

Prince Charles Honors Armenian Genocide Victims

Six months after attending a ceremony in Turkey meant to deflect international attention from the centenary of the Armenian genocide, Britain's Prince Charles paid tribute to its victims at a special church service held in London on October 28.

The ecumenical service at Westminster Abbey was led by Bishop Richard Chartres of London and Catholicos Garegin II, the supreme head of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Charles attended it along with President Serzh Sargsyan.

"This evening we call to mind the killing of innocent Armenians a hundred years ago," Rev. John Hall, another high-ranking Anglican cleric, said at the solemn ceremony featuring hymns sung by an Armenian church choir. "With sorrow we remember so much blood spilt. With thanksgiving we celebrate the Holy Martyrs and ask for their prayers."

The service was part of worldwide events marking the 100th anniversary of the genocide, which began on April 24, 1915 with mass arrests of Armenian political leaders and intellectuals in Constantinople. Up to 1.5 million



Armenian subjects of the Ottoman Empire were murdered or starved to death in the following years.

The most important events marking the genocide centennial in and outside Armenia took place on April 24, 2015. The Turkish government, which strongly denies that the 1915 massacres constituted genocide, tried to deflect the resulting

international spotlight by holding its annual commemoration of a major World War One-era battle on the same day.

Ankara had traditionally celebrated the Turkish victory in the 1915-1916 Battle of Gallipoli on April 25. The Armenian government condemned it for moving up this year's Gallipoli ceremony by one day.

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Armenian, Georgian Presidents discuss economic cooperation, regional security issues

Armenian and Georgian Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Giorgi Margvelashvili held a meeting in Tbilisi.

During the meeting the sides discussed in detail the economic cooperation between Armenia and Georgia.

The Presidents of the two countries emphasized the importance of peace and stability in the region.

Giorgi Margvelashvili thanked the President of Armenia for visiting Georgia and expressed hope that the

visit would contribute to further cooperation between the two countries.

The Armenian President said Armenia's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union and the signing of the Association Agreement between Georgia and the European Union have positively affected the economic relations between the two countries.

The meeting of the Presidents was followed by negotiations in an extended format with the participation of delegations from the two countries.



Presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan agree to meet, Co-Chairs say

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Ambassadors Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, James Warlick of the United States of America, and Pierre Andrieu of France), together with the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, traveled to the region October 26-28. We met with the Presidents and Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the de facto authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Co-Chairs released the following statement on October 29:

The Presidents confirmed their commitment to hold a summit under the auspices of the Co-Chairs before the end of the year to discuss key elements of a settlement and other issues. We stressed to the Presidents the dangers of violence along the Line of Contact and Armenia-Azerbaijan border. The use of heavy weapons, such as mortars and rocket launchers, is unacceptable and presents a serious danger to the civilian population. We deeply regret the casualties and loss of life among innocent civilians and expect the sides to take every

step to avoid violence. We raised existing proposals designed to stabilize the security situation and create a more constructive atmosphere for negotiations.

In Baku, we met representatives of the Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh. We encourage dialogue among all those affected by the conflict as an essential part of the peace process, and support programs that bring Armenians and Azerbaijanis together. We also met with the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Yerevan to discuss the implementation of a data exchange on missing persons, a humanitarian measure we fully support. Immediately after a routine crossing of the Line of Contact by the Co-Chairs, repeated gunfire from an undetermined location forced OSCE monitors to take cover. The sides have made an obligation to guarantee the safety of monitoring personnel. This incident represents a deliberate effort to undermine progress towards a settlement. It also underscores the need for the OSCE to have the ability to investigate violations of the ceasefire.

Serzh Sargsyan discusses energy projects in Georgia

President Serzh Sargsyan discussed with Georgia's Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili joint energy projects and praised their impact on Georgia-Armenian relations during a working visit to Tbilisi on Friday.

Official statements on the talks suggested that they focused on economic issues. Gharibashvili's office said the two men discussed "prospects for enhancing economic cooperation" between the two neighboring states. It gave no details.

A statement by the Armenian presidential press service said Serzh Sargsyan and Gharibashvili "stressed the importance of the implementation of infrastructure projects, including on energy, of regional significance." It said they agreed that those projects "will considerably strengthen economic ties between Armenia and Georgia."

The statement most probably referred to the unfolding construction of a fourth Armenian-Georgian electricity transmission line which is supposed to synchronize the two countries' power grids. The \$115 million project is financed

by Germany's state-run development bank KfW and the European Union.

Gharibashvili and Georgian Energy Minister Kakha Kaladze discussed the issue with their Armenian counterparts when they visited Yerevan last year. The Armenian Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources said at the time that two sides will be able to more than triple mutual electricity supplies after the new line goes on stream in 2018.

Sargsyan's latest trip to Tbilisi comes as the Georgian government is exploring the possibility of diversifying the sources of natural gas supplied to Georgia. The bulk of that gas is currently imported from Azerbaijan.

Georgia could specifically start buying gas from Russia or Iran. Kaladze said on Wednesday that he will visit Tehran next month to discuss the matter with Iranian officials.

A deal with Iran would make Armenia a potential transit route for Iranian gas deliveries to Georgia. Armenia has been importing relatively modest volumes of Iranian gas through a pipeline built in 2007.

Armenian voter ID rules eased amid opposition outcry

In a move which its opposition minority said will facilitate fraud in the upcoming constitutional referendum, the Armenian parliament eased on Thursday legal requirements for voter identification in polling stations.

Voters in Armenia have until now had to show election officials their passports before being able to cast ballots in elections and referendums. Under a bill approved by the National Assembly in the first reading, those of them who do not have passports would be allowed to provide only plastic ID cards that have been introduced in Armenia in recent years.

According to government estimates, some 180,000 voting-age Armenians hold only this kind of IDs. Lawmakers from the ruling Republican Party (HHK), who have drafted the bill, say that they too should be able to vote.

Opposition deputies see ulterior motives behind the measure, saying that the HHK is simply keen to facilitate multiple voting by its loyalists in the December 6 referendum on President Serzh Sargsyan's controversial constitutional changes. They say that Armenia's

inflated voter registers are a fertile ground for such fraud.

One major safeguard against multiple voting in Armenia has been a legal requirement that election officials must put ink stamps on voters' passports at polling stations. This requirement will not apply to the plastic IDs. Opposition forces campaigning against the constitutional reform say this is the reason why the ruling party wants to ease the voter identification rules.

"The electoral system is being changed radically 40 days before the referendum," Nikol Pashinyan, an outspoken opposition deputy, said during heated parliamentary debates on the HHK bill held this week. "Those stamps will not apply to 180,000 voters."

The parliament passed the bill by 81 votes to 16, with 14 abstentions. Leaders of its pro-government majority denied the opposition allegations about the falsification of the upcoming referendum planned by the Sargsyan administration.

"I remain of the opinion that the existing Electoral Code is enough for us ... to hold free, fair and transparent elections,"

said Hovhannes Sahakyan, one of the authors of the controversial legislation.

The parliament majority also rejected a number of opposition proposals aimed at complicating fraudulent voting with ID cards. In particular, opposition lawmakers proposed that voters have their fingers marked with indelible ink after casting ballots. They claimed that the majority leaders' rejection of the idea is a further indication that the authorities plan to rig the referendum.

The amendments to the Armenian constitution drafted by a presidential commission envisage the country's transformation into a parliamentary republic after Sargsyan completes his second and final presidential term in 2018. Critics say that their main purpose is to enable him to retain the reins of power in a different capacity.

To pass, the amendments will have to be approved by the majority of referendum participants making up at least one-quarter of Armenia's 2.5 million or so eligible voters. Serzh Sargsyan and his political allies will thus need to garner at least 620,000 votes.

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Charles was among a host of mostly Muslim foreign leaders who took part in the ceremony at Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's invitation. His participation upset many in Armenia and its worldwide Diaspora.

One of the likely reasons why Queen Elizabeth's heir apparent took part in the Westminster Abbey service is his close rapport with Armen Sarkissyan, the Armenian ambassador to the United Kingdom who has lived in London since the early 1990s. Sarkissyan was instrumental in Charles' 2013 visit to Armenia.

Statements by the press offices of President Sargsyan and Westminster Abbey did not list any senior British government officials among those who attended the service. Their apparent absence reflected the current and previous British governments' refusal to recognize the Armenian genocide.

"Recognizing the genocide would pro-

vide no practical benefit to the UK," the British Foreign Office advised ministers in a 1999 memo that was disclosed by "The Guardian" daily a decade later. The document cited "the importance of our relations with Turkey."

In 2004, the then British ambassador to Armenia, Thorda Abbott-Watt, publicly stated that there is not enough evidence to term the Armenian massacres a genocide. The statement provoked a storm of protests in Armenia and the Diaspora, leading the Foreign Ministry in Yerevan to send a diplomatic note to London.

The UK Foreign Office adopted a more neutral stance on the sensitive issue in

2010. While continuing to oppose British recognition of the genocide, the office reportedly said that British officials should now stop openly denying it.

Ironically, official British documents dating back to World War One have been a major source of reference in the decades-long Armenian campaign for international recognition of the genocide. The Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan has a special plaque dedicated to Lord James Bryce, the main author of the British government's 1916 Blue Book that detailed the mass killings and deportations of Ottoman Armenians.

Emil Danielyan

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James Warlick: Time for more structured negotiations on Nagorno Karabakh

The violence and tensions on the line of contact and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border will be high on the agenda of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs's meetings in Yerevan and Baku.

"We are concerned about these tensions, in particular, the use of heavy weapons, including mortars. We are concerned that this leads to increasing violence, heightened tensions and civilian deaths," US Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, Ambassador James Warlick told reporters in Yerevan.

"Our message in both Yerevan and Baku is to respect the ceasefire and reduce tensions."

Warlick said the mediators will discuss with the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan the principles behind a comprehensive settlement and will talk about the possibility of organizing a summit meeting before the end of the year.

"Both Presidents have committed themselves to an intensified dialogue. They signal that they do want to meet with each other, and we'd like to use this visit as an opportunity to identify the possible dates and begin to make arrangements for the summit," Warlick said.

The third reason the mediators are in the region is to talk about building trust and respect for security. "It comes to confidence-building measures and people-to people programs," Amb. Warlick noted.

The US Co-Chair said that negotiations have been going on in one form or another for 20 years now, and added that "time has come for more structured negotiations."

As for the Royce-Engel letter, Mr. Warlick said: "We funda-



mentally agree with the recommendations Congressmen Royce and Engel are making. Honestly, they are not new. Those are the ideas and issues the Co-Chairs have been working with for quite some time."

The Ambassador stressed the importance of resuming discussions on an OSCE investigative mechanism, which would be helpful along the line of contact and the international border.

"We need an investigative mechanism so that we don't see one side accusing the other and have no bases to know who committed particular acts of violence," he added.

Warlick reiterated his earlier statement that recognition of Nagorno Karabakh by Armenia would be seen in Baku as a provocation. "Neither side should take steps that will incite violence or provoke the other side."

Minsk Group Co-Chairs worried about escalation of tensions

*Lusine Avanesyan
Stepanakert*

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs participated in an OSCE monitoring and crossed the line of contact from



Nagorno Karabakh to Azerbaijan today. Before that they had a meeting with NKR President Bako Sahakyan to discuss issues related to the settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

Russian Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group Igor Popov told reporters after the meeting they discussed the opportunities of organizing a meeting between the Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents. But the main issue on the agenda was the situation at the line of contact and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

"The escalation of tensions and the use of heavy weapons are unacceptable. We'll meet with army representatives to hold serious discussions on the issue," Popov said.

"We are worried about the ceasefire violations, especially when heavy weapons are used," US Co-Chairs James Warlick said during the OSCE monitoring.

"We intend to raise the issue during our meetings on the opposite side and hope to achieve progress," Warlick said.

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs successfully crossed the line of contact accompanied by Andrzej Kasprzyk, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. However, the Azerbaijani side opened fire from machine guns at the end of the monitoring.

Russia 'Not Against' New EU-Armenia Deal

Russia does not object to Armenia's intention to deepen its relations with the European Union through a new comprehensive political and economic agreement, according to a senior Russian official.

The planned deal is meant to serve as a substitute for an Association Agreement which Armenia and the EU nearly finalized two years ago. President Serzh Sargsyan unexpectedly precluded its signing when he announced in September 2013 his decision to make his country part of the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). The volte-face is thought to have resulted from strong Russian pressure.

Yerevan and Brussels subsequently began exploring the possibility of negotiating a less ambitious accord that would not contradict Armenia's membership commitments to the EEU. On October 13,

the EU formally authorized its executive body, the European Commission, to launch such negotiations.

"I think that [the planned EU-Armenia accord] does not contradict partnership with the Russian Federation," Vasily Nebenzya, a Russian deputy foreign ministry, was quoted by the RIA Novosti agency as saying in Yerevan late last week. "We ourselves developed relations with the EU until the EU stopped wanting to develop relations with us in their entirety."

"Other Eurasian Union partners of ours also have cooperation agreements with the EU. We not only do not impede but we actually welcome that," he said.

Nebenzya stressed that Armenia is "well aware" that closer ties with the EU must not run counter to its EEU obligations. In particular, the ex-Soviet states aligned in the Russian-led union are not

allowed to cut separate free trade deals with other states or blocs. They are bound by uniform import duties and a number of other commercial regulations.

The ill-fated Association Agreement was incompatible with membership in the EEU because it envisaged Armenia's inclusion in a "deep and comprehensive free trade area" with the EU.

Armenian officials said that the planned alternative accord with the EU will contain many other economic provisions of the Association Agreement not relating to trade tariffs. A senior European Commission official, Luc Devigne, confirmed this when he visited Yerevan on October 16 for talks with the Armenian government. He said Yerevan is specifically ready to adopt EU regulations on business competition, government procurements and food safety.

Silencing of independent and critical voices in Azerbaijan regretful, says OSCE PA's Santos

The Azerbaijani government's crack-down on independent and critical voices has a particularly damaging effect ahead of the country's 1 November parliamentary elections, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's democracy and human rights Chairperson, Isabel Santos (MP, Portugal), said on October 27.

"Citizen election-observer Anar Mammadli cannot monitor the vote from inside a jail cell. Journalist Khadija Ismayilova cannot report on the campaign from behind bars. Intigam Aliyev, Rasul Jafarov, Leyla Yunus - the list of human rights defenders and government-critics who have been made political prisoners in Azerbaijan goes on and on. On the eve of parliamentary elections, when independent voices are crucial for having an informed debate about the country's direction, Azerbaijani citizens will especially suffer from the silence their government has imposed," Santos said.

The Chairperson also expressed concern regarding recent reports that opposition leader Ilgar Mammadov has been abused in prison. He was sentenced in March 2014 to 7 years in jail on charges widely considered to be politically motivated.

"I urge Azerbaijan's leaders to engage

with their citizens and with the international community in an open and honest dialogue aimed at bringing human rights and rule of law back to the country," Santos said.

She reiterated her openness to constructive engagement with Azerbaijan's authorities on these and other democracy-related issues.

The Chairperson further expressed hope that the Azerbaijani government will choose to abide by its OSCE election-monitoring commitments and allow

the Organization to conduct full, unrestricted observation missions to future elections in the country.

The leadership of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly cancelled a planned observation mission to the upcoming parliamentary elections after its traditional observation partner, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), was forced to cancel its mission due to restrictions imposed on its work by Azerbaijan's authorities.



Armenian Nuclear Plant 'Absolutely Safe,' Says German Scientist

Armenia's Metsamor nuclear power station remains "absolutely safe" just as it nears the end of its 30-year design life span, the German chairman of a multinational watchdog monitoring its operations insisted on October 27.

"The Armenian plant is absolutely safe. It is safe when compared with the safety of other plants of its kind," Adolf Birkhofer told reporters after a regular meeting in Yerevan of the Nuclear Energy Safety Council advising President Serzh Sargsyan.

Birkhofer argued that the Soviet-built plant has undergone numerous safety upgrades and repairs ever since being reactivated in 1995 over strong Western objections. The United States and the European Union still consider it inherently unsafe.

The council headed by Birkhofer comprises 12 mostly foreign nuclear experts. One of them is an American and six others from European Union member states.

The main focus of the advisory body's meeting was the Armenian authorities' ongoing efforts to extend the life of Metsamor's sole functioning reactor by 10 years, until 2026. The reactor generating more than one-third of Armenia's electricity was originally due to be shut down in 2016.

Yerevan decided to delay its decommissioning after failing to attract billions of dollars in funding needed for its ambitious plans to replace the plant with a new and more modern facility. It secured last year a \$270 million Russian government loan for that purpose. The loan is due to be mainly spent on the purchase of Russian nuclear equipment and additional safety measures that will be taken at Metsamor.

Vahram Petrosyan, the secretary of Birkhofer's council, said that the modernization will make Metsamor safe enough to



remain operational even after 2026. He argued that some nuclear plants in Russia, Ukraine and Finland have had their operations extended by up to 30 years.

"I don't think that [Metsamor's life will be extended] by another 20 years," Petrosyan told the press. "But I can certainly speak of [an extra] 5 years."

The remarks might be an indication that the Armenian government does not expect to raise in the coming years an estimated \$4 billion needed for building a new nuclear plant. Serzh Sargsyan announced the impending launch of its construction shortly after becoming president in 2008. He did not mention the new plant in a speech delivered at the latest meeting of the Nuclear Energy Safety Council.

An energy security strategy unveiled by the government in July envisages Armenia's continued heavy reliance on atomic energy, which is much cheaper than energy generated by its gas-powered plants. The 20-year plan was drawn up with financial and technical assistance provided by the United States.

Syrian Refugee Influx Seen As Economic Boon for Armenia

Armenia's economy could and should benefit from thousands of ethnic Armenians from Syria who have taken refuge in their ancestral homeland in recent years, a senior United Nations official said over the weekend.

"We should also mention the influx of Syrian Armenians that have come over the last couple of years," Bradley Busetto, the head of the UN office in Yerevan, told RFE/RL's Armenian service as he commented on the country's grave demographic challenges.

"Something like 17,000 Syrian Armenians are now here," Busetto said in an interview. "The UN has provided a lot of support to them ... with shelter, rental subsidies, job training."

"It's only anecdotal evidence but I would say that the influx of Syrian Armenians has brought in, to some extent, an economic impetus, an entrepreneurial spirit," he said.

Syria was home to up to 80,000 Armenians, most of them descendants of survivors of the 1915 genocide in Ottoman Turkey, before the outbreak of the bloody civil there four years ago. Most of them have fled the war-ravaged Arab country since then. The once thriving and predominantly middle-class community currently numbers only an estimated 15,000 members.



Many Syrian Armenian refugees are struggling make ends meet in Armenia, a low-income country that has long suffered from high unemployment. Some of them have used their entrepreneurial experiences in Syria to launch their own businesses.

The number of cafes, restaurants, shops and other small businesses owned by Syrian Armenians has visibly increased in Yerevan in the last couple of years. Some of their owners have complained of a lack of government assistance and heavy-handed tax administration.

Armenian Agricultural Exports Up In 2015

Exports of Armenian fruits and vegetables have soared by almost 70 percent in physical terms this year despite an economic recession in Russia, their main market, Armenia's Ministry of Agriculture said on October 26.

Statistical data released by the ministry shows particularly sharp year-on-year increases in shipments abroad of fresh vegetables carried out since the beginning of 2015. In particular, Armenia exported 4,600 metric tons of tomatoes and cucumbers, compared with only 370 tons in the same period of 2014. The ministry also reported a more than fivefold rise in exports of cabbage totaling 9,400 tons in January-October 2015.

There were also sizable gains in deliveries of other major Armenian crops such as grapes and apricots. The Ministry of Agriculture put the total volume of fruit and vegetable exports at 64,800 tons, up from 38,550 tons in January-October 2014. It said that 84

percent of them went to Russia, up from 34 percent in the year-earlier period.

Russia received more Armenian agricultural products despite last year's sharp depreciation of its national currency, the ruble, which significantly reduced the dollar-denominated monetary value of many Armenian products sold in the Russian market. Export-oriented Armenian manufacturers of brandy and wine were hit particularly hard. Many of them have cut back or even suspended their sales in Russia over the past year.

This explains why overall Armenian exports to Russia fell by 30 percent to about \$130 million in January-August 2015.

The weaker ruble's impact on exporters of fresh agricultural produce appears to have been far less severe, however. According to Armenia's National Statistical Service (NSS), their combined export revenue rose by 65 percent to \$29 million in January-

August 2015. The figure does not cover large amounts of grapes and other produce harvested in the autumn.

Officials in Yerevan will likely link this data with Armenia's recent accession to the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Agriculture Minister Sergo Karapetyan said in June that EEU membership paved the way for "large-scale" Armenian agricultural exports to Russia.

Those exporters appear to have been helped by a Russian ban on food imports from the United States and Europe which was imposed last year in retaliation for Western economic sanctions.

The increased exports were also made possible by favorable weather conditions that translated into bumper harvests of many crops, including wheat. NSS figures show that agriculture is currently the fastest growing sector of the Armenian economy, having expanded by over 11 percent in January-September 2015.

New bridge at Armenia-Georgia border to boost bilateral commercial ties

Georgia and Armenia are expanding commercial, economic and tourism ties by building a new bridge to better connect the two countries, Agenda.ge reports.

A delegation from Armenia visited Georgia today to sign an agreement on building the new bridge over the Debed River, near the Armenian border.

The new bridge will be built at the Sadakhlo-Bagratashen border checkpoint. Currently this border crossing point only has a single narrow bridge built in Soviet times.

The decision to build a new bridge was made last year when Georgia's Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili and his Armenian counterpart Hovik Abrahamyan met. While discussing

ways to deepen political and economic relations, two officials agreed to jointly construct a bridge to commemorate their friendship.

For this reason, the bridge would be called "a bridge of friendship".

Construction of the new bridge will be carried out by the Georgian Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure. Further details of the construction plans or the anticipated costs have not been revealed.





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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

- ♦3090. **Busand str**, /Near Republic Square/, Newly built, /6th floor,116sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms one in master bedroom, capially renovated, open balcony. Price: 350.000 USD negotiable
- ♦3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m., without 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 repaied, 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.,without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price:1.400.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1986.**Cascade**, Land

1000sq.m. 3storied building1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price:1.000.000 USD.

- ♦2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capially repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- ♦2175.**Tumanyan str**, Ground and 1st floorof the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capially repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- ♦2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

- ♦2122.**Davitasen**, 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
- ♦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.**Antarayin 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.**Antarayin str.**, 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m,available sevice-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable
- ♦131.**Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available sevice-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
- 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, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2358 **V. Sargsyan str.**, Newly Built, 7/4, 145sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, one guest toilet, capially renovated, furnished, underground parking. Price: 3000 USD negotiable
- 2353 **V. Sargsyan str.** 8/5, Newly built, 98sq.m, 2bedrooms, capially renovated, furnished, Price 1500 USD
- 2347 **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m,

3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable

•2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.•2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD•2316 **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD•2303 **Hanrapetutyun str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD•2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable•2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.•1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.•1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.•1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish). Price: 3500 USD.•1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking. Price 3000 USD negotiable•2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD•2261. **Hin Yerevantsi, /North Avenue/,** Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD•2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD•2252. **Northern ave.**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

•1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD•1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathroom, 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, fur-

nished, 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, Barbysus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable•1317. **Blur, Barbysus 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+basemnet, 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

Meeting of the Ambassadors at the Lebanese Ambassador's Residence: Priorities of the Russia's Diplomacy Presented by Ambassador Volynkin

On 27 October Ambassador of Lebanon Dr. Jean Makaron has invited the Ambassador of Russia Mr. Ivan Volynkin to give a talk about the priorities of the Russian Diplomacy during a lunch

lynkin explained in an interesting way the priorities of Russian diplomacy and answered many questions asked by the Ambassadors.

Ambassador Makaron said in his wel-

come words the following:

"When we say diplomacy it comes to our mind dialogue and dialogue is the ultimate way not only to resolve conflict but also to avoid war and promoting peace.



meeting held at the residence of the Lebanese Ambassador.

This event was attended by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Mr. Sergey Manasarian, First Deputy Minister of Defense Mr. Davit Tonoyan and distinguished Ambassadors of Bulgaria, Greece, Lithuania, India, Iraq, Brazil, Swiss Confederation, Italy, France, USA, China, Poland, Argentine, Japan, Belarus, Iran, Syria, IMF as well as distinguished Lebanese business people such as Mr. Ralph Yirikian, Mr. Samir Khnaizer and Mrs. Caroline Zakarian.

Ambassador Vo-



We the Ambassadors are separated by geography but united by Diplomacy and Diplomacy is all about dialogue and dialogue means – round table - and round table leads to peace. On the other hand, diplomacy is a beautiful word because it serves not only to create a rapprochement between peoples but also friendship. More than that it serves as a compliment to be given to everybody who shows kindness and capability "to say the nastiest thing in the nicest way".

You all are distinguished Ambassadors. I thought it a good idea to benefit from your wide experience and in or-



der to energize our group, I invited Ambassador of Russia H. E. Ivan Volynkin who is indeed a successful Ambassador and he is known for his outstanding knowledge and diplomatic skills to give a talk about the priorities of the Russian diplomacy.

I thank him very much for accepting my invitation to be the first speaker to ensure a good launch of our activity.

I thank you all for your presence.

Long live Diplomacy!"

And Ambassador Volynkin highlighted in his talk many important points as follows:

"In accordance with the top priority objective of national security policy which ensures the protection of an individual, society and the state, the foreign policy should be focused primarily on pursuing the following basic goals:

a) ensuring the security of the country, protecting and strengthening its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and securing its high standing in the international community, as one of the influential and competitive poles of the modern world;

b) creating favourable external conditions for the steady and dynamic growth of the Russian economy and its technological modernization, with a view to putting it on innovation-based development tracks, as well as for improving the quality of life, strengthening the rule of law and democratic institutions, and ensuring human rights and freedoms;

c) actively promoting international peace and universal security and stability, with the central coordinating role of the UN as the principal organisation regulating international relations;

d) establishing good-neighbourly relations with adjoining states and helping to overcome existing tensions and conflicts in regions adjacent to the Russian Federation and prevent potential ones;

e) developing mutually beneficial and equal bilateral and multilateral partnership relations with foreign states, interstate associations, international organisations and forums, on the basis of respect for independence and sovereignty, pragmatism, transparency, multi-vector approaches, predictability and non-confrontational protection of national interests;

f) strengthening Russia's positions in the global trade and economic system,

providing diplomatic support to national economic operators abroad;

g) ensuring comprehensive protection of the rights and legitimate interests of Russian citizens and compatriots residing abroad;

h) promoting the Russian language and strengthening its positions in the world, disseminating information on the achievements of the peoples of Russia and consolidating the Russian diaspora abroad.

Priority is given to relations with the Euro-Atlantic states which, besides geography, economy and history, have common deep-rooted civilizational ties with Russia. Russia stands for building up a truly unified region without dividing lines, through developing genuine partnership relations between Russia, the European Union and the United States, based on the principles of indivisible security, equal cooperation and mutual trust. In its relations with the European Union, the main task for Russia is to promote the creation of a common economic and humanitarian space from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Russia is seeking to boost mutually beneficial bilateral relations with Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands and other European states.

Russia views the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as an important instrument for building an equitable and indivisible system of pan-European security, and is interested in strengthening its role and authority. Russia will build up its relations with NATO, taking into account the degree of its readiness for equitable partnership and strict adherence to the norms and principles of international law.

In its interaction with the USA, Russia takes into account the considerable potential development of mutually beneficial cooperation in trade and investment, science and technology, and in other spheres, and also the special responsibility of both countries for global strategic stability and the international security situation in general.

Russia sees as a priority the task of developing the Eurasian Economic Union, aiming not only at making the best use of mutually beneficial economic ties in the CIS, but also at becoming a model of association open to other states, a model that would determine the future of the Commonwealth states, which have much in common in terms of economy,

history and culture. In this union we do not fence ourselves off, but emphasize its open nature.

Throughout the Ukrainian crisis, Russia has consistently sought to help Ukraine to overcome this difficult period in its history, to reach lasting peace and national accord, which, in our view, should be based on stable contacts between Kiev and Donbass representatives, with the aim of implementing the "Minsk 2" agreements.

Anti-terror operation in Syria: in helping Syria to do away with terrorists we are protecting other countries in the region from outside interference, preventing the further spread of misanthropic ideology in the world, and extremist practice and cross-border terrorism.

We have come to help the legitimate government of Syria. We are acting with its accord and at its request, in accordance with Russian national legislation. We are guided by the UN Charter and the main principals of the international law.

We have been hearing accusations that Russia's 'insistence' on keeping Bashar Al-Assad in power has led to the Islamic terrorism of ISIS. The reality shows it is the opposite of that. The weakening of the Syrian authorities, caused by the outside interference, has led to a vacuum and vast zones of anarchy throughout the country, which have been filled by terrorists.

And finally I would like to say a few words on Russian-Armenian relations.

They are developing in the spirit of strategic partnership, and becoming increasingly multi-faceted. We have established a rhythmical and intensive political dialogue at all levels. The contacts between our presidents, prime ministers and foreign ministers are active, as is the interaction between our parliaments, ministries, agencies and regions.

Russia is Armenia's main economic partner, its leading foreign investor. Our bilateral legal framework includes more than 200 governmental, intergovernmental and inter-ministerial agreements and treaties".

In the end Ambassador Volynkin has thanked the Lebanese Ambassador for his initiative and thanked also all guests for their presence.

It should be noted that this event is a good start for several cultural and diplomatic events to be held in the future by Ambassadors accredited in Armenia.

Concert Led by Sergey Smbatyan at the Carnegie Hall: Long Ovation by the Audience Keeping Standing



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

Chief
Correspondent

As The Highlights announced in its previous issue, on 27 October at the world famous Carnegie Hall a concert dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Korean Chamber Orchestra and the 70th anniversary of UNESCO was held with Sergey Smbatyan as the orchestra conductor, world recognized stars like **Carly Paoli** (soprano), **Ino Mirkovic** (violin), **Soyoung**

Yoon (violin).

Interestingly and notably, the very first info on the concert we received from a gifted Armenian singer **Narine Ojakhyan**, a graduate of Yerevan P.I.Tchaikovsky Music School and Yerevan State Conservatory after Komitas who at present lives and performs in New York. And the first images Narine sent us in the intermission of the concert.

According to her, the concert was an absolute success, and spectators in jam-packed Hall were applauding standing for a long. In her letter our talented compatriot artist wrote in particular the following:



"...I've always been following with the great interest and admiration all the success of Sergey Smbatyan, and this time it was the great pleasure to me to attend and enjoy wholeheartedly this concert in which Maestro Smbatyan conducted Korean Chamber Orchestra at the New York Carnegie Hall.

I was amazed by the concert, there were wonderful soloists and the orchestra. And the special pride to me as an Armenian was to see in what a brilliant way, as a real Master, our talented young conductor Sergey led the whole concert. Sergey Smbatyan was wonderful, as usual. Again, I'm proud for having such young gifted people who are able to enjoy long ovation of the audience keeping standing at the best world stages..."

And the similar concert was to be held at the Boston Conservatory Jordan Hall on 31 October.

So you can enjoy pics shot by Narine and courtesy EMMA for Peace.

Aram Khachaturian Fest: Presentation of a Newly Established Woodwind Piano Quartet

On the October 28th at the Komitas House-Museum Concert Hall, in the framework of the 3rd Khachaturian International Festival, a presentation of Woodwind Piano Quartet named after an outstanding composer Alexander Haroutiunian was held. It's a special ensemble, probably a unique one having the following team: Gevorg Avetisyan (flute), David Gyulamiryan (clarinet), Nikolay Poghosyan (bassoon), Lilit Zakaryan (piano). Quartet members are musicians of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia who come up with orchestra and as the soloists.

Alexander Haroutiunian's daughter,

pianist **Narine Haroutiunian** noted that the idea of the quartet was a surprise: "About a year ago, when I learned about this idea, I was very surprised because I had never heard of such a quartet format. Later on I realized this as an original idea. If I'm not mistaken, it is the only one in the world. Naturally, there are no compositions written for woodwind instruments and piano combination. Today we are presented specially adopted versions of classical compositions. I think, contemporary composers will write works for this Quartet".

Speaking about the Khachaturian Festival, Mrs Haroutiunian said she has attended few concerts and she liked the style of it, the way the Youth Orchestra sounds and the way it is conducted by Sergey Smbatyan. "Already for the second time the Youth Orchestra is celebrating the anniversary of Alexander Haroutiunian. First it was in 2000, when the composer was alive and we were celebrating his 90th anniversary, the second



is today - his 95th anniversary, already without him. Over the years, professional musicians have recorded large increases. Sergey Smbatyan makes a tremendous work with them and I wish them new heights", said Composer's daughter.

Pianist **Lilit Zakaryan** noted that the central part of Alexander Haroutiunian's creative heritage was allocated to compositions for woodwind instruments. She mentioned that they got unique sound through Woodwind Piano Quartet that hopefully would be loved by the audience. The pianist said the Khachaturian

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festival was a great opportunity to interact with famous musicians and it was a great experience for all members of their staff.

Clarinetist **David Gyulamiryan** said that by creating a quartet they wanted something brand new to be done in the musical life. If in the future there will be other Woodwind Piano Quartets based on their example, then it will be a great honor for them and they will be confident that their experience was successful.

According to **Nikolay Poghosyan's** (bassoon), in spring of 2016 the Quartet will tour in China.

Flutist **Gevorg Avetisyan** added that by the end of this year they plan to release their first album to not go to China "empty-handed".

On October 28 were performed works by Alexander Haroutiunian, Aram Khachaturian, Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Georges Bizet and Sergei Rachmaninoff which had been transformed and adopted for this Quartet by young musician **A. Berberian**.

It should be mentioned that the 3rd Khachaturian International Festival is held under the High Patronage of RA President **Serzh Sargsyan**.

This musical celebration is realized by the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (general partner VivaCell-MTS), with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture. The festival is sponsored by "Pyunik" Charitable Foundation, "Luding" Company, "Jermuk Group" and "Ani Plaza".



Armenia climbs to 35th in 2016 Doing Business Report

Armenia is among the top performers in Europe and Central Asia (ECA) - as it ranks 35 out of 189 economies compared to 38 in the previous year in the 2016 Doing Business Report released by the World Bank.

Armenia's neighbors in the region are ranked as follows: Georgia - 24th, Turkey - 55th, Azerbaijan - 63rd, Iran - 118th.

Armenia's partners in the Eurasian Economic Union Russia and Belarus are placed 51st and 44th respectively, Kazakhstan is 41st, Kyrgyzstan is 67th.

Armenia's improvement in the ranking is largely attributable to the three reforms it implemented in the areas of Dealing with Construction Permits (DwCP), Trading across Borders and Enforcing Contracts.

Armenia is among the 26 economies at the global level that implemented 3 or more reforms. That's only 14% of economies worldwide.

Armenia made a jump of nearly two points in its DTF score from DB15 to DB16. To put things in perspective, the average improvement in DTF score in ECA economies was less than 1.

Armenia made dealing with construction permits easier by exempting lower risk projects from requirements for approval of the architectural drawings by an independent expert and for technical supervision of the construction.

Armenia reduced the time and cost for documentary and border compliance for trade with the Russian Federation by joining the Eurasian Economic Union.

As a result, the time for import border compliance was reduced from approximately 50 hours to 3 hours. The ranking for Armenia on the indicator has also improved from 58 to 29.

Armenia made enforcing contracts easier through a new law requiring that cases be assigned to judges randomly, and through a fully automated system, in courts throughout the country.

Armenia sets some of best practices worldwide in Starting a Business (rank of 5 out of 189 economies), and registering property (14).



On Starting a Business, it takes only 3 days for an entrepreneur in Yerevan to incorporate - the same time as in Denmark.

On Registering Property, it takes only 7 days to register a property transfer compared to 48 days on average at the global level.

There are areas for improvement in Armenia, notably in the areas of Getting Electricity (rank of 99) and Resolving Insolvency (rank of 71).

On Getting Electricity, for instance, it takes 180 days to obtain a new connection. In contrast, it takes an average of 119 days in ECA economies.

This year's Doing Business report completes a two-year effort to expand benchmarks that measure the quality of regulation, as well as efficiency of the business regulatory framework, in order to better capture realities on the ground. For example, in addition to the steps, time and cost to build a warehouse, the Dealing with Construction Permits indicator, through its Building Quality Control index, assesses whether safety mechanisms are in place. In this area, Armenia underperforms compared to the region when it comes to good practices in construction regulation, quality controls and safety mechanisms.

2015 Gallup Law and Order Index: Armenia 9th safest country to walk home alone at night

The countries in which people feel the safest to walk home alone at night have been revealed in the 2015 Gallup Law and Order Index, The Independent reports. Armenia is placed 9th in the list.

The index is a worldwide measure of people's sense of personal security in local areas, as well as their own experiences with law enforcement.

The report is based on more than 142,000 interviews with adults in 141 countries in 2014.

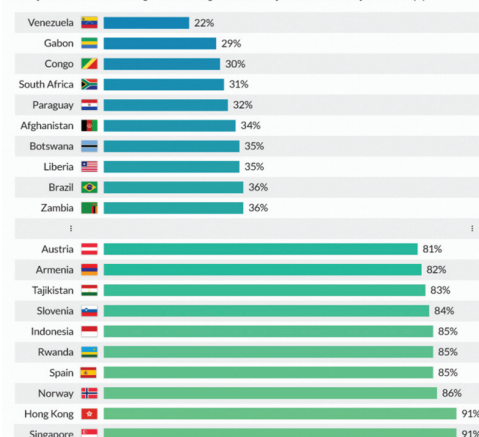
For one of the measurements, respondents were asked: "Do you feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where you live?"

Singapore and Hong Kong share the honour of the countries in which people are most likely to feel safe, both achieving 91 per cent.

Venezuelan adults are the least likely to say they feel safe walking alone at night, with only 22 per cent.

Walking alone at night: where do people feel safest?

"Do you feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where you live?" (%)



n=142,000
Source: Gallup

100 THE INDEPENDENT statista

Freedom on the Net 2015: Armenia rated as a 'free' country

Armenia's government generally respects Internet freedom, with a growing number of domestic users having access to a "wide array" of news sources and other online content, the U.S.-based group Freedom House said on Wednesday. In its latest "Freedom on the Net" report, the respected watchdog documented a decline in overall Internet freedom around the world for the fifth year in a row. It said that authorities in most of the 65 countries assessed in the report have restricted Web content and even imprisoned people for sharing information concerning politics, religion, or society through digital networks. Armenia is bucking the global trend, according to Freedom House. "The Armenian government does not consistently or pervasively block users' access to content online," concludes its report. "The most common incidents of censorship of online content relate to blocking and filtering of platforms and websites by the Russian regulatory authority, which affects access to the same content for some internet users in Armenia, since Armenia receives its web traffic from Russia. However, these cases are promptly resolved by internet service providers once reported by users," it says. "Indeed, there is a wide diversity of opinion in social media, and virtual battles between supporters and opponents of the government are often observed. A variety of independent and opposition web resources provide Armenian internet audiences with politically neutral or oppositional opinions," it adds.

The report cautions at the same time that just like their colleagues working for broadcast and print media, Armenian online journalists are susceptible to "financial and political pressures"

from partisan owners of their publications.

With Internet connection becoming faster, cheaper and more and more popular, dozens of online news services controlled by pro-government, opposition or independent figures have sprung up in the country over the past decade. They now form a significant segment of the Armenian media, posing a growing threat to the dominance of the local TV stations, almost all of them loyal to President Serzh Sarkisian.

Online and social media have also been heavily used in recent years by Armenian civic groups challenging various unpopular decisions taken by the government. "Freedom on the Net" notes this fact, singling out the recent "Electric Yerevan" movement that forced the government to effectively reverse a surge in electricity prices. "There have been no reports of restrictions on internet access imposed by the government or temporary disconnections from the internet since June 2014," the report goes on. "In practice, the Armenian government and the telecommunication regulatory authority do not interfere with or try to influence the planning of network topology."

Citing estimates by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Freedom House pointed out in this regard that Internet penetration rate in Armenia reached 46 percent by the end of 2014, compared with 42 percent in 2013 and just 15 percent in 2009. "According to official information from mobile operators, 3G services are available to almost 100 percent of the population, covering 90 percent of the country," it said.

Europa Nostra Award to recognize restoration of Armenian Church in Cyprus

A local award ceremony for an EU Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award prize in the category of Conservation will be taking place in Nicosia on Tuesday, recognising the work performed on an Armenian Church and monastery in Cyprus, In-Cyprus reports.

Italian architect Paoli Vitti led the restoration team and wrote an article on the project, which was kindly shared with the media by Italy's Ambassador to Cyprus Guido Cerboni. In the article, Vitti describes the ancient Armenian Church and Monastery of Nicosia as "a pearl or gothic architecture of Cyprus" and outlines the role the Italian School of restoration played in its restoration. Excerpts from Vitti's article and a photo showcasing the restoration, which was also recognised in an Oslo ceremony in June, can be seen below:

"The site at stake is located in the northern part of the walled city of Nicosia, close to the "Green Line" which keeps the island divided in two parts to the present day. It is composed of a number of buildings which constitute true architectural gems, as they hold precious memories of the urban life of both the Catholic and Armenian communities, relating to a historical period spanning from the 1300's to the 1900's. In fact, many aspects of the site recall essential historical moments of the island, pertaining to the Lusignan, Venetian, Ottoman and British periods. Thanks to the help of the USAID (US Agency for International Development) funds, the direction of the operations on behalf of the UNDP-ACT (United Nations Development Programme - Action for Trust) and the participation of an important Italian group of prominent architects specialized in the restoration and conservation of ancient structures, the Armenian Church and Monastery have been saved from a gradual deterioration that threatened to erase the memories that they have guarded until the present day. Moreover, this intervention has allowed the recovery and conservation of unique historical documents contained within the structures. The restoration project was commenced in 2007 and was finally concluded in

2012," Vitti wrote. He notes historical records corroborate the great significance of the Monastery, which was dedicated to the Notre Dame de Tortose and contained an icon of the Virgin Mary that is believed to have been painted by St. Luke.

He also noted: "The history of the Monastery is also closely tied to the Kingdom of Cyprus. Indeed, the pavement of the Church is encrusted not only with the tombstones of clerics, but also with the ones of knights and nobles of the respective period. Unfortunately, in 1960 the Department of Antiquities granted permission to the Armenian community to substitute the tombstones in question with a modern flooring. As a consequence, many of the gravestones at stake have gone lost. Luckily, however, a fundamental relic concerning the Cypriot funerary architecture was recovered, namely the monument of Abbess Echieve de Dampierre". Vitti added: "The restoration was not only aimed at the recovery of the architectural identity of the site, but also at the rehabilitation of the memories stolen from the Armenian community in the 1963 events. The Armenians have been finally able to celebrate a Mass in the site on the 11th May 2014 for the first time after fifty years. The Armenian community was at last reunited in its original place, steeped with memories of its past. After many decades parents were able to show their children the place where they have been baptized, where they have married, and where they have studied. In brief, the Armenian community was ultimately capable to claim back the site, and will hopefully succeed in the reintegration of its communitarian life. In the meantime, an agreement between the Armenian community and Evkaf, the Islamic religious organization which at the moment guards the site, has allowed for the use of the monastic buildings on behalf of Institutions which respect the history of the place and carry out instructional activities in the historical centre of Nicosia. The walled city is finally ready, also thanks to the presence of the Armenian Church, to reawaken and, hopefully, to ultimately overcome the barriers which still divide it".

Councilman Krekorian urges Congress to stand against Azeri aggression and save Armenian lives

Asbarez - In response to the recent escalation of violence and war threats by the government of Azerbaijan against Armenians in Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia, Councilmember Paul Krekorian, the first Armenian-American elected to public office in the City of Los Angeles, urged U.S. Congressional leaders to take immediate action to save Armenian lives. In a recent letter to Southern California Congressmembers, Krekorian asked leaders to sign the Royce-Engel letter and hold Azerbaijan accountable for its crimes, refrain from further violence and take measures toward establishing a lasting peace in the region. Krekorian's letter is attached and reprinted below:

Dear Congressman:

As you know, more than 20 years after Artsakh's declaration of independence and the ceasefire in its subsequent war with Azerbaijan, ongoing tension in the Caucasus region continues to devastate innocent lives and threaten regional stability. In particular, the Republic of Azerbaijan has engaged in both increasingly bellicose rhetoric and an increasing willingness to engage in active violence in violation of the ceasefire agreement.

In the past few weeks, for example, Azerbaijan's shelling of villages in the Tavoush region of Armenia has killed numerous civilians, including 83-year-old Paytsar Aghajanyan, Sona Revazyan, 41, and Shoushan Asadryan, 94, along with at least four Armenian soldiers. Many other innocent civilians have been wounded in separate unprovoked attacks. Shellings like these, as well as cross-border killings by Azeri snipers, have taken countless lives of civilian men, women and children.

The response from our government has been pathetically weak. U.S. Ambassador and OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair James Warlick has said that



both sides should refrain from violence, but the United States refuses to state clearly that there is only one state that continues to be the predominant aggressor and provocateur, and that is Azerbaijan.

Any statement of moral equivalence in the face of continued aggression by the government of Azerbaijan is not an acceptable way forward. It could give the world the perception that the U.S. government sees no difference between the perpetrators of violence and the victims. Our government has an obligation to stand on the right side of this issue and should not give Baku cover for their crimes against the Armenian people in Artsakh and in the Republic of Armenia.

I urge you to join so many of your colleagues in signing the Royce-Engel letter, calling for a transition away from a failed policy of false parity to a constructive, accountability-based approach to peacekeeping. Renewed U.S. leadership in keeping the peace along the Nagorno Karabakh line of contact is absolutely necessary as Azerbaijan steps up its attacks.

This sensible, bipartisan letter pro-

poses three concrete steps to help save lives, avert war, and reach a just and lasting peace:

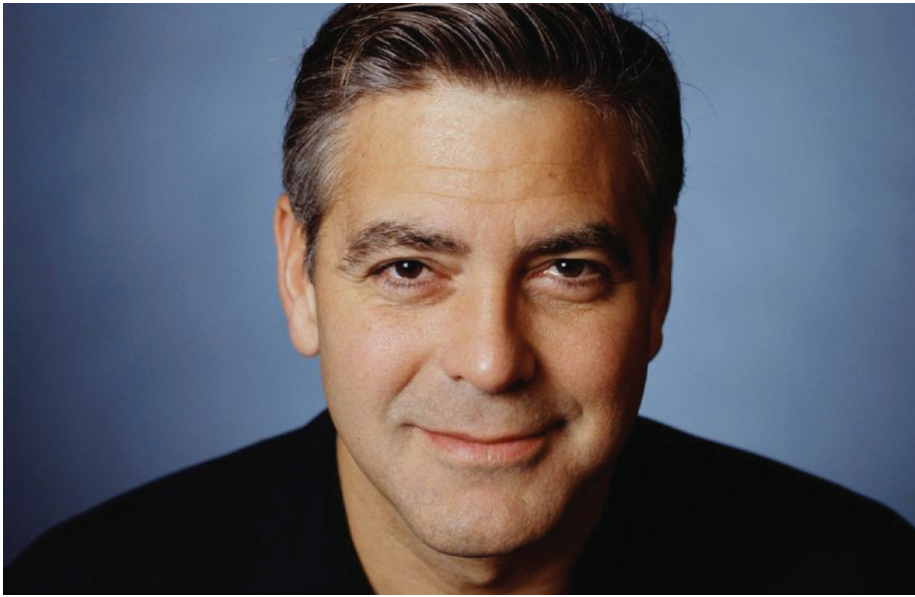
- 1. An agreement from all sides not to deploy snipers along the line of contact;*
- 2. The placement of OSCE-monitored, advanced gunfire-locator systems and sound-ranging equipment to determine the source of attacks along the line of contact; and*
- 3. The deployment of additional OSCE observers along the line of contact to better monitor cease-fire violations.*

Armenia has already agreed to abide by these principles, but the Aliyev regime continues to refuse to do so.

Please sign the Royce-Engel letter today. Azerbaijan's unprovoked attacks will continue unless we stand together for justice and peace. The government of Azerbaijan must honor its OSCE obligations to refrain from violence and to undertake confidence-building measures toward a lasting peace.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I am confident that your leadership will make a material difference in helping to prevent the destructive slide toward a new war.

George Clooney: *There was a genocide of Armenians in 1915, there's no argument about it*



"There was a genocide of Armenians in 1915. There's no argument about it," George Clooney said in an interview with The Frame.

"Now, history has changed and the

Turks don't want to talk about it anymore. And because we have military bases in [Turkey] suddenly those same politicians who before could say, "Yes, there was a genocide," can't talk about

it now. You can't call it that," the actor said.

Clooney added: I've had conversations with senators where I'll say, "Can we talk about the Armenian Genocide?" and they'll say, "Absolutely not, because Turkey is our partner in the war on terror."

He added, however, he can give plenty of examples of politicians who would talk about the genocide of Armenians. "They would talk about it as a reality, which of course it is."

On March 10 George Clooney joined humanitarian leaders to launch a new global prize, the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, as part of the 100 LIVES initiative.

George Clooney's wife - Amal - recently represented Armenia at the European Court of Human Rights in an Armenian Genocide denial case.

French-Armenian artist Melik Ohanian awarded Marcel Duchamp Prize

Melik Ohanian (born in 1969, in Lyon), a French artist of Armenian heritage, was awarded the 15th annual Marcel Duchamp Prize this weekend during the Fiac art fair, The Art Newspaper reports.

While many expected the winner to be the emerging artist Neïl Beloufa, who has received a lot of international attention in recent years, the jury asserted its independence. "We wished to celebrate the coherence of the aim of the artist who, for 20 years, has developed a personal oeuvre based on a particular attention to the relationships between science, astrophysics and visual arts," said Bernard Blistène, the director of the Centre Pompidou who led the jury.

Ohanian's body of work does not hesitate to capture the great evils of the world. His film DAYS, I See what I Saw and what I will See, which is about immigrant workers in the United Arab Emirates, was originally commissioned for-but withdrawn from-the 2011

Sharjah Biennial. His work is also included in the group show on the Armenian Genocide for that country's pavilion at this year's Venice Biennale.

At Fiac, where he was represented by Paris's Galerie Chantal Crousel,

Ohanian presented a series of seven photographs animated and mounted in light boxes, which show the one-second change in state from solid to liquid of the element Cesium 133, stretched over one minute.



Hastert to plead guilty of sexual abuse, yet US still covers up Turkish blackmail



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

This week, former House Speaker Dennis Hastert is expected to plead guilty to the charge of making secret payments to buy the silence of boys he had sexually abused when he was a high school wrestling coach. This plea deal with federal prosecutors would seal his court records, thus hiding from the public the details of the evidence against him.

Ever since 2005 when former FBI translator Sibel Edmonds exposed corruption at the highest levels of the US government, concerned citizens have been waiting impatiently for law enforcement officials to look into her shocking revelations.

Given the regrettably long silence by Washington and the mainstream US media, I believe it is time to expose once again the scandalous cover up of the claims that Turkish groups had bribed Speaker Hastert.

Philip Giraldi, former CIA officer and Executive Director of the Council for the National Interest, published in *The American Conservative* last week the sinister details of foreign governments blackmailing Speaker Hastert.

Edmonds was fired from her FBI position after revealing to her superiors the penetration of US government entities by Turkish agents "who were seeking to influence U.S. foreign policy while sometimes engaging in illegal activity," according to Giraldi. "The scope of the corruption allegedly involved bribery of senior government officials and congressmen, arranging for export licenses to countries that were embargoed, and the exposure of classified information," Giraldi wrote.

In a 2009 deposition, Edmonds explained that Hastert was "one of the primary U.S. persons involved in operations and activities that are not legal, and they're not for the interest of the United States but for the interest of foreign governments and foreign entities." She described Hastert's wrongdoing as: "The acceptance of large sums of bribery in forms of cash or laundered cash and laundering it to make it look legal for his campaigns, and also for his personal use, in order to do certain favors and call certain - call for certain actions, make certain things happen for foreign entities and foreign governments' interests, Turkish government's interest and Turkish business entities' interests."

During the deposition, Edmonds was asked: "Did you have reason to believe that Mr. Hastert, for example, killed one of the Armenian genocide resolutions in exchange for money from these Turkish organizations?" She responded: "Yes, I do.... Correct... and not only taking money, but other activities, too, including being blackmailed for various reasons." After retiring from the House of Representatives, Hastert worked for the Washington firm of Dickstein Shapiro as a registered lobbyist for Turkey.

Edmonds also revealed during her deposition that Hastert "used the townhouse [in Chicago] that was not his residence for certain not very morally accepted activities. Now, whether that was being used as blackmail I don't know, but the fact that foreign entities knew about this, in fact, they sometimes participated in some of those not maybe morally well activities in that particular townhouse that was supposed to be an office, not a house, residence, at certain hours, certain days, evenings of the week. So I can't say if

that was used as blackmail or not, but certain activities they would share. They were known."

Edmonds told congressional investigators that on FBI phone recordings Turkish individuals boasted of their secret relationship with Hastert. "They discussed giving him tens of thousands of dollars in clandestine payments in exchange for political favors and information. Many of the transcripts involved a suspect at the city's Turkish Consulate, as well as several members of the American-Turkish Council and the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, business entities that some FBI agents believed served as occasional covers for organized crime. Some calls appeared to be referring to drug shipments and other possible crimes," Giraldi wrote.

"Edmonds noted that the phone taps contained repeated references to Hastert's volte face [change of position] in the fall of 2000 over the campaign to have Congress designate the killings of Armenians in Turkey between 1915 and 1923 a genocide. In August 2000, Speaker Hastert declared that he would support the resolution and send it to the full House for a vote. The resolution, vehemently opposed by the Turks, did indeed pass in the International Relations Committee by a large majority. Then, on October 19, shortly before a full House vote, Hastert withdrew it.... A senior official at the Turkish Consulate indicated in one recorded conversation that the "price for convincing Hastert to withdraw the genocide resolution would be at least \$500,000," Giraldi reported in his article.

Fifteen years later, the American public is still waiting for the US government to investigate the serious allegations of Turkish bribery and blackmail of Speaker Hastert!

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries

(March 20-April 19)

It's time to take a good look at your self-care habits and beef up your resolve to avoid sliding into old patterns. Create a new agreement with yourself to exercise frequently and eat a nutritious diet. You may be at the beginning of a new job or project at your workplace or in your daily activities. Perhaps you will be sharing the load with one or more new co-workers.

Taurus

(April 20 -- May 20)

Venus is your Avatar planet and this week she encounters her partner, Mars, in your house of romance, creativity, and children. If you are an artist of any type, this is the time to begin anew on a project. Venus made significantly favorable aspects last week, so you may have already encountered the Other.

Gemini

(May 20-June 20)

You may feel as though you came from another planet this week. Communications may be misunderstood, snarled, or lost altogether. Compensate for this problem by concentrating on speaking the truth as you know it, and listening very carefully to what the other tells you. You'll be back on track after Nov. 2.

Cancer

(June 21-July 21)

Your attention is glued on to home, hearth, and family. That includes family of origin. It is important that you share your feelings with those you love now. Let them know how important they are to you, over and above any little squabbles in the past. You will feel better for it and so will they.

Leo

(July 22-August 21)

During the next two weeks you will be contemplating your existence. You are thinking about how you can position yourself in order to feel more sense of meaning in your work, your family, and your relationships. Some may be pondering on the level of the spiritual. "What is the 'best' that I can become?"

Virgo

(August 22-September 22)

This month's Venus/Mars alignment brings you face to face with your identity versus your relationship. You must consciously evaluate how you will manage to meet your personal needs and yet remain connected to the "other" in your life. This is a 22 month project, so it doesn't have to be done overnight.

Libra

(Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

The Venus/Mars conjunction occurs in the 12th house of the unconscious. Scan your thoughts for evidence of a change in your attitude. Important things may be revealed through dreams. It is possible you could sabotage your primary relationships by becoming critical of little things about the Other.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 21)

The Venus/Mars conjunction occurs in your 3rd house of the neighborhood, roommates, siblings, and nearby travel. Sometimes this house includes your usual vehicle. You may have already initiated a fresh start in any of these areas. New information that crosses your path may prove to raise your awareness of your local surroundings.

Sagittarius

(November 22-December 20)

Your sign is graced with a Jupiter/Uranus parallel. There may be a breakthrough on your career scene. You are able to gracefully manage almost any challenge, whether that is management, athletic, or persuading others to your point of view. You are probably in the midst of a winning streak. Projects that are concluding are very successful.

Capricorn

(December 21-January 19)

This is a quiet week for the Goats. After the aspects from Mercury and Uranus that occurred this week, you are likely glad to have a respite. Recent changes in your home and family life may have been exhausting. Take a break and smell the flowers.

Aquarius

(January 20-February 17)

This week you are leaning more into your rebellious side. This is related to circumstances among siblings, neighbors, and roommates. It could also surface while driving locally. If you are composing a letter or speaking to others in your life, you may really enjoy saying something outrageous.

Pisces

(February 18-March 19)

You may be in the midst of a "new deal" related to partnership and clientele. Perhaps you feel you must raise your fee or price if you are selling something. Or maybe you are ready to make a new statement about who you are in your partnership. The topic at hand is undergirded with the subject of resources, how to share and how to spend.

Armenia wins top award at OGP International Competition

On October 28, 2015, the global forum of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative kicked off in Mexico City, United States of Mexico. An Armenian delegation is participating in the forum, headed by First Deputy Minister-Chief of Government Staff Guren Doumanyanyan, the government's press office reports.

The forum summed up the results of the 2nd Annual OGP International Awards for 2015, which kicked off in March, 2015. This year's theme is "Improving public services using the principles of open governance." Bids had been received from 35 out of 66 member States. Note that the applications are assessed by a 23-member-strong independent international jury.

This year Armenia participated for the first time in the competition and won a top award among the countries of the Asian-South Pacific region. The ceremony was attended by President of the United States of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto, who handed in the honorary award.

Armenia came up with the "Creation and introduction of community management and development-oriented information systems in regional administrations" initiative. A program referred to as "Smart community" (Smart Municipality) was presented to the jury. The program is meant to increase efficiency in the activities of Armenia's local self-governance authorities and improve public services based on the principles open governance.





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The Noyan Tapan
HIGHLIGHTS

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

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

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