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HIGHLIGHT

**Council of Europe
launches 2012-2014
Action Plan for
Armenia**

The Council of Europe will launch a three-year action plan on 12 July in Yerevan to support Armenia's agenda for reform in the areas of human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

According to the Council of Europe Yerevan Office, the new plan will cost 15 million to implement. It will focus action on effective implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights, strong democratic institutions and procedures at national, regional and local level, and better participation of key social and civil actors in public decision-making process.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Edward Nalbandian, will open the launch conference. The Director General of Programmes and Deputy Secretary General elect of the Council of Europe, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, will present the action plan.

Armenia joined the Council of Europe in 2001 and will chair the Committee of Ministers from May to November 2013.

The launch conference will begin at 3 pm on Thursday 12 July at Yerevan's Erebuni Plaza Business Centre.

President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy visits Armenia



President of Armenia and the President of the European Council at the joint press conference given for the representatives of the mass media

Cruel murder of military doctor becomes a wake-up call for Armenian president

by David Petrosyan

The tragic incident in Harsnakar Restaurant in Yerevan was the major event that took place in Armenia over the past two weeks. The restaurant is owned by Ruben Hayrapetian, one of the most famous Armenian oligarchs, a parliamentary deputy, the President of Armenia's Football Federation (Hayrapetian is nicknamed "Nemets" ("German") in the press because during World War II his father was in German captivity).

During the incident on June 17, several visitors who were medical doctors, including 33-year-old Major Vahe Avetian, were badly beaten up by security guards of R. Hayrapetian. Vahe Avetian suffered severe injuries and died on June 28 (official announcement of his death came a day later). V. Avetian's two minor

children became orphans.

Law enforcement agencies detained seven men who were involved in the murder in a varying degree. The Chief of the Armenian Police Vova Gasparian declared that the law enforcement agencies will display "maximum adherence to their principles" in investigating that crime. The statement of the police chief indirectly shows that in the Armenian law enforcement agencies, there are also other levels of adherence to their principles (a minimum level of adherence, indifference, and so on).

Yet, the main thing about the incident was the public and political response to the incident, rather than its criminal component.

It is no exaggeration to say that the cruel murder of Major Vahe Avetian has stirred Armenia. Protests and commemoration

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President Serzh Sargsyan received the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy



President Serzh Sargsyan received on July 4 the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy. The President of Armenia and the President of the European Council recapped the results of the negotiations at the joint press conference given for the representatives of the mass media.

Statement by President Serzh Sargsyan at the Joint Press Conference with the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy

I am glad to welcome Mr. Van Rompuy to Armenia for the first time. Such a high-level visit from the European Union seriously

encourages further deepening and expansion of our relations. We have had a sincere and useful discussion with Mr. Van Rompuy on bilateral and regional issues. I should note that we have an overall mutual understanding regarding all issues on our agenda.

We have registered a noteworthy progress in the Armenia-EU relations on several directions and reiterated our determination to preserve that positive dynamics and develop continually and consistently our cooperation.

Armenia is resolute to implement large-scale reforms aimed at further democratization, strengthening of the rule of law, considerable improvement of the social and economic situation and increased efficiency of the state governing structures of our country. In this process, we view the European Union as a reliable partner and supporter. We

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Hovik Abrahamyan stresses the role of Rompuy in EU-Armenia relations

On July 4 Hovik Abrahamyan, RA NA Speaker received Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Council and the delegation led by him, who arrived in Armenia on regional visit.

Welcoming the high-ranking guest the NA Speaker highlighted his visit to the region and noted that it was a good opportunity to directly get familiarized with Armenia's approaches and registered progress in Armenia and the region, as well as Armenia-European Union relationship. Hovik Abrahamyan underlined that the rapprochement with the European Union, as well as the bilateral contacts with European countries were the foreign policy priorities of our country, and documented with satisfaction that Armenia-European Union cooperation bilateral format had been considerably expanded, and its evidence was the political dialogue and mutual visits at high level.

The President of the European Council thanked the Speaker for giving an opportunity to him for addressing to the newly elected National Assembly of Armenia, and especially emphasized his visit regarding the ongoing active negotiations over Armenia-European Union Association Agreement which opened new perspectives in establishing contractual relations envisaging EU-Armenia more inclusive cooperation in future. Mr van Rompuy stressed the reforms in the spheres and the approximation of legislation, activation of negotiations over Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, process of entry visa facilitation and readmission treaties. Touching upon the parliamentary elections, the President of the European Council congratulated the Speaker on the occasion of holding competitive and transparent elections and noted

that Armenia had registered serious and tangible success in this direction. Mr van Rompuy highlighted the deepening of EU-RA NA cooperation, noting that the year 2011 was an important and effective year and expressed conviction that the cooperation with the newly elected parliament would more develop and deepen.

In the course of the meeting both sides also touched upon regional problems, the NK conflict and the Armenian-Turkish relations. The NA Speaker noted that Armenia remained adherent to exclusively peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict within the OSCE Minsk Group framework. "We stress the necessity of implementation of events aimed at reinforcement of confidence. Unfortunately, Azerbaijan continuously refuses such approaches, as the snipers' withdrawing from the line of contact, the creation of inquiry mechanisms of accidents, Armenia's efforts directed to strengthening of ceasefire regime. Azerbaijan's non-constructive approach also results in tension growth and new victims in the line of contact," Hovik Abrahamyan noted and added that the adequate assessment of the international structures to Azerbaijan's bellicose statements and unacceptable behaviour was necessary.

The President of the European Council also highlighted the settlement of the problem within the Minsk Group framework as a result of peaceful negotiations, underlining that the non-settled conflicts impeded the development of the region. He welcomed the Armenian authorities' efforts in having peaceful region. Both sides stressed the role of parliamentary diplomacy in the settlement of conflicts.

In the course of the meeting other issues were also discussed.

Armenia in Europe conference kicks off in Yerevan

"More for more" principle is general and extends to European Neighbourhood Policy participating states. Currently that principle is successfully applied on the states "enduring" "Arab Spring".

President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy came forth within "Armenia in Europe" conference. "More for more" principle actually means the more European Neighborhood states make reforms, the more gets EU financial assistance." The principle however cannot be acted in opposite direction, thus, it is necessary to make reforms and then financial assistance" President of the European Council noted.

Referring to Armenia-EU relations in this context, Van Rompuy stated, EU considers the relations with Armenia within general prospect, which includes Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process as well. "What refers to association

agreement, the negotiation process over it is satisfactory. "More for more" principle is applicable and pivotal for our relations" the President of the European Council noted.

Dwelling on trade relations, Herman van Rompuy reminded that EU-Armenia negotiations on DCFTA have already launched, which makes the part of association process." Armenia is isolated in many aspects. This trade agreement can become impetus for the development of new investment and entrepreneurship. Free trade is key circumstance for the modernization of the country and that's why I guess EU relations are so essential for Armenia" Rompuy concluded.

In the words of the top diplomat EU also attaches importance to relations with Armenia, as Armenia is an important partner within Eastern Partnership and has accepted European modernization perspective.

The conference was organized jointly with Armenia's national platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and the European Studies Centre. President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy was on an official visit to South Caucasus on July 3-5.

President Serzh Sargsyan received the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy

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have had fruitful discussions regarding the EU's assistance to our reforms.

With Mr. President we have also discussed the recent developments around Nagorno Karabakh. Once again we reiterated that the conflict must be solved in the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group on the principles of the UN Charter and Helsinki Final Act. Threats to use force and armed provocations are unbefitting to the Europe of the 21st century just as xenophobic statements, intolerance, and attempts to revise history. We welcome the readiness of the European Union to implement confidence building measures and establish durable peace in the region.

We have also spoken about the parliamentary elections in Armenia; assessment of our EU partners and our own assessment on this issue concur: these have been the best elections in the history of the newly independent Armenia, however there is still much to be done for the further improvement of the electoral process. I have reiterated our commitment to register new progress in the organization and conduct of the presidential elections of 2013.

We have noted with satisfaction that the Armenia-EU negotiations on a number of directions are progressing well. In particular, soon we are planning to bring to a conclusion the Armenia-EU negotiations on the Association Agreement and in a short period of time to conclude also negotiations on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. The negotiations on the visa facilitation are also underway. We wish to conclude these negotiations as soon as possible in order to provide ample opportunities for our youth, artists, scientists and people to expand their contacts.

We are grateful to our European partners for their readiness to support reforms in Armenia. It is very important for their acceleration and comprehensive implementation. With Mr. Van Rompuy we have also exchanged views on the new possible forms of that assistance.

Recently in Brussels I participated in the Summit of the Heads of States and Governments - members of the European People's Party. The main topic of the discussions was the existing financial and economic tension and possible ways to overcome it. Economies of small states are particularly vulnerable in such times and we anticipate that as an Eastern Partner we will get our share of assistance for overcoming these difficulties.

Mr. President, your visit is extremely important but way too short. I hope that you will find time in your extremely busy schedule to visit Armenia again since our intensive contacts are very important for the consolidation of our relations.

Once again I welcome you. And I thank you for attention and support

extended to us.

Remarks by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, following his meeting with President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan

Mr President, it is a pleasure to be here in Armenia for the first time, a country which has brought much to European history and culture, and with which we share many things, both in our past and future. I am very grateful for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to me and my delegation today.

This is the third time that we meet. (we met previously in Warsaw for the EaP-summit and in Brussels). And as usual, President Sargsyan and I had good talks covering our bilateral and regional agenda.

I would like to highlight the following three points:

First, we are experiencing overall progress in the EU-Armenia relationship. There has been progress in the negotiations on the Association Agreement. And, we have started negotiations on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. Moreover, in February of this year, negotiations were launched on Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements, as a first step towards visa liberalisation.

I encouraged President Sargsyan to make maximum use of the opportunities provided by the Eastern Partnership for Armenia. We have registered good progress since the summit in Warsaw.

And, as I mentioned, we are on track in reaching the goals set out in the Roadmap in time for the next Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius 2013.

Second, I welcome Armenia's commitment to reforms based on the core values for the European Union, and geared towards approximating to the standards and norms of the EU. This is clearly a strategic choice by Armenia.

I encourage Armenia to continue on this path towards strengthening its democratic institutions, to promote transparency, to root out corruption and to respect Human Rights and the rule of law, including the right to free speech and press. You are, President Sargsyan, on the right track, even if there is still a lot of work ahead.

I also pointed out, (and will point out to parliamentarians and civil society later today) that we are prepared to support you. The stronger the commitment to pursue genuine reform and to uphold universal values, the more you will be able to count on the EU in accordance with the "more for more" principle.

In this regard, I am happy to announce that the EU has decided to top up its annual support to Armenia by 15 million euros for 2012 under the Eastern Partnership Integration and Cooperation (EaPIC). This is an increase of 25 % of the EU's finan-

cial assistance to Armenia.

The funds will be used to scale up our support to a number for core reforms in support for Armenia's progress towards association.

The European Union welcomes the efforts which the Armenian authorities made to deliver more competitive and transparent parliamentary elections. This was an important step forward. However, as identified in the Final Report by the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission, some issues remain to be addressed. We trust that this will be done before the upcoming Presidential elections.

On this basis, I'm pleased to say that the European Commission will now be in a position to start preparations of a donor conference with Armenia and international financial institutions.

Third, progress on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict should remain a top priority. Everyday that goes by without a solution is an opportunity missed for all of us. In order to find a solution we need to build confidence, trust and respect.

It is with great concern that we take note of recent reports of serious armed incidents on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the Line of Contact. I deeply regret the loss of life. My sympathy lies with the families of those who have suffered the loss of relatives and loved ones.

Military force will not resolve the conflict. Only a peaceful, negotiated settlement can allow the entire region to move beyond the status quo toward a secure and prosperous future. If a secure and stable regional environment can be prepared, stability, peace will bring benefits to all Armenians.

I repeat what has been said earlier by the EU, and was stated by the Co-chairs of the Minsk-group at the G20, to both Armenia and Azerbaijan: Both need to take decisions in order to reach a lasting and peaceful settlement based on the Madrid principles: both Armenia and Azerbaijan need to fully implement the commitments made by their Presidents in the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group. Both sides should also strictly respect the ceasefire and exercise restraint on the ground and refrain from hostile rhetoric in public statements.

The EU stands ready to support any confidence building and reconciliation efforts. We have both the means and the experience to do so. The appointment of Ambassador Lefort as the new EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia shows the increasing commitment of the EU.

Mr President, thank you again for receiving us here in Yerevan. Armenia is a partner - a close partner. I am happy that we today confirmed our joint work together to ensure Armenia's positive future.



Ruben Hayrapetyan puts down mandate over deadly incident at his restaurant



Ruben Hayrapetyan, an MP of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) and President of the Football Federation of Armenia, has put down his deputy mandate following the pressure of civic activists and media representatives in connection with the deadly incident at his Harsnakar Restaurant.

In a written statement issued earlier on July 3, Hayrapetyan said he 'feels moral responsibility for the death of Vahe Avetyan, one of the three military doctors who were attacked at the restaurant and who died 12 days after the beating without regaining consciousness.

"I would give everything to be at the restaurant on that ill-fated night and to hold the fists raised at the doctors and to stop that tragedy, which claimed a life, ruined families and made children orphans. I would give everything to roll back the wheel of

time. But I cannot. Vahe is not alive. I have to live on with that and look into the eyes of his family members. I don't know how I can do that," Hayrapetyan said in the statement.

"They say everything must be within law. I am sure it will. But it is not only law. It is a much more complicated issue. I am well aware of this. Many are blaming me today, even for things that have nothing to do with me and are fabricated. They probably have the right to do that. But I am the first to accuse myself."

"I should have prevented that tragedy but I was unable to. Such an incident was not to happen and involve me and my family. I cannot forgive myself. Nor do I know how I can ask for forgiveness."

"I feel it my moral duty to lay down my mandate. I hope that one day I will manage to receive forgiveness from Vahe's family. In any

case, I shall do everything for that."

"I condole with Vahe's relatives," said Hayrapetyan.

Earlier in the day, Ruben Hayrapetyan reportedly met with Serzh Sargsyan at the presidential residence in Yerevan.

On July 4 scandalous MP filed a statement of renunciation of parliamentary mandate on July 4, the spokesperson of Armenia's Parliament Speaker Gohar Poghosyan told Noyan Tapan. According to Parliamentary regulations, during the next Parliament session the speaker will make public his statement of renunciation and if Hayrapetyan does not change his mind in 15 days he will lose his parliamentary mandate.

To note, the next Parliament session is scheduled for September 10 and if an extraordinary session is not held before that than his renunciation will be published on that day.

On June 17, military doctor Vahe Avetyan was brutally beaten at the Harsnakar Restaurant owned by Ruben Hayrapetyan. Despite doctors' efforts to save his life, the young doctor, father of two children, died 12 days later without coming to himself.

Six men, including restaurant's security guards, were arrested and charged with assaulting the military surgeons. The main suspect in the case reportedly was one of Hayrapetyan's bodyguards.

Opposition bloc offers local election support to other parties



The opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC) expressed readiness on July 3 to endorse candidates that will be fielded by the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) and other political forces challenging the government for upcoming local elections.

The elections are due to take place later this month and in September in virtually all local communities except Yerevan. Voters in the country's second largest city of Gyumri as well as about a dozen towns will elect their mayors and municipal councils on September 9.

"We could back not only candidates from other political forces but also independent candidates if we see that our endorsement would somehow help to weaken the

regime's positions in Armenia," Levon Zurabyan, the ANC coordinator, told RFE/RL's Armenian service.

Asked whether those forces include the PAP, a member of the ruling coalition until recently, Zurabyan said, "This applies to all forces that are ready to be an alternative to these authorities and to resist and revolt against these authorities."

According to Zurabyan, the ANC has not yet discussed the matter with those forces. "But I'm sure that there will be such negotiations," he said, adding that the bloc led by former President Levon Ter-Petrosyan will expect similar support for its own candidates. He also said that the ANC's governing Political Council will discuss the

bloc's participation in the polls on Wednesday.

The PAP, the ANC and another major opposition group, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF), cooperated in the run-up to the May 6 parliamentary elections. After the vote they jointly challenged the legitimacy of a landslide victory scored by President Serzh Sargsyan's Republican Party of Armenia (RPA).

Naira Zohrabyan, the secretary of the PAP's parliamentary faction, the second largest in the new National Assembly, on Tuesday did not rule out the possibility of similar cooperation among the three forces in the local polls.

"I can't confirm or rule out something because there have been no such discussions so far," Zohrabian told RFE/RL's Armenian service. "But we have always said that we are ready for much broader cooperation for the sake of our people."

Ter-Petrosyan stressed the importance of continued ANC-PAP cooperation and blasted opposition elements objecting to it in a speech at a rally in Yerevan last week.

The ruling RPA controls the vast majority of local governments in Armenia. It will be seeking to retain that control ahead of the next presidential election due in February.

Armenian Minister of Justice does not see a need for constitutional changes

Armenian people, pursuant on the Armenian state fundamental principles and national objectives, stipulated by Armenia's Independence Declaration, in 1995 July 5, adopted the Constitution by referendum. Ten years later in 2005 November 27, again as a result of referendum it underwent changes. Armenpress reporter had a briefing with Minister of Justice Hrayr Tovmasyan on the role of the Constitution in the establishment of Armenian statehood and the life of the people.

-Mr. Minister, in your opinion does the adoption of the Constitution promote the development of legal consciousness of our society?

-The development of legal consciousness is not the main mission or the function of the Constitution. The role of the Constitution is deeper. Armenian Constitution has a classical structure, regulates human rights and

fundamental freedoms, as well as three branches of government.

- Some political forces in Armenia suggest transforming the form of government, the transition to the parliamentary system, which will raise the need to make amendments in Constituency. Your opinion on the issue?

-I can draw a parallel among presidential USA, semi-presidential France and parliamentary Germany, which is better and which is the worse? The questioning in this regard is wrong itself. Yet, there is a statistics which cover all these questions. There is not a single parliamentary state in the world that is authoritarian or totalitarian. The more parliamentary is the state, the more is the stability and predictability. I have articles on this theme, where as currently I am inclined to prime minister form of government, where PM is elected by direct vote.

Central figure leaves Armenian opposition bloc

David Shahnazaryan, one of the central figures of the opposition bloc Armenian National Congress (ANC), has left the bloc.

Shahnazaryan confirmed that without explaining the reasons.

In his earlier interview with Radio Azatutyun/Liberty, he made a detailed comment.

"I left the ANC central office before the elections, in March, and in general I've stopped my political activities in the ANC," Shahnazaryan said.

Despite the fact that the ANM member David Shahnazaryan refused to detail the reasons of his leaving the ANC, inferring from the rating he gave to the after-political situations of the parliamentary elections, we can say that one of the reasons was also the ANC's cooperation with the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP).

"In the result of the elections the view of the political system has completely changed in Armenia. If there was a bipolar political system in Armenia until the elections, which on one hand, was the government and on the other hand, was the ANC, then today a polar change of opposition occurred and the PAP which considers itself as an alternative and has all the bases to be called

alternative, occupied that place," Shahnazaryan said adding: "Second-the PAP which is in the pyramid of opposition has the same degree of legitimacy as the government or maybe a little lower, because allotted the electoral bribes much more structured, than the RPA which represents the government."

And inferring from this all, Shahnazaryan concludes: "Today we have a non-legitimate opposition."

"The other singularity: as a result of all this electoral process an atmosphere was formed which gave the opportunity to Kocharyan authority rudiments to appear in public and with pretty big ambitions. It's hard to imagine that in the parliamentary elections any of the parties would include in the second place of its list an outstanding representative of the Kocharyan regime such as Vardan Oskanyan, and as a result of these elections, in fact, the political responsibility was entirely removed from Kocharyan regime at least in terms of foreign policy. What choice do we have today? It's either the current government, which wants to maintain the current situation, or it's the choice of the previous regime due to the PAP," Shahnazaryan said.

Raffi Hovhannissyan to be Heritage party's presidential candidate

Opposition Heritage party leader Raffi Hovhannissyan will be the party's candidate at the coming presidential elections in Armenia, MP ZaruhiPostanjan told a news conference on July 5.

Asked whether the decision has officially been made inside the party, she said there is no decision yet. "We still have time for making our decision. But we already know that our candidate will be Raffi Hovhannissyan," she said, voicing hope that the party's leader will be the united candidate of the opposition.

"We are the force that wants real

and systematic changes," Postanjan said.

The party member said in case Armenian National Congress (ANC) leader Levon Ter-Petrosyan runs for presidency, Heritage party will not perceive him a united opposition candidate.

"We welcome the idea of united candidate but not in case of Levon Ter-Petrosyan. We are not going to support either incumbent or former presidents. They have already had their contribution to impeding Armenia's development," Zaruhi Postanjan said.

ANC Europe Urges OSCE to Take Action Against Azerbaijan

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe on Thursday was scheduled to consider a report for the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security, titled "The OSCE: Region of Change", to be represented by Lithuanian rapporteur Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene.

"The OSCE: Region of Change" report tackles issues of security, defense, conflicts, threats, conventional arms control, cyber-security and other relevant issues.

The report makes a special mention to the unresolved or protracted conflicts, and specifically mentions that the "Nagorno-Karabakh conflict continues to cost lives along the line of contact, and tensions in this region are still extremely high. The Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, together with the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, are working on developing a plan for peace, and it is now mainly up to these parties to work to resolve the conflict and reach an agreement. An important first step is to ensure that the ceasefire agreement is being respected and that snipers are withdrawn".

The European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy (EAFJD) once again reiterates its long and firm standing position that snipers have to be withdrawn from the line of contact, as a confidence building measure. The leadership of the Republic of Armenia have agreed to this, but Azerbaijan's refusal of doing so is claiming an increasingly number of innocent lives. The European Armenian Federation once again

demands from the OSCE PA to have a strong stance on this issue and call on the Azerbaijani President to do so, and pull the snipers away from the line of contact.

The report also mentions "it is also vital that full investigations are conducted when conflict-related incidents occur. The joint statement by the Minsk Group Co-Chair countries and the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, issued in Vilnius on 7 December 2011, reaffirmed the importance of reaching a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict".

European Armenian Federation's President, Kaspar Karampetian states that "we demand a strong action from the OSCEPA in investigating Azerbaijan's acts of diversion attacks, especially in regard to attacks against the Republic of Armenia, like the ones we witnessed last month, on the day of OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair, US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton's visit to the region, and only a few hours before her arrival to Armenia".

"We will follow those issues closely with the OSCE PA, and also follow the issue of conventional arms control and confidence building. Azerbaijani adventurism endangers the ceasefire and draw the region in renewed fighting. Azerbaijan needs to avoid such acts of violence if it is genuinely concerned in peace, security and co-operation in the region. Armenia has shown goodwill by numerous times, now it is Azerbaijan's time", concluded Karampetian.

Genocide issues are examined in Geneva

Within the framework of the 20th UN Human Rights Council session held in Geneva, Switzerland, an event was organized on June 19 to study the Council's important role in the use of the principle of the responsibility to protect.

During the discussions Armenia's delegation made a statement, whereby it underscored this principle in the human security system.

It noted that the Armenian people survived the 20th century's first genocide, which claimed the lives of 1.5 million Armenians, and this is why Armenia salutes any effort toward preventing crimes against humanity. And as a positive example for such effort, the Armenian delegation pointed to the Armenian Genocide's recognition by dozens of countries, which is as a result of cooperation between Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora.

Also, the delegation noted that massacring of 1.5 million Armenians is a failure of a state's principle to protect its own population while the surviving of 2.5 million Armenians and the existence of Armenia, Armenian Diaspora,

and Armenian people are a success of the international community's commitment to protect.

And on June 20, a working discussion was held devoted to the memory of Raphael Lemkin, who had coined the word "genocide."

Armenia's delegation made a statement during these discussions, too, and pointed to Lemkin's invaluable role in genocide prevention.

Also, Lemkin's following words were recalled: "We forget too quickly. Yesterday, the victims were 'only' Armenians; today, 'only' the Jews-but also Poles and other European peoples. And who will be tomorrow?"

Armenia's delegation noted that the country's president bestows awards to those who have contributed to genocide prevention, and the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute allocates scholarships for Armenian Genocide studies.

In response, the Turkish delegation voiced its approach which, however, was accepted negatively by those present, who assessed it as a response to Raphael Lemkin, and not to the Armenian delegation.

France will not 'resurrect' Genocide law

The new government of French President Francois Hollande indicated on July 5 that it was unlikely that the law criminalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide would be "resurrected," Asbarez reported, citing Reuters.

France's new foreign minister, Laurent Fabius, made the announcement during a meeting with his Turkish counterpart, Ahmet Davutoglu who is in Paris on an official visit.

Last month Turkey indicated that it would remove all sanctions imposed when the two houses of the French parliament passed a measure to criminalize the denial of the Armenian Genocide. France's high court ultimately ruled against the law, saying it impeded free speech.

During his presidential campaign Hollande vowed that he would personally draft a similar law and shepherd its passage.

In April Hollande said he would make sure that a new law is drafted with "utmost legal security" in order to ensure its approval by the country's highest court. "We can no longer commit an imprecision that would



again leave us with the impossibility of having the text validated," he said.

Davutoglu hailed the opening of what he deemed are warmer relations with France since the new regime has opted out of pursuing the Genocide law.

Fabius, however, skirted the question of Ankara's bid to join the European Union, which was launched in 2005 but has virtually ground to a halt due to a dispute over the island of Cyprus.

"The French government is examining a number of matters inherited from the previous government," he said at a joint news conference.

Fabius hinted that EU member-

ship for Turkey would be put to a referendum, as anticipated by a 2008 constitutional amendment which can nonetheless be overruled by parliament.

"At the end of the day, things will come down to the decision of the people," he said.

Hollande, while running for president this year, answered a question about Turkey's accession to the EU by saying: "It will not happen during the next five-year term."

Turkey would only enter the EU once it fulfils all 35 membership criteria, 14 of which are blocked due to Turkey's refusal to recognize Greek Cypriot sovereignty on the island.

Glendale-Armenians demand justice in beating death of army doctor

Outrage over the fatal beating of a military doctor in Armenia spread to Glendale on July 5, with nearly 100 people descending on the Armenian consulate to demand the perpetrators be held accountable, Glendale News-Press reported.

Thirty three-year-old army doctor Vahe Avetyan and three colleagues were brutally beaten on June 17 at Yerevan's Harsnakar restaurant. Avetyan, a father of two, died 12 days later, and his funeral took place this week.

The perpetrators are security guards for Ruben Hayrapetyan - a member of Parliament who is counted among Armenia's oligarchs. A prominent businessman, Hayrapetyan also serves as president of the Armenian soccer federation.

Even in a country where political corruption has been well-documented, the incident has reverberated both in Armenia and its diaspora, estimated at 7 million people worldwide. Protesters in Glendale Thursday said there have been other beatings, but this one was particularly shocking because Avetyan served in the military and is believed to be an innocent victim. They described Hayrapetyan as a thug infamous for his alleged ties to organized crime.

"He is terrorizing people," said Armen Barseghyan, who lives in Van Nuys and works in Glendale. "We want to stop terror in Armenia."

Protesters hoped to deliver a letter to Armenia's



Locals protest outside the Armenian consulate in Glendale on Thursday, July 5, 2012. (Raul Roa/Staff photographer/ July 5, 2012)

Consul General Grigor Hovhannissian, whose consulate is on Central Avenue in Glendale, demanding the prosecution of those involved, as well as the resignation of President Serzh Sargsyan.

With the office closed, they had to make do with taping a photo of the murdered military doctor to the gates.

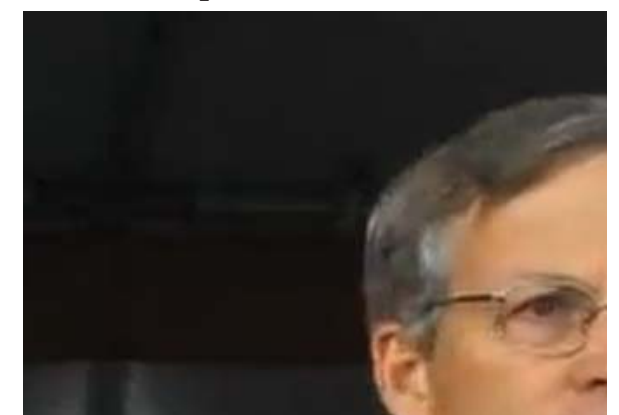
"We came here to say to our government to do the punishment [mandated] by law," said Gayana Manukyan. "If we don't do this protest, it could happen again and again. Each of us could be in this situation."

The United States of America celebrates Independence Day

On July 2, the U.S. Embassy celebrated the 236th anniversary of the independence of the United States and the signing of the Declaration of Independence with Armenian guests. Ambassador John Heffern and Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian applauded the close U.S.-Armenian partnership. The Speghani Choir opened the event by singing the U.S. and Armenian National Anthems, and the American military jazz band "Kool Jazz Fusion" played American jazz and blues music throughout the evening.

I thank you all who came to celebrate today with us the 236th anniversary of the independence of the United States. Mount Ararat is present at our event, and I consider that as a special gift for all of us, Ambassador Heffern mentioned in his welcome speech.

In his remarks, Ambassador Heffern noted that this year the U.S. and Armenia celebrated twenty years of diplomatic relations. "Deepening our partnership, promot-



ing shared values - that is the mission of everything we do here in Armenia," said Ambassador Heffern.

Independence Day honors the birthday of the United States of America and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.



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FOR SALE

1 ROOMS

- ♦ **683. Argishti street**, Glendel Hills, 14/10, 35.4sqm, newly built, euro repaired, gas in the building, permanent water, beautiful view of ravine. Price 45.000USD
- ♦ **667. Nalbandyan street**, 7/5, 48sqm, 1room changed into two, excellent state, euro repaired, AC, lift. Price-86.000USD
- ♦ **684. Mashtoc avenue**, 5/4, 37.4 sq.m., 1 room, stone building, a need to repair, old tiles, no water and gas, balcony looks at the avenue. Price: 70.000 USD
- ♦ **69. Khajaznuni street**, 9/2, habituated. 50.6 sq.m, 1 room, capitally repaired, euro windows, Ariston, permanent hot and cold water, no balcony. Price: 52.000 USD
- ♦ **645. Baghramyan Street**, 5/1, 48 sq/m, newly repaired, iron door, euro windows, doors, AC, cabin, water tank. Price: 72.000USD

2 ROOMS

- ♦ **1445. Sayat-Nova street**, 5/4, 73 sq.m. 2 rooms, stone building, capitally repaired, furnished, h-3 m. Price: 150 000 USD
- ♦ **1467. Mashtoc av.** 8/5 81sq.m.2 made 3 , stone , special project , old but repaired, always running hot and cold water, looking at the Sun. Price 125.000\$
- ♦ **1440. North Avenue**, 3rd floor, 110sqm, 1 bedroom, newly built, euro repaired, furniture, parking, h-3m, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, heating system. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1459. Baghramyan Avenue**, 5/3, 55 sq.m., 2 rooms, capitally repaired, h-3.8 m, balcony, iron door, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, furniture and techniques. Price: 49. 000.000 AMD
- ♦ **1458. Bryusov street**, 9/8, 68 sq.m., 2 rooms, normal state, Baxi system, Czech tiles, showcases, wood doors and parquet. Price 75.000 USD
- ♦ **1469 Tumanyan st.** 4/3 50sq.m. 2 rooms, repaired, furnished. Price 47.5mln. AM dram
- ♦ **1357. Pushkin street**, 8/6 floor, 77 sq.m., 2 rooms, newly built, furniture, techniques. Price 165000\$

3 ROOMS

- ♦ **2474. Koryun Street**, 5/3, 100 sq.m., 3 turned into 4, euro repair , euro windows, permanent gas, balcony, 2 AC, opportunity. Price 160.000 USD
- ♦ **2454. Moskovyan str.**, 5/2, 180sqm, normal state, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, permanent water, gas. Price 370.000USD
- ♦ **2453. Koryun str.**, 6/4, 100sqm, 4 rooms, euro repaired, 2 lavatories. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2429. Ekmalyan street**, 10/9, 178sqm, 3bedrooms, 3lavatories, capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price-360.000USD
- ♦ **2393. Moskovyan street**, 5/3. 110 sq.m., euro repair, logha balcony 17 sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, cube 700 l, electric heating system, natural gas, Ariston, 2AC, satellite. Price: 400 000 USD
- ♦ **2335. Mashtots Avenue**, 4/4, 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, stone building, euro repaire, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquetry, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 125000 USD
- ♦ **2348. Abovyan Street**, 4/2, 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, concreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system, Price: 250000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **2395. North Avenue**, 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD

PREMISES

- ♦ **1710. Sayat - Nova str.**, 1st floor, 420sqm, 2 rooms, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price 1.000.000USD
- ♦ **1727. Baghramyan str.**, 2 storied, 230sqm, capitally repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1725. Hanrapetutyán str.**, 1storied, 171sqm, 2 entrances, capitally repaired, permanent hot and cold water. Price 500.000USD
- ♦ **1703. Northern Avenue**, 9/7, 66sqm, capitally repaired, heating, lavatory, 30000AMD service rent, view to Teryan street. Price 220,000USD
- ♦ **1553. Kasyan street**, 170sq.m., working fashion saloon, large windows, facade-15m, 1room+foyer, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500 000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **1598. Nairy Zaryan street**, 180 sq.m., 1st floor, a working restaurant, hall-100 sq.m. 1st line, repaired, tonir. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1383. Nalbandian St**, cellar + 1 story, 30 sq. m. cellar, 90 sq. m. story, Euro repair, hall, kitchen, lavatory, 24-hour hot and colds water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- ♦ **1603. North avenue**, 159 sq.m., 1st floor. Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1 sq.m. 10 000 USD
- ♦ **1588. Tigran Mec street**, 256 sq.m, 5/1.2 ,

trade area, stone building, euro repair, 1st floor trade area - 210 sq.m., 2nd floor 46 sq.m. residential Area. Price: 600 000 USD

LANDS

- ♦ **1756 H. Qochar str.** 1000 sq m, 2-storey brick building - 1200 sq m, old repaired. Price: 1.200.000 preliminary
- ♦ **2122. Davitashen**, 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- ♦ **1869. Cascade**, 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **2121. Centre**, land-1338sqm, 1100 sqm has permission for building. Price-2million USD
- ♦ **2107 Monument**, 2400sqm, permission for building, 2 projects to build 3 storied building, possibility of water, gas, electricity, beautiful view of city and Ararat. Price-500USD per sqm.
- ♦ **2033. Tsakhkadzor**, New Quarter, 600 sq.m., 1st line, asphalted road, premises, designed for construction of residential house, with all communal conveniences. Price: 120 USD for 1 sq.m.
- ♦ **1939. Kotayk region**, Aghavnadzor district. Land 5000 sq.m., suitable for building a resort place. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2011. Proshyan street**. Land 400 sq.m. for building a house, privatized, 2nd line/ near the garden/. Price 1 sq.m. beginning from 700 USD
- ♦ **2013. Cascade**. Land 1000 sq.m. For public construction needs, First line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price for 1 sq.m. 580 USD
- ♦ **2028. District of Erebuni**, Arin-Berd street. Land 2 acr. With a 2 storied partially built building, water, electricity plastered.h=4.20m. Price 1 sq.m. 50 USD
- ♦ **1402. Hr. Kochar St**, 1,100 sq. m, personal plot, front -25 m, privatized, empty, possibility for building communications. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1351. Monument**, 2,000 sq. m, privatized, front - 17 m, APZ permission, for social purposes: suitable for a restaurant, hotel. Price negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **2725. Nork-Marash**, building - 733.25sqm, land-620sqm, semi-basement +2floors, euro repaired, semi-basement is sport room, sauna, summer room, pool, fireplace, 1st floor- sitting room, 1 bedroom, cabinet, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Spanish tiles, 2 AC. Price - 500.000USD
- ♦ **3063. Komitas A.** Avetisyan street, 3storied+cellar, total-500sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, cabinet, possible to sell with furniture. Price-negotiable
- ♦ **3059. Vahagni community**, total-1500sqm, building-280sqm, 2.5 storied, newly built, not lived in, 1st floor-living room-44sqm, kitchen, family room-24sqm, 2nd floor-3bedrooms, 3 lavatories, garage for 2 cars, cellar, security system, possible to sell with furniture. Price-negotiable.
- ♦ **3210 Aygestan community**. 2 stories, land: 480 sq.m, building: 310 sq.m, 1st floor is not repaired, garage, 2nd floor: repaired, kitchen, lavatory-tiled, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi system, a place for barbeque, garden, trees Price: 270.000 USD
- ♦ **3105. Cascade, Antarain**. 4 stories, land 1800 sq.m., building 1000 sq.m., newly built, need of cosmetic repair, windows, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, 4 bedrooms, ramparted, solar lamps, security system, cameras, external lighting. Price: 1. 300.000 USD
- ♦ **3054. Blur, Kharkovyan street**. 3 storied building, land 400 sq.m., building 450 sq.m., new, euro repair, ramparted, 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories inside, 2 lavatories outside, Baxi system. Price 800 000 USD
- ♦ **2916. Ashtarak highway**, village Nazrvan. 3 storied building. Land 3500 sq.m., building 760 sq.m., euro repair, 3 tiled lavatories, a sauna, billiard, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, garden, pool, garage.The building is ramparted. Price 50000 USD

NEWLY BUILT

- ♦ **74. Cascade, Verin Antarayin**. electricity, water, gas, euro window, drywall, no exploitation fees, parking - 15.000 USD. 136-315 sq m. 1 sq m - 1200 USD
- ♦ **107. Monument, Verin Antarayin**. inhabited, 8th floor cockloft, gas, window, street view - 1 sq m -1000 USD, city looking - 1 sq m -1500 USD, parking - 4 million preliminary, price: started from 40 sq m
- ♦ **100. Leo str.** half basement parking, 1st floor - shops, 2nd floor - office spaces, elevator, equipped kitchen, central heating, water, height - 2.80 m, beautiful view, will be ready to for use at the end of 2013. 60-300 sq m. 16 floors
- ♦ **87. Sayat-Nova street**, newly built building Given to the operation in December 2012. Climate control, gas, the fasad sector has 3 bedrooms-188 sq.m, 199 sq.m, 1 sq.m- 1900 USD, 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight- 117 sq.m, 120 sq.m, 124 sq.m, 1 sq.m-1700 USD Price: 1 sq.m- 1900-1700 USD

- ♦ **93. Kievyan street**, newly built building Given to the operation in October 2011, gajats.



windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas supply, the second floor has a parking lot, parking is possible for sale. Price 12 000 USD possible with mortgage, for 13 years term

- ♦ **94. Masiv**. Newly built, , coupling, 8 flats, in each cottage 4 flats, total-2000 sq.m, each flat has 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking: 80 sq.m. Price: 160 000 USD

FOR RENT

1 ROOMS

- ♦ **1109 Teryan Str.**, 4/2 1 room transformed into 2, 47 sq.m, newly euro repaired, euro windows and doors, furnished, equipped, security camera, Ariston. Price: 500 USD
- ♦ **1009. Teryan str.**, 4/3, 1room changed into 2, 50sqm, euro repaired, furnished, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique, ariston heating system. Price 800USD per month, 60USD per day
- ♦ **1096. City Centre, Heratsu Str.**, 5/3, 1 room, newly repaired, furnished, equipped, bedroom sheets and dishes, heating, satellite. Price: 400 USD, 15.000 AMD per day.
- ♦ **1005. Lalayanc str.**, 11/5, 1room changed into 2, euro repaired, furniture, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique. Price 600USD per month, 40USD per day
- ♦ **853. Amiryán street**, 10/7. 1 turned into 2, 50 sq.m., euro repair, Italian furniture, bed, utensil, techniques, permanent water, gas, antenna, Baxy system. Price 700 USD, 50 USD per day

2 ROOMS

- ♦ **2064. Aygedzor**, 7/1. 2 rooms, 60 sq .m, capital repair, euro windows, Baxi system, AC, heating floor, camera, cabin. Price 800 USD
- ♦ **2037. Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, modern furniture, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, AC, technique. Price 100USD per day
- ♦ **2189 Vardanants str**, 24/12, 1 bedroom, newly built, 90 sqm, repaired, furnished, with elevator. Price: 450 000 AMD
- ♦ **2057. Sayat-Nova**. 11/4, 2 turned into 3, 78 sq.m., capitally repaired, Baxi system, furniture, techniques, AC, satellite. Price: 1 day- 80 USD, a month- 900 USD
- ♦ **1961. Tumanian street**, 4/2, 86sq.m., 1 bedroom, Euro repair, Euro windows, Furnished, permanent hot and cold water. Price: 1200 USD, 1day: 70USD
- ♦ **2186 Buzand str**, 7th floor, 2 rooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, equipped, internet, security system, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, underground parking, beautiful view. Price: 900 USD, 20 000 AMD per day.
- ♦ **2099. Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 220.000 AMD, per day - 50\$

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦ **1998 Buzand Str.**, 9/6 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, water, gas, heating, view to Republic Square, parking, no service fee. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **2008 Komitas, Vagharshyan Str.**, 7/3, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired, furnished, heating, 2 bathrooms. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1739. Pushkin str.** 6/5, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired,2 bathrooms, parking, price: 1600 USD
- ♦ **1723. Northern Ave.** 8/4. 3 bedrooms, 170 sq.m., 3 bedrooms,3 bathrooms, newly built, repaired, furnished , open kitchen, Falcon system. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1942. Teryan str.**, 4/2. 3 bedrooms, 120 sq.m, repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **942. Teryan str.** 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m, concrete, Hgt. 3.50, loggia-2, tile/ital., renovation. Price: 1500 USD
- ♦ **1969. Amiryán str**, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, capitally repaired, fur-

nished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed, climate control. Price: 1700 USD

- ♦ **1970. Vazgen Sargsyan str.**, 10/8. 2 bedrooms, newly built,, 150 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1967. Pushkin str.**, 8/6. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1966. Ekmalyan str.**, 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed. Price: 1300 USD
- ♦ **1951. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad.** /13, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 122 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, usage fee included. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1950. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad.** /8, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 163 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, open balcony, view to the garden, usage fee included. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1137. Moskovyan str.**, 6/1, 2 bedrooms, lavatory, pool, normal state, furnished, technique, DVD, AC, permanent hot and cold water. Price 1100USD, possible daily rent.
- ♦ **1790. Byuzand street**, close to Abovyan st., 7/5, newly built, 2bedrooms, euro repaired, 2 balconies, furnished, baxi, technique, 2 lavatories, garage. Price 1600USD per month.
- ♦ **1787. Koghbaçi street**, 13/6, 2bedrooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, 2 lavatories, central heating. Price 1700USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1793. Teryan street**. 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built Price: 3500 USD



- ♦ **1564. Tumanyan street**, 7/4. 110 sq.m., euro repaire, 2 lavatories, Spanish tyles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.
- ♦ **1720. Amirian Street.**, 18/10, 2 bedrooms, 190 sq/m, newly built, euro windows, permanent hot and cold water, gas, central heating, 2 open balcony, nice view to the city, possible with or without furniture, parking for 3 cars. Price 3000USD per month negotiable, for long term - 6 months and more.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **1191 Aygestan**, 2 floors, land 350-400 sqm, building - 270 sqm, 1sr floor - living-room, kitchen, study. 2-nd floor - 4 bedrooms, bathroom, storage room, partly furnished, summer garden, garage, swimming- pool. Starting Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦ **1218. Cascade, freeway**. 3700 sq m, 3 floors brick building - 1490 sq m, capitally repaired, walls - otto chento, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, heating, gas, Price: 12.00 USD
- ♦ **999. Aygedzor 1st lane, Land** -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors' 310 sqm, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, living room, hall, 4 bathrooms, new furniture, equipped, 3 AC, Baxi, sauna, swimming-pool, house garden, barbeque equipment. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1094. Noy block**, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **1095. Aygestan**, 1 storied building - 105sqm, 3bedrooms newly built repaired, furniture, technique 1 lavatory, garden. Price 1000USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, 4 storied building, each floor-160sqm, total-400sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor-garage, sport room, swimming pool, 4 bedrooms, summer kitchen, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, furnished, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 4000USD
- ♦ **455. Norq**, 3 storied building-150sqm, total -600sqm, 3bedrooms, lavatory, capitally repaired, furnished, technique, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **1197. Blur str**, 2 floors, land -779 sqm, building-720 sqm, first floor from the yard, basement on the street side, swimming-pool, sauna, living room, 1st floor - hall, study, dining room, 2 bathrooms, 2ond floor -4 bedrooms, 1 study, 4 bathrooms, barn, no furniture. Price 8000 USD
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, Qeru, 5 floors, each floor 160 sqm, land-400 sqm, euro repaired,1st floor-gym, garage, 3rd floor-4 bedrooms, open balcony, nice view, summer kitchen, fireplace, swimming-pool, 5 bathrooms, Jacuzzi. Price: 4000 USD
- ♦ **211. Ajgedzor**. 2 storied, 3 bedrooms, permanent water, capitally repaired, beutifull view. Price: 1300-1500 USD

- ♦ **721. Blur Qery street**, land 150 sq.m., 2 stories+ a cellar, 200 sq.m., newly built, telephone, refrigerator, washing machine, 3 bedrooms, garage, 2 lavatories, a pool, camin, permanent hot and cold water, a cellar is used as a sport hall. Price : 3000 USD

- ♦ **1117. Aygestan**, land-420 sq.m., building 646 sq.m., 3 storied, 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, euro repair, new tiles, furnished, techniques. Price" 5000 USD

- ♦ **1195. Nork**, Armenakyan str, 4 floors, land - 2000 sqm, building-520 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished, basement, 1st floor-1 living room, study, kitchen, bathroom, living room, swimming-pool, sauna, 2nd floor - 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3rd floor - open balcony, 1 bedroom, bathroom, gym, garden. Price: negotiable

- ♦ **1142. Djrvj**, Bagrevand community. 3 storied, land-1000 sq.m., building-700 sq.m., 1st floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3rd floor- resting room, 1 bedroom repaired, each bedroom has its lavatory, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary/garage for 2 cars, parquet, Spanish tiles. Price: 4 000 USD.

- ♦ **1114. Gulakyan Str. in parallel with Baghramyan Str.** 3 storied building 500 sq.m., euro repair, 1st floor: sauna, a pool, kitchen, 2nd floor: kitchen, dining room, 3rd floor 3 bedrooms, lavatories in each floor. Price: 3300 USD

- ♦ **1190. Aygestan str**, 3 floors, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 5000 USD

- ♦ **1203. Blur**, H. Emin str, 3 floors, land - 550 sqm, building-450 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 6000 USD.

- ♦ **1219. Monument**, Aram Cholakyan str, 3 floors, land - 800 sqm, building - 300 sqm, newly capitally repaired, partly furnished, euro windows and doors, 1st floor - 2 rooms, garage, 2nd floor - 1 bedroom, 2 rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathroom, 3rd floor- 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, water, gas, heating system. Starting Price: 5000 USD

- ♦ **1085. Aygestan destrict**. 2 storied stone building, land 500 sq.m., each floor 12 X 14, 3 bedrooms, a cabinet, 3 lavatories, a cellar, a sauna, kitchen with cupboards, Baxi system, AC. Price 3000 USD

- ♦ **1139. Komitas, Sundukyan street**, 2 stories, stone building, land : 700 sq.m, each floor 185 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, cellar 185 sq.m, , capital repair, Baxi system, swimming pool, a place for barbeque, 2 lavatories, garden, 1 cabinet. Price: 3000 USD

- ♦ **333. Nork**, 3 storied, 250sq.m, euro repair, 4 bedrooms,7 lavatory, permanent hot and cold water, central heating, natural gas, garden, pool. Price negotiable.

- ♦ **1014. Norq Marash district**. 2 storied, a cellar, capitally repaired, land 567sq.m., building 551 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 1 cabinet, furnished, a heating system. Price 2500 USD primary.

- ♦ **1076. Nork**, 2 storied, 220 sq.m., euro repair, in the 1st floor 2 rooms, kitchen, lavatory, in the second floor, separate entrance, open kitchen, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, furnished, view to city, garage, garden. Price: 2000USD

- ♦ **990. In Monument, Papazian street**, 2 storied stone building + half-cellar, has mansard,5bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2bathrooms, laundry, permanent hot and cold water, gas, plot of land 250sq.m, the size of whole construction is 370 sq.m. Price 2500USD

PREMISES

- ♦ **1694. Komitas, H. Qochar str**, newly built, vitrines, front 20 m, 196 sq m, Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1693. Malatia-Sebastia**, 4rh floor., repaired, stone building, 2 entries, no artificial walls separating the territory, climate control, 2 elevators, storage space at the ground floor, parking, two-sided parking in the street. 1200 sq.m. Price: 10.000 USD
- ♦ **1525. Hanrapetutyán street**, 1st floor, 3steps up, h-3.20m, repaired, 1 large hall+3 rooms, 2 entrances, kithen, lavatory. Price 1400USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1526. Byuzand street**, 5/semi-basement, 170sqm, 4-5 step down. cellar-50sqm, has 6 rooms, the largest is 30sqm, 2 entrances, 2 lavatories, 6 windows from street side. Price 2000USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1528. North Avenue**, 9/1, 2 floors, total area 159sqm, 1st floor-66sqm, 2nd floor 93sqm, newly built, euro repaired, has the entrance from the street, security system, heating system. Price 7500USD per month.
- ♦ **1482. North Avenue**, 210 sq.m., 1st floor, with 2 floors, h=8m. Price 10.000 USD
- ♦ **1408. Zarobyan street**, parallel to Baghramyan, 2 storied, 300sq.m.construction, 600 sq.m. land, in a first floor hall and kitchen, in a second floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capital euro repair, gas, baxi system, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, garage, fruit garden. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦ **1438. Komitas**, 6 floors, cellar, mansard. Each floor is 120 sq.m., hasa need for cosmetic repair, walls are plastered, floor is leveled, hanging ceilings, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price: Negotiable
- ♦ **1462. Teryan street**, 3 stored, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Price: 10.000USD

Cruel murder of military doctor becomes a wake-up call for Armenian president

From page 1

actions with the participation of thousands of people were held. Criticism was also voiced by some representatives of the intelligentsia, NGOs and parliamentary political forces (ARF-Dashnaktsutyun, the Armenian National Congress, the Heritage Party, and the Prosperous Armenia Party) which did not enter the ruling coalition. Some representatives of those forces demanded that Ruben Hayrapetian who is morally responsible for the incident should give up his deputy mandate as he can no longer be considered their colleague.

The public also demands that Ruben Hayrapetian should sell Harsnakar Restaurant and give the proceeds to Vahe Avetian's widow and children as compensation.

Representatives of Armenian communities staged actions in memory of the killed major outside the Armenian Embassy in Berlin and the consulate general in Los Angeles. A public memorial service took place in Tehran.

Some members of the public and the intelligentsia (ethnographer Hranush Kharatian) declared that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, too, bears moral and political responsibility for the incident and for that reason he should resign. It was noted that R.

Hayrapetian is a member of the parliamentary faction of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), led by the Armenian President.

The murder of Vahe Avetian by bodyguards of oligarch Ruben Hayrapetian evoked an extremely negative reaction in the army, including the officer personnel and the heads of the General Staff and the Ministry of Defense. As is known, the army is one of the military and policing structures, which are most loyal to the regime.

The parliamentary faction of the opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC) held a meeting on July 3, making a decision to initiate a special session of Armenia's National Assembly. Following the meeting, the faction members asked the Secretariat of the National Assembly to provide an application form for organizing collection of signatures since a special session is convened at the request of at least one third of the total number of the deputies of the 131-member parliament of Armenia. As a result of active inter-faction negotiations, it became known that the representatives of all the four factions not making part of the ruling coalition (ARF-Dashnaktsutyun, the ANC, the Heritage, and the Prosperous Armenia factions) agreed to sign the letter, which on behalf of the

parliamentary speaker Hovik Abrahamian requests that a meeting be organized with representatives of the law enforcement agencies conducting the investigation. The investigators have to answer a number of questions of interest to the public and deputies.

It was the first time in many years that the number of deputies ready to sign a demand for convening a special session of the parliament had reached the required number. This course of events forced President Serzh Sargsyan to meet with his associate Ruben Hayrapetian on the evening of July 3. After the meeting, R. Hayrapetian, having made the respective statement, declared that he felt morally responsible for what had happened and that he took a decision to give up his mandate of a deputy. It should be noted that just two days before the abovementioned statement, R. Hayrapetian together with the president left for Kiev to attend the final match of the European football championship. This fact shows the extent of their intimacy: it was already known that V. Avetian was at death's door.

Although the announcement of R. Hayrapetian's resignation has slackened tension to some extent, as a matter of fact, it has not given answers to many questions the public is anxious to know. For that reason the process of collecting

signatures under a petition to be filed to the heads of UEFA and FIFA has begun in Armenia. The petition demands that R. Hayrapetian be relieved of his position as President of Armenia's Football Federation. A number of big travel agencies have refused to cooperate with Harsnakar Hotel (also owned by R. Hayrapetian), located on the shore of Lake Sevan. According to some representatives of civil society taking part in protest actions, they will not be satisfied till they see R. Hayrapetian behind bars.

Such an irreconcilable attitude of public opinion and part of the deputy corps has to do with the fact that recent history shows: the resignation of a person from this or that elective office/government post does not guarantee that the discredited person will not be forgiven by the president. An illustration of this is the resignation of Yerevan Mayor Gagik Beglarian on December 8, 2010. According to the press reports which have not refuted, G. Beglarian resigned after the kidnapping and assault of Aram Kandayan, an employee of the presidential administration. Nevertheless, the ex-mayor of Yerevan assumed the duties of Armenian Minister of Transport and Communication in the recently formed government composed of representatives of the RPA and the Country of Law) Party.

The present situation in Armenia indicates a number of growing problems for the president and his administration. Thus it is obvious that:

- there are some problems related to the control of the existing criminal-oligarchic system;
- the refusal to investigate and inflict proportional punishments for similar crimes committed in the immediate past (the murder of Georgian citizen Poghos Poghosian in 2002, the killings of ten Armenian citizens in downtown Yerevan on March 1, 2008) may boomerang against Serzh Sargsyan and his team;
- the factions not constituting the parliamentary majority are striving for a greater degree of interaction;
- there is an increased likelihood of support for agreed candidates and interaction among the ARF-Dashnaktsutyun, the ANC, the Prosperous Armenia Party, and, possibly, the Heritage Party ahead of partial elections to local self-government bodies to be held in the autumn of this year.

All these signs are wake-up calls for President Serzh Sargsyan as they indicate that the super victory gained in the last parliamentary elections does not guarantee at all that he will have a trouble-free political autumn and a resounding victory in the upcoming presidential election.



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Charles Tannock: "The EU tries to remain neutral"

Charles Tannock is a British politician, Member of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee.

- Over the recent month, the tensions on the line of contact of Armenian and Azeri armed forces have escalated drastically. What do you think, what's the Azerbaijan's message?

- I don't know what motivates the Baku leadership precisely to engage in this dangerous tactic but one plausible explanation is that the Azerbaijani government is creating an external confrontation to distract the general public from the realities back home of a lack of transparency and good democratic governance in the country, which contrasts with the recent parliamentary elections in Armenia which were held internationally to have been conducted in a free and fair fashion.

- As you noticed in one of your recent articles, half of these incidents did not take place in the Nagorno-Karabakh itself, but at the recognized international borders between the two states, which are both part of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the EU's Eastern Partnership. After the recent hostile incidents, EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and other senior officials called "upon both sides" to show restraint despite clear evidence about which side had started the

recent provocation.

- The EU statements coming from the EEAS and Baroness Ashton reflect the foreign policy consensus position of 27 member states and some EU countries have economic interests and traditional links with one country and others with the other so there is not surprisingly an overall reluctance to take sides or apportion blame in this issue. The official EU position is signed up to the Madrid principles and the Minsk OSCE Group position which deliberately always avoids being partisan and instead hopes by scrupulous neutrality to enjoy the trust of both sides and hopefully one day bring about a peaceful resolution to the dispute.

- Azeri President Ilham Aliyev said recently that "Armenian lobby is our number one enemy". Do you consider that negotiations can be continued after such kind of aggressive announcements which are made by Azeri leader nearly every week?

- I think the Armenian government should try as much as possible to disregard such statements made to an Azerbaijani domestic political gallery and concentrate on securing a satisfactory peace deal with Baku which will involve inevitably some compromise. Furthermore the Armenian government though obviously sensitive to the diaspora lobbying ultimately is a sovereign government which must give priority to its

national concerns and achieving long term security both economic and military.

- Is it possible to see the tension grow to war in future?

- Wars throughout history have been started by small skirmishes (either accidental or deliberately made as a provocation to the other side) getting out of hand. So recent events particularly if they escalate between the two countries give a lot of concern in my view.

- In the case of Belarus EU imposed sanctions on that country. Why EU is not using same tools against Azerbaijan where European values are being violated so often?

- There is no agreement or even suggestion of this by EU member states for reasons I have already mentioned in terms of investments by EU countries in Azerbaijan and also most experts would regard Belarus as more politically oppressive than Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan enjoys the strong alliance of Turkey to defend its interests in Brussels and the member state capitals, an EU candidate country, and Belarus has no such equivalent strategic allies defending its position. Also the Belarus opposition is very vocal and visible raising these issues in EU and member state parliaments but I have not seen much activity by any Azerbaijani opposition demanding

continued on page 10

Exhibition of artist Marie Adamian "From Silk to the Canvas" at Russian Art Museum



Marie Adamian is one of those contemporary artists who work in a variety of genres and techniques, from silk painting to oil on canvas. The stylistic versatility allows the Artist to give her personal, yet very diverse expression to her artistic mentality in each of her works.

Her works on silk are distinguished by aerial feeling, while implemented in bright colorful palette; they are full of optimism and warmth...

Her graphic works are on the contrary quite reticent, often monochrome.

The oil paintings, mostly still-lives, depict the simple beauty of the nature, again in bright and bold colours.

Marie lives and works in Yerevan. An architect by education, she now has found herself in art. Nevertheless, Marie's profession has left an important impact on her

works, manifest in clarity of structure, bold lines, correct perspectives and compositions of curves, as well as the particular charm of her architectural landscapes.

Since 2003 Marie has taken part in 38 group exhibitions, in Armenia and

Artsakh as well as in the United Kingdom, Portugal, the USA, France, Germany, Italy and currently in the International Graphic Biennale in Romania, where Marie is the first representative of Armenia.

Marie has had four personal exhibitions in Yerevan; however, this exhibition differs in the diversity of genres and techniques presented.

The exhibition will last till July 20 at the Russian Art Museum, Isahakyan str. 38

www.marieart.am

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Marie-Adamian-marieart/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTRmVNBG6no>



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Golden Apricot Film Festival program to be available also as mobile application

By Nina Svazyan

The 9th Golden Apricot International Film Festival in Yerevan includes interesting and memorable events this year, too. For the first time the festival presents a special award for significant

Light) was established by the Armenian Apostolic Church for promotion of Christian values. This year the Catholicos of All Armenians will hand the award to the winner. The ceremony will take place at the Gevorgian Theological Seminary in the Mother See of Holy

and the films to be screened.

The next news is for journalists and film art experts and critics. For the first time, an award for the best article will be given. Contestants are required to submit at least five analytical articles. The winner and the runner-up will receive \$500 and \$300, respectively.

Harutyun Khachatryan announced that the organizers will hold "an event in memory of our friends who are no longer among us. Their wives and members of their film crews will be present as well". The film festival began on July 8 and it will last until July 15. About 170 full-length and short feature films and documentaries will be screened, including 90 films in four competition programs.

"Shor and Shorshor" film by Hamo Beknazaryan opened the Golden Apricot Festival this year. Its screening was accompanied by Vahagn Hayrapetyan's and his jazz band's musical arrangements, developed for this film. "Amour" ("Love") - the Palmes d'Or winner of the Cannes Festival will be the closing film.

Training program for journalists organized in the frames of Golden Apricot International Film Festival

The Cinema Journalism Across Borders (CJAB) training program is part of the Eastern Partnership Program. It is sponsored by the European Union and implemented by the "Golden Apricot" Fund for



contribution to global cinematography and promotion of spiritual, cultural and humanitarian values. This year the award will be given to world-famous Russian film director Alexander Sokurov.

Festival Founding Director Harutyun Khachatryan told journalists that the award is envisaged for the best cinematographers. "There were three pretenders, we chose Sokurov with his film "Faust", he said. "Faust" won the "Golden Lion" top prize at the Venice Film Festival in 2011.

Another speaker of the press conference, His Grace Gevorg Bishop Saroyan said that the award "Yeghitsi Luys" (Let There Be

Etchmiadzin on July 12. The award was created by famous designer Arman Davtyan (Nur) who noted that the award unifies symbols of Christianity and film art. At first glance it resembles a fish, but when placed horizontally, it resembles an eye, which symbolizes cinema. The three globes signify the Holy Trinity. The lower part is made mostly of jasper - the color of Armenian land. The award is made of gold, bronze, glass, and jasper.

From this year on the Festival program will be available also as a mobile application. The program will be available for Android and IOS systems, thanks to which one can get information on the festival

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8-15/07/2012

SUPPORTED BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Cinema Development and its partners Interfilm (Ukraine), Prometheus Film Art Center (Georgia), and Internews (Armenia).

A training program will be organized for cinema journalists, film critics, and students from Caucasian countries, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, and Armenia prior to the festival.

In the words of Dutch film critic Peter van Bueren, "Armenia gained independence some time

ago and today there is still no good picture of Armenian cinema, so it is necessary to build new cinema and new relations. The festival will create a new cultural field for the Eastern Partnership". Peter van Bueren will focus on the theory and practice of cinema journalism and film criticism. The editor of the Festival's daily Ronald Rovers (the Netherlands) discussed a wide range of issues related to the Golden Apricot Festival and the daily.

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Gagik Harutyunyan. The European Union: New tendencies

Gagik Harutyunyan
Executive Director of
"Noravank" Foundation

The European Union, which includes 27 countries and has population of over 500 million, is the biggest economy in the world (at current prices the GDP of the EU is \$16.4 trillion, which constitutes 28% of the world GDP). At the same time this union has appeared in rather difficult political and economic situation. In particular, the national debts have grown and in consequence it is not excluded that some countries (Greece, Spain and Italy) will default. E.g. the debt of Italy constitutes 120% of its GDP and over the first quarter of this year a rate of 0.8% economic recession was registered and as a result the ratings of 26 Italian banks were downgraded. The situation is almost similar in Spain and its is only a rate of 0.5% growth of German economy that provided "zero" level stability of the EU GDP and saved the European Union from recession. The current situation creates fertile ground for different forecasts and statements which do not rule out the scenarios of European currency or even EU collapse with all the drastic consequences and aftermaths it may have. Sometimes such statements remind preliminarily prepared information actions; the assessments of some political figures and rating agencies pursue mercantile aims and tend to direct processes proceeding on the stock markets and at the political negotiations. But even this circumstance proves that it is testing time for the "European project".

Reasons of the crisis

The European crisis is not only a consequence of the depletion of global liberal models' resources, but it has also been caused by the peculiarities of structural and administration system. They, despite exerted efforts, do not allow forming common political and economic rules which will be obligatory for all the members of the union. Such a situation is a consequence of objective and sometimes even subjective (conditioned by personal or political and eco-

nomic interests) circumstances.

The absence of the "European identity" is first of all considered as a main drawback of the European system. The European nations, of course, have many civilizational commonalities, but there are also considerable cultural and political differences. In this aspect especially the factor of Great Britain should be taken into consideration; it takes special and not always very constructive stance in the EU processes and positions itself as a part of North-Atlantic (Anglo-American) and not continental European project. Moreover, (especially if take as a ground W. Churchill's memories1), the architecture of the post-war Europe was planned so that there was no possibility to form a center of power (and this referred not only to Germany), thus proving Anglo-Saxon military, political and economic prevalence.

An additional factor in the issue of the European identity is "multiculturalism" phenomenon and deriving from it seemingly inevitable tendency of changing ethnic composition of Europe (correspondingly change of the cultural orientations)2. The steps taken in this direction (immigration law enforcement, revision of Schengen agreement, etc.), taking into consideration growing immigration flows to Europe in consequence of geopolitical and neo-colonization collisions in the Greater Middle East and Africa, do not yield tangible result.

At the same time, there is an impression, judging by the publications of the European media, that the opposition to the immigrants (which is expressed not only in the works of intellectuals3, but also takes a form of radical actions, such as Breivik precedent) somehow promotes formation of the European solidarity. But in this sphere there are some contradictions either.

Anti-immigration approaches are more characteristic of conservative parties in the EU. Meanwhile these parties, as a rule, come forward from a perspective of consolidation of the sovereignty of their countries. The most fervent supporters of the idea of Euro-integration are the European socialists which are in their turn compara-

tively tolerant to the "multiculturalism"4.

In the aforementioned context, it would be appropriate to remember the idea of German Chancellor Angela Merkel that Europe did not have "too much Islam" but "too little Christianity". Generally social scientists condition these realities and disputable tendencies, which came forward in modern European civilization processes, by extremely primitive modern European system of values. As it is known acquiring universal welfare is announced a top priority for Europe (this notion also provides a room for different commentaries), meanwhile such social model contains many risks and considered to be vulnerable. According to some analysts such a conceptual approach is based on the example of the Soviet Union which also tended to prove social rights of its citizens5. But the "European welfare" (which exceeds on its material level and in some principle issues such as right to labor, free education, medicine, yields to the Soviet perceptions) is based upon the rules of "consumer society" (against which the countries of the "socialist camp" were struggling), with all the deriving tendencies of devaluation of the spiritual sphere.

In case with the EU, the "welfare doctrine" has also a financial aspect presented by budgetary expenditures (sometimes unreasonably high), which in their turn bring to the growth of the national debts. It is remarkable that before the "big crisis" in 2008-2009 majority in 14 of 27 governments in the EU belonged to the socialist who attached great importance to the notion of "welfare". But the recession came to prove that the budget generosity may have drastic consequences and today there are only 5 socialist governments in Europe. But all the social protest actions which took hold of Europe come to prove that non-socialist and pure market approaches also are pregnant with risks and there are even more such risks than in case with the a high level of state care as they can bring to the chaotic events as it happened in Greece. In this aspect the victory of socialist Hollande at the presidential elections in France can be considered regular and ade-

quate to the current European realities.

Francois Hollande:
New Tendencies

All the EU members of course have equal rights, but it is not a secret that some of these members are a little "more equal than the others". Here we speak about European superpowers - Germany, which is already sometimes called 4th Reich and France. Before the presidential elections in France the leaders of the countries, despite some discrepancies, jointly tried to elaborate and tended to implement programme on overcoming crisis in Europe (mainly to German receipts), which was based on the strategy of budget restrictions and cutting down expenses in a social sphere.

The situation changed after Francois Hollande's coming to power, who places stake rather on stirring up and raising economy than on policy of cutting down budget expenses (though this is also included in Hollande's plans - newly appointed prime-minister has already stated about 30% reduction of wages of the members of the cabinet). It should be stated that the programme of the president which consists of 60 points, contains rather drastic changes. In particular, it is supposed to reduce the taxes for small business owners, and in case with banks considerable rise of taxes; the taxes of those who have more than 150 thousand Euros income will constitute 45% and of those whose income exceeds 1 million Euros - 75%. Hollande conditions the rise of the economy by the development of science-absorbing industries and his program provisions underline the development of the science and even contain points concerning revival of the "science aristocracy". An intention of Hollande to establish new European rating agency, which would be an alternative to Standard&Poors, Moody and Fitch rejtings companies, is very interesting.

But Hollande's innovations are not only restricted to the sphere of economy. He intends to reconsider the approaches of his forerunner in the foreign policy. As it is known

by the decision of N. Sarkozy in 2009 France reintegrated to the military structures of NATO6, and in 2010 France and Great Britain signed a military cooperation pact, particularly in the sphere of nuclear weapons development. Media called this pact an unprecedented one, which in fact marked the establishment of joint French-British troops (according to that document the parties agreed to create joint 6.5 expedition task force). Hollande conform other logic - he has already kept his promise to withdraw French troops from Afghanistan (they will leave the country by the end of this year). Special attention should be paid to the proposal of Hollande to create joint French-German military staff which can be regarded as a certain pattern in the context of further possible transformation of NATO and it should coincide with the foreign policy coarse of Germany; as it is known A. Merkel keeps a low profile concerning the claims of NATO in the well known processes in Libya and Syria.

Thus, one should not exclude that the French foreign policy in regard to the North-Atlantic model may change (or it would rather get back to de Gaulle approaches), which may promote establishment of full-featured continental European system.

1. У.Черчилль, Вторая мировая война (книга третья), Военное издательство, М., 1991.
2. See, forexample, Вишневский А., Конец североцентризма. Россия в глобальной политике, т. 7, #5, с. 180. 2009.
3. Тило Сарацин, Германия: самоликвидация, Изд-во РИД, М., 2012.
4. It should be mentioned that not all the socialists share this approach and, in particular, the aforementioned ThiloSarrazin was a member of social-democratic party of Germany.
5. <http://www.rodon.org/other/mivp.htm>
6. France, being one of 12 NATO establisbers, withdrew from NATO's integrated military and leadership structures under de Gaulle (in 1966).

World Bank to provide \$12-million credit to Armenia

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors on July 3 approved a US\$12 million credit for the Tax Administration Modernization Project (TAMP) for Armenia. The Project will support the State Revenue Committee (SRC) to modernize its business processes, expand the use of e-governance including electronic filing of tax returns, and introduce a more targeted, risk-based compliance strategy, based on voluntary compliance.

The Government of Armenia recognizes that both tax administration and tax policy improvements are needed to enhance revenue performance, and is committed to implement comprehensive tax administration reforms. To guide tax policy reforms, the Government has issued a strategy paper outlining planned tax policy measures over the medium-term 2012-14.

"The Government - with the support of development partners, notably the IMF, IFC, USAID and the World Bank - has already taken steps to improve its revenue administration," said Jean-Michel Happi, World Bank Country Manager for Armenia. "Building on these efforts, this Project provides the framework and financing to support a comprehensive modernization of Armenia's revenue administration. This operation is central to the Bank's on-going Country Partnership Strategy for Armenia as it's focused on enhancing the competitiveness of domestic economy."

The SRC has maintained the level of revenue collection through the recent economic downturn. However, Armenia's tax (excluding social security contributions) to GDP ratio at about 16.3 percent remains low for its level of income.

Further gains in revenue collection are required to create fiscal space for investments in key public services and infrastructure, to deliver on the Government's poverty reduction and economic growth objectives. At the same time, the tax administration needs to be modernized to improve the business climate and to enhance private sector development and growth.

The proposed project will increase voluntary tax compliance of tax payers, reduce tax evasion and compliance costs, as well as increase SRC's administrative efficiency. These objectives will be achieved by i) introducing modern, integrated information technology to support SRC operations; ii) improving data exchange between the SRC and other agencies to enhance risk management and targeting of compliance activities; iii) reengineering and

automation of business processes to improve efficiency and effectiveness; and iv) expanding e-Government, including e-filing and e-payments to lower the compliance burden for the private sector.

"This operation will make critical investments in the SRC's basic Information and Communications Technology infrastructure," said Sebastian Eckardt, World Bank economist and the leader of the Project. "Improved information technology support is an important enabler for the implementation of the next round of tax administration reforms and for the enhanced performance of the SRC."

To ensure sound implementation, the Project will be overseen by a Steering Committee composed of high level representatives of the Presidential Administration, Prime Minister's Office, the Minister of

Finance and the Chairman of the SRC to make key strategic decisions and monitor overall project implementation progress.

The Project will be implemented in a strategic partnership between the SRC, World Bank, USAID, and other development partners. Extensive, complementary technical assistance will be financed under the USAID Tax Reform Project. World Bank and USAID projects will work in close collaboration.

The total amount of the project is US\$15.1 million, of which the Government of Armenia will finance US\$3.1 million. The IDA credit in the amount of US\$12 million carries a maturity of 25 years including a grace period of 5 years.

Since joining the World Bank in 1992 and IDA in 1993, the total IDA and IBRD commitments to Armenia amount to US\$1,624 million.

Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's Montreal affiliate continues to sponsor major renovations at Abovyan Maternity Hospital

The Montreal affiliate of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund continues to support extensive renovations at the Abovyan Maternity Hospital, in Armenia's Kotayk Region. The project is sponsored by benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Vrej and Imasdouhi Nigoghossian of Canada.

With the first phase of the project, in 2010, the fund completely renovated the hospital's Delivery Ward, transforming it into a state-of-the-art facility. The second phase, carried out earlier this year, resulted in the reconstruction and modernization of the hospital's Postnatal Department. The third phase, which was announced in May following a visit to the hospital by a delegation of the Montreal affiliate, will comprise the refurbishment of three patient rooms (with a total area of 70 square meters) in the Postnatal Department.

"At the time the first leg of the project was begun, the hospital was in critical need of refurbishments and

upgrades, as it hadn't undergone a substantial renovation since its establishment in 1986," said Dr. Larissa Madoyan, the Abovyan Maternity Hospital's chief physician and director. The facility serves the populations of the city of Abovyan as well as 20 nearby rural communities.

Commenting on the renovations at the hospital, AraVardanyan, the fund's executive director, said, "We strongly encourage all of our benefactors to visit the sites of projects they have sponsored, just as Mr. and Mrs. Nigoghossian have done, not only to gain first-hand knowledge of what has been accomplished, but determine whether further development work is warranted. Such a hands-on approach is in the interest of benefactors and the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund alike, as it helps reinforce a sense of responsibility among beneficiaries with regard to the care and upkeep of newly built or renovated facilities realized through development projects."

Official says benefit package promotes domestic tourism

Officials of the Ministry of Economy believe a benefits package introduced early this year envisaging state-financed medical insurance (which includes funds for having a holiday) of public servants, will essentially promote the development of domestic tourism in Armenia.

By government decree 18 billion drams (\$46 million) have been allotted from the 2012 State Budget providing social packages for 120,000 public servants, that is 132,000 drams (\$340) per person per year.

The money must be used for health insurance; the remainder can be spent on mortgage loans, tuition fee, and/or holiday in Armenia and/or Nagorno-Karabakh.

MekhakhApresyan, Head of the Ministry of Economy's Tourism and Territorial Economic Development Department, at a press conference on July 4 stated that the official website of the Ministry of Economy (mineconomy.am) posted the list of the tour operators which are included in the social package of holiday service for public servants.

"At the moment only ten tour

companies are registered in the website, presenting at least 15 packages of proposals, two of them in Nagorno-Karabakh," Apresyan says, adding that the tour operators are being chosen according to their bids; however, at the moment of submitting the bid they must have at least three years of work experience, and must have participated in exhibitions dedicated to domestic tourism in Armenia.

Apresyan does not exclude that the state funds may not fully cover all the expenses for holiday services however, they are substantial help for citizens.

Representatives of Five Stars Travel Company, registered in the ministry's website, told Armenia Now that the cooperation is in the interests of the company, too, and promotes its popularity.

"The demand in holiday services within the framework of the social packages has started since May and at the moment we have 16 contracts with people willing to spend their holidays in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh," Five Stars Travel Company's representative said.

Charles Tannock:

"The EU tries to remain neutral"

from page 6

such EU sanctions.

-Do you consider that Europe, mostly EU, has its own fault in growing tensions on the border?

- No, I don't see how Europe can be blamed for this!

-What kind of help can EU provide in resolving the Karabakh conflict, and does EU have enough leverage to influence on the sides of the conflict?

-The EU like the USA have both tried to remain neutral and rely on the OSCE and Minsk Group. The EU can certainly help via things like

the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly and putting pressure economically and politically via the Association Agreements being negotiated with both Armenia and Azerbaijan to try and hold the peace and hopefully work towards a lasting solution. The EU can offer a CSDP military mission which the EU member states might agree to in order to keep and secure any final territorial agreement on NK and borders once it is reached by the Minsk Group and agreed by Yerevan and Baku.

Mediamax

Gourgen Khazhakian of The Highlights Receives the Gold Medal of Ministry of Culture

On July 4 Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia Mrs Hasmik S. Poghosyan signed an order according to which Gourgen James Khazhakian, The Highlights Chief correspondent was decorated with the highest award of the Ministry, the Gold Medal of the RA Ministry of Culture, - "for significant contribution to the presentation of the Armenian literature and culture to foreign language audience".

The Highlights readers could find numerous articles in our weekly on the Armenian culture and art authored by Mr Khazhakian, a veteran journalist of Independent Armenia who interviewed the world-known celebrities such the US President George Bush, Russia's First President Boris Yeltsin, Charles Aznavour, Cher, others, author of books, - as these issues have been having their very special place in the quite long list of the themes being covered by him, - ranging from ICT to Army



issues, from diplomacy to high life events.

In Khazhakian's own words, "the Armenian richest millenia-old and at the same time always fresh culture exposed in the right way often might be more effective than even the so-called traditional diplomacy..."

But it does not mean that Gourgen James Khazhakian, within almost of a decade of his being in the staff of The Noyan Tapan Highlights, has been covering only

Armenian culture.

Not at all - he writes with no lesser passion on the foreign art and culture, - be it a concert of (his favorite) rock-legend Deep Purple, visit of the great Italian poet, writer and screenwriter, filmmaker Tonino Guerra or a performance by the (Russian) Bolshoi Theatre stars...

We congratulate our staff long time member Gourgen Khazhakian and wish him all the success in his work and life!

The Noyan Tapan Media Holding

VivaCell-MTS Develops Computer Lab and Wi-Fi (Home-Zone) Connectivity in the International Scientific-Educational Center (ISEC) of the National Academy of Sciences

By Andy Barsamian

On July 3 VivaCell-MTS announced the establishment of a modern Wi-Fi educational hotspot and a prevailing computer lab in the

environment in an educational institution. Thus, for example, a high-speed Wi-Fi connection will help watch video lectures by well-known visiting professors from abroad and communicate with peers and colleagues from

Fi connection is a necessary precondition for the combination of education resources with technology. Therefore, VivaCell-MTS is committed to help educational institutions with wide application of Wi-Fi technology to education sector," commented VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

Thanks to the introduction of the Wi-Fi hotspots in higher educational institutions, the communication between various departments and the external world will become more smooth and timely. Wi-Fi hotspots will contribute to much easier access to Internet as they allow meeting the demand for network access by users with different wireless-enabled devices.

As we've submitted to our readers attention an info on Armenia's leading telecom operator, it should



International Scientific-Educational Center (ISEC) of the Armenia's National Academy of Sciences.

With 10 PCs and a 3G Home-Zone router, VivaCell-MTS is refurbishing the institutions computer lab. In addition to this, another Home-Zone is established in the Center's Conference Hall.

And the last, but not least, and at the request of the Center, an interactive board is provided for the IT Lab. The total amount allocated to the Center is AMD 3.5 mln.

The project on the creation of Wi-Fi hotspots and corners as well as computer labs in higher educational institutions is aimed at helping those institutions genuinely create "boundless" communications for their students and faculty. Wi-Fi is considered to be the most efficient way to create fast and mobile Internet envi-



anywhere and at any time.

"We want to see Armenian higher educational institutions able to catch up with the rest of the world, where, nowadays, Wi-Fi is being used as the primary means of internet connectivity. Availability of Wi-

be added that on June 29 they've announced that due to increase of international calls costs, the price of call to Russia from VivaCell-MTS numbers via "Distant Call" and "My World" services will make AMD 40 per minute.

Davit Tonoyan, First Deputy Defense Minister: "Return to Kosovo Testifies to Armenia's Stable Contribution to Intl Security Appreciated by the Country's Partners"

35 Armenian peacekeepers left to serve at the American Bondsteel Camp

By Gourgen James Khazhakian
Chief correspondent

... For the first time in his life your author saw a US Air Force plane in December '88 when American (alongside with those from many other countries) aircrafts were bringing humanitarian aid for destroyed earthquake area... So that was an "Aid from the American people"...

Could somebody in the times of "the Iron Curtain" and "the Cold War" imagine such a pic? Scarcely.

And could somebody imagine that in mere few years (winter 1992) another US Air Force plane, this time "Jumbo" Boeing-747 will land at Zvartnots Airport with the US Secretary of State Jim Baker aboard, - for an official visit to already independent Republic of Armenia? And...

...Scarcely even a great dreamer could imagine a pic reflecting already an EQUAL COOPERATION (not the (gratefully received by us the Armenians) humanitarian aid) between Armenia and the United States, and again featured US Air Force plane...

(So the times are changing rapidly, and we the Armenians living in such unpredictable region MUST be well-prepared for any changes...)

...Thirty-five Armenian soldiers flew to Kosovo on Friday July 6 as Armenia resumed its participation in a NATO-led peacekeeping force deployed in the former Yugoslav province after a five-month break.

The Armenian peacekeepers boarded a U.S. Air Force transport aircraft C-130 at Yerevan's Zvartnots airport just after a farewell ceremony attended by the RA First Deputy Defense Minister **Davit Tonoyan**, high-ranking DM officials, generals, other senior servicemen and U.S. Ambassador **John Heffern** accompanied by his spouse

Libby and reps of the office of the US Military Attache.

As Mr Tonoyan told the departing troops lined up on the airport tarmac, their "return to Kosovo testifies to Armenia's stable contribution to international security which appreciated by the country's partners". "Armenia's Armed Forces must never have incomplete missions, as the country's Supreme

in a six-month shift mission, until last February. Until now 600 Armenian peacekeepers were sent there. Officials said they were withdrawn because of an ongoing reduction in the size of the KFOR. (Within all these years Armenian peacekeepers have served as a part of Greek division, and now they will serve under the American command).



First Deputy DM Davit Tonoyan in the center, on left from Mr Tonoyan are Deputy Chief of the RA Armed Forces General Staff Lieut.-Gen. Enriko Apriyamov and the US Ambassador John Heffern

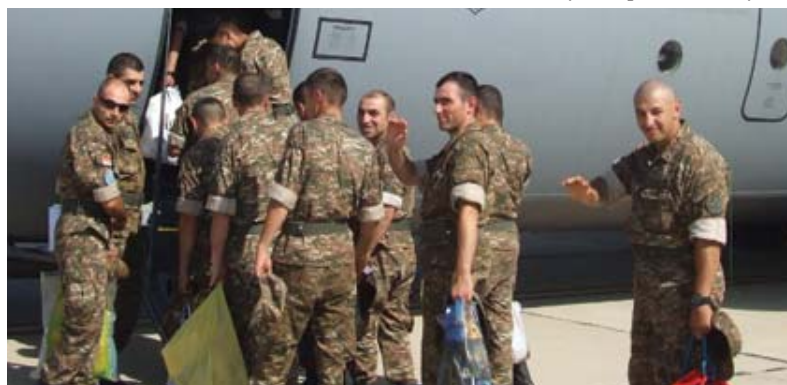
Command requires", the RA First Deputy Defense Minister added.

In turn, the US Ambassador John Heffern, speaking to the media reps, said: "These are well-trained troops. We are anxious to have them."

The Armenian peacekeepers will serve in Kosovo as a part of the U.S.-led Multinational Brigade East of NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) and will be stationed at Camp Bondsteel, the main base of the United States Army located near the city of Uroševac at the east of Kosovo.

According to the RA Defense Ministry, "The Armenian peacekeepers will be responsible for carrying out patrol service, ensuring the security of checkpoints, dealing with mass disturbances, managing crowds and escorting convoys."

Armenian soldiers were first sent to Kosovo in 2004 and served there



God luck guys!

According to Radio Liberty, earlier last week, in a newspaper interview the RA Defense Minister **Seyran Ohanyan** announced renewed Armenian participation in KFOR. As Mr Ohanyan said, an agreement on this was reached during his March 2012 visit to Washington. (The Highlights pub-

lished a series of stories on the Minister Ohanyan's visit to the US qualifying it "all-encompassing" one - **G.Kh.**)

In Minister Ohanyan's words, the Armenia-US military cooperation has "a great potential for development."

And this was once more confirmed by Mr Ohanyan's First Deputy Davit Tonoyan who said in response to our question on the prospects of the military cooperation between Armenia and the United States the following: "There are areas in which we are cooperating currently - defense reforms, peacekeeping missions, experience exchange as well as human rights protection and some others. And we see good trend for development of all this".

"Provoked" by your correspondent who asked what is prevailing in Armenia's cooperation both with the US and Russia - complementarity or balance, Mr Tonoyan gave an unambiguous answer: "For the RA Armed Forces it is only complementarity, in

the name of capability development; we have no need of any "balance"."

"There has been tremendous growth in U.S.-Armenia and Armenia-NATO security cooperation in the last three years," John Heffern said. "We have operational cooperation in Afghanistan and now in Kosovo, and we do a lot of train-

ing, we've trained a lot of Armenian forces in Europe, and we also, through NATO, work with Armenia on defense reform issues...", added the US Ambassador.

During his briefing to mass media **Artsrun Hovhannisyan**, newly-appointed Press Secretary of the RA Defense Minister (congratulations!) said in his reply to a question that they sent invitations for "Interaction-2012", military exercises of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) to be held in September, to various intl organizations including the NATO and its partner countries: "We have no problems in terms of cooperation with any organization/country wishing to cooperate as any exercise has its share in increasing Armenia's Armed Forces fighting efficiency, and an evidence of its high level is the fact that we participate not only in the NATO-led peacekeeping operations, but also applied to take part in the peacekeeping exercises of the CSTO to be held in October in Kazakhstan", said Mr Hovhannisyan.

Asked to comment on an info on the possible withdrawal of the radar station from the Gabala of Azerbaijan by Russia because of their demand to receive 300mln USD as the annual rent payment instead the current 7 mln USD and Armenia's readiness to locate it here, A. Hovhannisyan said the following: "Armenia's opinion on this issue is a clear one: our strategical ally (Russia) making its all steps as an ally, and we'd not consider any decision on Gabala as smth against us, - no matter they remain in a neighboring country or not".

Acknowledgement:
Gevorg Abrahamyan,
Press Secretary of Armenia
Intl Airports
Photographs by
PanArmenian Photo
and the author

US Supreme Court May Hear First Ever Armenian Genocide-Related Lawsuit



By Harut
Sassounian
Publisher, The
California Courier

For the first time, a lawsuit indirectly involving the Armenian Genocide is being appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Since its initial filing in 2003, various federal courts have taken conflicting positions on this lawsuit.

Here is a brief background to the case: In 2000, the California legislature adopted a law - Section 354.4 of the California Code of Civil Procedure - extending to 2010 and subsequently to 2016 the deadline for Armenian Genocide victims or their heirs to file claims on insurance policies issued from 1875 to 1923 to persons living in the Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1923.

In December 2003, several California Armenians filed a class action lawsuit in Federal Court against German insurance companies for refusing to pay the proceeds of life insurance policies purchased

by their ancestors in the Ottoman Empire. The German companies, supported by the Turkish government, objected to the lawsuit and sought to have it dismissed. They claimed that the California law authorizing the lawsuit was unconstitutional because its reference to the Armenian Genocide conflicted with the federal government's policy on this issue.

When the Federal District Court rejected the insurance companies' argument on June 6, 2007, they appealed to a panel of three federal judges on the Ninth Circuit Court. In a 2-1 opinion, the judges ruled on August 20, 2009 that the California law conflicted with the Executive Branch's foreign policy prerogative. The Armenian plaintiffs then sought a rehearing of the case by the same panel of three judges. On December 10, 2010, the majority of the judges ruled that the California statute did not violate the foreign affairs doctrine.

Unhappy with this reversal, the German companies appealed to the full (en banc) Ninth Circuit Court.

By a unanimous decision, the panel of 12 federal judges ruled on February 23, 2012 that the California law was unconstitutional, as it "intruded on the federal government's foreign affairs power." Using the rarely-invoked doctrine of "field preemption," the judges ruled that Section 354.4 was unconstitutional not due to any conflict with specific actions of the federal government, but because it dealt with an area of exclusive federal responsibility, namely foreign relations.

On June 22, 2012 Igor Timofeyev of Paul Hastings LLP, Counsel for the Armenian plaintiffs, asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the case. He argued that this is the "perfect vehicle to clarify the foreign affairs preemption doctrine" and that "the Ninth Circuit's unwarranted expansion of the field preemption doctrine would... imperil numerous state laws dealing with traditional areas of state competency." Citing congressional and executive branch pronouncements favoring the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, Timofeyev pointed out that the US

government not only did not object to the Armenian Genocide resolutions issued by various states over the years, but in fact welcomed them, as Pres. Obama had done in his statement of April 24, 2012.

Meanwhile, a Supreme Court ruling in another case may have improved the prospects for the Armenian appeal. Just days after Timofeyev filed his petition, the Supreme Court issued a ruling on an Arizona statute dealing with undocumented immigrants. The Arizona case raised the very issue that is at the heart of the Ninth Circuit's en banc decision on Armenian insurance policies, namely whether a state law that could indirectly impact foreign relations in a particular area is subject to "field preemption" even in the absence of federal action in that area.

In ruling on the Arizona case, several justices found no preemption in the Arizona statute. Even the majority, which found some preemption in the Arizona statute, severely limited the application of the field preemption doctrine. Specifically, the Court ruled that, while states can-

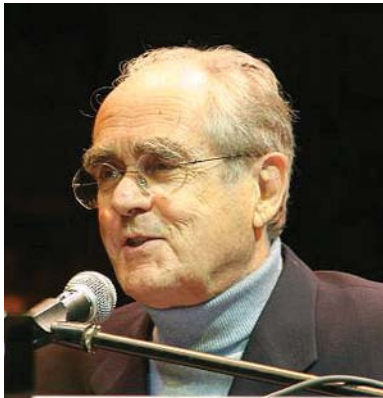
not act in an area where the federal government has a "complete," "integrated and all-embracing" regulatory system, they can do so where the federal government has "expressed no more than a 'peripheral concern'" or "done nothing to suggest it is inappropriate" for the states to act.

These statements provide strong support for overturning the Ninth Circuit's en banc decision on the Armenian insurance claims. That point will no doubt be urged on the Supreme Court by the plaintiffs and in the amicus briefs to be filed by the Armenian Bar Association and others.

This lawsuit is basically about non-payment of valid insurance claims and not about genocide recognition. German insurance companies are shamefully exploiting the genocide issue simply to avoid paying long overdue benefits to insurance claimants.

It is not known at this time if the Supreme Court will take up this appeal, since it accepts for review only a small number of cases each year.

Legendary Michel Legrand to have a concert in Yerevan



Legendary composer Michel Jean Legrand is scheduled to have a concert in Yerevan, in autumn. Armenia's State Philharmonic Orchestra press service informed Armenpress, Legrand's concert is set to take place within the framework of Yerevan classic music 6th concert festival, dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the great composer.

Legendary composer has already had concerts in Armenia previously. In 2006 he came forth in the same stage with Charles Aznavour, in 2009 jointly with his wife, harp-player Catherine Michelle. Michel Legrand is more famous for his music written for the films (over 200). The Umbrellas of Cherbourg (1964) brought him great fame.

Legrand has composed more than two hundred film and television scores and several musicals and has made well over a hundred albums. He has won three Oscars (out of 13 nominations) and five Grammys and has been nominated for an Emmy. He was twenty-two when his first album, I Love Paris, became one of the best-selling instrumental albums ever released. He is a virtuoso jazz and classical pianist and an accomplished arranger and conductor who performs with orchestras all over the world.

By Mary Hunanyan

Oxfam has provided 200-250 thousand pounds sterling for various social and agricultural programs in Vayots Dzor marz (province) in the past year, Oxfam Country Director in Armenia Margarita Hakobyan said at the July 4 press conference in Yeghegnadzor. Speaking about Oxfam's work done in Vayots Dzor and the programmes to be implemented there, she noted that the organization's strategic programme fosters the growth of incomes of small farms and helps to create agricultural cooperatives and ensure their access to markets. According to M. Hakobyan, Oxfam has some 700,000 indirect beneficiaries and over 100,000 direct ones in four Armenian marzes (Tavush, Vayots Dzor, Shirak, and Syunik) and in other regions of the country.

"We operate in 30 communities of Vayots Dzor marz and have 10,000 indirect and 3,000-5,000 direct beneficiaries, respectively," Director of Oxfam Office in Armenia said. Oxfam implements programs on health care in Vayots



Dzor (launched in 1995, the program has 200 direct beneficiaries and 8,000 indirect ones in 37 rural communities).

"We will continue our program aimed at reducing climate change-related risks and we will diversify farmer households' incomes," M.

Oxfam's social and agricultural programs in Vayots Dzor marz

Hakobyan stated.

In her words, since 2010 their organization has implemented a disaster reduction program that impacts more than 12.4 thousand direct beneficiaries and 53,000 indirect ones in ten rural communities. "With the assistance of the European Union, Oxfam is carrying out a disaster reduction programme in ten communities. Ten rescue teams have been created. Work is underway in regional schools, programmes of



rapid response during natural disasters are being developed," Ms. Hakobyan told the journalists.

Oxfam is implementing a program on strengthening institutional



Armenia said, adding that in case of gross violations of farmers' rights, the advisory centers raise these issues and restore the rights of farmers by taking legal actions.

Margarita Hakobyan said that the formation of cooperatives in rural communities will last until 2015. "We already have five cooperatives in Vayots Dzor and Tavush provinces and envisage establishing another ten by 2015," she noted.

The newly appointed governor of Vayots Dzor marz Edgar Ghazaryan considered cooperation with Oxfam quite successful. "I think that we cooperate with Oxfam very efficiently: thanks to this orga-

nization, a number of vital problems, in particular problems in healthcare and agricultural sectors, have been solved," the governor said, expressing hope that Oxfam's programmes will enable to considerably reduce poverty in their province.

because rural residents are usually less informed than urban ones and very often they cannot defend their own rights.

"Thanks to Oxfam, free advisory centers have functioned for six years," the head of Oxfam Office in



and in close cooperation with scientific research institutions and government agencies adjacent to the National Academy of Sciences.

Science campaigns are set to be carried out under the responsibility of Underwater Research and Diving Armenian center.

Underwater Researches are aimed at strengthening the preliminary results obtained in the past few

years, as well as to continue the acquisition of samples for scientists, the records of flora and fauna description.

Current year archaeological works are scheduled to be carried out in the bottom of the Lake Sevan aimed at finding the ship damaged in 15-meter-depth. All the acquired components will be provided to Armenian scientists for further research purposes.

A ship found in the bottom of Lake Sevan

Third underwater research campaign is scheduled to be launched on July 10-24, at the course of which 2010 and 2011 research works will be continued.

Underwater Research and Diving Armenian center informed Armenpress, this French-Armenian mission is being carried by three initiators of the program Claude Tulumjyan, Gabriel Melikyan, Stepan Kojayan and



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Singer Suren Arustamyan to represent Armenia at annual Jurmala song contest

Armenian singer and musician Suren Arustamyan is going to represent the country at the New Wave 2012 annual song festival in Jurmala.

He is leaving for Latvia on July 14 to participate in the contest. But before his departure, he held a news conference today to introduce himself and his expectations of the concert.

Speaking of his merits, the singer said that he differs from all the other 16 participants with his unique style.

"I have no look-alike in terms of style; they are more in the pop genre. I am the only one to sing blues. And I am also going to play music," he said, introducing the songs to be performed at the contest.

"I will very probably perform Eric Clapton's Change the World on the hit



contest day, and sing the popular Armenian song Ov Sirun Sirun (Oh, You Beautiful) at the country hit contest," he said.

The singer noted that the international hits' contest program does not offer a big choice, adding that the authorship song, which has already been selected, is very likely to be modified.

Arustamyan admitted that he does not much rely on his vocal features and is more focused on his general performance.

"I do not consider myself a vocalist, as I count more on my general performance. So I am not going to surprise anyone with my vocal music," he said.

As for his expectations for awards, the singer said he attaches more importance to good performance and is not thinking about any proposals of prize funds.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Sona Van

NOBODY LOOKS THAT WAY

(a conversation with Inna Lisnyanskaya's black and white portrait with a cigarette)



Black and white
as if from a dream
you are not looking at me
but always through me and into the distance
into a far place-
nobody looks at someone like that
nobody but the century looking upon a day
or time gazing into one's eyes

the deep grooves beneath your eyes
are irregular as if carved
on rocks along the seashore
but they evade scrutiny
Lord . . ! Is she also one of your creations
or is she of water

wind
and time?

P.S. The mystical smoke
that rises as if from your fingers
touches your eyes and leaps up enlightened
dissolving in eternity

Indonesia to help smoking Orangutan kick habit



A 15-year-old orangutan, Tori, has been smoking cigarettes at an Indonesian zoo for a decade, but she's about to go cold turkey.

Zookeepers said on July 6 that they plan to move Tori away from visitors who regularly throw lit cigarettes into her cage so they can watch and photograph her puffing away and flicking ashes on the ground, Chron.com reported.

The primate mimics human behavior, holding cigarettes casually between her fingers while taking long drags and blowing bursts of smoke out her nostrils to the delight of visitors.

TaruJurug Zoo director Lili Krisdianto said the move was aimed to protect four endangered orangutans at the 14-hectare (35-acre) zoo in the Central Java town of Solo.

Results of a medical test are expected Saturday to determine how much Tori's smoking has affected her health, said Hardi Baktiantoro of the Borneo-based Center for Orangutan Protection, which is helping to coordinate the intervention. A mesh cover will initially be placed over Tori's cage, and later she will be moved to a small island away from the public, he said.

Several Indonesian zoos have come under scrutiny following animal deaths, including a giraffe that died in the long-troubled Surabaya Zoo in March with an 18-kilogram (40-pound) ball of plastic in its stomach after years of ingesting trash thrown into its enclosure by visitors.

Indonesia is also one of the last remaining countries where tobacco companies face few restrictions on selling, advertising and promoting products long banned elsewhere.

More than 60 percent of all men light up and a third of the country's entire population smokes.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

Your partner may take on an uncharacteristic manner of self-assertion. He or she is not so likely to back down from a fight. Life will be generally more harmonious if you stay off the hot topics. If it is important to tackle them, seek a counselor, a trusted friend, or a negotiator to keep things fair.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

You are drawn to all things beautiful and truly tempted to buy the wonderful items you see, especially those for your home. If you need to watch your dollars, leave your credit cards at home and wait a couple of days before making a big purchase. Discussions with your partner about the relationship should go well.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

Love and social life are high on your priority list now. You may not have the time to attend to all your invitations! Short distance trips, errands, and education, whether it involves teaching or learning, are all on the A rated list. You have a need to communicate the ideas that rush through your mind.

Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

Your peace is disturbed by lurking fears. Instead of avoiding the problems, you could look directly into Fear's eyes and determine precisely what it is about. Do whatever seems right to diminish the potential trouble and then let it go, knowing you have done the best you can.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

Any activity that involves travel, legal affairs, publishing, education or church functions are given a "thumb's up" signal. It feels important to communicate. You are loaded with ideas, so remember to give others the option to speak also, if you want to be heard.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

You hold a privileged position during this period. You are an "advisor" to the authority, or whoever is in charge. Your intuition is on target and you can offer significant help. Therefore you can benefit from your own advice to yourself. "Tune in" with meditation, art, music, or connecting to the spirit of your understanding.

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

Mars, the warrior, enters your sign this week and will be traveling with you for seven weeks. This energy is especially helpful in defining our boundaries. Periodically we need to examine who we are and also who we are not. Often something is eliminated. In general, it increases your physical strength.

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

Over the next six weeks life will work more smoothly if you let yourself be led by the "signs," circumstances, and people around you. It will not be a time to attack in anger or initiate new ideas, but to respond to what comes your way. On the other hand, if someone else takes a swing at you, you may defend yourself as you need.

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

The shift of Jupiter (your ruling planet) to Gemini last month has brought you face to face with your past in relationships. You may be dealing with a homecoming friend. Or you may be behaving with an outdated pattern from the past. Look at it directly and change the pattern if it does not make you happy.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

You will soon be beyond a dilemma that has caused you blockage. It may have to do with an issue of debt, investments, or a loan. It's quiet in your life for the moment. Take advantage of the restful time now because next week you'll begin a new set of goals. The goat rarely rests for long.

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

This is a fine time to enjoy lovers or children or partners. Communication flows freely, whether that be verbal or written. You are of a particularly creative mind at this time. Follow your intuition about where and with whom you should be to make the most of a good week.

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

Be gentle with yourself this week. You are on a physical or emotional low. Avoid your allergens and get plenty of rest. Both your body and your feelings are hypersensitive. Step aside from stressful situations if at all possible and don't become embroiled in the trouble of others. A useful adjective for you now is "raw". Fortunately it will not last long.

HUMOR

The prison hospital

Prisoner: Look here, doctor! You've already removed my spleen, tonsils, adenoids, and one of my kidneys. I only came to see if you could get me out of this place!

Doctor: I am, bit by bit.

Will this operation hurt me at all?

Patient (to cosmetic surgeon): Will it hurt me, doctor?

Surgeon: Only when you get my bill, Mrs Brown.

Quote of the week



"I would only believe in a God who knew how to dance."

Friedrich Nietzsche

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

MEZZO

classic house club

CLUBS

MEZZO CLASSIC HOUSE CLUB

28 Isahakyan

July 9 at 9.30 p.m.
Marina and City Project Band
July 10 at 9.30 p.m.
Lupe y la Banda
July 11 at 9.30 p.m.
Art Voices" Band

COMPOTE CLUB

Koryun 19a

July 10 at 8.30 p.m.
Crayfishes
July 13 at 8.30 p.m.
Disco

PEQUENO CACTUS

Mashtoc av.

July 14 at 8 p.m.
Salsa Night
July 15 at 8 p.m.
Salsa Night

HAVANA RESTAURANT COMPLEX

Leningradyan st.

July 9 at 7 p.m.
Euro 2012

THE CLUB

40 Tumanyan Street

July 9 at 7 p.m.
Tea Master invites to tasting Chinese teas
July 10 at 8 p.m.
Film Screening The Club

TORTUGA PUB

Pushkin 51

July 12 at 7 p.m.
Crayfish day

AQUATEK

Myasnikyan st.

July 14 at 7 p.m.
Sunset Party

BOURBON ST.

Teryan 19

July 12 at 8.30 p.m.
Hayway Band (Live Music)
July 15 at 8.30 p.m.
Sharak Band. Jazz Fusion music

STOP MUSIC CLUB

Moskavian Str. Building 37

July 7 at 9 p.m.
Nairi Rock
July 10 at 9 p.m.
Warm Rain Rock
July 14 at 9 p.m.
Rum 118

LOVER'S PARK

Baghramyan st.

July 9 at 10p.m.
Golden Apricot open Air Screenings

CAFESJIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Cascade Complex

July 11at 8 p.m.
20th Century and Contemporary Music Concert
Karen Shahgaldyan-violin, Hayk Melikyan-piano
July 13 at 8 p.m.
Vahagn Hayrapetyan Trio
Featuring Armen Hyusnunts
July 14 at 8 p.m.
Armenian Jazz Band

NAREGATSI ART INSTITUTE

Vardanants 16/1

July 9 at 3 p.m.
Group Exhibition, Painting, drawing, graphics

July 10 at 5 p.m.

Poetry And Music Night.
Concert Program: Komitas, Makar Ekmalyan. Poetry Recitals Paruyt Sevak
July 11 at 7 p.m.
Film Night Series

THEATRES

STATE MARIONETTE THEATRE

Mashtots Ave. 43.

The Real Friend
July 14 at 12.30, 2 p.m.

NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE AFTER G. SUNDUKYAN

Grigor Lusavorich st., house 6

July 9 at 7 p.m.

The Adventures of Masha and the Bear

MHER MKRTCHYAN ARTISTIC THEATRE

Movses Khorenaci st., house 18

July 13 at 7.01 p.m.
Oscar. Claude Magnier. Comedy

July 14 at 3.01 p.m.
Sweet Bite. Helju Rammo. Tale

H. TUMANYAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

Sayat-Nova av., house 4

July 14 at 2 p.m.
Play for kids
Little Red Riding Hood.
Author: Charles Perrault.
July 15 at 2 p.m.
Play for kids
Alice in Wonderland.
Premier.

HAMAZGAYIN THEATRE

26 Amiryan Str.

July 13 at 7 p.m.

The Threepenny Opera.
Musical performance.

July 14 at 7 p.m.

Blaise.

July 15 at 7 p.m.

Poor Petros

H. PARONYAN STATE THEATRE OF MUSICAL COMEDY

Vazgen Sargsyan st.

July 12 at 7 p.m.

Khanuma

July 13 at 7 p.m.

Filumena Marturano

YEREVAN STATE CHAMBER THEATRE

Mashtots ave, 58.

July 10, 11 at 7 p.m.

It Doesn't Matter With Whom

July 12, 13at 7 p.m.

Scotch & Whisky. Premiere.
Optimistic Comedy

CONCERT HALL

Abovyan St.

July 9- 12 at 6 p.m.

The 20th Concert-Lecture of Komitas Concert Series

ARAM KHACHATURIAN CONCERT HALL

46 Mesrop Mashtots Poghota

July 11 at 7 p.m

Concert. Armen Babakhanyan (piano)

July 13 at 7 p.m.

APO & Astghik Siranossian

July 15 at 8 p.m.

Armenian Dance Studio's Concert

ARMENIAN CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY EXPERIMENTAL ART

1/3 Pavstos Biuzand

July 10-28 at 6 pm.

Group Exhibition of contemporary Art of Romania, National Museum of Contemporary Art

Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall

20 ՀԱՅԿԱՆ
JULY 2012
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Artistic Director & Principal Conductor
Eduard Topchjan

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Արամ Խաչատրյան «Ռիմալաիանդո» սյուիտ
Կարեն Խաչատրյան «Չիպոլինո» սյուիտ

Bizet-Shchedrin: Carmen Suite
Aram Kahchaturian: "Masquerade" suite
Karen Khachaturian: "Chipolino" suite

Կիրիլ Դրոբն Լաստրյան
Conductor
Ruben Asatryan

K. STANISLAVSKI STATE RUSSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

Abovyan st., house 7

July 12 at 7 p.m.

Khanuma

July 13 at 7 p.m.

Filumena Marturano

HENRIK MALYAN THEATRE OF FILM ACTORS

Vardanants 18 (entrance from Vernissage)

July 11 at 7 p.m.

Physiology of Race.
Tragicomedy

July 13 at 7 p.m.

Play for kids
Tales

CONCERT HALLS

ARNO BABAJANYAN

CINEMA

CINEMA MOSCOW

18 Abovyan Str.,

July 10 at 8 p.m.

Armenian Premiere of Joan And The Voices