient confidence for commercial development without performing exploratory drillings at depth to assess specific parameters of the geothermal field. The selection of the Karkar site for exploratory drilling is based on field investigation works completed for two prospective sites, which were deemed the most promising by the local and international geothermal experts. The field investigation works at the prospective sites were supported under the Armenia Geothermal Project, financed by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and completed in 2012.

"By investing in exploration that can lead to the first commercial project, we can help build domestic capacity for the development of additional geothermal resources at other prospective sites. The total potential for geothermal power in Armenia is currently estimated at around 150 megawatt," said Laura E. Bailey, World Bank Country Manager for Armenia. "A successful project of this type will also strengthen the investor confidence that geothermal is a viable and profitable investment opportunity in the country."

The Government will use Scaling-up Renewable Energy Program (SREP) resources for Stage 1 of the Karkar geothermal project to carry out the exploratory drilling and, if the resource is confirmed, to assess the feasibility of a geothermal power plant at Karkar and support involvement of the private sector for the full development of the geothermal power project.



Stage 2 of the Karkar project would be the construction of a geothermal power plant. The early-stage analyses suggested that a 28 MW geothermal power plant with a total estimated cost of US\$90-100 million could potentially be constructed at the site. The potential geothermal power plant could be developed with a mix of public and private capital. In addition, the development of geothermal power would contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

"If adequate geothermal resources are confirmed, then future construction of a geothermal power plant would help the Government to meet the forecasted electricity demand and improve the energy security and independence of the country," said Arthur Kochnakyan, World Bank Task Team Leader of the Project. "Low-cost electricity from a potential geothermal plant can help keep the electricity affordable for the poor."

The R2E2 Fund will implement the project since it has the required capacity and experience in implementing Bank financed projects. The Fund is a non-profit organization established by the Government in 2005 with the mandate to promote the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency markets in Armenia and to facilitate investments in these sectors.

Armenian Shadowmatic puzzle selected as Apple Design Award winner



Triada Studio's Shadowmatic 3D puzzle has been selected as an Apple Design Award winner.

Exclusive to iOS, Shadowmatic is an ornately crafted and imaginative puzzle

game in which abstract objects are rotated to find recognizable silhouettes in projected shadows. Selected as an Apple Design Award winner for its attention to detail, high-fidelity rendering, excellent execution, and perfect representation of Multi-touch game play, Shadowmatic challenges your spatial thinking with more than 80 puzzles in gorgeous atmospheric environments rendered with highly realistic textures and shadows.

Set to a beautiful soundtrack, each Shadowmatic scene is tuned and optimized for each iOS device, from iPhone 3GS to the newest iPhone 6 and 6 Plus, iPad Mini Retina, and iPad Air 2. Shadowmatic uses Metal on iOS to pro-

duce stunning visuals with shadows, bloom, and reflective surfaces, and supports device motion to enable a clever motion-based 3D parallax experience that makes it seem as if you're viewing each scene through a window. It's also localized in French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Simplified Chinese, and Spanish.



Iran, Armenia take major step toward visa-free travel



Iran and Armenia on Tuesday took a big step toward lifting visa requirements for travelers from the two countries with the signing of a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) on consular affairs, Tasnim News agency reports.

The MoU was signed at the end of the 10th session of Iran-Armenia joint consular meeting held in Tehran between the heads of the consular departments of the foreign ministries of the two neighboring countries, Ali Chegeni and Vladimir Karmirshalyan.

During the two-day meeting, the two diplomats exchanged views about ways to promote Tehran-Yerevan relations in diverse areas.

The extradition of criminals, providing legal aid, increasing facilities for merchants, investors, tourists, students and artists were among other issues raised in the session.

Earlier in a Monday meeting with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular, Parliamentary and Expatriates' Affairs Hassan Qashqavi in Tehran, Karmirshalyan had voiced his country's determination to further develop cooperation with the Islamic Republic in various areas.

Glendale Memorial Hospital contributes \$22K donation to Armenian Relief Society



The local chapter of the Armenian Relief Society received a \$22,000 check on Wednesday from Dignity Health Glendale Memorial Hospital and its foundation as part of their observance of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the Glendale News-Press reports.

Staffers and physicians pooled donations, which were later matched by the hospital's foundation.

Wayne Herron, the foundation's vice president of philanthropy, said he initially thought no more than a few thousand dollars would be raised.

"If you do good philanthropy, if you touch people's hearts, people will respond," Herron said.

The check was made out to the Sepan chapter of the Armenian Relief Society, which will use the money to help pay for mental health services for Glendale area residents, said chapter chairperson Miganoush Melkonian.

"As a nonprofit organization, we are used to approaching people and asking for

donations, but this was the first time an organization like Glendale Memorial Hospital approached us with a proposal so close to our hearts," she said.

Melkonian then likened the donation to when Near East Relief, a U.S. nonprofit, aided victims of the Armenian Genocide in the years after the tragedy that claimed 1.5 million lives.

She thanked the hospital for its additional efforts toward remembering the genocide, including providing employees with memorial pins, organizing a commemoration event on April 23 and holding a moment of silence on April 24.

Mayor Ara Najarian also spoke at the check-presentation event, commending hospital staffers for working together to raise money and choosing the Armenian Relief Society as the recipient.

"It's really one for a corporate donor to get out and write a check, it's a little blip on their balance sheet," he said. "But for the staff, employees and doctors, it really means a lot. It's really a community-based effort, so I'm very proud of that."

WWI poster made on behalf of Armenian Relief Fund to be auctioned

A collection of about 2,000 posters from the World War One era, considered to be one of the world's finest and amassed over more than a decade by a U.S. Army officer, will be sold at auction later this month, Guernsey's auction house said on Tuesday, Reuters reports.

The collection, which will go under the hammer during an online, unreserved auction with no minimum bids on June 30 and July 1, includes the famous poster of a stern-looking, top-hatted Uncle Sam pointing a finger with the words, "I Want You for U.S. Army."

Another patriotic poster shows the American flag and laborers with the words "Teamwork Wins," while a third is of French women working in a laundry inscribed "Four Years in the Fight."

Although all of the posters, works of art which are expected to fetch between \$200 to \$5,000 apiece, are patriotic, their topics range from fundraising and food rationing to women's war efforts, enlistment and animal aid.

About half of the posters are from the United States, while others are in various languages from more than 15 countries such as France, Italy, Germany, Canada, Cuba and China.

The largest poster is a massive 9- by 14-foot American work urging people to "Give, or we Perish," that was made on behalf of the Armenian Relief Fund.



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS

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

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

PREMISES

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



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

LANDS

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

- 2302 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2295 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 16/15, 173sq.m., 2bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 5000 USD
- 2290 **Bayron str.**, Newly built, /5th floor, 220sq.m, 2bedrooms, study, open kitchen, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, parking. Price: 4000 USD
- 1780. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.



- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m., 2bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 2089. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2243. **Buzand str.**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished,

parking. Price: 2500 USD

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

USD

- 2252. **Northern ave.**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str.**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- 999. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capitolly repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- 1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms,

capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

- 1142. **Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitolly repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- 1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitolly repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str.**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

- 2049. **Teryan str.**, ground floor+basement, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitolly repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitolly repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitolly repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitolly repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitolly repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- 2033. **Abovyan str.**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m., capitolly repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD
- 2031. **Vardanants str.**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m, Price: 8000 USD
- 2027. **Sayat Nova str.**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capitolly repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

Ambassador Prof. Armen B. Smbatyan: "Today We the Armenians Need Positive Energy and Our Richest Culture Should be a Source for It..."

The 11th Aram Khachaturian International Competition of Young Musicians Held Successfully in Yerevan



By Gourgen James Khazhakian
Chief Correspondent
Journalist Emeritus of Armenia

The 6th of June is the birthday of Aram Khachaturian, a really unique world-recognized top "brand" of Armenia and all Armenians worldwide, the greatest composer of all the times and all the nations...

Your author remember the following: when in the 70-s of the last century, in England a survey was conducted with a single question: "Do you know who is the author of music behind the opening credits of the "The Onedin Line"?" (a BBC television drama series which ran from 1971 to 1980, very popular in England). The vast majority of respondents said that it was a "melody of an English folk song". In reality that was an excerpt from the Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia from the ballet Spartacus by Aram Khachaturian. We strongly believe this needs no comment...

That was the eleventh time on that same day in Yerevan they launched the International Competition of the young musicians named after Aram Ilyich Khachaturian organized due to joint efforts by the Ministry of Culture of Armenia, "Aram Khachaturian-Competition" Cultural Foundation and the Yerevan State Conservatory after the Great Komitas under the high patronage of the First Lady of Armenia Mrs **Rita A. Sargsyan** who was the Honorary Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Competition.

Traditionally, in the morning the organizers, jury members and young contestants laid wreaths and flowers at the tombstone of the Genius at the Komitas Pantheon.

And at noon a press conference on the 11th Competition (for violinists, this year) was held at the Aram Khachaturian House Museum.

According to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Aram Khachaturian International Competition, the Armenian President's Advisor on the International Humanitarian-Cultural Cooperation, Honored Art Worker of Armenia Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Prof. **Armen Smbatyan**, when in 2003, as a part of the events for the Centennial of A.I. Khachaturian, they held

the very first competition named after the Great Composer, its participants were mostly Armenians, and from a few countries.

Today, twelve years later, we have participants from 16 states, and I can state with no doubt that our Competition is recognizable at the international cultural arena, Mr Smbatyan said. In his words, "Of course, an important factor for such a success is the fact that the Aram Khachaturian International Competition began a member of a very reputable and prestigious music organization - the World Federation of International Music Competitions (WFIMC)



in 2013, which, naturally, has been presenting widely the whole musical Armenia (including our Contest indeed) in the world, but an objective factor here is that within all



these years we have been able to provide a truly international level, both in terms of its organization, and the jury members and participants. And I do not think it would be a big exaggeration to say that today our Competition is in the same row along with such internationally renowned competitions as the Intl Tchaikovsky Competition, Queen Elisabeth Music Competition, the Montreal International Competition, others of the

kind", said Armen Smbatyan and continued: "This year we received 60 applications for participation in the competition, and should have been selected from them 24, - according to the regulations, it turned out that 25 artists will participate, it happens sometimes. To our delight, five of them - representatives of Armenia permanently residing in our country."

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Competition also thanked the WFIMC for provision them with the world-renowned musicians and teachers as the Jury members, such as the Moscow Conservatory Professor

Sergey Kravchenko who was a jury member of the Aram Khachaturian Competition for the third time already; the list of countries in which he gave concerts and master classes and competitions, and where he was a jury member may take a big space, **Vladimir Lanzman** (ex. USSR-Israel-Canada) who played under such eminent conductors as **Zubin Mehta**, **Seiji Ozawa**, **Franz Paul Decker**, **Charles Dutoit**, **Gennady Rozhdestvensky**, **Evgeny Svetlanov** and others, a legendary violinist and teacher, a graduate of the Moscow

Conservatory **Ino Mirkovic** who performed before the Presidents of more than 20 countries and was the founder of several conservatories (Croatia, Switzerland), a world leading expert on the international relations and cultural ties, a violinist, teacher, musicologist, UNESCO expert in the field of music **Paolo Petrocelli** (Italy), one of the leading way violin professors in Europe **Igor Petrushevsky** (UK), Professor of the Beijing Central Conservatory **Veidong Tong** (China).

Chairman of the Jury was a People's Artist of Armenia, laureate of the State Prize, Professor of the Yerevan Conservatory (since 1987), Knight of the "St. Mesrop Mashtots" Order of the Republic of Armenia and the "St. Sahak-St. Mesrop" Order of the Armenian Apostolic Church, a student of the great Leonid Kogan **Edward Tadevosyan**.

"We the figures of the Armenian culture, should be aware that we are an integral and in fact an inseparable part of the world culture", Armen Smbatyan stressed.

According to the Deputy Culture Minister of Armenia **Arthur Poghosyan**, Aram Khachaturian International Competition aimed at identifying the young talents worldwide, of course, is a successful project, and this success is to be appreciated.



Mr Poghosyan described the Competition's membership in the WFIMC as recognition, but also difficult mission that obliges and which should "be carried on a decent level".

Mr Poghosyan compared Aram Khachaturian Contest with the annual Intl Film Festival "Golden Apricot" in terms of the international promotion of the Armenian art and culture.

Deputy Minister of Culture of Armenia told the journalists and all those present two good news: the first – on the Federation Annual General Assembly session took place on the 8th of May this year they've decided to include "conducting" specialty in the contest, which, of course, is an evidence of more serious attitude towards the Competition, and the second one: there was a decision to hold the WFIMC General Assembly session 2016 in Yerevan.

According to the Chairman of the Jury Prof. Edward Tadevosyan, international recognition of the Aram Khachaturian Competition is a nice thing, but at the same time more obliging, especially for the young talents – participants of the Competition.

A management rep of the Sponsor of this competition, the «Ucom» company **Ashot Barseghyan** said their company was ready to continue to support the Armenian art and culture and has always been doing it with pride.

Answering The Highlights question on the cultural life of Armenia in recent years, the mission and the impact of culture in our society, and especially – the young people, and in this context - the role of the Aram Khachaturian International Competition, Armen Smbatyan said: *"You know, in the hardest early 90s, I wanted Yerevan, Armenia again to become a center of a wide variety of festivals on art and culture, and today I can say that my dream has come true. Moreover, with all responsibility I declare: today Yerevan, Armenia are among the world cultural centers; look, in the independent Republic of Armenia today so many cultural events are being held that we could not dream even in the Soviet Union ... at the Venice Biennale Armenian pavilion takes Grand Prix, almost all of our ensembles - and old and young - I mean, first of all, wonderful children choir "Children of Armenia", - with a great, unprecedented success have been touring around the Globe, in the legendary museums of the world - Russia, Italy, France, England, America - huge exhibi-*

tions on the Armenians and Armenia are being held - and all I cannot count ... Why we the Armenians, just "have fun" to talk all the time about the negative things, ah?... While today we need, - as oxygen-positive emotions, energy ... And our ancient culture - millennia-old and the same time eternally young, just can and must be an inexhaustible source of this very positive mood and energy...".

Mr Smbatyan also stressed the role of the state in supporting culture.

According to him, the Khachaturian International Competition has been making its "modest contribution" to the popularization of the Armenian art and our country abroad - in general. *"Now we have brilliant young people who, regardless of whether they live here, or abroad, no matter, multiplies the Glory of our Homeland,"* concluded Adviser to the President of Armenia. Arthur Poghosyan added that the Competition supported by the Ministry of Culture of Armenia held at a high level, without which it would be almost impossi-



ble to ensure the implementation of the Contest itself as well as other activities within it, in particular, exhibition of rare original vintage violins in the House Museum of



Aram Khachaturian held on 7-8 June.

On 12 June 5 participants remained - **Pierre Frapier** (France), **Davit Ardukhanyan** (Russia), **Mariam Vardanyan** (Armenia), **Andrea Obiso** (Italy) and **Iva Miletic** (Serbia) performed with the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia W. A. Mozart Violin Concerto No.5 in A major, K.219 or Violin Concerto No.3 in G major, K.216 (by choice), and on 13 June - A.I. Khachaturian Violin Concerto in D minor, op.46. The final results were to be known on June 14 evening, during the closing ceremony gala concert.

Armenia is "The Country of Honor" at the MIDEM Fest in Cannes

Sergey Smbatyan was awarded the Order of Arts and Letters of France

On the 5-7 June the MIDEM prestigious festival held in Cannes, France. MIDEM is an International Festival dedicated entirely to the music industry. It involves all styles of music - classical, jazz, rock, hip-hop etc. The Festival represents the entire system the music industry - producers, record labels, music publishers and even much more.

This year Armenia was "the Country of Honor", - with numerous music, dance, other troupes performed, art/fashion exhibitions. Within the Fest framework Armenian President **Serzh Sargsyan** met Minister of Culture and Communication of France Mme **Fleur Pellerin**, top-ranking reps of various intl festivals and projects who suggested him joint projects to be realized both abroad and Armenia.

The State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (SYOA) headed by its Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor **Sergey Smbatyan** has performed at Debussy Hall of Cannes within the framework of MIDEM festival. The performance of the Orchestra was broadcasted by Public Television of Armenia. The concert was attended by the President of RA **Serzh Sargsyan**, the Minister of Culture Mrs **Hasmik Poghosyan**, representatives of music industry. During the first part of the program the audience was presented "Festive overture" by Alexander Harutyunyan, Concerto Rhapsody for Cello and Orchestra by Aram Khachaturian and Adagietto from the opera "Lost Paradise" by Krzysztof Penderecki. The soloist was Narek Haknazaryan (cello). In the second part the Orchestra performed "La Mer" by Claude Debussy and pieces from "Spartacus" ballet by Aram Khachaturian.

And last, but not the least, not at all: on 6 June, the Minister of Culture and Communication of France Fleur Pellerin awarded **Sergey Smbatyan**, the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia the Order of Arts and Letters of France. Normally, this Order is awarded to artists aged 30 and above who have significant achievements in literature and art. However, in exceptional cases, the age of candidates is being ignored. 27-year-old **Sergey Smbatyan** is one of such cases. We congratulate Maestro Smbatyan and wish him and the SYOA further success!

VivaCell-MTS: Corporate Citizen Responsibility, Again and Again...

The Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute has been enriched with new valuable items

Any testimony, letter, picture, postcard that has reached us from the years of the Armenian Genocide is of great importance for the study of that period. Over the course of years the collection of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute has been enriched with numerous valuable items owing to the financial support and donations of individuals.

In this regard, the VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**'s cooperation with the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute has already become traditional. With direct support from Ralph Yirikian within the last years the museum collection was enhanced with unique items, particularly a collection of postcards with images of the Western Armenia and Armenian themes, literature that is considered a source of high academic value, historical documents on humanitarian support that was provided to survivors of the Armenian Genocide, original photo footage of Armenian refugees, items, letters, stamps referring to the life of Western Armenians before the genocide, photos of renowned Armenian families, as well as old newspapers of great exhibition importance. A considerable part of the exhibition items was obtained by the support of two Armenian-American citizens from Los Angeles, father and son, **Ohannes** and **Hratch Hannessian** of Shirak Publishing House. The Hannessian family has compiled years of research into valuable books and documents that are today available to every Armenian.

This time, too, owing to the support from Ralph Yirikian and Hratch Hannessian, valuable items have been obtained and donated to the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute.

"Knowing the truth is not enough. To obtain justice one should pass that knowledge to others and prove it with undeniable facts and evidence. Every Armenian bears the bitter consequences of the Genocide,

and every Armenian should contribute to the cause of the recognition of the Genocide and the elimination of its consequences. In this regard we highly appreciate the committed work of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute and we are ready to support its initiatives," VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian noted.

In 2014 VivaCell-MTS invested AMD 2.297.000.000 for the implementation of the Corporate Social Responsibility and sponsorship projects



Based on its commitment to the society, VivaCell-MTS summed up its expenditures directed at implementing social investment projects throughout 2014, in frames of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Institutionalized within the Company from the first day of inception as a key strategic approach, the CSR is always taken into account in the design and implementation of the short- and long-term activities of the Company.

In total, in 2014, VivaCell-MTS allo-

cated AMD 2.045.000.000 for implementing social projects in the following areas:

- 1) Education – AMD 670.008.000
- 2) Culture – AMD 690.800.000
- 3) Environmental protection and education – AMD 190.000.000
- 4) Healthcare – AMD 237.792.000
- 5) Community development– AMD 135.000.000
- 6) Promotion of sports and healthy lifestyle – AMD 121.400.000

Additionally, in 2014 VivaCell-MTS sponsored a number of significant activities and events, such as the Armenian national football team, celebrations of the 2796th anniversary of Yerevan city, the celebrations of William Shakespeare's 450th anniversary, the "Great Champions" and "100 seconds" projects, with the total amount of AMD 252.000.000.

Thus, the total investment made by VivaCell-MTS into CSR and sponsorship projects in 2014 made AMD 2.297.000.000.

The annual "Painting Day" held at Yerevan Zoo

The annual "Painting Day" was held at Yerevan Zoo on June 5. Huge open-air studio that gathered hundreds of young artists from Yerevan and regions was organized by the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) and General Partner VivaCell-MTS.

The Painting Day marked the end of the 8th Pan-Armenian painting contest. The topic of this year's contest was the "Family Tree". This symbolic theme is not only a search for own roots, but a special appeal for commemoration, and a reference to the deep connection between humans and nature.

"The Painting Day is not only a celebration of color, creativity, vivacity and optimism, but it also has educational and pedagogical role. In this environment the children are more likely to absorb the messages this event translates: to love and protect the nature, to know one's culture and roots, and to maintain identity. VivaCell-MTS highly appreciates this initiative as it is in unison with the priorities and value system of our Company", VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian noted.

In line with the topic of the day, the

event brought together representatives of different generations. 5 to 16 years old children depicted family trees in their paintings; a group of young artists decorated the bus stop and the underpass next to the zoo, while the fragments of the wooden lineage-sculptures served as canvas for paintings of older artists.

"In my painting I tried to depict the colorful and bright family tree where I included my distant relatives living in America. My family tree stands firmly on its "feet"; I want each family to live at carefree, happy, healthy and loving families" said Satenik Mkhitaryan, 12, about her painting.

10-year-old Rostam Ajoyan explained his thoughts about the family tree he painted in another way.

"I have drawn a very thick and strong tree, because my family goes on living and working and creating even after the Genocide. The bird sits on the family tree and eats tasty fruits of the tree".

The entertainment part included folk songs and dances; traditional dance classes were organized throughout the day.

Booths for children and a variety of educational programs were organized during the event and different programs were offered by the partners of the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC): Armenian Tree Project, British Council, UNICEF Armenia, the FAR Children's Support Centre and others.

The results of the 8th Pan-Armenian Painting Contest will be announced in August 2015. The winners will get many prizes: bicycles, photo cameras, books, PCs; children's paintings will be circulated in printed and online publications and exhibitions – as ambassadors spreading the idea of firm Armenian Family Tree.

The PanArmenian Painting Contest is an annual initiative organized by the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets and its General Partner VivaCell-MTS since 2008.

The first inclusive playground in Armenia officially opened at Yerevan Zoo

Starting from 2013, Yerevan Municipality began implementing Yerevan Zoo reconstruction program, which was meant to fundamentally transform the whole environment of the Zoo, as well as keeping and care conditions for the animals. Around 1 billion AMD was invested for construction and landscape design works at the first stage of the program, and Yerevan Zoo celebrated its season opening on June 1 completely transformed.



Mr Yirikian with Mrs Armik Yirikian, daughter Sarin and son Narek



Parallel to the start of this program, different structure, including environmental non-profit organizations, came up with proposals to participate in it. Namely the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets proposed to embed an inclusive component to the playground being built in frames of the program. Upon Yerevan Mayor's approval the inclusive playground project was integrated into the Zoo reconstruction program.

Starting from December 2014, a public fundraising campaign organized by the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets has raised funds from both citizens and partner organizations.

The peak point of the campaign was the Fundraising Soiree held on April 9, 2014 at Armenia Marriott Hotel.

Representatives of private and public sectors, diplomatic missions and international organizations participated in the event. The live and silent auctions, as well as voluntary donations totaled in 10 million AMD; the sum was matched by the FPWC's General Partner VivaCell-MTS.

"Building an inclusive playground is important in terms of giving a possibility to children with various types of disabilities to have equal access to physical activities. This will have the most positive impact on them both physically and emotionally, will give them the opportunity to communicate and learn from each other, explore and develop their abilities and overcome psychological difficulties.

Having all this in mind, VivaCell-MTS couldn't be indifferent to this initiative," Viva-Cell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian re-marked.

The project was also supported by Coca-Cola Hellenic Armenia, HSBC Bank Armenia, the staff of the EU Delegation to Armenia, the staff of the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo, Armenian British Business Chamber, individuals and organizations.

The professional support and consulting was received by NGOs assisting persons with disabilities, such as Unison,

Bridge of Hope, Armenian Mothers, Prkutyun, Child Development Foundation, Autism National Foundation.

A recent UNICEF study reveals that the segregation of disabled children in Armenia is in many ways linked to the problem that the general public still perceives it as impossible to integrate mentally as well as physically handicapped persons in a normal life. In many cases families with disabled children are marginalized due to prevailing prejudices and a lack of awareness for their special needs.

The inclusive playground will become a model space for social integration aimed at changing these stereotypes. It will be a fundamental platform for healthy development for children of different abilities, where they can have equal opportunities for education and play.

European Parliament report calls on Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide

Plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg (France) adopted the 2014 Turkey progress report on June 10, the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Development (EAFJD) informs.

The report in general records a negative review on Human Rights situation in Turkey, freedom of expression, decline in democracy, worries on minority rights, aggressive attitude against Greece, and refusal over the existence of the Republic of Cyprus.

The report greets the wide participation at the elections of 7 June 2015 in Turkey, and the presence of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) in the newly formed parliament. Moreover, the report welcomes the sheltering of 1,600,000 Syrian refugees in Turkey.

The preamble of the report mentions: "After Turkey becoming a candidate country to the EU in 2005, the Armenian Genocide stopped being an issue in the reports. It should be noted, that in the above mentioned resolution there is the explicit call on Turkey to reconcile with its past and recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Article 49 repeats the call to Armenia and Turkey to establish diplomatic ties and open the border between the two countries without preconditions.

President of the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy (EAFJD) Kaspar Karampetian welcomed the



call to Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide, as well as to open the border without preconditions. Karampetian stressed the fact, that the European Parliament once again showed, that it doesn't succumb to Turkish pressure, recalling, the threats by Volkan Bozkir, EU Minister and chief negotiator of Turkey, that Turkey will not accept the report, if there will be any reference to the Armenian Genocide. Rapporteur Kati Piri (Socialists and Democrats, the Netherlands) already reacted, saying that the European Parliament can't deny documents which have already been adopted.

The report, leaves Turkey's accession to the EU open; a political process that is getting harder and harder over the years.

Armenia's Gyumri establishes friendly-city relationship with Xi'an, China



Xi'an city, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province established on Monday a friendly-city relationship with Gyumri, the second largest city in Armenia, with an eye to more in-depth cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, Xinhua reports.

Dong Jun, mayor of Xi'an, attended the ceremony in Gyumri Monday marking the signing the friendly city agreement as well as that on trade and economic cooperation, along with the Mayor of Gyumri Samvel Balasanyan, and the Governor of Shirak region, Felix Tzolakyan.

The two sides expressed the wish to expand bilateral cooperation in all possible spheres, including trade and economy, tourism, culture, and high-tech.

Xi'an and Gyumri are both located along the ancient Silk Road. Xi'an, as the starting point of the Silk Road, is not just a major transport hub linking China's east with its west, but also the biggest city in the China section of the new Eurasian Continental Bridge. In his keynote speech at the Xi'an-Gyumri Economic and Trade Forum Monday evening, the mayor of Xi'an called for the establishment of various cooperation platforms between the two cities, to promote the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping when he visited Central Asia and Southeast Asia in September and October of 2013.

The Initiative refers to creating the modern Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road to boost international trade and expand global economic ties. The Belt and Road routes run through the continents of Asia, Europe and Africa, connecting vibrant East Asia economic circle at one end and developed European economic circle at the other.

Recalling Gyumri's role along the ancient Silk Road, Balasanyan said he would like to see a revival of Armenia in the modern Silk Road Economic Belt.

The Xi'an delegation also visited Monday Gyumri's Technological Park.

Gyumri, with a population of 146,000, is also a cultural capital of Armenia.

Ramifications of Cilicia Catholicosate's lawsuit against Turkey



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

Armenians worldwide applauded the Cilician Catholicosate for filing a lawsuit in the Turkish Constitutional Court on April 27, demanding the return of its historic seat in Sis, Kozan district of Turkey's Adana province. The Cilician See's former headquarters, established in 1293, was confiscated by the Turkish government in 1921, at the culmination of the Armenian Genocide.

Catholicos Aram I announced that should the Turkish court reject the lawsuit, the Catholicosate intends to appeal the ruling to the European Court of Human Rights, which requires that all domestic legal remedies are exhausted before it considers appeals on cases filed against Council of Europe members states. Skeptics of Turkish acceptance of European Court decisions should know that the Republic of Turkey has complied with all rulings since its acceptance of the Court's jurisdiction in 1990.

The Catholicosate's lawsuit is a landmark case for several reasons:

- It seeks to restore partial justice for the enormous human, material, and territorial losses suffered by Armenians during the Genocide.

- It shifts "Hai Tad [Armenian Cause] efforts beyond the recognition of the Armenian Genocide into the legal sphere," as stated by Catholicos Aram I.

- It could set a precedent for similar legal claims, as His Holiness informed The New York Times last month: "After 100 years, I thought it was high time that we put the emphasis on reparation.... This is the first legal step. This will be followed by our claim to return all the churches, the monasteries, the church-related properties and, finally, the individual properties."

Despite the noble objectives pursued by the Catholicosate's lawsuit, a controversy surfaced in the Armenian community last week, when several websites and newspapers reported that the Catholicosate of Cilicia had demanded

that the Turkish government "either return the property of the Catholicosate of Sis or pay a compensation of 100 million Turkish Liras (\$37 million)." Garo Armenian, a prominent Armenian community leader, wrote a cautionary article titled, "Our Sacred Sites are not Personal Possessions." He stressed that "the Catholicosate's lawsuit raises a series of important questions which must be collectively considered forthwith with prudent diligence in order to prevent any undesirable precedents." He also urged the Catholicosate to clarify this issue if the news reports have not accurately reflected the content of the lawsuit.

I contacted last week the Catholicosate's representatives seeking such a clarification. I was assured in an e-mail by Father Housig Mardirossian, Assistant to His Holiness Aram I, that "The lawsuit of the Catholicosate has one clear objective: The return of the Catholicosate of Cilicia."

In response to my request for a copy of the lawsuit, Payam Akhavan, a prominent international lawyer and lead counsel for the Catholicosate, stated that "it is not possible or advisable at this stage to share the full application while it is still pending before the Turkish Constitutional Court."

On questions regarding monetary compensation, attorney Akhavan provided the following explanation: "The fundamental claim before the Turkish Constitutional Court is that Turkey should return the Monastery and Cathedral of St. Sofia, both because of the Catholicosate's property rights, as well as its religious significance for Armenians. The claim is not for compensation, given that this is not merely private property, but rather, property of religious and historical significance. However, I have been advised by our Turkish lawyer that under Turkish laws and procedures it is necessary, with respect to the property rights claim (and not the religious rights claim) to reserve the Catholicosate's alternate right to seek compensation by providing a provisional amount.... But I want to emphasize that the claim is not for compensation; it is for the return of the property, to be used for

religious worship and related cultural purposes."

I contacted an independent lawyer in Istanbul who confirmed that Turkish law indeed required that a specific value be stated for a property under litigation.

Now that the financial issue is clarified, there are other important matters facing the Catholicosate and Armenians in general. Some of these questions might be a little premature, but Armenians may want to reflect upon them in order to anticipate the consequences of any eventual decisions by Turkish or European courts:

1. What would the Catholicosate do should the Turkish court or government allow the restoration of the Sis church and its use for religious worship without returning ownership of the property to the Catholicosate? Moreover, what if the Turkish government also offered monetary compensation for the repair of the church headquarters while retaining the property rights?

2. In case the Turkish Court or the European Court of Human Rights decided to return the Sis church property, would the Catholicosate relocate to its historic headquarters or continue to remain in exile in Antelias, Lebanon?

In view of the Turkish government's recent overtures to the heads of Assyrian and Syriac churches to return to their historic headquarters in Turkey from temporary exile in Syria, Turkey's leaders may use the Armenian lawsuit as a cover vis-à-vis their own hardliners, and make a similar offer to the Catholicosate of Cilicia.

President Erdogan may make such a gesture for three reasons:

1. To preempt a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in favor of the Catholicosate, and avoid setting a legal precedent for future Armenian lawsuits;

2. To score a public relations victory in international circles, particularly after his party's loss of parliamentary majority in last Sunday's elections;

3. To reap the economic benefits of foreign tourists and Armenian visitors to the historic headquarters of the Cilician Catholicosate at Sis.

Murder cannot be hid long, the truth will out: Chris Bohjalian on a trip to Western Armenia

In March I spent three days at "Responsibility 2015," the conference on the Armenian Genocide sponsored by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation held in Manhattan. At the end of the final day, I was at once invigorated and exhausted. I was inspired by the passion of the artists and activists and intellectuals, and I was emotionally wrung out by the realities of imagining for three days the genocide that a century ago this month was commencing.

It was impossible not to contemplate my visits to Western Armenia, and what I have seen there. I was brought back to Van and Kharpert and Diyarbakir. I was brought back to Chunkush and the Dudan Crevasse. And I was brought back to Digor.

Digor isn't on a lot of the maps that we Armenian pilgrims follow on our journeys back into the world that was ours once. It's a town of about 2,500 people, mostly Kurds. But it's not far from Ani. It's no more than 20 miles from the Armenian border. The editor of this newspaper, Nanore Barsoumian, has been there. So has her predecessor, Khatchig Mouradian.

At some point in the 1950's, a small Turkish military contingent drove to a rocky plateau west of Digor and placed dynamite inside the five medieval stone churches that comprised the isolated Armenian monastery of Khdzgonk. And then they blew them up.

Most of them, anyway. I had heard that one proud section of the largest of the five churches, St. Sargis, was still standing.

We all know the appalling lengths to which Turkey will go to deny the genocide. We know the government is pathologic; we know that it approaches the culpability of the Ottoman regime with a despicable, Stalin-like determination to rewrite history via lies and bluster and threats.

But if you want to see firsthand the lengths to which the government has gone to deny the historical reality of the Armenian presence on the Anatolian plains, visit St. Sargis. I journeyed there last summer with my family.

St. Sargis is not easy to find. The monastery compound is only eight miles as the crow flies from Digor, but it sits hidden on a ledge halfway down a steep ravine. We only found it because we were traveling with Khatchig, who knew the mayor of Digor, who, in turn, offered us a guide from the village to lead us there.

But we hiked through the desert-like hills to the edge of a plateau, looked down and there it was: St. Sargis. The center of the church and the iconic Armenian dome, despite great gaping holes in the walls, had survived the blast.

I remember wondering when I was climbing several hundred feet down the vertigo-inducing ridge into the sheltered ravine, did the Turkish soldiers lower their dynamite over the side of the cliff with pulleys and ropes, or did they carry it in their packs? Clearly they'd needed a lot: I'd seen black and white photographs of the five-church compound. The churches had been constructed between the 11th and 13th centuries, and they had been built to last.

I've visited a lot of Armenian ruins across Historic Armenia - perhaps as many as 30 or 40 different monasteries and churches in places that most North Americans outside of our commu-



nity couldn't find on a map. In some ways, it's reminiscent of visiting a castle keep in Scotland or the ancient city in Rome. The soul wonders at the past and we are left wistful by the ephemerality of our lives.

But here is how it is different: Often these ruins - while as old as some Roman temples or the remnants of a tower in the Scottish highlands - were the homes to vital, vibrant and active congregations or monasteries a mere hundred years ago. When Babe Ruth was playing baseball. When Scott Fitzgerald was honing his craft. When Alexander Graham Bell in New York was ringing a fellow named Watson in California.

By the 1950's, when the locals who live in Digor recall the Turkish soldiers blowing up the 5 churches, the monastery had been sitting empty for less than 40 years.

Today much of the rubble has disappeared back into the earth. Scrub brush and dirt have slowly buried the shattered stonework, as well as the walls of the chapels that were blown out and into the nearby crevasse.

The last stage in any genocide is denial. My sense is that's why decades after evicting the monks, the Turks tried to blow up the site - one of perhaps dozens of churches they would destroy in the 1950's.

It wasn't enough to ethnically cleanse the Armenians from the country; it was important to scour away any trace that once upon a time we had lived there, too - even in a ravine in the absolute middle of nowhere. My wife and I speculated that the only reason St. Sargis remains is because the soldiers ran out of dynamite and it was too much work to bother coming back to finish the job.

But, as Shakespeare observed, the truth will out.

The full quote is even more meaningful here: "Truth will come to light; murder cannot be hid long...at the length truth will out."

Indeed: Murder cannot be hid long.

As drained as I was at the end of "Responsibility 2015," I was also confident that we - Armenians - are winning. We really are. While so many of our ancestors' voices were stilled, their descendants are speaking more passionately and powerfully than ever. "Long" is a relevant term. A century is but a blink in geologic terms.

You can blow up a monastery. But you can't bulldoze the truth.

Massachusetts Rabbis call on Turkey, US and Israel to recognize the Armenian Genocide



In a statement released on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis calls on Turkey, the United States and Israel to recognize the Genocide, the Armenian Weekly reports.

The Massachusetts Board of Rabbis reaches out in solidarity and sorrow to Armenians everywhere on the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. We acknowledge the pain carried through generations of a people decimated, the psychic scars transmitted, the truncated branches of family trees yet to regenerate. We hear the echoes of pleading voices long stilled that call us to remember, to learn, to witness. We call for universal recognition of what happened on the plains of Anatolia, the 1915-23 atrocities carried out by the Ottoman government. Only truth shall be surety for the timeless cry of "Never Again."

Details unfold as a scroll of lamentation, these we remember and pour our hearts out. We remember the hundreds of Armenian intellectuals, the writers, artists, doctors and lawyers, the communal and political leaders arrested and executed on April 24, 1915. We remember the desert death marches, the killing squads, and the concentration camps. We remember the 1.5 million Armenians killed of some 2 million in their ancestral homeland prior to World War I, mourning the destruction and

exile of an ancient people. We remember the use of trains for deportation to death, cattle cars packed with human beings, portent of genocide to come. We remember the heroic efforts of American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, the missionaries and aid workers who cried out to the world for response. We remember the continuing denials and the shame of refusing to recognize what happened, to call it for what it was.

We remember words that challenge silence and disallow denial. Words of witness by Ambassador Morgenthau, laying bare the plan by its architect, Talat Pasha: "It is no use for you to argue...we have already disposed of three quarters of the Armenians...we have got to finish with them..." Igniting the flames of one genocide from the embers of another, Adolph Hitler, his memory be blotted out, cynically asked, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" We honor with pride and humility the work of Raphael Lemkin, a Polish Jew who did speak, who coined the word "genocide" in 1943, his long-held anguish for Armenians merging in the midst of the Holocaust with anguish for his own people.

We take to heart Elie Wiesel's lament for the "double killing" of Armenians that happens through silence. Challenging Turkey to acknowledge what happened, it is our

challenge, as well. Recognition of another's suffering and willingness to describe it accurately should never be a matter of political expediency. The prevention of future genocides rests with our willingness to acknowledge those of the past. As the Holocaust should not be subsumed within the Second World War, neither should the Armenian Genocide be subsumed within the First World War.

We call on Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Heirs to the Ottomans, Turkey's burden is also an opportunity to insure that what happened 100 years ago will no longer define the relationship today between descendants of the victims and descendants of the perpetrators. We call on the United States to unequivocally recognize the Armenian Genocide, affirming our commitment to justice and giving meaning to annual expressions of condolence and sorrow. We call on Israel to unequivocally recognize the Armenian Genocide, giving voice to the moral legacy of its own emergence from the ashes of the Holocaust.

Toward healing among communities and peoples:

We call on the American Jewish community through its official organizations to unequivocally recognize the Armenian Genocide, to apologize for past reticence, to reach out from heart to heart.

We call on local Jewish communities to learn about the Armenian Genocide and to reach out to their Armenian neighbors, building friendship and cooperation.

We call on all people to refrain from manipulating past horrors to demonize members of any people or faith today, Christian, Muslim, or Jew.

In the midst of Anatolia where the Biblical Mount Ararat rises, Noah's ark found rest, a dove with its olive branch still waiting to alight. To give rest to the dead and peace to the living, a rainbow promise of never again, the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis calls for universal recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?**Enjoy your leisure****15 June**

19:00. Dear Pamela. Premiere. Play | H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors

16 June

19:00. Anush. Opera in 3 acts. Opera | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian
19:00. Unabi. Dance | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan
20:00. Dark SHOCKolate. Premiere. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

17 June

19:00. Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian
19:00. Glamorous Chobans. Transparent comedy. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan
19:00. From Here and There. Sergey Danielyan's mono-play. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater
19:00. The Witch. Premiere. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
20:00. As a Beginning. Poetry, evening of literature and music | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan
20:00. The Curtain of Time. Within the framework of ArmMono Festival. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

18 June

19:00. 11th "National Gallery" International Music Festival. Pianist Svetlana Navasardyan, soloists of the National Opera Theater, Soprano Artsvik Demurchyan, Mezzo-Soprano Kristine Sahakyan, the State Chamber Orchestra of Armenia (artistic director and principal conductor Vahan Martirosyan) and conductor Harutyun Arzumanyan. Frescoes Hall | National Gallery of Armenia
19:00. The Witch. Premiere. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
19:00. Don Quijote. Ballet in 3 acts. Ballet | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian
19:00. 40 days before Ascension. Tragicomedy in 1 act. Play | Student Theater
19:00. Ardalion. Historical mimodrama. Play | Yerevan State Pantomime Theater
19:00. Royal Concert. Musical-amusing

show. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19 June

15:00. The Snow Queen. Play for kids | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater
18:00. A Tale from the Clouds. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
19:00. Feast at Summer House. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski
19:00. 44 degree. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater
19:00. The Last Clown. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan
19:00. Coma Nostra. New performance dedicated to the author's 55th anniversary. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
19:00. Tales. Play for kids | H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors
19:00. Show No 3. Musical show. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

20 June

12:00, 14:00. Lazy Huri. Play for kids | Hamazgayin State Theater
12:00, 14:00. Little Ida's Flowers. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
12:30. The Princess and the Pea. Musical Performance. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater
16:00. The Silly Man. Based on Hovhannes Tumanyan's tale. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
16:00, 18:00. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater
19:00. The Prime Minister's Counselor, the Opposition Leader's Secretary and... a Dead Body. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan
19:00. Albania+. Pessimistic comedy. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater
19:00. Getting Married Is Not Easy. Comedy in 1 act. Play | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater
19:00. Jackpot. Comedy in 1 act. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater
19:00. The Family of Orphans. Lyrical Comedy in 2 acts. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan
19:00. Mrs. Ministress. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

21 June

12:00. The Cheating Hunter. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
12:30, 14:00, 15:30. Hansel and Gretel. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater
14:00. Snow White and 7 Dwarfs. Play for kids | Hamazgayin State Theater
15:00. The Will of Unlucky Panos. Play for kids | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater
16:00. Little Red Riding Hood. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
19:00. Love Rectangle. Comedy in 1 act. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan
19:00. Emma Petrosyan. Concert | Chamber Music House after Komitas
19:00. Oh Anna, Anna or Passionate Sunday. Romantic comedy in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan
19:00. 8 Women. Dangerous comedy. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
19:00. Blaise. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater
19:00. We Won. Premiere. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski
19:00. Amnesia. Melodrama. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

MASTER OF THE GARDEN**Opera according to an oral traditional Armenian Folk-Tale****PERFORMANCE**

Composer and Head of the Orchestra: Suren Shahi-Djanyan
 Libretto by Danielle Dalloz
 Stage Manager: Yves Coudray
 Decorator/Theatrical Painter: Damien Schoëvaërt-Brossault
 Folk-Tale Narrator: Vincent Pavesi (bass)
 King: Christian Termis (Actor)
 12th Gardener: Christophe Schuwey (Tenor)
 Samvel: Romain Champion (Tenor)
 Vard: Malia Bendi Merad (Soprano)
 La Péniche Opéra in Paris
 Saturday – April 4, at 8:30 p.m. 2015
 Sunday – April 5, at 4p.m., 2015
 Monday – April 6, at 8:30p.m., 2015
 Studio Raspali in Paris
 Saturday – June 27, 2015
 Sunday – June 28, 2015

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

An abandonment issue from the past may be re-enacted in the present, only in different clothing. The symbolism points toward early issues with siblings or elementary education peers. If you have an overdone sense of rage this week, it is most probably caused by the older issues.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

You may decide that now is the time to purchase something new and attractive for your home or office. Relationships appear to be strained. Lighten up on your expectations and things will go better. At the same time, refuse to be anyone else's doormat.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

Give special attention to the lead paragraph because Mercury is your avatar. As it turns direct in your sign, you may be energized to take a fresh initiative. A plan that has been teetering between stop and go becomes more clear so you can make a better decision.

Cancer (June 21--July 21) :

Your romantic side is cooperating well with your nurturing side at this time. This is especially good for female friendships. Make a date for lunch and reconnect with people you like. You may enjoy small gifts or favors this week.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

Relationships to friends, siblings, or roommates go well. There may be a sense of pressure involving co-workers or the job in general. Use that Leonine charm to ease past the rough spots if possible. Otherwise try to stay out of the way.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

You likely will have help from a woman with regard to your career or life direction this week. Given that Mercury is going direct, you may be on the verge of a new decision in this sector of life. Test first, to see if it suits. If the trial works, you may be onto something.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

Aspects favor travel, learning new things, the internet, and help shared with friends. Prepare to fend off anyone who

wants to control you or push you around on the weekend. You do not have to prove your affection and it isn't even right for the "other" to expect it.

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

A child or a lover might scratch an old emotional wound. In the old days it felt like an abandonment so this feels more painful than is reasonable. It is important for your mental health to stay in the present moment, lest you overreact to the situation and generate misery for yourself and others. Try not to relive that old history in knee jerk fashion.

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

Saturn retrogrades out of your sign this week. By next week you may feel as though a heavy concern or responsibility has backed off for a while. You probably are aware that the thing you must do will return in the fall. But for now you can take a breather while you ponder the next step.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

Your ruling planet is Saturn. Since late December it has tiptoed into your 12th house, showing you a preview of things to come. The 12th usually signals a change to the background of life. People in corporate bodies may move out of the mainstream. Others go back to school or take work in non-profit companies. The summer is a breather before you make changes.

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

You may have been relieved of a few work/career responsibilities last Dec. It appears this summer puts you back in that saddle again, but it will be thoroughly finished by October. Then you may return to the newer rewards for previous effort that began late in December--May 2015.

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

Physical health may be the main thing on the agenda for a couple of weeks. If you need helpers in this department, they will serve you well. If what you need is rest, it will be in a beautiful and soothing place, like the beach or a spa, or a mountain cabin.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Vahan Teryan

ROSES FOR THE FEAST OF VARTAVAR

(For Vyacheslaw Ivanovich)

You praised red roses raised
for Vartavar. And in return
I sang sad singers' songs.
You said: Your country's gardens
are unmatched. Search near and far.
In spite of flinty land, your roses burn.

Vartavar's red rosy wreaths
wherever you turn. Just as the hail
spangles mountains and dale, flames
have scorched our fields and burned
our homes. Look where endless blood
was let. So many bled. No wonder
that our roses blaze so fiery red.

LAND OF NAYIRI

(Excerpt from Ergir Nayiri)

*"I love my fatherland, but that kind of love
requires another word." —Lermontov*

Homer will tell you
how the wanderer feels:
Laertes' son homesick
for the place that he leaves,

always an alien
with loyalties scattered,
crossing sea and mountains
to find every joy flat.

I too have been tempted
by voices, taunts, need,
offers and office
but your name, living seed,

I have kept in a clean heart
to replant, like wheat.

Now consumed with the yearning
only you can cure
I return, my country
for the place to be sure

of hearing the music
I have kept and keep,
our sacred songs, Nayiri,
sweet songs to weep.

What to expect from Armenians in the Turkish Parliament

The Sunday elections in Turkey were a regress for the ruling Justice and Development Party, expert of Turkish studies Arestakes Simavoryan told reporters on June 9.

"The voters sent clear messages to Erdogan, making it clear they stand against constitutional changes," he said.

According to expert of Turkish studies Vahram Ter-Matevosyan, the elections marked a turning point, first of all with regard to the correlation of forces.

"For the first time in history, 95 percent of the Turkish electorate will be represented in the Parliament," Vahram Ter-Matevosyan said. According to him, the elections can be seen as a "vote of no confidence" on Erdogan's political objectives, and more than 2 million people voted against Erdogan's vision of Turkey.

"The elections changed the correlation of forces in the parliament, and on the political field, at large. After a leadership of

13 years, the Justice and Development Party has to take the new realities into consideration and seek ways of cooperation with the opposition."

The worst scenario for the Armenian-Turkish relations will be a coalition between the Justice and Development Party and the Nationalist Movement. "In this case there will be no shortage of anti-Armenian statement," he said.

Another expert of Turkish studies Anush Hovhannisyanyan said the election of three Armenians from three different parties is unprecedented.

"The three MPs will at least try to raise issues concerning the Turkish Armenian community. I think they will actively participate in discussions on the Armenian Genocide, the Turkey-Armenian relations, if there are any in the Parliament," she said.

Vahram Ter-Matevosyan said the expectations from the three Armenian MPs should be different. He expects more from



the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and its representative Kato Palyan.

"At this point the HDP is the only force capable of bringing any change in the Armenian-Turkish relations," he said.

If the Justice and Development Party opts for a minority government, it will not survive long and unwanted developments will be unavoidable.

Experts say it's clear to everyone that early elections will mean a period of political instability, which will, in turn, lead to great economic shocks. Turkey should form a government in 45 days.

Fabulous mural by Armenian artist Marie Balian one of Jerusalem's hidden gems



A fabulous mural produced by world renowned Armenian artist Marie Balian decorates the whitewashed exterior wall at 14 Coresh Street in Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem Post reports that she spent months preparing an original creation as a gift for the enjoyment of the residents of the city. She presented it to the mayor, who stuck it on a wall along one of the city's most rundown, nondescript, least traveled byways.

Yet it is one of the most splendid features of the city and one of Jerusalem's dozens of out-of-the-way or unusual high-

lights that Israelis call pinot, or corners.

In 1918, the first British military governor of Jerusalem brought two Armenian families - the Balian and the Karkashians - to Jerusalem from Turkey to renovate the ceramic tiles at the Dome of the Rock. Four years later, they established the first Armenian pottery in Jerusalem. The two families eventually parted ways amicably, with the Balian remaining on Nablus Road (where one can watch the process of tile-making in their workshop). Marie, who is well into her 90s, was born in Turkey.



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