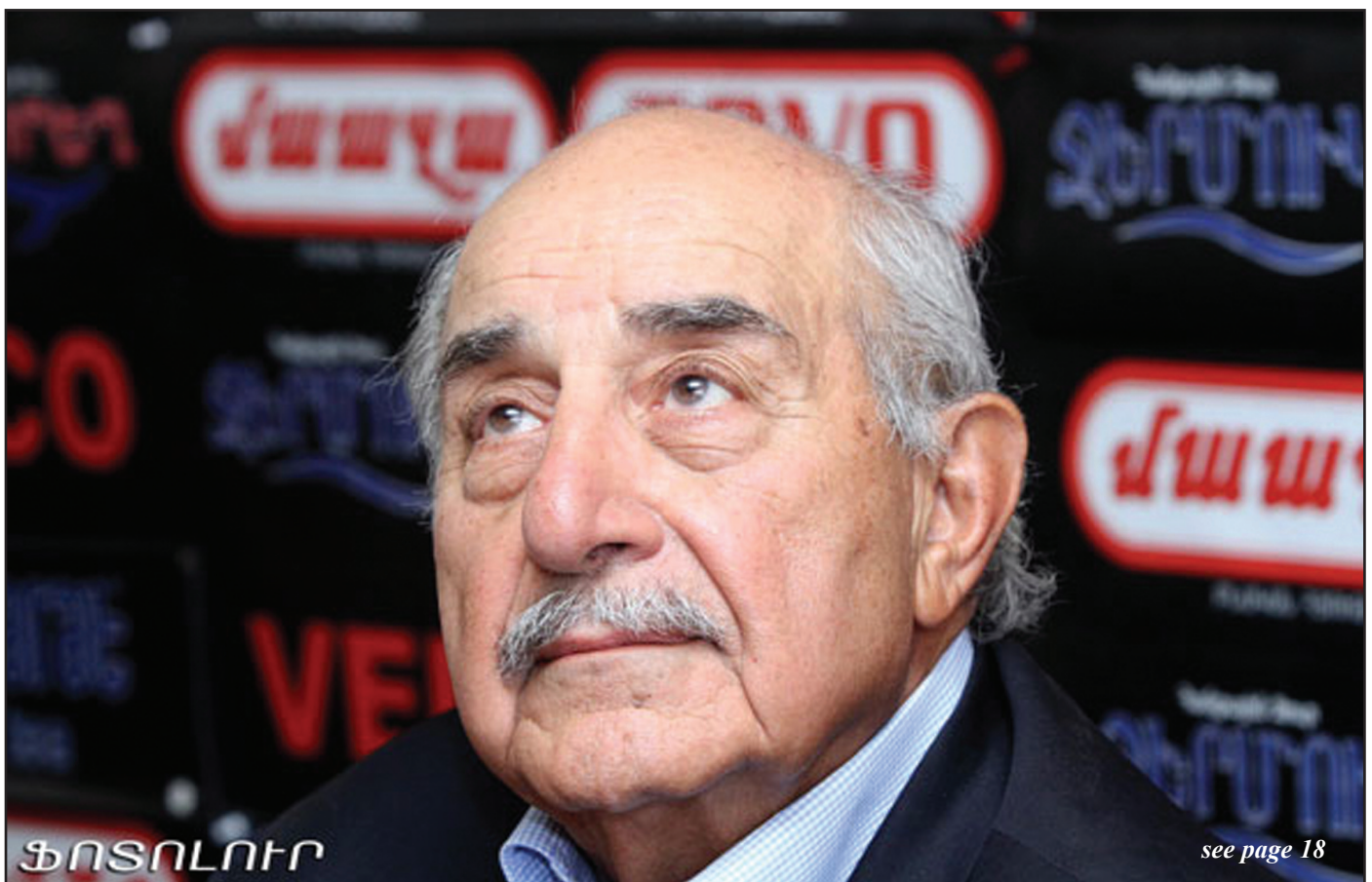


## Philanthropist Vahak Hovnanian passed away aged 83



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## Armenia offers to send more peacekeepers to Lebanon

Armenia is ready to increase the number of its soldiers serving in a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Lebanon led by the Italian military, Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian said on August 26.



According to the Armenian Defense Ministry, Ohanian offered the additional troop deployment at a meeting with Italy's ambassador to Armenia, Giovanni Ricciulli, and Moscow-based military attache, Brigadier-General Massimo Fogari. A ministry statement said he cited "the already positive experience of joint service by Armenian and Italian peacekeepers." The statement did not clarify how many additional troops Yerevan is ready to dispatch to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFL) deployed near the country's borders with Syria and Israel. The Armenian military joined the UNIFL with 32 soldiers in November.

Ohanian personally inspected the Armenian contingent in April. He flew to Lebanon from Rome, where he held talks with Italian Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti and top executives of several Italian defense companies. Ohanian's press office reported afterwards tentative Armenian-Italian agreements on joint manufacturing of military equipment. But it gave no details. Ambassador Ricciulli was reported on Wednesday to praise Italian-Armenian military cooperation and say that his government is ready to deepen it.

Ohanian's first deputy, Davit Tonoyan, expressed Armenia's readiness to step up its participation in UN peacekeeping missions around the world when he met with senior UN officials in New York late last month.

Some 120 Armenian soldiers currently serve in Afghanistan and 35 others in Kosovo as part of NATO-led multinational missions.

## European Body Seeks Changes In Armenian Constitutional Package

The Armenian authorities have pledged to make "considerable changes" in their draft constitutional amendments in response to objections voiced by the Venice Commission, officials from the Council of Europe body said on August 25.

The three legal experts visited Yerevan just days after President Serzh Sargsyan formally approved a package of amendments drafted by a state commission that was formed by him two years ago. It would turn Armenia in 2018 into a parliamentary republic with a largely ceremonial president and a much more powerful parliament and prime minister.

"We had discussions in which we made concrete points," one of the visiting Venice Commission experts, Christoph Grabenwarter, said of their talks with President Serzh Sargsyan and members of the presidential commission on constitutional reform. "We got the answers that these concrete points will be taken on board."

"From the wording [of the answers] we received, we firmly proceed from the assumption that there will be considerable changes," Grabenwarter told a news conference.

Another Venice Commission representative, Aivars Endzins, said they specifically called for the removal of a highly contentious amendment meant to ensure that future parliamentary elections in Armenia always produce a clear winner. It envisages a run-off vote between the two top election contenders if no party or bloc wins a majority of parliament seats in the first round of voting.

The Venice Commission objected to this unusual arrangement shortly after it was made public last month. In a statement, it said that details of the electoral system must be spelled out in Armenia's electoral code, rather than the constitution.

Nevertheless, Sargsyan's commission kept that clause in its final text which was sent to the president and promptly approved by the latter on Friday. Davit Harutiunyan, a member of the presidential panel, on Monday did not exclude that the clause will be removed or altered.



The Venice Commission members met Serzh Sargsyan later on Monday. A statement on the meeting released by the presidential press office said the two sides agreed that they have no "fundamental differences" on the planned constitutional reform. It gave no other details of the talks.

Earlier this year, the Venice Commission said that it supports, in principle, Armenia's switch to a parliamentary system of government.

While in Yerevan, the Council of Europe experts also held a meeting with the parliamentary leaders of Armenia's leading opposition parties, including the Armenian National Congress (HAK), the most vocal opponent of the controversial reform. All of those leaders expressed serious concern at the proposed two-round elections, saying that they would only benefit the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK).

The HAK's Levon Zurabyan revealed at that meeting that his party has turned down Sargsyan's invitation to meet and discuss the matter as part of his fresh consultations with the parliamentary forces. Zurabyan also stood by the HAK's claims that Sargsyan is pushing for the radical change of constitutional order with the sole aim of clinging to power after completing his second and final presidential term in 2018.

Sargsyan and his political allies maintain that the parliamentary system would decentralize power and thereby speed up Armenia's democratization. Asked by a reporter whether the Venice Commission agrees with this assertion, Grabenwarter said, "The commission cannot guarantee that in two or three years democracy in Armenia will be in a better shape than it is now."



## Major Armenian party hints at support for constitutional changes



Just months after threatening street protests against President Serzh Sargsyan's controversial constitutional reform, the Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK) said on August 26 that it is ready, in principle, to back far-reaching amendments drafted by his administration.

The leadership of Armenia's second largest parliamentary party, until recently headed by businessman Gagik Tsarukyan, made this clear immediately after a meeting with Sargsyan.

The meeting was part of his fresh consultations with the country's leading political groups aimed at drumming up support for Armenia's transformation into a parliamentary republic envisaged by the draft amendments. They began less than a week after the amendments were formally endorsed by Sargsyan and sent to the Armenian parliament for approval.

"It was a fairly productive meeting, and I think that we should keep moving for-

ward," BHK spokesman Vahan Babayan told RFE/RL's Armenian service.

Babayan said that Serzh Sargsyan has accepted most of the BHK's proposals on the constitutional reform and that the nominally opposition party no longer thinks that the president is keen to amend the Armenian constitution in order to prolong his rule. "There is no such issue anymore," he said. "We have nothing to say about [the regime's] reproduction because we now think that this reproduction component is now eliminated."

"Having examined the final [constitutional] package and presented our proposals, we are arriving at a conclusion that we can create a document that could be acceptable for the society," added Babayan.

As recently as in February, the BHK and Tsarukyan in particular fiercely opposed the reform drive jointly with more radical opposition forces. Tsarukyan organized a special conference for that purpose on February 5. He threatened to topple Sargsyan with street protests if the latter presses ahead with the controversial constitutional changes.

Serzh Sargsyan hit back hard a week later, lashing out at Tsarukyan at a meeting with his political allies and ordering a government crackdown of his numerous busi-

nesses. The tycoon close to former President Robert Kocharyan initially resisted the onslaught, calling Sargsyan's ouster "the greatest cause of my life." But he caved in shortly afterwards, resigning as BHK chairman and ending his political activities altogether.

The BHK has since significantly toned down its criticism of Sargsyan, while claiming to remain in opposition to his administration. Its opposition credentials are increasingly questioned by Armenian observers.

Serzh Sargsyan on Wednesday also met with leaders of Dashnaksutyun and Orinats Yerkir, two other opposition parties previously represented in his government. Dashnaksutyun is the only opposition force to have officially endorsed his constitutional changes so far. Orinats Yerkir has followed a more ambiguous line.

Two other, more radical opposition parties, the Armenian National Congress (HAK) and Zharangutyun, continue to strongly object to Armenia's transition to a parliamentary system of government, saying that would only enable Sargsyan to stay in power after 2018. They have pledged to campaign against the corresponding constitutional changes that are expected to be put on a referendum in November.

## Opposition party rebuffs Sargsyan on Constitution Talks



Raffi Hovannisian's Zharangutyun (Heritage) party refused on August 27 to hold more talks with President Serzh Sargsyan, reaffirming its strong opposition to sweeping constitutional changes planned by him.

Serzh Sargsyan offered to meet Zharangutyun leaders this week as part of his final consultations with major Armenian parties on a controversial constitutional reform initiated by him.

Zharangutyun decided to turn down

the invitation at a meeting of its governing board in Yerevan. "We took into account the fact that our proposals made at the previous meeting [with Sargsyan] were not accepted and that the existing [constitutional] draft is not acceptable to us," the party's deputy chairman, Armen Martirosyan, told RFE/RL's Armenian service.

"Mr. Hovannisian is aware of our decision," he said. "He took part in the board discussion by using modern means of telecommunication."

Zharangutyun's U.S.-born chairman is reportedly in the United States at the moment.

Zharangutyun and another major opposition party, the Armenian National Congress (HAK), have said all along that the draft amendments envisaging

Armenia's transition to a parliamentary system of government are aimed at enabling Sargsyan to extend his rule beyond 2018. Both parties have pledged to campaign against their adoption at a nationwide referendum expected in November.

Several other opposition parties represented in parliament, notably Prosperous Armenia, have also expressed concern at the proposed reform. However, they now seem ready to endorse it in return for government concessions. Their leaders held separate meetings with Sarkisian on Wednesday and Thursday.

The constitutional changes are also opposed by Armenian civic activists critical of the government and not affiliated

*continued on page 10*

## Armenia and Turkey share more than they sometimes realize: US Ambassador

Highlighting the economic importance of the tourism sector and the value of cross-border cooperation, U.S. Ambassador Richard M. Mills, Jr. joined members of the Turkish-Armenian Tour Operators Network (TATON) during a meeting in Yerevan on Wednesday, August 26, 2015.

TATON developed as a result of USAID's "Bridges" project, an effort to develop economic activity on the cross-border region through tourism. The network's membership includes the most active travel companies and tour operators in the region.

"The Turkish-Armenian Tour Operators Network and its members are working together to tackle the difficult task of cross-border cooperation," Ambassador Mills said. "One of the most effective drivers of cooperation is common business interests. This association's goal of promoting business and the business interests of the local Armenian and Turkish communities is very laudable."

Armenian and Turkish tourism operators already offer cross-border tours. Turkish tour operators are part of an established tourism sector seeking to add extensions to traditional Turkish tour packages. Armenian operators seek to expand their offerings to include multi-country tours. TATON facilitates collaboration on such cross-border trips. Though TATON routinely operates

through an online social network, occasional in-person gatherings allow tour operators from both sides to meet, share concerns, and formalize agreements on joint tours.

"Tourism plays an important role in economic development, and when local communities cooperate economically, they broaden their horizons and share the benefits," Ambassador Mills said. "Cross-border tourism highlights the commonality of communities as much as it celebrates diversity. Armenia and Turkey share more than they sometimes realize: environment, history, and many aspects of culture."

USAID has been working with the Armenian tourism sector since the early 2000s. Primarily, it has focused on improving service quality and building the capacity of Armenia's tourism sector.

For the on-going "Bridges" project in Armenia, USAID partners with the AMAP (Armenian Monuments Awareness Project) Human Development NGO, best known for installing educational signage at some of Armenia's most unique historic and cultural tourist spots.

Prior to the creation of TATON, the "Bridges" project helped local partners to develop the Black Sea Silk Road Corridor through Greece, Turkey, Georgia, and Armenia.

## Armenian Army Medics Trained By U.S. Instructors

In what a senior U.S. diplomat called on August 28 a manifestation of "strong American-Armenian partnership," U.S. military instructors have trained the first group of teaching personnel for the Armenian army's new paramedic school.

The 12 Armenian trainers of military medics completed a three-month training course conducted by six U.S. officers with a graduation ceremony near Yerevan attended by Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan and U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ohanian said the course has been a "great opportunity" for Armenian military personnel to learn new skills and techniques for providing first medical aid to soldiers wounded in action. "You will now pass on your experience and knowledge to our future paramedics," he said.

"You will save lives," Mills said for his part. "Thanks to you, more of your brothers and sisters in arms will return home from places that others fear to tread, dangerous places where you agree to go in the name of peace."

According to the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan, the training course followed a military curriculum used in the United States. "Thousands of pages of material were translated into Armenian, marking the first time the course has been offered in a language other than English," the embassy said in a statement. "As a result of this successful partnership, other nations are requesting the U.S. military conduct similar courses in their native languages."

The U.S. training is primarily designed for soldiers of a special Armenian army brigade that contributes troops to multinational peacekeeping operations abroad, notably the NATO-led missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo. The volunteer unit has received considerable U.S. technical and material assistance

ever since it was set up in 2003.

In 2007, the U.S. military provided the brigade with a mobile field hospital and trained over 40 Armenian medical personnel to operate the \$1.2 million facility. It donated more equipment to the hospital in the following years.

Mills spoke on Friday of a continuing deepening of "the strong American-Armenian partnership" in various areas, including defense and security. "This training is one more example of our nations' mutual progress, our joint friendship, and our strong trust and belief in one another," he said. "I know our partnership will strengthen as we continue to face international challenges to security and stability that cannot be solved by any one country alone."

U.S.-Armenian military cooperation appears to have been largely unaffected so far by Western powers' standoff with Russia, Armenia's main military ally, over the conflict in Ukraine. In particular, Armenian troops continue to regularly participate in U.S.-led military exercises held in Europe.

The Armenian military has increasingly participated in such exercises over the past decade in line with Yerevan's Individual Partnership Action Plan with NATO. The cooperation framework commits Armenia to contributing troops to NATO-led missions and implementing defense reforms meant to bring its armed forces into greater conformity with NATO standards.

As part of those reforms, U.S. military instructors have been helping the Armenian army increase the number of its non-commissioned officers serving on a contractual basis. About 50 Armenian sergeants underwent a weeklong U.S. training course near Yerevan last year.

Ohanian's first deputy, Davit Tonoyan, visited Washington

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## Armenian Oligarch Avoids Prosecution For Fresh Violence



Ruben Hayrapetyan, a controversial government-linked businessman heading the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA), will not be prosecuted despite admitting beating up another entrepreneur, law-enforcement authorities in Yerevan said on August 25.

Armenia's Office of the Prosecutor-General said it will not press criminal charges against Hayrapetyan because of his "reconciliation" with the injured victim, Arsen Avetisyan.

The development is certain to reinforce a widely held belief in Armenia that influential tycoons close to President Serzh Sargsyan and notorious for violent conduct enjoy de facto immunity from prosecution owing to their strong loyalty to the ruling regime.

Avetisyan, who is the chief executive and majority shareholder of the Air Armenia airline, was assaulted and injured during an August 15 meeting with Hayrapetyan that centered on some of the company's massive debts. He was hospitalized with a broken nose and other injuries as a result. Avetisyan's wife, Izabella Melkumyan, appealed to President Sargsyan the following day, saying that the lives of the businessman and his family members are in danger.

Avetisyan announced on August 20 that he has accepted a "reconciliation offer" made by his presumed attacker and will not comment on the incident for now. He cited the need to save Air Armenia from bankruptcy.

In a lengthy statement released on Tuesday, the prosecutors said that the Air Armenia chief has not lodged a formal complaint against Hayrapetyan because the two men have "made peace with one another." They said this gave them sufficient legal grounds for not levelling assault charges against Hayrapetyan.

The statement said the victim testified on August 19 that contrary to his wife's claims he was not kidnapped by the feared oligarch and his bodyguards following the beating, which occurred in a Yerevan café located at the premises of the FFA's Football Academy. Therefore, it said, Hayrapetyan cannot be prosecuted on kidnapping charges either.

According to the prosecutors, Hayrapetyan acknowledged punching and repeatedly kicking Avetisyan when he was questioned by law-enforcement officials last week. They said the tycoon confirmed that the violence stemmed from Air Armenia's failure to repay an outstanding debt to one of his "friends."

Air Armenia, which suspended its regular flights to a dozen destinations in Russia and Europe late last year, has millions of dollars in unpaid debts to several Armenian banks and other firms. Some of those banks took it to court earlier this year.

Avetisyan was attacked the day after a British-registered but Ukrainian-based investment fund holding a 49 percent stake in Air Armenia pledged to invest an additional \$68 million in the troubled carrier.

In fresh comments to RFE/RL made over the weekend, the chief executive of the East Prospect Fund, Vladimir Bobylev, reiterated his strong condemnation of the violence, calling it an act of "savagery" and urging the Armenian authorities to prevent more such incidents. Even so, Bobylev stopped short of demanding Hayrapetyan's prosecution. "We hope that the matter will get a solution acceptable to all parties," he said.

The fund manager further made clear that East Prospect will not reconsider its involvement in the Armenian civil aviation sector after the assault. He said the company has already made significant investments in the Armenian airline and continues to regard Avetisyan as a "person whom we trust."

By contrast, Bobylev warned last week that Avetisyan's beating put the East Prospect investments in Armenia at serious risk. In that context, he avoided citing any possible dates for the resumption of Air Armenia flights.

The August 15 assault happened just over three years after a brutal attack on several Armenian army medics who dined at Yerevan's Harsnakar restaurant owned by Hayrapetyan's family. One of them, Vahe Avetisyan, died while two others were seriously injured after arguing with burly men working at the restaurant.

Avetian's death shocked the nation, sparking angry protests by civic activists outside the restaurant as well as Hayrapetyan's nearby villa against what they saw as a manifestation of impunity enjoyed by government-linked oligarchs.

The outcry forced Hayrapetyan to resign as member of the Armenian parliament and apologize to Avetian's family. But he stayed on as FFA head, denying any involvement in the beating. Some media outlets accused him sanctioning or even ordering the violence, however. In March 2014, six men thought to be Hayrapetian's bodyguards were convicted of Avetian's murder and sentenced to 12 years prison.

Hayrapetyan continued to face allegations of violent conduct even after the Harsnakar incident. Later in 2012, he was accused of beating up a doctor working for FC Pyunik, a football club controlled by him. In 2014, he allegedly verbally and physically abused a Pyunik player during a football match in Yerevan. Hayrapetian denied those allegations through the FFA's press service.

Hayrapetyan, 52, has been a staunch backer of President Sargsyan throughout the latter's seven-year rule. The tycoon holds sway in Yerevan's northern Avan suburb, putting him in a position to earn Sargsyan and the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) many votes there. Armenian opposition groups have accused him of bullying and attacking their local activists in the past.

## Central Bank moves to shore up Armenian currency

The Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) has stepped up its hard currency interventions in an apparent effort to prevent a renewed depreciation of the national currency, the dram, as a result of downward pressures from Russia.

The CBA injected \$50 million in the local currency market on August 26, a sharp increase from the usual volume of its interventions rarely exceeding several million dollars a day.

The move followed a roughly 1.4 percent weakening of the dram against the U.S. dollar registered since last weekend. The dollar-dram exchange rate had barely changed since the beginning of this year.

The CBA did not give any reasons for what was a massive dollar injection by Armenian market standards. Analysts believe that the move was designed to shore up the dram amid a further depreciation of the Russian ruble resulting from a continuing decline in international oil prices.

The ruble has fallen by around 13 percent against the dollar since the beginning of July. The Russian currency has

lost roughly half of its value against the dollar and the euro over the past year.

The ruble's depreciation has significantly cut the dollar-denominated value of vital remittances sent home by hundreds of thousands of Armenians working in Russia. Consequently, the dram came under strong downward pressures late last year, weakening against the dollar by around 17 percent in October-December.

Exchange rate fluctuations in Armenia were particularly sharp in mid-December, causing panic buying of dollars and briefly disrupting retail trade. The CBA managed to stabilize the currency market by sharply raising interest rates, tightening minimum reserve requirements for Armenian commercial banks and cracking down on what it called speculative currency trading. The dram depreciated by only 1.6 percent from January through the end of last week.

Bagrat Asatryan, a former CBA governor critical of the Armenian authorities, on Thursday criticized the latest Central Bank intervention, saying that the dram's exchange rate is "artificial" and that the authorities want to keep it unchanged for



political reasons. In particular, he pointed to a constitutional referendum which President Serzh Sargsyan plans to hold in November.

"Over the past year, the most stable currency [in the non-Baltic former Soviet Union] has been the Armenian dram," Asatryan told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "This should not have been the case because the Armenian economy is definitely not the most stable among these countries."

Asatryan also claimed that the authorities risk further depleting Armenia's modest foreign exchange reserves. "If this is a continuous policy, if the Central Bank wants to set a particular exchange rate, then that runs counter to both the bank's obligations and the interests of our economy," he said.

## TUMOXAGBU Partnership To Launch Tumo Center In Stepanakert

The Tumo Center for Creative Technologies in Stepanakert is set to open its doors to students this October.

Everything is about to change for the teenagers of Stepanakert. The Simonian Educational Foundation has partnered with the Armenian General Benevolent Union to open a Tumo Center for Creative Technologies in the capital of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh on the 2nd of September. The

head of the Simonian Educational Foundation, Sam Simonian, and the head of AGBU Armenia, Vasken Yacoubian, will participate in the opening ceremony.

AGBU will cover all operational costs of the center as well as startup costs in the framework of the TUMOXAGBU partnership, while the government of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is providing the space in a historic building in the city center. The renovation of the space is made possible by a generous donation by Karabakh Telecom.

The Stepanakert program is expected to cater to 500 to 1,000 students who will participate twice a week for two hours per session, gaining 21st century skills, and studying animation, filmmaking, web development and game development, as well as supporting skills such as 3D modeling, computer programming, music, photography and graphic design.

Registration will start on the 14th of September, and students will begin their Tumo life during the first week of October.

The Tumo Center for Creative Technologies is a free of charge after school program that started in Yerevan and subsequently opened a location in Dilijan. The TUMOXAGBU partnership has already opened a branch in Gyumri and is expected to spread Tumo to other locations in Armenia and beyond.





## Armenia's population will decrease, UN Projects



The population of Armenia will plunge to 1.8 million by 2100, the 2015 Revision of World Population Prospects by UN projects.

UNFPA Armenia Assistant Representative Garik Hayrapetyan and demographer Ruben Yeganyan shared insights on the results of the latest UN report.

According to a press release from the Media Center, the forecasts of demographic rates, Garik Hayrapetyan said, are made through average projections.

"Actually, projections are made by optimistic, medium variant and pessimistic scenarios. In 2100 Armenia will have 1.8

million populations. The pessimistic variant projection states the population will decrease to less than one million in 2100," told a press conference at the.

The world population is projected to reach 11.2 billion from current 7.3 billion by 2100. Asia will see a likely contraction of the total population size. Europe will suffer a decrease, with 646 million people in 2100. The fastest-growing area is Africa where population is projected to reach 4.4 billion. Population growth in Turkey and Iran will remain high but they will also see a decrease.

"A major concern for Armenia is the number of workers per retiree. Currently

the ratio in the country is 5.4 workers per retiree whereas the medium variant projection defines the number will be 2.4 per one retiree in 2100 and the pessimistic projection sets the one per one variant. It will evolve into a huge social-economic burden for workers and put an end to the principle of generations' solidarity," Hayrapetyan said.

With respect to the sex ratio in Armenia, Hayrapetyan said, "Now the sex ratio is 86 males to 100 females but this covers the whole population of Armenia. Meanwhile, among 0-19 olds males exceed females by 11.4," Hayrapetyan said.

Ruben Yeganyan prioritized migration as a main factor determining these rates. "Now 30 thousand people annually emigrate from Armenia." In the coming years Armenia's population is expected to decrease by 12 thousand per year.

Yeganyan added, however, that the UN projection could turn non-realistic. Yeganyan, though, does not consider the presented rates unexpected and believes the country should work to address the issue, develop mechanisms to influence the situation so that the projections do not eventually come true.

## Armenian Government Claims Faster Growth



Economic growth in Armenia reached 4.4 percent in the first half of 2015 contrary to gloomy forecasts made by international lending institutions earlier this year, Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan said on August 31.

Abrahamyan cited the latest macroeconomic data from the National Statistical Service (NSS) during a weekly cabinet meeting in Yerevan. It shows that year-on-year growth accelerated sharply from 2.5 percent in the first quarter of the year to 5.1 percent in the second quarter.

The reported growth rate primarily resulted from an almost 15 percent surge in agricultural production and a 5 percent rise in industrial output registered by the NSS in the first half. The Armenian agricultural sector's strong performance was made possible by very favorable weather conditions. Armenian agricultural exports rose by more 50 percent in physical terms January-June.

However, these strong gains contrasted sharply with a 5 percent year-on-year drop in retail trade. According to the NSS, the

volume of Armenia's foreign trade shrunk even more drastically in the same period. The government's first-half tax revenue was also down.

Armenian analysts critical of the government will seize upon these decreases to question the credibility of the official growth rate announced by Abrahamyan. They have already dismissed the premier's repeated upbeat statements on the economy made for the past few months.

Both the World Bank and International Monetary Fund revised downwards their macroeconomic outlook for Armenia this spring, citing spillover effects of a deepening recession in Russia. In June, the bank forecast a growth rate of only 0.8 percent, while the IMF said that the country will likely post zero growth in 2015.

Abrahamyan insisted in May that the Armenian economy will grow by "at least 2-3 percent." He said that the government could even succeed in meeting its 4.1 percent growth target which was set late last year.



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- 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
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- 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.**, Hambardzumyan 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 floorof 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, capital-ly 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, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD.
- 2099. **Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600 USD.
- 1972. **Northern ave.**, 8/4, 80sq.m., 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1200 USD
- 2171. **Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sq.m., 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capially repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2367. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9th floor, 98 sq.m., capially repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

## 2 ROOMS

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

## 3 ROOMS AND MORE

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

furnished. Price: Negotiable

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

## PRIVATE HOUSES

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

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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially 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, capially 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. **Zarobyanyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capially repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capially repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capially 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., capially 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

## 'Electric Yerevan' Organizers To Resume Street Protests

An Armenian youth group that was behind the recent "Electric Yerevan" protests said on August 28 that it will resume campaign of "civil disobedience" next week, accusing the government of reneging on a pledge to subsidize the energy prices.

Leaders of the group called No To Plunder said that while the tariffs remain unchanged for households for now, Armenian businesses are being forced to pay more for electricity used by them. They said this runs counter to President Serzh Sargsyan's assurances the government will "shoulder the whole burden" of the more than 17 percent price hike pending the findings of an emergency audit of Armenia's national power utility.

Serzh Sargsyan made the statement on June 28, at the height of nonstop protests on a central Yerevan avenue that were organized by No To Plunder and attended by thousands of mostly young people. No To Plunder was pushed aside by other, more radical activists after urging the protesters to unblock Marshal Bagramyan Avenue because of the concessions announced by Serzh Sargsyan. "He said nothing about not subsidizing small and medium-sized businesses," argued Artush Chibukhchyan, one of the group's leaders.

"Serzh Sargsyan has fooled the people and we must respond to that on the street," Chibukhchyan charged at a news conference. "Serzh Sargsyan wants to make electricity more expensive. He doesn't want to solve this problem."

"We are resuming the street struggle," he said. "We have had a chance to see that issues are solved on the street. They [the authorities] won't do anything unless you put pressure on them."

Mihran Avagyan, another No To Plunder leader, announced



that the youth movement will resume its street protests on September 1. But neither he nor Chibukhchyan disclosed details of the planned actions. They said only that the group might again occupy Marshal Bagramyan Street leading to the presidential administration building.

Meanwhile, it remains unclear who and when will conduct the promised audit of the Electric Networks of Armenia (ENA), the loss-making utility owned by the Russian company Inter RAO. The Armenian government has so far only commissioned a U.S. consulting firm, Deloitte, to investigate and conclude whether the price hike sanctioned by Armenian state regulators in early June was justified.

Observers believe that the energy tariff for households will not rise at least until a referendum on constitutional changes seen as vital for President Sargsyan's political future. The referendum is expected to take place in November.

## Armenia, Belarus willing to deepen ties



Igor Nazaruk, the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus, on August 28 handed over his credentials to President Serzh Sargsyan, President's Press Office reported.

The RA President congratulated the Ambassador on the occasion of taking up his functions and wished every success in fulfilling his diplomatic duties.

Serzh Sargsyan underlined that the bilateral relations between Armenia and Belarus were developing in all dimensions, including the high level political dialogue and partnership on the level of executive and legislative authorities. The President expressed hope that the newly-appointed

ambassador would make efforts to fully realize the existing potential of the cooperation between the two countries in the economic sphere, considering that the membership in the EAEU opens up new perspectives for mutually beneficial partnership.

According to the interlocutors, the participation of Armenia in the Eurasian integration processes would enrich the agenda of Armenian-Belarusian cooperation, elevating them to a qualitatively new level of development.

The RA President and the Belarusian ambassador agreed that active political dialogue, boost of the economic and trade relations, partnership in the humanitarian and other fields were in line with the long-term interests of the two countries and the spirit of the friendly relations between Armenian and Belarusian people.

At the meeting Ambassador Igor Nazaruk assured that during his tenure he would make the utmost efforts towards the strengthening and development of Armenian-Belarusian partnership based on the historical friendly relations.

## Opposition party rebuffs Sargsyan on Constitution Talks

*From page 3*

with any parties. Some of them formed last month a pressure group called You Won't Pass It, pledging to try to scuttle Sargsyan's initiative with rallies and other acts of "civil disobedience." They expressed readiness to join forces with the HAK and Zharangutyun.

You Won't Pass It announced on Thursday that it will launch fundraising campaigns in Armenia and its worldwide Diaspora in an effort to step up its activities. The group said it needs money for renting meeting halls, printing banners and leaflets and other logistical needs.

You Won't Pass It leaders made clear that they will not accept donations from any party. "If we get funding from a party or an individual pursuing political goals we will become dependent on them," one of them said. "But raising funds from the public for logistical purposes will only create more public trust in us."



## Armenia Scores High on Global Index: Perception vs. Reality



**By Harut  
Sassounian**

**Publisher, The  
California Courier**

The latest report of The Human Freedom Index for 152 countries gives Armenia a surprisingly high score. The study was conducted jointly by the Cato Institute, Washington, D.C.; Fraser Institute, Vancouver, Canada; and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Berlin, Germany. The 108-page comprehensive report ranks countries according to personal, civil, and economic freedoms enjoyed by their citizens.

The rankings are based on 76 distinct indicators grouped in 12 categories: Rule of Law; Security and Safety; Movement; Religion; Association, Assembly, and Civil Society; Expression; Relationships; Size of Government; Legal System and Property Rights; Access to Sound Money; Freedom to Trade Internationally; and Regulation of Credit, Labor, and Business.

The top 10 countries according to The Human Freedom Index are: Hong Kong, Switzerland, Finland, Denmark, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, Ireland, United Kingdom, and Sweden. The United States is in the 20th place.

According to the figures released last week for the year 2012, Armenia ranks 53rd in the world, much higher than most of its neighbors: Azerbaijan (126th), Turkey (62nd), Iran (152nd); and slightly behind Georgia (48th).

Armenia's impressive overall ranking reveals an even more stunning score when one looks at the two major components of that ranking. Armenia occupies the 17th

place in the world in Economic Freedom, and 70th in Personal Freedom!

The reason I qualified Armenia's ranking as 'surprising' is that most people would not have expected it to have such a high score, given the persistent criticism of its leadership by Armenians within and outside the country. While it is true that the Armenian government has many shortcomings and deserves to be criticized, we should acknowledge that the authorities must be doing something right for Armenia to outrank in The Human Freedom Index such influential countries as:

Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Kuwait, Mexico, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Ukraine, and Venezuela.

The only explanation for this dichotomy between people's perception of Armenia and reality is that its officials have done a bad job of promoting the country's positive accomplishments. Otherwise, most Armenians would not have such a negative impression of their homeland.

To illustrate this point, let's take Singapore, a country that successfully promotes its achievements and is universally praised as a model of good governance, rapid economic development, and prosperous living conditions. While there is no question that this Asian Tiger has an impressive record of accomplishments, it is surprising that Singapore - ranked 43rd in the world - is only 10 places ahead of Armenia in The Human Freedom Index. If one pays attention to all the hype about Singapore, one would expect that country to be ranked in the top 10, while Armenia should be ranked 100, given the constant critical comments it receives.

As they say, "perception is reality." In

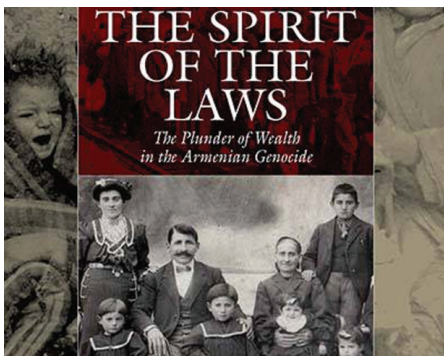
fact, perception is much more important than reality, because people judge everything on the basis of their own impression, regardless of how different it might be from reality. For example, in the past several years Armenia has been ranked higher than expected on several global reports. Yet, the Armenian government has never publicized these respectable rankings, thereby failing to create a positive image for the country which would attract tourists and investors from around the world.

Many of the countries that Armenia outranks are much more prosperous, yet they fall far behind in The Human Freedom Index, which can only mean that a country's wealth - multi-billion dollar oil revenue in the case of Azerbaijan - does not guarantee affluence or freedom for its citizens!

However, given Armenia's relatively high ranking, its leadership can no longer use the excuse that the country's development is handicapped due to limited financial and natural resources. Everything does not depend on money. Since Armenia is ranked 17th on Economic Freedom, there is no excuse for it to be ranked 70th on Personal Freedom. The latter index could be improved greatly without costing the state a single dollar. All it takes is caring government officials who are committed to improve the people's welfare.

The biggest deficit of the Armenian leadership is not the lack of funds, but the lack of public trust. The authorities can regain the citizens' trust by working diligently to better their living conditions, and only then, the public's positive perception would match the reality of Armenia's global rankings.

## Taner Akcam releases new book on plunder of Armenian properties



Turkish historian Taner Akcam has released a new book (with Umit Kurt) on the plunder of Armenian properties. The book titled "The Spirit of the Laws: The Plunder of Wealth in the Armenian Genocide" examines the confiscation of Armenian properties during the genocide and subsequent attempts to retain seized Armenian wealth. Through the close analysis of laws and treaties, it reveals that decrees issued during the genocide consti-

tute central pillars of the Turkish system of property rights, retaining their legal validity, and although Turkey has acceded through international agreements to return Armenian properties, it continues to refuse to do so. The book demonstrates that genocides do not depend on the abolition of the legal system and elimination of rights, but that, on the contrary, the perpetrators of genocide manipulate the legal system to facilitate their plans.

## International Day of the Disappeared: ICRC calls for more efforts to document fate of missing

Governments and civil society must do more to document the fate and whereabouts of people who disappear in conflicts or other circumstances and give stronger support to the families left behind, the International Committee of the Red Cross has said.

"Whether someone has disappeared during war, or migration or a disaster, the suffering of the families remains," said Marianne Pecassou, who heads the ICRC's team working on the missing. "It's essential to collect information that is available today on people who disappear, how and where they have disappeared, that might be useful at some point in time to bring answers to the families," said Pecassou, speaking as the world prepares to mark the International Day of the Disappeared on August 30.

But providing answers takes a long time and is often not possible while a conflict is still ongoing. For some families, there might never be a definitive answer. And in the meantime, families have a range of needs for support.

"All too often, especially in conflict situations, the problem of the missing is

just not on the radar. Governments and other actors need to make sure it is on the agenda and do more to address the practical and emotional needs of the families," Pecassou said.

The disappearance of a loved one may leave the family without economic support and often they will have to use up their dwindling resources on the search for their missing relative. In many cases, the family does not want to declare a missing person dead and so for example, they can't access the person's property or salary.

Families also suffer on an emotional and social level - they might experience isolation, sadness and marginalization and often need long-term support in order to overcome these difficulties and regain control of their lives.

There are over 4,500 people registered by the ICRC as missing in relation to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, including more than 400 in Armenia. The ICRC supports the authorities in their efforts towards clarifying the fate of missing persons and addressing the needs of families of the missing in Armenia,



Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh. This includes collection of biological reference samples from the close relatives of the missing, which would increase the probability of the identification of human remains.

The ICRC also offers support of various kinds, working on the ground with the Armenian Red Cross Society and other local partners. Based on the needs of these families, the ICRC's assistance encompasses economic security programs aimed at helping them improve the existing or establish new livelihoods, provision of legal, medical and administrative assistance, as well as emotional care and help with trying to find out ways of remembering their missing loved ones.

## French Chef Says Armenia Can Capture Global Market with its Natural Products



French chef of Armenian descent, Alain Alexanian, transforms old traditional recipes into modern ones with his cooking. He serves his French clients dishes inherited from his Armenian grandmother with some changes and new innovations.

At a press conference hosted by Armenpress, Alexanian shared his vision of how Armenia can popularize and spread the natural products grown in its soil.

"Yes, I prepare Armenian dishes but I always try to make some innovations by moving a little away from the recipes of our grandmothers which are very oily. It is no longer accepted to prepare oily dishes," Alexanian said, presenting examples of his recipes.

Alexanian has been in Armenia since July and has been working in rural communities, trying to boost the value of the natural products unique to those areas. He

managed contribute to the preparations of the Jewels of Odzun festival, which will be held on September 12.

According to Alexanian, Odzun is home to the "green gold," of Armenia.

"Any species of herbs can grow in Odzun. There are 10 species of thyme and, interestingly, all those species can be grown here," Alexanian noted. In the communities that he has visited, Alexanian has tried to show people the value of the natural products of their regions, not only for the Armenian market, but for markets abroad as well.

"All those species of herbs must be exported, which will contribute to the solution of the issue of emigration. My aim is to explain [to] villagers how to utilize that wealth," he added.

According to Alexanian, there is a demand in Europe to utilize organic products, and in Armenia, almost everything is natural and pure.



## Regional developments favorable to Armenia: Ara Papian

The past summer was significant from the point of view of regional developments, says Ara Papian, Head of the Modus Vivendi Center. He considers the current conditions in the region are most favorable for Armenia, but doubts we'll be able to draw benefits.

"What's happening in the region today is advantageous to Armenia," Papian told a press conference on August 31. Among the benefits Papian noted the situation in Turkey (with the Kurdish movement and the perspective of creation of a new state), the elimination of sanctions against Iran and its access to the international market.

"Leaving aside the joint programs Armenia and Iran can implement in the



future, the decreased oil prices are already favorable. Azerbaijan will be finally smashed, if the price per barrel goes below \$20. "Less money, less weapons," Ara Papian said. He also predicted serious economic and political problems for the neighboring country.

Along with the decreased oil rev-

enues, Azerbaijan is aware that it has time until yearend to solve issues by force, the expert said, adding, however, that resumption of war is unlikely.

"Azerbaijan is almost confident it won't succeed, while the losses may exceed the expectations," he said.

"We have a favorable geopolitical situation, one that Armenia has not seen for decades, but my concern is that we're not going to draw benefits from it due to domestic political issues and because we are not ready," Papian concluded.

Papian soothed all those worried about the activity of the Islamic State. "ISIS will hardly reach the borders of Armenia. There are a number of interested states and nations along that route struggling against the group."

## Armenian energy subsidy extended



The government extended its electricity price subsidy to some Armenian small businesses on August 28 ahead of new demonstrations planned by the organizers of the recent "Electric Yerevan" protests.

The two-week protests forced the government to pledge to keep the tariffs, which were raised by 17 percent in June, unchanged for consumers at least until the results of a special international audit of Armenia's debt-ridden power distribution network. Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan made clear earlier this month that his government will subsidize the electricity used by households but not corporate consumers.

Abrahamian's statement prompted strong criticism from organizations representing Armenian small firms and No To Plunder, a youth movement that launched the "Electric Yerevan" campaign. The group said late last week that it will

resume its "civil disobedience" actions on Tuesday.

"This morning I discussed with the president of the republic the question of also supporting small and medium-sized enterprises and we decided to submit this draft to the government," Abrahamian told a weekly meeting of his cabinet.

He said small firms will pay the old price for up to 250 kilowatts of power used by them each month. Entities exceeding that limit will be covered by the higher tariffs, he said.

The number of businesses that will benefit from the subsidy was not immediately clear. Energy and Natural Resources Minister Yervand Zakharyan suggested only that most of them will be cafes, restaurants and other firms involved in the services sector.

The government decision failed to satisfy No To Plunder, with one of the group's leaders, Maxim Sargsyan, calling it "laughable." "This is yet another stupid thing with which they try to divide people," he said, adding that the protests planned by the youth activists will therefore go ahead as planned.

No To Plunder will gather supporters and members in a Yerevan park on Tuesday to discuss its plan of actions.

## NKR forces avert a fresh infringement attempt by Azerbaijan

The Azerbaijani side undertook a fresh infringement attempt in the eastern direction of the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan at 01:40, August 28.



The front troops of the NKR Defense Army averted the advancement of a 20-25-member group and forced the rival to retreat, incurring losses. No casualties are reported on the Armenian side.

The Azerbaijani side also violated the ceasefire regime 110 times overnight, firing 2,000 shots from weapons of different caliber, including 60, 82 and 120 mm mortars.

The activeness of the rival was pressured as a result of retaliatory actions taken by the NKR Defense Army.

The Armenian forces keep control of the situation all along the line of contact.

## Exhibitions on Armenian Genocide to be featured at Istanbul Biennial

This year, there is a different kind of excitement leading up to the Istanbul Biennial, a contemporary art exhibition held every two years and organized by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts. People have worked on the biennial with confidence, and though it won't be opened till September 5, we can roughly make out what to expect, and we will be seeing lots of surprising projects.

### Rubbing salt into the wound

The 14th Istanbul Biennial will begin with an exhibition titled "Saltwater." When the tight-lipped curator of the biennial, Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, and her team added the title to this year's exhibitions, which refers to the source of life, geographical connection, the Bosphorus and many other themes, the event that begins next week became even more mysterious.

The events of the 14th Istanbul Biennial, which will take place all over Istanbul, include works that have something to say about current issues and politics. As Bakargiev says, Turkey has plenty of festering wounds. And this year's biennial intends to point at those wounds, though it cannot heal them altogether. In an interview that she gave to Blouin Artinfo on August 18, Bakargiev said: "This is almost a spiritual exhibition. These spirits come from the ethnic cleansing that [were] carried against Armenians and Greeks." And after the "DOCUMENTA (13)" exhibition that she curated, she preferred not to be involved in large-scaled projects for a while.

### The sea that connects Istanbul to San Lazzaro

A great part of the biennial consists of individual presentations that are located in different places. This means Bakargiev preferred to organize a group exhibition that consists of solo projects. Unusual venues like Trotsky's house on Prince Islands, Rumeli Feneri, stores, boats and parking lots will be used as exhibition venues, in addition to museums and art institutions which are the usual destinations on the contemporary art route. The connection between those venues is the saltwater that runs through Istanbul.

Considering that the works of Haig Aivazian, Anna

Boghigian, Hera Büyüktaşçıyan, Rene Gabri and Ayreen Anastas that were exhibited in the Armenia Pavilion of the 56th Venice Biennial and the works of Sarkis that had a solo exhibition in the Turkey Pavilion will be exhibited in this year's Istanbul Biennial, it can be said that the saltwater doesn't only bridge two sides of Istanbul, but also reaches all the way to Venice and Mihtaryan Monastery on San Lazzaro Island.

### Agos became a biennial venue

As the opening of the Istanbul Biennial gets closer, it turns out that there are a lot of works that refer to the Armenian Genocide and the developments that followed it. Michael Rackowitz's work, which was inspired by the fibrous plasterer Garabet Cezayirliyan, who made the ornamental work on buildings like Yildiz Palace and Emek Movie Theater, is one of them. Tracing the footsteps of Cezayirliyan in Istanbul, Rackowitz combines his work with human remains from Vakifli Village, which is the last Armenian village in Turkey. Artist Francis Alys, who lives in Mexico City, hails the bird species that no longer exist by imitating the sounds of the birds that lived in the Ani district of Kars once; in this way, he also calls out to the Armenians who were forced to leave that region. Researching the lute player Hrant, and exhibiting the conceptual sculpture that he made as a result of his research in the Armenia Pavilion of the Venice Biennial, Haig Aivazian has prepared a performance for the Istanbul Biennial.

As part of this performance, the choir of Beyoglu Uc Horan Church will perform a traditional song, which was also performed by the lute player Hrant, in the Galata Greek Elementary School. In the project that Asli Cavusoglu developed for the biennial, red dye will be produced from insects—an Armenian technique that is not used anymore. Using the old building of Agos and the Hrant Dink Foundation as a project venue, Ayreen Anastas and Rene Gabri will turn the spaces into a truth center by referring to the past of the building. It should also be noted that the Anarad Higtun Building, which houses the Hrant Dink Foundation, is one of the biennial venues.

*Agos, ISTANBUL*

## Russian businessman German Sterligov detained at Domodedovo airport

Businessman German Sterligov has been detained at Moscow's Domodedovo airport, TASS reports.

"He arrived in Moscow from Yerevan at 5 p.m. on August 31 and was detained upon crossing the state border," Sterligov's lawyer Artur Airapetov said.

He explained that Sterligov might have been detained because his name was on the inter-state wanted list.

The border guards detained the businessman when he was crossing the Russian state border, a police source told

TASS.

As it became known on July 28, Azerbaijan asked Interpol to put Sterligov on its international wanted list for the businessman's activities in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Azerbaijan has initiated criminal proceedings against Sterligov on charges of making open anti-government calls and for illegal crossing of Azerbaijan's state border (articles 281.2 and 318.2 of the Azerbaijani Penal Code, respectively).

On August 23, Airapetov said Interpol



had stopped searching for Sterligov following a request from his defense lawyers and recognized that the businessman's prosecution by Azerbaijan was politicized.



## Baku Hints At Green Light for Armenian Soccer Star



The authorities in Baku signaled on August 28 that they will not deport or arrest Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Armenia's most famous football player, if he arrives in Azerbaijan to play in his German club's upcoming match against an Azerbaijani team.

Mkhitaryan's Borussia Dortmund, one of Germany's strongest sides, and Azerbaijan's Qabala were last week drawn together in Group C of the UEFA Europa League, a major club soccer tournament. The first of the two games between them is scheduled to be played in Azerbaijan on October 22.

Mkhitaryan's participation in that fixture has been a subject of intense media speculation due to the unresolved conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan's resulting reluctance to let Armenians visit the country for international events. An Azerbaijani media outlet suggested last week that the 26-year attacking midfielder could not only be denied a visa but also arrested at Baku airport because of an "illegal" trip to Karabakh in 2011. Some Qabala officials also hinted at such a possibility in their public comments.

The speculation prompted concern from Borussia, which signed Mkhitaryan from Ukrainian champions Shakhtar Donetsk in 2013 for a club record \$32 million. "We hope this does not happen. Henrikh is a super important player for us with his brilliant performances in recent weeks," a Borussia spokesman told

Germany's Sport1 TV channel, according to the AFP news agency.

Mkhitaryan, who is hugely popular in Armenia, himself has not commented yet. He has been in impressive form lately, scoring eight goals in seven Borussia victories so far this season.

UEFA Secretary General Gianni Infantino reportedly said on Friday that European football's governing body will do its best to ensure that the Armenian soccer star is able to play in his country's arch-foe.

In its first official statement on the issue, the Azerbaijani government implied on Monday that it will not impede Mkhitaryan's arrival in Azerbaijan. "One of the features of football is that it's a team game ... Azerbaijan will be visited by a team, Borussia Dortmund, rather than certain individuals," a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Baku said, according to Azerbaijani news agencies.

The official, Hikmet Hajiyev, also noted in that regard that more than 100 athletes from Armenia as well as ethnic Armenians competing for other nations participated in international sporting competitions held in Baku in the last five years. "Sports must not be used for political purposes," he said.

"As for the list of undesirable persons, each case is viewed on an individual basis," added Hajiyev. He referred to an official Azerbaijani list of foreigners who are banned from visiting Azerbaijan because of having travelled to Karabakh from Armenia without Baku's permission. The list is not known to include Armenian nationals.

Hajiyev's statement came several hours after Armenia's government blamed official Baku for the speculation about Mkhitaryan's potential troubles in Azerbaijan. "This ridiculous approach by the Azerbaijani side is not news because no individual with an Armenian surname is allowed to visit Azerbaijan, which totally fits into Armenophobic propaganda officially spread in that country," Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman Tigran Balayan charged in written comments.

## Turkish Constitutional Court Accepts Lawsuit Submitted by Catholicosate



The Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia of the Armenian Apostolic Church, which filed a lawsuit with Turkey's Constitutional Court over regaining ownership of its historic headquarters in Sis, has reported that the Turkish Constitutional Court has likely admitted the case and will soon begin reviewing it. The

Catholicosate hopes the ruling will come by the end of November.

According to a spokesman of the Catholicosate, the consideration of the case will most probably start in September.

"July was a holiday month in Turkey; one week was non-working. Starting from August 1, the Turkish courts have gone on leave. That's why the consideration of our claim has been extended. We think the consideration will start in September, and we'll already have the ruling in October-November," the spokesman said, adding that under the Turkish Constitution, the court must make a ruling in six months' time.

According to the spokesman, additional documents were required from the Catholicosate, which means that the claim has already been admitted by the Constitutional court.

The Great House of Cilicia filed a claim with the Turkish Constitutional Court on April 28, demanding the return of its former headquarters and mansion in Sis, located in the territory of the historic Armenian kingdom of Cilicia.

## Exhibition of Armin T. Wegner's photos opens in Stockholm

The exhibition "Armin T. Wegner: eyewitness of the Armenian Genocide" was opened at the Armémuseum of Stockholm on August 25. The expo showcases around thirty photos taken by Wegner with author's notes and explanations.

The exhibition was organized by joint efforts of the Embassy of Armenia in Sweden, the Armémuseum, and armenica.org organization as part of the Armenian Genocide Centennial Commemoration events in Sweden.

The opening ceremony was attended by Deputy Speaker of Parliament Mr. Björn Söder, Parliamentary Group Leader of Christian Democrats Mr. Andreas Carlson, other MPs, Ambassadors accredited to Sweden, social, political and cultural figures, journalists, representatives of the Armenian community. Opening remarks were offered by the Director of Armémuseum Mrs. Eva-Sofie Ernste and historian Vahagn Avedian.

The exhibition will be open for three months.

The Armémuseum is one of the leading cultural institutions of Stockholm and is included in compulsory educational programs.



## 100 LIVES: An open letter to UN Secretary General



Co-Founders of 100 LIVES initiative Ruben Vardanyan, Noubar Afeyan and Vartan Gregorian sent open letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon:

"It is with profound respect and gratitude that we join you on this World Humanitarian Day in honoring and commemorating the humanitarians who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

For the three of us, the spirit of this day is deeply personal. As Armenians, we are profoundly grateful to those individuals whose heroic acts saved lives during the Armenian Genocide. Their courageous legacy, like that of Special Representative Sérgio Vieira de Mello, has motivated many to pursue humanitarian work and inspired us to recognize the sacrifices made by so many to benefit the lives of others.

Out of a deep sense of indebtedness and appreciation, we

developed the 100 LIVES initiative to remember and honor those whose selfless actions saved lives 100 years ago. The initiative seeks to share the remarkable stories of both saviors and survivors and celebrate the strength of the human spirit.

As part of the initiative, we have established a new global humanitarian prize, the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity. The Aurora Prize will be presented annually to humanitarians who put themselves at risk to enable others to survive and thrive. The Prize winner will receive a US\$100,000 award, as well as a US\$1 million grant to be donated to the charitable organization that inspired his or her work.

This year, your World Humanitarian Day campaign is shining the spotlight on humanitarians around the world and profiling valiant Humanitarian Heroes. We are doing the same through the Aurora Prize. We want to recognize those individuals undertaking life-saving work around the world, often in difficult and dangerous circumstances where others cannot or do not want to go. We invite the public to submit nominations for candidates they believe are deserving of this esteemed recognition through our online portal at [www.100Lives.com/Prize](http://www.100Lives.com/Prize).

We hope that you will join us in promoting noteworthy nominations so that modern-day saviors can be honored in a manner that drives further good work. This can only raise public consciousness to the issues that you face daily, and those that confront the most vulnerable around the world today".



## Bone of prehistoric animal discovered in Lake Sevan



Divers of "AYAS" Nautical Research Club have discovered a bone of a prehistoric animal in the bottom of Lake Sevan, at the depth of 5 meters.

Results of anthropological research reveal that the stone is a part of the backbone of an aurochs that lived before the ice age.

Hundreds of artifacts found in the coastal zones of Lake Sevan are kept in the Institutes of Biology and Zoology of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences, but the latest finding is the first to be recovered from the bottom of Lake Sevan.

## Istanbul's new Armenian school to be inaugurated on September 28



Mesut Ozdemir has one month left to achieve his life-long dream: to open a new school for the Armenian community in Istanbul, Anadolu Agency reports.

"I am very delighted to see the school is almost done. Moving to a new building after 171 years makes us all happy," Ozdemir, who is chairman of the Surp Asdvadzadzin Church Foundation, tells Anadolu Agency.

Construction on the project began three years ago. From the outside, it is not much different from other schools. Yet it is still unique: it is the first school that Istanbul's Armenian community is building in Republican Turkey within a legal framework.

The community opened schools in previous decades but these were dependent upon special permission granted by prime ministers.

There are 22 minority schools in Istanbul; five of them are Greek, one is Jewish, and the remaining 16 are Armenian.

What made this latest project possible was a 2008 legal reform brought forward by the government and pushed through parliament.

The changes allowed minorities to acquire and renovate properties. The Turkish government also began returning previously confiscated properties to minority communities.

Such changes were welcomed and supported at the local level.

Bakirkoy Municipality exempted the Armenian school from certain fees to smooth construction. "Members of the local council unanimously voted for the exemption," Ozdemir recalls.

Despite such help from the municipality, Ozdemir says that financing was challenging for the community. The foundation depended on several fund-raising efforts to finish the job.

To relieve some of the financial burden, the government added minority schools to a list of institutions eligible for state aid.

In Turkey, the state partially aids students with financial difficulties so that they can enroll in private institutions. Minority schools are not categorized as 'private' institutions, but the government included them in the list, Ozdemir says.

"We thank everyone who helped us to have this joyous moment: Ministers, mayors and the Armenian community..." Ozdemir says, adding that first day of the school year, September 28, will be its official inauguration day.

Over 3,000 students currently attend Istanbul's 16 Armenian schools. The Bakirkoy neighborhood on Istanbul's European side housed one small school which was constructed 170 years ago by an Ottoman official, Hovhannes Dadyan.

Across the decades, the Armenians of Bakirkoy depended on that one school but, as their numbers increased, capacity became a problem. Now the school has to accommodate 400 children - more than enough for the old building.

The new school has now more space to accommodate even more than 400. Ozdemir says the school now is able to offer a kindergarten service to the Armenian community; that will increase number of students to 500.

"We now have a bigger sports and conference hall," Ozdemir says, adding that parents and students toured the construction site to see what the school would be like and were excited for the upcoming education term.

New schools, bigger halls and new services not only pleased Armenian students and parents but also broadened the community's expectation for the new generation. "We expect more qualified people from this environment," Ozdemir says.

## Philanthropist Vahak Hovnanian passed away aged 83

Armenian businessman and benefactor Vahak Hovnanian passed away on August 31 aged 83

Vahak Stephan Hovnanian was a successful businessman, real estate developer and philanthropist. His companies have developed over 5000 homes and several commercial properties throughout the United States.

In 1959 Mr. Hovnanian and his brothers formed the Hovnanian Brothers Corporation. Together, they developed thousands of homes in New Jersey, until going their respective ways ten years later. In 1969, Mr. Hovnanian organized his own real estate development company, Hovbilt, Inc., which in the ensuing years has developed many successful and award-winning residential communities. With growth came diversification and the formation of several affiliated companies under the name of V.S. Hovnanian Group, Inc. which included Adelphia Water Company, Adelphia Sewer Company, Hovnanian Realty, Clear Title Agency, and Grandview Cable. In 1985, Vahak and his son Shant pioneered a multi-faceted broadband telecommunications company by establishing CellularVision, Inc., which has become later SpeedUS, Inc.

A lover of "all things Armenian," Mr. Hovnanian dedicated himself to supporting and preserving Armenian culture and heritage, and revitalizing the independent Republic of Armenia. Mr. Hovnanian together with his wife Hasmig played prominent role in promoting educational, religious and cultural needs of the Armenian community in the Northeastern United States. The couple has also been heavily involved in charity work.

During 1960s, Mr. Hovnanian served as the President of the Board of Trustees for St. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church in Ridgefield, NJ. He initiated the celebration of Armenian holidays on their precise day rather than on the closest Sunday, designating St. Vartanantz one of

the first Armenian churches in the United States to follow this tradition.

In 1969 Vahak and Hasmig Hovnanians were honored for their efforts with a Knighthood in the Order of the Great House of Cilicia and as a Lady of the Great House of Cilicia respectively, by His Holiness Khoren I, Catholicos of Cilicia. In further service to the Armenian Church, Mr. Hovnanian served as an Executive Member of the Board of Directors for the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America from 1973-1977. During that period he also served as a U.S. National Delegate to the World Council of the Armenian Church's Cilician Catholicosate in Lebanon.

One of the greatest achievements of Mr. and Mrs. Hovnanian was the founding of the Armenian School in New Milford, NJ, in 1976 which has been renamed in 1984 into Hovnanian School in their honor. On the occasion of the school's tenth anniversary, Mr. Hovnanian was named Prince of the Armenian Apostolic Church by His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia, in Antelias Lebanon (later His Holiness Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin).

In keeping with his commitment to education, Mr. Hovnanian raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in the aftermath of the 1988 earthquake in Armenia which he contributed to His Holiness Vasken I Catholicos of All Armenians to build a new school in the earthquake zone of Spitak. Since 1992, he and his wife have been major benefactors of the Hovnanian School's sister school in Armenia - the Anania Shirakatsy Gemaran in Nork Massif.

Mr. Hovnanian received numerous awards throughout his career, which serve to highlight his commitment to the Armenian community.

Believing that tourism would boost



Armenia's economy, Mr. Hovnanian insisted on considering tourism development a top priority and successfully lobbied the U.S. Government to contribute to it. In May 2000, the RA Government chartered the Armenian Tourism Development Agency (ATDA), which was funded by USAID, Mr. Hovnanian himself, and the Armenian Government. ATDA has raised international awareness about Armenia as a world class tourism destination.

In 1995, the Hovnanians endorsed Armenia's participation in the Venice Biennale and initiated fundraising for the first Armenian Pavilion. They organized and chaired an international Ball held in Venice where over 250 Armenians from around the world gathered to support Armenia's entry into the international arts scene. While planning this event, they initiated the Kantz Foundation to support young Armenian aspiring artists. Through the Kantz Foundation and the Vahak and Hasmig Hovnanian Foundation, they have supported over 100 young artists from Armenia and outside in their pursuit of prominent careers in the fine and performing arts.

In May 2000, Mr. Hovnanian founded the Sayat Nova Award to stimulate and provide financial support to the songwriters and composers of Armenia. In May 2002, The Vahakni Award was initiated to inspire and support other artists in fine and performing arts.

## Armenian Army Medics Trained By U.S. Instructors

From page 4

late last month for what the Armenian Defense Ministry called regular "defense consultations" with senior Pentagon officials. The latter reportedly pledged con-

tinued U.S. assistance to the Armenian peacekeeping brigade and the defense reforms implemented by Yerevan.

Citing information provided by the Defense Ministry to an Armenian non-

governmental organization, Epress.am reported on Thursday that U.S. military aid to Armenia, including training and education programs, has totaled \$42 million over the past decade.



## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

### Aries (March 20-April 19)

The archetypal couples, Venus and Mars, are meeting in the sky this week. Ordinarily this represents the beginning of a new relationship. Mars is your avatar, your ruling planet. So a Venus (love) may be returning to your side for another try. Tread carefully in this potential briar patch. S(he) may be looking for revenge, though this motive could be truly unconscious.

### Taurus (April 20-May 19)

Venus is your ruling planet, so the opening paragraph is particularly important to you. The retrograde conjunction occurs in your 4th house of home, hearth, and family. A relative or someone from your childhood may wish to get in touch with you. Perhaps your last experience of each other was not so peaceful. This is a good time to rectify matters.

### Gemini (May 20-June 20)

Mercury, your ruling planet, moves into the sector of life related to children, recreation, personal creativity, and romance. Your attention will be focused in these areas through Sept. and October. You are in your groove for several weeks. However, make choices carefully because Mercury turns retrograde on Sep. 17th, suggesting a shift of plans.

### Cancer (June 21-July 21)

Give special attention to unusual messages or to new people who enter your life during this time. A "teacher" crosses your path in the form of a person, a book, or the right message that will steer you in the next favorable direction. Your mind turns to home, property and family now. Aspects are positive.

### Leo (July 22-August 21)

This month's Venus/Mars alignment brings you face to face with your identity versus your relationship. You must consciously evaluate how you will manage to meet your personal needs and yet remain connected to the "other" in your life. If someone is "returning" after a time apart, this may represent another shot at a relationship from the past that had a similar issue.

### Virgo (August 22-September 22)

Your sense of meaning and purpose is punctuated during this period. Your attitude is positive. Your ruling planet moves into the financial picture this week. Your attention will be drawn to organizing your accounts and records. You may discover one or two mistakes made in the past that you can rectify now.

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

The scales fall from your eyes as an illusion is vaporized. This occurs in the territories of friendship, lovers, children, or yourself. (Yes, we carry illusions about ourselves.) Nothing really has changed. You simply see what is and what is not there. Whatever the disappointment, it is short lived. You will recover quickly.

### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your physical cycle is on a "low", so drive and handle tools carefully this week. Someone from your past returns to front and center in your life. There seems to be a connection to your career in this meeting. Perhaps the returnee is someone you once worked with, but the relationship became more than that of co-workers.

### Sagittarius (November 22-December 20)

You have your eye on the big picture and it looks grand indeed. Others follow your lead. A word of caution: your optimistic attitude and belief that you are right could cause you to become arrogant. If you want others to join your ride, give them a special place on the wagon. Share the glory.

### Capricorn (December 21-January 19)

You are at a low both emotionally and physically at this time. Though you are normally prone to push yourself, this is a better period to listen to your body and give it what it needs. The "rules" are interfering with your forward motion during this period. It is frustrating, but it will soon pass.

### Aquarius (January 20-February 17)

This is a time of dramatically challenging work. You are struggling with your semi-conscious expectation of failure. Don't let it beat you down. You are so much stronger than you know. The fear may have manifested an opponent in the outer world. But the true war is on the inside. Don't buy into the Critics' point of view. It/he/she is a figment from your past.

### Pisces (February 18-March 19)

There are vampires loose in the world and the Fish tends to attract them. If you have aged a bit, you probably have begun to smell them when they enter your vicinity. Those who have not will be learning a lesson soon. It's a required course for this sign. Save some energy for yourself. Don't take over someone else's problem.

# Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem to be performed in Stepanakert

Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem will be performed at the Revival Square of Stepanakert on September 1 in memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide and those, who lost their lives in the Atsakh war.

Artistic director of the concert, world-famous opera singer Lyubov Kazarnavskaya says the choice should not surprise and worry anyone.

"The undefeatable spirit of the Armenian people and culture, the revival and development of the nation - this is what the Requiem is about. This not the march of Verdi's mourning march on the Armenian soil, this is the height of the human spirit," Kazarnovskaya told reporters in Yerevan.

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. These are the most important words in the lyrics of the Requiem. We'll try to sing about that



*Artistic director of the concert, opera singer Lyubov Kazarnavskaya, speaks to reporters in Yerevan*

eternal light," conductor Anatoly Levin said.

The guests have said on many occasions they don't worry about being included in Azerbaijan's "black list" because of the visit Nagorno Karabakh.

When speaking about Armenia, Lyubov Kazarnovskaya uses the words "great" and "beloved."

"I've grown up here. My father served here, I attended the school after Chekhov and lived at 32, Abovyan Street. This is the reason why I'm familiar with the Armenian culture praised by Komitas," she said.

The concert of September 1 will feature musicians not only from Russia, but also Serbia and Italy.





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

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

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