

Co-Chairs recognize the role of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh in deciding their future



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CoE ready and committed to continuing its support for Armenia

President Serzh Sargsyan today received on April 27 the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CoE), Didier Reynders, Belgium's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs.

The Armenian President welcomed the dignitary to our country and stressed that Armenia is keen on continuously developing bilateral relations with the friendly country of Belgium and attaches great value to its dialogue and cooperation with the CoE in the context of the ongoing domestic reforms. Noting that Armenia has made considerable progress on the way both to fulfilling the RA obligations as a CoE member state and its membership commitments, Serzh Sargsyan added that nevertheless, there is still a great deal to be done, and our country is determined to proceed with the reforms.

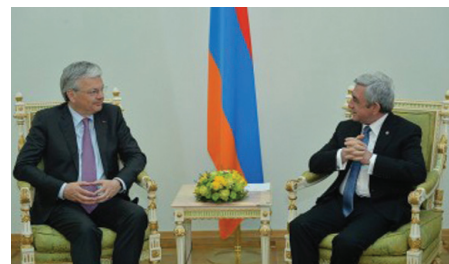
The President wished Didier Reynders success in bringing his crucial mission - the Chairmanship of the CoE Committee of Ministers - to an end whose term elapses in less than a month.

Didier Reynders expressed his thanks for the best wishes and warm hospitality and underscored that he highly values

Belgium's close and effective cooperation with Armenia. He expressed satisfaction with his official meetings held in Yerevan yesterday and today, noting that he considers both Armenian-Belgian bilateral relations and the cooperation within the frame of the CoE to be excellent, and it is necessary to continue making consistent efforts to strengthen those relations and promote economic collaboration.

Noting that he is aware of the importance and significance that Armenia attaches to the current year filled with events marking the Armenian Genocide Centennial, Didier Reynders said that following the meeting, he is going to visit the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial Complex to pay tribute to the memory of the Genocide victims.

The President expressed his gratitude to Mr. Reynders for the CoE's high-level participation in the global forum "Against the Crime of Genocide" held in Yerevan the other day, as well as for the presence of the Belgian delegation in the commemorative ceremony of April 24. Serzh Sargsyan underlined that Armenia greatly appreciates and values the contribution made by Belgian authorities and Mr. Reynders personally to the passing of the resolution rec-



ognizing the Armenian Genocide by the Belgian Senate.

At the meeting, the interlocutors touched upon issues pertaining to the RA-CoE cooperation agenda, the Eastern Partnership Summit in Riga, the CoE assistance to the ongoing reforms in Armenia, as well as upon a number of issues of mutual interest. In that context, Didier Reynders noted that the CoE is ready and committed to continuing its support for Armenia on its way to implementing, inter alia political, economic and legal reforms.

The interlocutors also exchanged views on the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process. Didier Reynders reaffirmed the position of his country and of the Chairman of the CoE Committee of Ministers backing the internationally mandated mediators - the OSCE Minsk Group - in the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process.

Karabakh: Armenia slams Azerbaijan over war rhetoric, ceasefire violations

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and international mediators continued to discuss ways of pushing forward the peaceful settlement process in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh as they met in Paris, France, on April 29.

According to the official website of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the meeting Minister Nalbandian drew the attention of the OSCE Minsk Group's Russian, American and French co-chairs, Igor Popov, James Warlick and Pierre Andreu, as well as of personal representative of the OSCE chairman-in-office Andrzej Kasprzyk to the militaristic rhetoric at the highest level that has been heard from Azerbaijan in recent weeks.

He also denounced Azerbaijan's statements "distorting the essence and contents of the negotiations and its gross violations of the ceasefire regime and subversive activities at the border with Armenia and along the Line of Contact with Nagorno-Karabakh."

"Azerbaijan's authorities respond to appeals for preparing the societies for peace in a strange way - they publish on the internet the video of the subversive operation conducted by



themselves," the top Armenian diplomat said.

The international mediators are also expected to meet with the foreign minister of Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile, responding to a question from Azerbaijan's APA news agency regarding the possibility of including Germany and Turkey as co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Karasin said that the current co-chairmanship of the group has accumulated "unique mediatory experience" and that "any attempts to modify the format of the group will result in the erosion of the negotiation process and regression in the positions of the parties."

Co-Chairs recognize the role of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh in deciding their future

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs have released a statement after meetings with Armenian and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers:

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs (Ambassadors Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, James Warlick of the United States of America, and Pierre Andrieu of France) traveled to Paris to meet with Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian, and separately with Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov. The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, also participated in the meetings.

The Ministers reported on their respective President's meeting with President of France Francois Hollande in Yerevan and Baku April 24-25. We stressed to each Minister the importance of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan intensifying their dialogue, and continued preparations for the next presidential meeting later this year. The Ministers agreed to meet each other, together with the Co-Chairs, to shape the agenda for the Presidents' discussion, and welcomed an upcoming visit to the region by the Co-Chairs.

The Co-Chairs also note that "parliamentary elections" are taking place May 3

in Nagorno-Karabakh. In the context of a comprehensive settlement of the conflict, we recognize the role of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh in deciding their future. However, none of our three countries, nor any other country, recognizes Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent and sovereign state.

Accordingly, we do not accept the results of these "elections" as affecting the legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh, and stress that they in no way prejudge the final status of Nagorno-Karabakh or the outcome of the ongoing negotiations to bring a lasting and peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Armenian Minister In Hot Water After Diaspora Criticism



Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan has come under fire from opposition figures and even some government loyalists after declaring that Armenian communities around the world have not done enough to ease socioeconomic hardship in Armenia.

Hakobyan made the controversial statement on April 27 in response to renewed criticism of the Armenian government voiced by Serj Tankian, the outspoken lead singer of the U.S.-Armenian rock band System Of A Down (SOAD).

Tankian addressed tens of thousands of Armenians on Thursday as the SOAD gave a first-ever concert in Yerevan dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey. The open-air show was broadcast live by Armenian television.

"We have come a long way in 20 years of Armenia's independence but there is still a lot of work to do," he told the ecstatic and mostly young crowd. "It is the responsibility of the government of the Republic of Armenia to bring in the principles of egalitarian civic society, get rid of the institutional injustice around and stop the depopulation that is occur-

ring."

"Criticizing is the easiest thing," Hakobyan told A1Plus.am, commenting on Tankian's statement. "Why are our compatriots leaving the country? If they were paid well they wouldn't leave. So please be so kind as to help develop the economy here and thereby keep people from emigrating."

"Let all [Diaspora] gentlemen, one million people, open \$1,000 bank accounts in Armenia, not give that money to us. The banks will get more money and become stronger," said the minister charged with coordinating ties with the worldwide Armenian Diaspora.

Hakobyan's comments triggered a chorus of disapproval and ridicule on social media networks used by many in Armenia. Some opposition politicians added their voice to the criticism, saying that she failed to acknowledge the large scale of various charity projects implemented by Diaspora groups and individuals in the country since the early 1990s.

Zaruhi Postanjyan, a parliament deputy from the opposition Zharangutyun party led by a U.S.-born politician, claimed that Hakobyan's remarks were

indicative of the government's attitude to the Diaspora. "From their perspective, the Diaspora must only provide aid and have no say in political decision-making," she said.

However, a top representative of that government strongly defended Tankian. Eduard Sharmazanov, a deputy parliament speaker and the chief spokesman for President Serzh Sargsyan's Republican Party of Armenia (HHK), spoke of his admiration for the 47-year-old rock star.

"Let everyone, including myself, do a fraction of what Serj Tankian has done for our country," he said. "Guys, Serj Tankian and the System of A Down have done a great job."

Sharmazanov stressed that the SOAD vocalist therefore has a legitimate right to criticize the authorities in Yerevan in good faith. "By recognizing our mistakes, we will only get stronger," he said.

Tankian similarly called for boosting the rule of law and combating corruption in Armenia during his previous trip to his ancestral homeland in 2011. He also deplored serious fraud that was reported during Armenia's last presidential election held in 2013.

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Bundestag: The procedures the Armenian Genocide bill should pass through

The Armenian Genocide Resolution pending at the German Bundestag has to pass through a number of procedures before being put on a vote, Eva Haacke of the Bundestag's Press Service told Public Radio of Armenia.

As it was reported earlier, after being discussed at the Bundestag, the bill has been sent to the Foreign Relations Committee for consideration. The issue is expected to be on the agenda of the Committee on April 30.

According to Eva Haacke, the three resolutions submitted by the ruling coalition, the Left Party and the Greens should still be combined into one. All three define the mass killing of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire as "genocide."

The adoption of the Resolution will follow the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the President of Germany and the Speaker of Bundestag.



After the discussions of the bill in the Bundestag on April 24, the world media rushed to report that "German lawmakers recognize the Armenian Genocide."

Five parties clear the 5% threshold needed to get into NKR National Assembly

Five parties have cleared the five-percent threshold needed to get into the 33-member National Assembly of Nagorno Karabakh.

According to preliminary results, the ruling Free Motherland party led by Prime Minister Ara Harutyunyan received 47.35 percent of the vote, head of the NKR Central Electoral Commission Srbuhi Arzumanyan told reporters on May 4. "Karabakh's Democratic Party (headed by current Speaker speaker Ashot Gulian) came second with 19.1 percent," she added.

The Armenian Revolutionary Federation received 18.51 percent of the vote, Arzumanyan said.

The opposition parties - Movement-88 and National Revival - got 6.93 percent and 5.38 percent of the vote respectively.

The turnout stood at 70.6 percent.



Armenian Oppositionists Set Free

Five leading members of a radical Armenian opposition group were released from custody on May 4 almost one month after being arrested on controversial charges stemming from its efforts to topple President Serzh Sargsyan.

Zhirayr Sefilian, the top leader of the Founding Parliament movement, and his four associates were set free after signing a written pledge not to leave Yerevan for the duration of an ongoing investigation into "mass disturbances" allegedly planned by them.

Law-enforcement authorities claim that they plotted to provoke street violence in the capital during the April 24 commemorations of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey. Founding Parliament had scheduled the start of its campaign for regime change in Armenia for that day.

A senior Armenian prosecutor, Vahagn Poghosyan, ordered the release of the five oppositionists four days after Human Rights Watch declared that they were jailed because of their "peaceful political beliefs." In a letter to Prosecutor-General Kostanyan, the New York-based group said they must therefore be freed pending investigation.

Later on April 30 Kostanyan announced that his office will look into the high-profile criminal case opened by Armenia's Investigative Committee.

Poghosyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) on Monday that the Founding Parliament leaders walked



free since their "crime" was thwarted by law-enforcement bodies before April 24. He also said the oppositionists, who strongly deny the charges, will not be able to impede the inquiry because investigators have already taken "all necessary investigative measures."

Sefilian, meanwhile, struck a defiant note as he was greeted by supporters outside Yerevan's Vartashen prison. "We are continuing our struggle," he told journalists there. "They may slow down our campaign but they won't manage to stop it."

"Sooner or later we will succeed in getting rid of this criminal regime," added the Lebanese-born activist.

Despite the arrest of its leaders, Founding Parliament rallied supporters in a southern Yerevan suburb on April 24. Only a few hundred people attended that rally, however, leading the opposition group to halt its anti-government campaign for now.

Founding Parliament holds no seats in Armenia's National Assembly and is very critical of mainstream opposition parties represented in the parliament. It has so far failed to attract large crowds to its rallies held across the country.

Armenia on top of world news



The words 'Armenia' and 'Armenian Genocide' have been the most demanded on Google over the past few days, information security expert Samvel Martirosyan told reporters on April 27.

Articles covering the visit of reality star Kim Kardashian, the concert of the System Of A Down rock band, the participation of world leaders in the events commemorating the Armenian Genocide

centennial were on top of world news, he said.

According to the expert, the interest towards Armenia was unprecedented. Google has not yet summed up the search results for April, but according to preliminary assessment, the search for "Armenia," "Where is Armenia?" and "Armenian Genocide" grew 2-4 times.

The events of April 24 were a top topic in France, Germany, the US, Russia and even in Turkey, which denies the genocide.

What Armenia gained from this flow of information on the web? "This left the Turkish propaganda in a crisis," he said. "Besides, the fact of the Armenian genocide is no more a question. Today there is

only one issue on the political agenda - to what extent this or that country is prepared to recognize the Armenian Genocide, jeopardizing its relations with Turkey."

"Today we have nothing to argue about, while a few years ago we still had to prove there was genocide. I think the ice is now broken," Samvel Martirosyan said.

He said the Armenian internet security experts managed to protect the websites against the Turkish-Azerbaijani hacking attacks. The dozen of Armenian websites hacked were not among the most popular ones, and this did not prevent the coverage of centennial events by most acclaimed local and foreign media.

Turkey recalled its ambassador to Austria over Armenian Genocide recognition



Turkey recalled its ambassador to Austria on April 28 in protest over Austrian lawmakers' condemnation of the massacre of Armenians by Ottoman Turk forces 100 years ago as "genocide," according to the Muslim Issue.

"The declaration by the Austrian parliament permanently scarred the friendship and relations between Turkey and Austria," the Turkish foreign ministry said, announcing it was recalling ambassador Hasan Gogus "for consultations".

Two days before the centenary of the killings in eastern Turkey, Austrian parliamentarians held a minute of silence Wednesday for the victims of what they labelled a "genocide" for the first time.

"April 24, 1915 marks the beginning of the persecutions, which ended in genocide," parliament president Doris Bures said before the silent tribute.

The leaders of Austria's six major par-

ties also issued a statement declaring that Austria, as a former ally of the Ottoman Empire, had a "duty to recognise and condemn these horrific events as genocide".

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu has told his Austrian counterpart Sebastian Kurz that bilateral ties will get affected in the aftermath of the Austrian Parliament describing the 1915 events as "genocide," diplomatic sources said.

"It is Turkey's duty to face the dark and painful chapter of its past and recognise the crimes committed against Armenians under the Ottoman empire as genocide," the statement read.

The Turkish foreign ministry accused the Austrians of "historically tendentious behaviour" and an "insult to the Turkish people that is contrary to the facts".

Earlier this month, Pope Francis drew Turkey's wrath after describing the killings as "the first genocide of the 20th century".

Turkey summoned the Vatican's ambassador in Ankara over the remarks and recalled the Turkish envoy to the Holy See.

More than 20 nations, including France and Russia, have recognised the Armenian genocide.

Armenia became an important platform for international struggle against genocide

The issues raised within the framework of the events dedicated to the centennial of the Armenian Genocide have reached the broader international community, Vigen Sargsyan, the Head of Staff of the Presidential Administration, President of the Commission Coordinating the Armenian Genocide Centennial Events, told reporters on May 4, as he summed up the results of the events.

Vigen Sargsyan said all tasks have been fulfilled and added that "reactions were better than expected." "The events served the main objectives. First of all, they were meant to raise awareness, to present the Armenian Genocide issue in the context of a broader fight against crimes against humanity and mobilize the public opinion," he said. Vigen Sargsyan underlined that "Armenia actually became an important platform for international struggle against genocide. He said genocide scholars suggest making the global forum "Against the Crime of Genocide" an annual event and ascribe a leading role to Armenia.

Sargsyan pointed to another important result - the national unity. Besides, he said, the political factor worked, as well. "We witnessed a wave of recognitions, which will be continuous. We managed to keep Yerevan at the spotlight of international attention," he said.

EU Bank opens Regional Representation for Southern Caucasus

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is opening a Regional Representation Office for the Southern Caucasus to enhance its support for the public and private sectors and strengthen relations with promoters, partner banks and other IFIs in the region. The office, located in Tbilisi, was inaugurated today by EIB Vice President Wilhelm Molterer in the presence of Georgia's Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili and the EU's Ambassador to Georgia Janos Herman. It will cater for business in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. A presence on the ground will ensure market proximity and an increased operational delivery capability for the EIB, as well as closer institutional ties with the national authorities. The EIB has accelerated its lending activities in the region over the past five years, and at the end of 2014 these stood at €726 million: €493 million in Georgia; €217 in Armenia; and €25 million in Azerbaijan, where the first operation was signed last year.



Job Fair: Ministry-organized events helps Armenian employers, unemployed meet



Despite the availability of numerous work places the level of unemployed remains fairly high in Armenia, that's why the meeting of the job seeker and the employer in one place can partially solve the problem, a representative from World Vision Armenia said at the opening of a job fair in Yerevan on April 30.

World Vision is one of the 70 companies from various sectors of the economy presenting more than 400 vacancies at the career expo organized by the State Employment Agency.

According to the organizers, the initiative offers a good opportunity for job seekers to

meet many employees needing specialists, talk to them and get acquainted with their skills. The companies, as a result, have a wide range of choice which helps them fill their vacancies.

At the event job seekers are able to learn about the Armenian job market and state employment programs which are another chance for them to find a job.

According to official statistics presented by the State Employment Agency of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, as of April 1, 2015 the number of registered unemployed people in Armenia is 16,710. A total of 90.6 percent of job seekers, or 15,137 people, are unemployed. The number of unemployed women is still pretty high, it makes more than 75 percent of all unemployed (11,471).

Since the beginning of the year 833 unemployed people got employment through agencies.

Armenian Gas Operator Plans No Retail Price Cut



Armenia's national gas distribution company said on April 28 that it will not lower the cost of Russian natural gas supplied to households despite a 13 percent reduction in its wholesale price set by Gazprom.

Gazprom's chairman, Alexei Miller, announced the price cut on Tuesday following negotiations held with the Armenian government.

The Gazprom-Armenia operator, which is fully owned by the Russian energy giant, made clear that the decision will not affect its retail tariffs for households and corporate consumers. Its spokeswoman, Shushan Sardaryan, said the discount will only allow the gas operator to reverse losses incurred as a result of a recent 17 percent depreciation of the

Armenian dram.

Sardaryan argued that the dram traded at 416 per U.S. dollar when the existing retail price was set by Armenian utility regulators in 2013. One dollar is now worth 476 drams.

"The reduction in the gas price at the border will enable us not to ask the Public Services Regulatory Commission to revise the tariff," Sardaryan told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "That means the tariff for domestic consumption will remain unchanged."

The household tariff currently stands at 156 drams (33 U.S. cents) per cubic meter. Gazprom-Armenia will now pay its parent company twice as less: \$165 per thousand cubic meters, down from almost \$190 charged by Gazprom until now.

Critics in Armenia have long claimed that this profit margin is disproportionately large. The gas operator has denied that, citing transportation and distribution costs involved.

Armenian Power Utility Seeks Another Price Hike



Armenia's loss-making power distribution network said on April 29 that it will ask public utility regulators next month to raise the prices of its electricity for a third time in less than two years.

The Russian-owned company, Electricity Networks of Armenia (ENA), did not disclose the scale of the price hike which it hopes will be approved by the Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC). "The matter is still under discussion," Natalia Sarjanyan, an ENA spokeswoman, told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am).

Sarjanyan said the unpopular measure is essential for helping the company end its financial losses which she estimated at 10 billion drams (\$21 million) per annum. The ENA,

which is owned by Russia's national power utility RAO UES, has not made profits for three consecutive years, she said.

The ENA also owes a total of over \$250 million to Armenian power plants and commercial banks. Energy and Natural Resources Minister Yervand Zakharyan emphasized this fact in January when he hinted that a price hike is imminent.

"A political decision has already been made," said Hayk Gevorgyan, an economics editor for the "Haykakan Zhamanak" daily. He claimed that the PSRC will raise the daytime energy tariff for households by 14 percent to 48 drams (10 U.S. cents) per kilowatt/hour.

The tariff went up 27 percent in July 2013 because of the increased cost of Russian natural gas, which generates more than one-third of Armenia's electricity. The PSRC raised it by another 10 percent in July 2014, citing the need to end the company's mounting losses.

Critics, among them Gevorgyan, believe that the ENA's financial troubles result from poor management, rather than the ostensibly low prices of electricity. They will also point out that Russia's Gazprom monopoly lowered this month the price of its natural gas for Armenia by over 13 percent.

The ENA reported additional losses following a 17 percent depreciation of the Armenian currency, the dram, late last year. Vartan Ayvazyan, the chairman of an Armenian parliament committee on economic issues, said on Thursday that this alone warrants an energy price rise.

Poland Backs EU-Armenia 'Association'

The European Union and Armenia could revive the political part of their cancelled Association Agreement in their quest for a new legal framework for closer relations, Poland's ambassador in Yerevan said on May 4.

"The political cooperation segment of association is still on the table," Jerzy Nowakowski told a news conference. "Both Poland and the EU are ready to work together [with Armenia] and clarify those political provisions. They are the subject of [EU-Armenia] negotiations."

The Armenian government precluded the signing of the Association Agreement in 2013 with its unexpected decision to join the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The EU argued that membership in the Russian-led bloc is "not compatible" with economic provisions of the deal. It dismissed until recently an Armenian proposal to sign the document without its free-trade component.

The EU commissioner for European neighborhood policy and enlargement, Hahn, signaled a change in the EU's position in January. He said that Brussels and Yerevan should incorporate the "substance of the political part" of the Association Agreement into a new, alternative accord which they plan to negotiate in the near future.

Armenian and EU officials have already identified the concrete areas of closer ties to be covered by the new deal. It



is expected that the leaders of EU member states will give the green light to the start of official negotiations on that deal at a summit in Latvia's capital Riga scheduled for May 21-22.

According to Nowakowski, a lot depends on how far Armenia is ready to go in stepping up cooperation with the EU now that it is a full member of the Eurasian Union. He expressed hope that President Serzh Sarkisian will attend the Riga summit.

Traian Hristea, the head of the EU Delegation in Yerevan, said last month that over the past year the Armenian authorities have restored EU's "level of confidence" with their pursuit of a new EU-Armenia accord.



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

- ♦3003.**Sayat-Nova str**, 5/3, 105sq.m, 2bedrooms, stone building, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- ♦1560.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built,10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired,climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- ♦2818.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, Ac, furnished . Price:400.000USD
- ♦1156.**Komitas Ave.**, 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 floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capially repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- ♦2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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

- 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.
- 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. **Zarobyan 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
- 2027. **Sayat Nova str.**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capially repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

Turkey's EU ambitions complicated by row over Armenia genocide: Commissioner Hahn



(Reuters)

Turkey's backlash against European countries that call Ottoman Turks' 1915 massacre of Armenians genocide will complicate Ankara's ambitions to join the

European Union, the commissioner in charge of EU enlargement told a newspaper on Thursday.

Turkey denies that the killing of up to 1.5 million Armenians in what is now Turkey, at the height of World War One, constitutes genocide and relations with Armenia are still blighted by the dispute.

Turkey has also rebuked EU members including Germany and Austria whose parliaments used the word in resolutions marking the 100th anniversary of the event this month.

Commissioner Johannes Hahn told Austrian newspaper Der Standard that Ankara's "very harsh" reaction should be

seen in the context of elections coming up in June.

"This may be quite popular in parts of the country and among certain parts of the population. But what worries me are the long-term consequences," he was quoted as saying in an interview.

"The seeds of an anti-European and anti-Western stance are thus sown, which from today's perspective makes a future (EU) entry very difficult."

The European Parliament this month also backed a motion that called the massacre genocide, days after Pope Francis provoked fury in Turkey by using the same term.

Rep. Schiff welcomes Sis Catholicosate lawsuit

In a statement issued on April 29, Representative Adam Schiff applauded the lawsuit filed by the Great House of Cilicia in the Turkish Constitutional Court to regain ownership of the historic headquarters of the Church, which includes the Catholicosate, the monastery and cathedral of St. Sophia, a major Armenian Christian holy site located in the Sis (currently Kozan), in south-central Turkey.

"I applaud the lawsuit filed in Turkish court to regain ownership of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia which was confiscated during the Armenian Genocide," said Schiff. "This ancient and sacred site must be returned to its rightful owners nearly a century after it was pillaged by the Ottoman Empire. Armenians are right to pursue all legal avenues to obtain justice and to seek the return of what is rightfully theirs."

This site was confiscated by the Turkish Government following the Genocide of 1915 in which an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were killed or deported by the Ottoman Empire.

Schiff Statement on Genocide Centennial

On April 24, Schiff issued the following statement on the centennial of the Armenian Genocide.

"One hundred years ago, the Ottoman Empire attempted to annihilate an entire race in the first genocide of the last century. When it was over, 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children lay

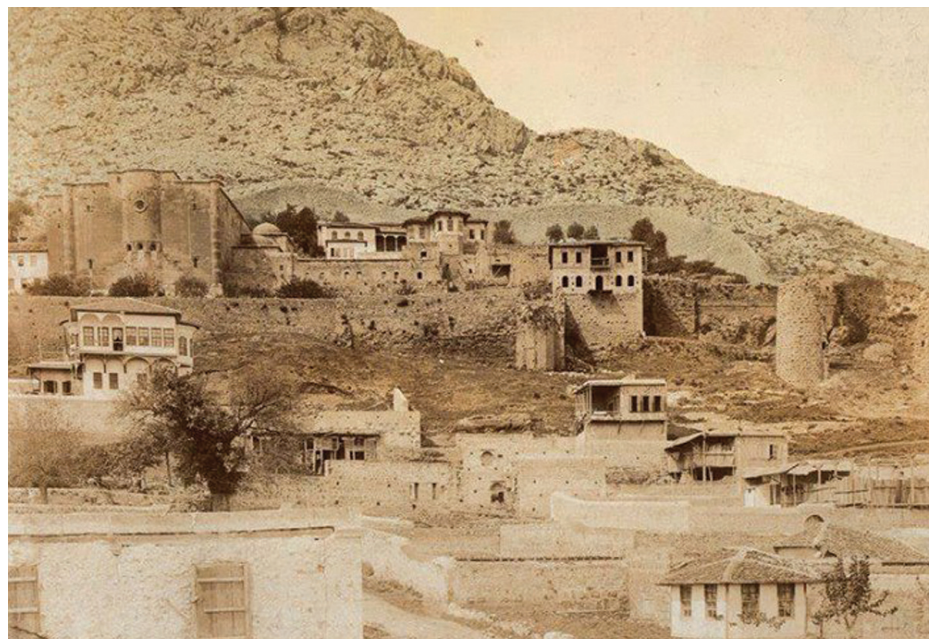
dead and many thousands of others barely survived. Despite a brutal campaign of massacres, forced death marches, lootings and rape, the Young Turks failed to destroy the Armenian people as evidenced by the vibrant diaspora and Armenian nation.

"When this heinous acts crime was committed, an entirely new word had to be invented to describe it - genocide. The author of the term, Holocaust survivor Raphael Lemkin, specifically cited the campaign of murder against the Armenians as an example of what genocide was meant to describe.

"The horrors of the genocide have been compounded by decades of denial

by the Turkish government, which continues to fight the truth to this day. The United States has become complicit in this denial by failing to recognize the genocide for decades - and I was deeply disappointed by President Obama's refusal to use the word 'genocide' in his statement today. If not this President, who spoke so eloquently and passionately about recognition in the past, whom? If not after one hundred years, when?

"The United States must join the world community - as it has in speaking out against other atrocities and in confronting painful chapters of our own past - in calling the Armenian Genocide a genocide. The time for silence is over."



Times of Israel: Rivlin used term 'Armenian genocide' two weeks ago

Israeli President took flak for avoiding contested word to describe killing of 1.5 million at meeting with community leaders, but did make use of officially verboten language at earlier press briefing, *The Times of Israel* reminds.

Local Armenian leaders were disappointed that President Reuven Rivlin carefully avoided speaking of "genocide" when he officially marked the centennial of the killing of nearly 1.5 million Armenians, but he did in fact call it a "genocide" earlier this month.

Briefing foreign journalists

At his official Jerusalem residence on April 13, Rivlin recalled that he was the first Israeli president to speak about the issue at the United Nations in January, and that he quoted Zionist leader Avshalom Feinberg speaking about the Armenians' fate 100 years ago.

"It was Avshalom Feinberg, one of my eldest brothers, who said 25 years before the Holocaust that if we do not warn against what is going on with the Armenians, what will happen afterwards when they try to do to us?" Rivlin said, speaking in English.

"There is a saying that the Nazis used the Armenian genocide as something that gave them permission to bring the Holocaust into reality, according to their belief that they have to discriminate against the Jewish people. 'Never again' belongs to every one of you, all the nations. We cannot allow something like that to happen."

Rivlin was once one of Israel's most outspoken advocates for recognition of the Armenian genocide.

But since he became president last year, he has been careful not to use the word "genocide" in describing the events in Armenia in official speeches and declarations, in accordance with Israel's official policy not to refer to the events as genocide.

Much to the dismay of Armenians and human rights activists, Rivlin has taken to using the terms "mass killing," "massacre," or the "Armenian tragedy."

But at the briefing, Rivlin congratulated Pope Francis on having called the mass killings of Armenians the "first genocide of the 20th century," adding that this was an important issue for all human beings.

"We cannot allow any kind of racism, any kind of anti-Semitism, any opportunity of acting in wars that can be defined as genocide," Rivlin said. "It is really a value that should be mentioned to everyone, in order to avoid that the words 'Never Again' would not only be two words but would mean something."

The fact that he did utter the word "genocide" two weeks ago may have been a slip of the tongue that revealed his true thoughts on the matter.

The President's Residence did not respond to a request for comment by the time this article was posted.

During the event Sunday with Armenian communal and religious leaders in Israel, Rivlin said that we are "morally obligat-



ed to point out the facts, as horrible as they might be, we must not ignore them." The event was billed by his office as the first time an Israeli president official held an event to commemorate what happened to the Armenians.

"The Armenian people were the first victims of modern mass killing. We do not seek to put the blame on any specific country, but rather identify with the victims and the horrible results of the massacre."

Archbishop Aris Shirvanyan, who represented the Armenian patriarch, "expressed his disappointment that the State of Israel had not related to the killings of the Armenian people as "genocide," according to a press release from Rivlin's office.

"At the end of the meeting, the President stated that he had noted this criticism, and that he believed that Israel's leadership must do more to raise the issue of the murder of the Armenian people, and stressed the importance of the discussion held today," the press release stated.

At the event, the honorary consul of Armenia in Israel, Tsolag Momjian, acknowledged that Jerusalem for the first time sent two MKs - Nachman Shai (Zionist Union) and Anat Berko (Likud) - to the official genocide memorial event in Yerevan. "The Armenian genocide is not a political case but a moral case. And I want to thank the President for creating this historic opportunity today," he said.

After having meet with Armenian officials over the weekend, both MKs are calling on the government to recognize the Armenian genocide, Shai said Tuesday.

Israel's refusal to formally recognize the Armenian genocide is based on geopolitical and strategic considerations, prime among them relations with Turkey, which vehemently denies that Ottoman Turks committed genocide. But Jerusalem's growing ties with Azerbaijan - a regional Muslim power with a long border with Iran - play an important role in Israel's decision as well.

"The fuller understanding of this historical episode is in the interest of the entire civilized world, and ought to lead to an international dialogue committed to preventing the similar recurrence of severe human rights violations on catastrophic scale," the Foreign Ministry stated Friday. It called for a "full and frank acknowledgement of the facts behind the horrible events" but steered clear of the word genocide.

Armenian Educational Foundation launches new Scholarship for Armenian Genocide Studies



Armenian Educational Foundation (AEF) today announced its new **Richard G. Hovhannisian Scholarship for Armenian Genocide Studies**. AEF has established this scholarship in honor of Professor Hovhannisian in recognition of his lifelong dedication to the study of the Armenian Genocide. It is a merit based scholarship for Master and PhD students pursuing studies in higher educational institutions in the Republic of Armenia, specializing in the economic, social-demographic, cultural, legal and political aspects of denial and its accrued impact on the Armenian nation. The Foundation will cover the full tuition during the entire study and research,

given that the proposed topic of research is acceptable to the Scholarship Board.

This year, the Armenian nation is commemorating the centennial of this atrocious crime. To this day, Turkey attempts to silence the past through various policies, meanwhile, continuing to reap the benefits of various international legal agreements. In reality, it continues the denial of the Genocide, thus, perpetuating the consequences of this colossal crime. Looking forward to a new phase in the process of redemption of denied human rights and lost heritage, there is a need for reexamination and broadening of the strategies and tactics that could counteract Turkey's denial policy. This requires sound research and debate in order to feed the actions leading to the punishment through compensation and retribution of the losses that an entire nation had to bear on its shoulders. Thus, it needs an interdisciplinary and broad approach that could examine the different aspects of the losses and their historic and future impact.

"The study of genocide, which is a gross

violation of human rights, can help us understand the conditions under which acts of mass violence are likely to take place, suggesting ways in which genocide may be prevented," states **Scholarship Committee Member, Nvard Manasian**. *"In the case of the Armenian Genocide there is a need to comparatively conduct interdisciplinary studies that could help to assess the magnitude of the demographic, economic, political, and cultural impact on the Armenian nation in order to identify the magnitude of loss to be recovered gradually."* The new scholarship will support the advancement of the academic debate on the possible avenues for retribution and recovery of lost human rights. Simultaneously, the scholarship would also afford the opportunity to explore the heritage rightfully belonging to an entire nation by feeding the results of this research into the state, diplomatic and public understanding and structured debate in different venues. The details of the terms and conditions of the newly announced scholarship are accessible on the scholarship website of the Foundation.

Prof. Taner Akçam to Lecture at UC Davis on Armenian Genocide

"Gradual Radicalization: The Decision Making Process for the Armenian Genocide" will be the topic of a lecture by Prof. Taner Akçam on Wednesday, May 6 at UC Davis. Taner Akçam is professor of history and the Robert Aram, Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair in Armenian genocide studies at Clark University, Massis Post reports.

A closer look at the Armenian genocide in 1915 is the focus of the free program, presented by the UC Davis history department, UCD Middle East/South Asia Studies Program and the Turkey Studies Research Cluster of the UCD Humanities Institute, will take place at the Odd Fellows Hall, 415 Second St. in downtown Davis.

Debates around mass murders boil down to two central questions: What happened? Why and how did it happen?

In the Armenian genocide research, the "what happened" question got answered at least in broad terms, Akçam says.

Although historians still do not have all the details of what was experienced at the local level, they do have a general picture of how the genocide was launched and how it was developed as a state policy.

However, this is not true for the "why" and "how" questions, Akcam says, which are mostly explained with the answers of either "premeditated continuum" or "wartime radicalization."

"The debate in question is really an offshoot of several peripheral questions regarding the intentions, motives, ideologies and motivating anxieties of the decisionmakers," a news release said.

"If in fact there was a final formal decision for the genocide, we have to answer a list of questions: What stages did it pass through before it reached its final conclusion? When and how did the decision take the shape of a plan?"

Akçam argues that we are still very far from such a level of sophistication, given that much of the debate is driven by speculation rather than documentation. In this

talk, he aims to reconstruct the decision-making process based on Ottoman documents.

The fact of the Armenian Genocide by the Ottoman government has been documented, recognized, and affirmed in the form of media and eyewitness reports, laws, resolutions, and statements by many states and international organizations. The complete catalogue of all documents categorizing the 1915 wholesale massacre of the Armenian population in Ottoman Empire as a premeditated and thoroughly executed act of genocide, is extensive. Uruguay was the first country to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide in 1965. The massacres of the Armenian people were officially condemned and recognized as genocide in accordance with the international law by France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Greece, Slovakia, Cyprus, Lebanon, Uruguay, Argentina, Venezuela, Chile, Canada, Vatican, Australia and Bolivia.

Armenians Should Now Pursue Legal Claims



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

Armenians experienced unforgettable days last week during the Centennial commemorations of the Armenian Genocide. In many respects, Turkish denialists' much-feared 'Tsunami' became a reality! While Armenians around the world were busy organizing commemorative events in recent years, their efforts were amplified by some unexpected developments, including Turkish President Erdogan's irrational rhetoric and reaction.

The year began with Erdogan's childish maneuver, switching the Gallipoli War Centennial to April 24, to derail the observances planned for the Armenian Genocide Centennial. The international media quickly exposed the Turkish President's ploy, providing extensive publicity for the upcoming genocide anniversary.

In early April, the Kardashians' visit to Armenia generated thousands of articles and TV reports, and millions of social media posts. A few days later, Pope Francis created his own 'Tsunami' by uttering his courageous words on the Armenian Genocide. Once again, Erdogan made matters worse for Turkey by insulting not only the Pope, but also one billion Catholics, and the nation of Argentina, the Pontiff's birthplace. Shortly thereafter, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Armenian Genocide providing further media coverage of this issue.

Being in Armenia for the first time on April 24, and on the occasion of the Centennial, was a deeply moving experience. The Armenian government did monumental work inviting 1,000 dignitaries from 60 countries, including

prominent scholars, legal experts, political leaders, parliamentarians from 30 countries, and survivors of other genocides. On April 22-23, the distinguished guests participated in a Global Forum "Against the Crime of Genocide," where I delivered brief remarks castigating Pres. Obama's failure to keep his promise on using the term Armenian Genocide. I explained that contrary to a widely-held misperception, the United States has repeatedly recognized the Armenian Genocide.

On April 23, all six political parties represented in the Austrian Parliament issued a joint declaration recognizing the Armenian Genocide. As expected, Turkey overreacted by withdrawing its Ambassador from Vienna. This is the second Turkish Ambassador to be recalled to Ankara this month. As an increasing number of countries recognize the Armenian Genocide, Turkey may soon have fewer envoys, isolating itself from much of the world!

Also on April 23, German President Joachim Gauck delivered a powerful speech at a memorial service in Berlin, acknowledging not only the Armenian Genocide, but also Germany's complicity in the Ottoman Turkish genocidal campaign. Despite heavy pressures from Turkish leaders, the German Bundestag is expected shortly to adopt a similarly-worded resolution which would send shock waves throughout the 1,000 rooms of Pres. Erdogan's newly-built palace, since Germany was Turkey's ally in 1915, and continues its close relationship until today!

In the evening of April 23, the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II and the Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia Aram I jointly presided over a historic rite of canonization in Etchmiadzin, declaring the Armenian Genocide victims to be Saints.

Following this moving ritual, at the exact hour of 19:15 or 7:15 pm, churches throughout the world began ringing their bells 100 times. Later that night, the System of a Down band performed a free concert at Yerevan's Republic Square. The thousands of young people in attendance were highly energized despite the heavy downpour. The concert was aired live, disseminating the band's Genocide message to millions of people worldwide.

On April 24, a memorable observance took place on the grounds of Tsitsernagapert, the Armenian Genocide Monument in Yerevan, with the participation of hundreds of religious leaders, Ambassadors, officials, and presidents of Russia, France, Cyprus and Serbia. While the heads of two superpowers came to Yerevan on April 24, Turkey was unable to attract to Gallipoli the same caliber of leaders, despite its considerable efforts. It was perfectly fitting to this solemn occasion that the distinguished guests at the Yerevan Memorial spent several hours huddled in blankets like refugees, in freezing temperatures, sheltered under a large canvass from the rain.

One of the most stunning developments last week was Turkish Prime Minister Davutoglu's declaration that the Armenian "deportations were a Crime Against Humanity" - which under international law is tantamount to recognizing the Armenian Genocide. No one should be surprised if Erdogan dismisses Davutoglu after the June Parliamentary elections.

Now that the Centennial is behind us, it is high time that Armenians turn the page on Armenian Genocide recognition and begin to systematically pursue their claims from Turkey through international, regional and local tribunals.

DW: Turkey is shooting itself in the foot

Turkey has badly hurt its international ties by threatening Germany and other partner nations over their assessment of the Ottoman massacre of Armenians a century ago, Deutsche Welle's Thomas Seibert says from Istanbul.

Turkey has rarely launched rhetorical attacks on so many different international players in such a short time. The pope came in for his share, as did the European Parliament.

Then it was Austria's turn, before Germany, France, Russia and the USA were also all verbally assaulted - in a series of foreign office statements issued at the rate of almost one a minute - for the positions they have taken in the debate on the correct word to give to the massacre of Armenians by Ottoman authorities one hundred years ago.

'The Turkish people will not forgive and forget'

In the case of Germany, Ankara stressed that the Turkish people would neither forgive nor forget the words of President Joachim Gauck, who has spoken of an Armenian genocide. At the same time, the Turkish government warned the German parliament in Berlin against passing a planned resolution that also speaks of a genocide against the Armenians from

1915 to 1917.

The presidents of the USA, Russia and France - Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin and Francois Hollande - drew Ankara's ire because they also mentioned the massacre. And Obama didn't even use the "G-word" out of consideration for his country's important NATO ally.

Questionable consequences

Within just a few hours, Ankara thus verbally attacked three of the five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council and, in the case of Germany, also its most important trading partner. With only a few weeks to go to the Turkish parliamentary elections on June 7, this probably appeals to right-leaning voters - one possible motivation behind the wave of blustering statements.

But Turkey will have to realize that such exaggerated accesses of rage do more harm than good in the sphere of foreign affairs. For a start, there is barely a single government politician in the targeted countries who takes the tirades from Ankara seriously: many are the occasions when Turkey has announced political and economic reprisals against partner nations in great indignation, only to get back to business as usual without losing another word on the matter.

International isolation

Then there is the fact that the furious Turkish outbursts reinforce doubts about how reliable this partner to the West actually is. To a point, it is understandable, in view of the country's domestic political situation and the decades spent denying the crime, that the Turkish government rejects the application of the term "genocide" to the massacre of Armenians. But the way Ankara has almost broken up its friendship with important allies in a spectacular gesture just because they did not agree with the Turkish view of things could cause some politicians and officials in the West to think again.

For some time, Turkey has been taking pleasure in presenting itself as a regional power whose irresistible rise is being hindered by foreign ones, because Europe and the USA fear a new rival. This strange view of the world is part of the reason for the heated debate on the Armenian issue, and was frequently promulgated in the past few days in particular by the government-friendly press in Ankara and some advisers to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. It may be that Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party can score with nationalistic voters in the Turkish election campaign by this means. But internationally, it is a course that will lead to isolation.

Al-Monitor: Centennial of 1915 has harmed Turkey's international standing

At first sight it may seem a bit childish, but that is how the most serious and even incendiary political issues are handled in today's Turkish diplomacy. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, comparing the attendance in terms of arithmetic between the centennial of the Armenian genocide in Yerevan and the centennial ceremonies of the Gallipoli campaign in the city of Canakkale (Dardanelles), said, "Thank God 20 heads of state came to ours, while two went to theirs."

The calculation needs a slight correction: The number of heads of states at Yerevan was four, with President Vladimir Putin of Russia, President Francois Hollande of France and the presidents of Serbia and Cyprus, while the number who attended the Canakkale-Gallipoli event hosted by Erdogan was around 17.

The participants, in Erdogan's words, at "our event," apart from Prince Charles of the UK and the Australian and New Zealand prime ministers whose countries see Dardanelles-Gallipoli 1915 as the foundation stone of their nation-building, were the heads of state of Ireland, Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Iraq, Qatar, Djibouti, Somalia, Mali, Niger, South Sudan and Senegal.

If any outcome of politics and successful diplomacy can be measured by such numbers, Turkey - even if it is not 20 against 2 but 17 against 4 - has won a stunning political victory in terms of the competition of the centennials. One could say that in the contest of the "G-words," Gallipoli won over the Genocide.

However, if a rational account is made of what Turkey went through last week, it will reveal a heavy toll in terms of the diplomatic damage sustained.

Following Pope Francis' sermon when he pronounced the "G-Word," and the Austrian parliament that adopted a resolution recognizing the 1915 events as genocide, Turkey angrily recalled its ambassadors from the Vatican and Vienna. Its retort to the resolution of the European Parliament on the "G-word" was even more ill-tempered, depicting the body as "representing nothing."

Yet, as the symbolic date of April 24 approached, there were new additions to the recognition of 1915 as Armenian genocide. German President Joachim Gauck was very blunt. He spoke of a "genocidal

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Aram I's Move: Armenian Church files lawsuit to reclaim lost property in Turkey



This week the Great House of Cilicia filed a lawsuit with the Turkish Constitutional Court demanding that its historical Sis Catholicosate be returned.

"On the occasion of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide and with the view of giving a more practical expression to our national ownership, Catholicos Aram I in his messages often reminded of the imperative of putting a stress on compensation.

From this point of view the Sis Catholicosate and then, the return of properties belonging to the nation and the Church may become an important step as a pre-step toward restoration of violated rights and return of properties of our people," the statement of Catholicosate of Cilicia press said.

During the past two years the Catholicosate worked on the above-mentioned legal claim together with a panel of Turkish and international experts of procedural laws led by His Holiness.

His Holiness Aram I, the Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, first spoke of this demand in Yerevan last September, at another Armenia-Diaspora Forum, saying, "It is time we shift from mere demand of the Genocide recognition to compensation, because, according to the international law, recognition of a genocide implies also responsibility, compensation. Recognition and compensation are closely interlinked."

Historical sources say that the Catholicosate was established and functioned for centuries in the capital of the Kingdom of Cilicia, in Sis, in 1295. In 1921 the government of Ottoman Turkey presented an ultimatum to Catholicos Sahak II to abandon the Catholicosate within two days. The Catholicos was able to take some precious religious and cultural treasures and together with a small group leave Sis.

The Catholicosate was first settled in Jerusalem, Aleppo, and Damascus, Cyprus and in 1930 - in Antelias, Lebanon.

Giro Manoyan, Director of the International Secretariat of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun) Bureau in Yerevan, thinks that this lawsuit does not refer to all the properties that belonged to the Armenian church once and currently are in the territory of Turkey; it only refers to the Catholicosate, the monastery and Hagia Sophia in Sis.

He said that soon there might be other similar legal claims to Turkey, because the state committee of the Centennial in its pan-Armenian declaration already said that a legal file regarding compensation on individual, community and national issues is being prepared.

"I think that by autumn something will be ready, in September a report on that file will be presented," Manoyan said.

Earlier His Holiness Aram I said that if the lawsuit is rejected by the Turkish Court, they will file a lawsuit to the European Court of Human Rights. His Holiness reminded that this trial will inevitably open doors to the folder of returning properties that belonged to the nation, to the church and individuals.

This is not the first case of the Armenian Apostolic Church making legal claims to Turkey. In 2012 The Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul turned to the court with a demand that the property of the Sanasaryan Fund located in Turkey be returned; philanthropist Mkrtich Sanasaryan donated it to the Patriarchate in the 1800s. According to lawyer Eybeyoglu, who represented the interests of the Armenian Patriarchate, Turkish funds confiscated the Sanasaryan Fund on the basis of the 1936 declaration. This trial is still ongoing.

Urgent Appeal: Aleppo Armenian community targeted once again

The Syrian Armenian Relief Fund (SARF) calls on the community to mobilize in support of crisis victims, Asbarez reports.

Just as Armenians around the world were wrapping up their Genocide Centennial Commemorations, our community in Aleppo was once again the victim of a brutal attack on one of its most iconic churches - the 15th century Armenian Church of Forty Martyrs. Was the timing of this barbaric act just a coincidence or a message on behalf of the same genocidal criminals who continue to target our heritage, faith and identity?

As you all know, the war in Aleppo has entered a new and very dangerous phase. Our neighborhoods are now in direct line of fire and are being targeted on a daily basis. Our population is facing imminent danger and is suffering human as well as property damages. Our churches continue to be under attack. Although we become furious with every new tragedy that befalls on our brethren in Syria, we are reminded that we are a nation that has risen from the ashes of a Genocide. The calamity facing the victims of today's war in Aleppo and all other cities and towns in Syria can only

strengthen our resolve and commitment to help them navigate this sad chapter in their lives whether inside Syria or as refugees around the world, most notably in Armenia.

Today, more than ever, the fate of all those living inside Aleppo is unknown. What will be our response?

We call upon our community members to once again step up to the occasion and heed to our urgent call to action by donating generously to help our sisters and brothers who today, more than ever, need our immediate response.

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dynamic to which the Armenian people fell victim." The president went on to use the word genocide directly in a passage referring to the possible complicity of Germany, a WWI ally of the Ottoman Empire.

"In this case, we Germans collectively still have to come to terms with the past, namely when it comes to shared responsibility and perhaps even complicity in the genocide of the Armenians," he said. This was the first time the complicity of Germany in the Armenian genocide matter was recognized by a German statesman.

In referring directly to genocide, Gauck went further than a German coalition statement. The Bundestag used a more indirect formulation, denoting the Armenian deaths as exemplifying "the mass extermination, ethnic cleansing, deportations and, yes, the genocides during the 20th century."

Thus, it can safely be said that the most influential country of Europe is on board when it comes to the "G-word" issue.

Turkish authorities shuddered at the unexpected stance of Putin, who described 1915 "as one of the most appalling tragedies in the history of humankind" and said, "The events of 1915 shocked the entire world and were perceived in Russia as its own calamity."

Putin, attending the solemn commemoration in Yerevan with Hollande and others, made the statement: "Today we mourn with the Armenian people. Remembrance events will take place in hundreds of Russian cities."

For his part, Hollande, using the word genocide, said, "We are also aware that it is with the disappearance of 1.5 million Armenians 100 years ago that the word genocide was invented," alluding to Raphael Lemkin, a Polish Jewish intellectual who coined the term in 1944.

Among the six world powers involved in the Iran nuclear talks, only China and the United States did not use the "G-word." Yet, President Barack's Obama's statement this time was more strongly worded than ever.

In his statement that referred to "Armenian Remembrance Day," he said: "This year we mark the centennial of the Meds Yeghern, the first mass atrocity of the 20th century. Beginning in 1915, the

Armenian people of the Ottoman Empire were deported, massacred and marched to their deaths. Their culture and heritage in their ancient homeland were erased. Amid horrific violence that saw suffering on all sides, one and a half million Armenians perished. As the horrors of 1915 unfolded, US Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Sr. sounded the alarm inside the US government and confronted Ottoman leaders. Because of efforts like his, the truth of the Meds Yeghern emerged and came to influence the later work of human rights champions like Raphael Lemkin, who helped bring about the first United Nations human rights treaty."

Obama concluded: "I have consistently stated my own view of what occurred in 1915, and my view has not changed. A full, frank and just acknowledgement of the facts is in all our interests. Peoples and nations grow stronger, and build a foundation for a more just and tolerant future, by acknowledging and reckoning with painful elements of the past. We welcome the expression of views by Pope Francis, Turkish and Armenian historians, and the many others who have sought to shed light on this dark chapter of history."

With such references to Morgenthau, Lemkin and Francis and carefully selected strong wording, Obama's statement could be interpreted as "saying genocide without pronouncing the G-word."

The Turkish Foreign Ministry had to work hard all day April 23 to craft responses. It issued four successive communiques. The first one, No. 129, rejected Putin's usage of the term genocide and referred to mass killings committed by Russia in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe. Communique 129 was issued at 07:03 p.m., followed by Communique 130, issued at 10:41 p.m., which reacted strongly to Gauck, saying, "The Turkish people will never forget the German president's expressions and will never forgive him." Four minutes later, at 10:45 p.m., Communique 131 followed with more carefully selected words and criticized Obama as being "selective and not impartial." An hour later, at 11:42 p.m., Communique 133 was issued, accusing both Hollande and Prime Minister Manuel Valls of France of "distorting" (historical



facts.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry continued its communique production over the weekend with Communique 134, criticizing the Bulgarian parliament's (a neighboring EU member) recognition of 1915 as genocide. It described Bulgaria's stand as "not friendly."

Nevertheless, Turkey seemed reluctant to recall its ambassadors from Moscow, Berlin, Washington, Paris and Sofia. The question, inevitably asked, was: Why then, were the ambassadors in the Vatican and Vienna recalled?

In this context Erdogan presented the Gallipoli commemoration and the mourning in Yerevan as if the situation were a contest of numbers and participation. As a matter of fact, Erdogan himself, in moving the date of the Gallipoli commemoration to April 24 - a date with no historical significance for the battle - shaped such a contest.

So, assessing the diplomatic and political accounts, did he win? After all, 17 heads of state turned up in Dardanelles while only four attended the ceremonies in Yerevan.

If you add up the decisions of various parliaments, statements of presidents (mainly of the Western world) and the consequent diplomatic disarray inflicted upon Turkey, the presence of dignitaries from Prince Charles to the presidents of Mali, Niger, South Sudan and Djibouti, etc., does not adequately fill the impact of the "G-word" in the statements and attitudes of the six world powers.

Power and realpolitik are the parameters that determine how the international system functions.

The damage of the 1915 centennial has already been done to Turkey's international standing. Only time may heal it.

Would Israel tolerate calling the Holocaust a 'massacre'?



In putting our desire to protect our 'ties' with Turkey and Azerbaijan above our willingness to recognize the Armenian Genocide, we in Israel sacrifice basic principle and integrity, Israel Charny and Yair Auron write in an article published by Haaretz.

There is no political or economic situation in which we Israelis - or Jews worldwide - would accept any other nation denying the Holocaust or the full scale of its killings and torture. We would be hurt, insulted, horrified. We would experience the denial as a kind of endorsement, or even repetition of, the degradation our nation suffered in the Holocaust.

The Armenian people are no different. They are hurt, insulted and horrified by the minimization of the Armenian Genocide by our State of Israel.

For many years, they looked up to Israel with great respect and a deep sense of kinship with a people who, like them, suffered a massive genocide. They admired us enormously for our amazing ability to rebuild our vibrant and thriving nation. They, themselves, are just beginning on their path of reconstruction.

Now, although many Armenians continue to admire Israel greatly - both writers of this piece have been awarded the Presidential Gold Medal in Armenia for our contributions to the memory and recognition of the Armenian Genocide - a degree of hate of Israel is mounting. How could the people of the Holocaust fail to extend full recognition to the Armenian Genocide (which, at times, is referred to as the "Armenian Holocaust," especially in Hebrew, such as in one article by an historian in Bar Ilan University Magazine and various press reports)?

Israel has had its "excuses." But would we accept such excuses from a government that denies the Holocaust was genocide?

Moreover, we, the proud people who are not to be led like lambs to humiliation, would look for ways to fight back hard and resolutely.

The history of our denial of the Armenian Genocide casts us in a light of being a manipulative, self-serving and dishonorable people. Justifiably so. It makes us cowards that to protect our once-upon-a-time relationship with Turkey and now to an increasing extent with Azerbaijan - a Muslim, Turkic-speaking state - we have sacrificed basic principle and integrity. Is that the Israel we believe ourselves to be - and want to be?

When the Knesset Education Committee met in June 2012 to consider the unanimous resolution of the Knesset to recognize the Armenian Genocide, almost everyone who spoke - including then-Knesset Chairman Reuven Rivlin - was firmly and warmly for recognition. There were two parties who were opposed. One was a spokesman for the Azerbaijan Jewish community and the other was the spokesman for our Foreign Ministry. Do you remember how America's State Department was at the head of the opposition to rescue Jews in the Holocaust and then to recognizing the new State of Israel? The atmosphere in the Education Committee was overwhelmingly in favor of recognition of the Armenian Genocide, and then suddenly the chairman of the committee, a representative of Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu party stood up, banged his gavel and announced, "The meeting is now adjourned. I will arrange for a vote in the future." Not surprisingly, he never arranged the vote.

For many years, the government of Israel did not even allow mention of the Armenian Genocide. The brother of one of the writers of this article, the late poet T. Carmi (Charny), was editor in the 1960s of Ariel, the respected magazine of our Foreign Ministry, of which thousands of copies were published in a number of languages, on glossy paper that was unusually expensive for those days. In a totally innocent article on the Armenian Quarter in Jerusalem, there was a passing reference to the survivors of the

Armenian Genocide who had found refuge in Jerusalem - the same survivors to whom our current president, Rivlin, emotionally referred to in his address to the United Nations this year on International Holocaust Day. After all the copies of the magazine were printed and bound, this terrible infraction of the sheer mention of the Armenian Genocide led the Foreign Ministry to order the withdrawal of all the copies of the issue so that the one sinful page could be removed.

For many years, the Israeli government literally forbade mention of the Armenian Genocide in our media (until a principled Yaakov Ahimeir took the daring leap, in 1994). During those days, too, there was at least one instance in which the Israel Broadcasting Authority met for a detailed discussion on whether to show a documentary about the Armenian Genocide and voted overwhelmingly to do so, but the next morning then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir exercised his veto power to cancel the broadcast. (Our Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide in Jerusalem did show the film in the Cinematheque auditorium with the participation of the legendary mayor Teddy Kollek, the wife of the Russian freedom fighter Andrei Sakharov, the Armenian Patriarch and others).

Our beloved Israel has been shamefully cowardly, unethical, and cheaply self-serving (including on behalf of its highly questionable lucrative arms export businesses). Are we ready now to salvage some of our self-respect and express a full fellowship with the victims of the major genocide that preceded ours, and in fact is known to have contributed a good deal to the subsequent execution of the Holocaust?

Professors Israel Charny and Yair Auron were invited by the Armenian government to speak at the Centennial Observance of the Armenian Genocide in Yerevan, in April 2015. Both are leaders of the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide in Jerusalem, and Auron has created the outstanding and probably sole academic program in Israel on genocide at the Open University.

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?**Enjoy your leisure****26 April**

12:00, 14:00. The Tailless Fox. Author: Hovhannes Tumanyan. Staging: Ruben Marukhyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

12:30, 14:00, 15:30. The Real Friend. Ruben Marukhyan. Musical performance. Staging: Anna Elbakyan. 3+. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

14:00. Beauty and the Beast. French folk tale. Children's Musical Fun Show. Director: Armen Margaryan. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater

15:00. Princess With a Mustache. A. Grigoryan. Based on Ernst Amadeus Hoffman's "Nutcracker". Play for kids | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater

16:00, 18:00. Little Red Riding Hood. Author: Charles Perrault. Director/Producer: Arpi Maghakyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

19:00. The Dragon. Yevgeyi Svarts. Staging: Karen Khachatryan. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater

17:00. The New Adventures of The Three Piglets. Directed by Samson Stepanyan. Choreographer: Sevag Avakian. Painter: Andre Asatryan. Musical | State Musical Chamber Theater

19:00. Eastern Dentist. Authors: Artemi Ayvazyan, Hakob. Paronyan. Stage Director: Yervand Ghazanchyan. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

19:00. Fish Without Water or Suicide. A. Khandikyan, L. Mutafyan. Tragicomic fantasy without a break. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

19:00. Scotch & Whisky. Optimistic comedy. Director of the play: Arshaluis Harutiunyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19:00. Coma Nostra. Author: Narek Duryan. Staging and music design

by Narek Duryan. Producer: Kristine Hovhannisyan. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

19:00. A Hundred Years Later. Author: Perch Zeytuntsyan. Drama. Staging: Tigran Gasparyan. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

19:00. Armenians in Operas of World Composers. Concert performance. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendirian

20:00. The Beautified Project: Aragil. The first full band concert of the year before the European Tour of 2015. It is also the premiere of the "Aragil" CD which will be released to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Concert | Kami Club

27 April

19:00. I've Come to Call Only. G. Marquez. Staged by N. Grigoryan, N. Tsaturyan. Play | Student Theater

19:30. ANPO & Maria Guleghina. Soloist: world famous soprano Maria Guleghina. Program: Exerpts form operas by Verdi, Puccini and Giordano. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendirian

28 April

12:00. The Silly Man. Based on Hovhannes Tumanyan's tale. Small Hall. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

16:00. Anush. Drama. Author: H. Tumanyan. Director: Davit Hakobyan. Play | State Musical Chamber Theater

19:00. State Dance Ensemble of Armenia. Dance | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

19:00. From Here and There. Premiere. Sergey Danielyan's monoplay. Author and Staging Director: Sergey Danielyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19:00. Tales. Author: H. Tumanyan. Staging: Henrik Malyan. Play for kids | H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors

20:00. As a Beginning. Hrachuhi Utmazyan. Artur Utmazyan. Poetry, Evening of literature and music | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

29 April

19:00. Morgan's In-Law. Author: Alexander Shirvanzade. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

19:00. Sexual Chaos in the Hotel. Author: Ray Cooney. Director: Honored Artist of RA, David Hakobyan. Play | State Musical Chamber Theater

19:00. Zhanna. Film-Comedy. Erkat Production, 2015. Movie | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19:30. Kronos Quartet. The concert of the world famous Kronos Quartet. In the framework of "Yerevan Perspectives" International Music Festival. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendirian

30 April

16:00. David of Sasun. Author: Hovh. Tumanyan. Staged by David Hakobyan. Play | State Musical Chamber Theater

17:00, 19:00. 3-4. Children's Interactive Show. Play for kids | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

19:00. Jesus of Nazareth and His Second Disciple. P. Zeytuntsyan. Drama in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

19:00. Money is Your God. Premiere. G. Sundukyan. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

19:00. Amnesia. Melodrama. Staging: Gor Margaryan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

There are times that you have a sharp tongue and this week you may want to lash out quickly. Be careful of where you aim that weapon. Authority figures, older people, and teachers may not be forgiving. Give attention to vehicle complaints. You may have big car trouble if you don't.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

It may be difficult to find common ground with partners, authorities, or significant others in your life during this period. You have a desire to express yourself and the "other" seems to be recalcitrant. Don't turn this into a power play or long term resentment. That will not be good for your health. Tone down your anger a notch or two and say your piece. Then let it go.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

You want to challenge the rules or the authorities and this is not the time to expect success, regardless of the topic. You will be blocked, no matter which way you present your desired outcome. Save yourself the trouble and settle your mind for the present. An opportunity will present itself later, at a better time.

Cancer (June 21–July 21) :

There is a lot of chatter all around you. Some of it may be disturbing to your sense of comfort. Friends or family may be squabbling. Don't buy into it or worry overmuch. The dust will settle soon and whatever the event, it will be over in a few days' time.

Leo (July 22 –Aug. 21):

It is possible that the efforts of the last several months are set on display for others to see. You are welcomed as royalty. Beware the tendency to get carried away with your grandeur. You might make promises that you can't deliver or spend resources that you don't have.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

This is a wonderful week to concentrate on research or some other mental project. Your mind is clear and things seem to flow easily from one thing to another. You have favorable aspects for travel, networking, and connections with those from a distance, such as the internet. Publishing and/or legal interests are in your favor.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

Debts owed to you become irritants in that it requires considerable energy to seek payment. You may even think it isn't worth the emotional energy to try. If possible, set the issue aside until you are in a calmer place. Then it won't seem such a challenge to do what you must do.

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

You may be feeling lonely or somehow distant from those around you during this period. Your partner, clientele, and significant others seem to be focused on themselves without consideration for your needs. The cosmic design suggests this is a time for you to be your own best friend right now.

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

This is a good news, bad news week. Interests concerning the internet, the law, or education are favored. However, you and significant others are not having the best of communications right now. You may be in the mood to nit-pick others. Probably you will feel generally better if you work alone.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

You come upon information that is hard to swallow this week. It probably concerns factors related to your work or daily routine. You may be pressured to adopt some type of high-tech equipment that can help you manage your life better. Dependency on a gadget is not what you envisioned for yourself.

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

The pressure is on for you to open your mind and allow new information to replace some of the old. You feel almost like a traitor who has abandoned his task to maintain, above all costs. However, if you are to progress forward, you will have to somehow allow changes to happen around you.

Pisces (Feb. 18–Mar. 19) :

New media or a renewed form of communication will bring refreshment to your daily life. Aspects favor adding a roommate or visiting with siblings and neighbors. Short trips could be revitalizing. Your creativity is strong at this time, particularly in the areas of the oral or written word.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Raffi

Thou and I

I would I were the lake,
so blue and calm,
And thou, fair maiden, with
reluctant pride,
Wouldst see thy picture,
delicate and faint,
Thy sacred image,
in my depths abide.
Or would that on the shore
a willow grew,
And thou mightst lean on it,
and the frail tree
might let thee fall into the lake,
and there
Sway with its waters everlastingly!
I would I were the forest,
dark and vast,
And that thou there mightst
come to muse alone,
And, ere I knew it, I might overhear
What thy lips murmur
in an undertone.
Or would that thou mightst
sit beneath a tree,
Singing a pure, sweet song;
and leaf and bough,
With admiration trembling,
would descend
And form a coronal to wreath
thy brow.
I would I were the face
of the dark sky,
That so from heaven
I might shake down on thee
A multitude of stars,
as 't were my tears;
Ah, do not tread upon them
scornfully!
Would I the writer were,
and thou the theme!
Would though affection wert,
and I the heart!
I the bouquet, and thou
its silken string;
When thou art loosed,
the flowers will fall apart.
Oh, would I were a lover
of sweet song,
And thou my lyre, angel
for whom I pine!
And that thy chords
beneath my unskilled hands
Might vibrate till thy heart
responds to mine!

Genealogy (Armenia): Back to the roots

Six singers from all five continents are joining forces this year to represent Armenia together as Genealogy: Essai Altounian, Tamar Kaprelian, Stephanie Topalian, Vahe Tilbian, Mary-Jean Anaïs O'Doherty Vasmatzian, and Inga Arshakyan. On the stage of the 2015 Eurovision Song Contest, they will sing *Face The Shadow*.

Now they have met again in Armenia, where they had a joint press conference, rehearsed their stage act, tried out national costumes and even learned some traditional dances, according to *Eurovision.tv*.

"Taraz" is what you call traditional Armenian dress dating from the 19th century. This week, when they met again in Armenia, the six artists of Genealogy had the opportunity to try out these clothes together with jewelry aligned to the topic.

On April 29, when the world was cel-



brating the International Day of Dancing, in Yerevan Armenia people gathered around Swan Lake. Genealogy joined this event and learned how to dance "kochari." Later the band merged with the crowd dancing and meeting fans.

Earlier this week, the six artists, together with representatives of the Public Television of Armenia and Head of Delegation Gohar Gasparian, held a press conference in Yerevan. On this occasion, they also revealed first details about their stage performance in Vienna:

It will be a beautiful show with minimalist approach and rich graphics on the stage along with Armenian elements. As there are six individual artists with unique personalities, backgrounds and voices, the choreography will highlight our identities and characters.

In the past days, the artists of Genealogy have also been busy recording their own cover versions of *Face The Shadow*.

And the band members even had the honor of meeting the President of the Republic of Armenia together.

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

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

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