

## Armenian Armed Forces Make Azerbaijan to Come Back to Peace Talks

### Special Press Conference at the Defence Ministry

At a news conference held on 1 October at the Armenian Defence Ministry was reported that, throughout the week before, Azerbaijani forces have violated the ceasefire regime 445 times, using different caliber infantry and artillery weapons. (It should be reminded that due to such actions Armenians had a number of dead and injured including those of civil population both in Armenia and NKR).

During the news conference reference was made to Azerbaijan's consistent provocative and ill-considered actions undertaken on the Armenian-Azerbaijani national border and Karabakh-Azerbaijani contact line, from September 25 to 30, as well as **adequate retaliations by the Armenian side.**

The press conference was followed by a video presentation (shot by the Armenian drones) displaying the enemy's human and material damages, caused by the Armenian attacks. At the end of the meeting, the representatives of the RA Ministry of Defence answered the reporters' questions.



#### In This Issue

- Armenian President briefs UN Secretary General on Azeri violence** p.4
- Sale of Armenian Power Grids cleared by regulators** p.6
- German Unity Day Celebrated in Armenia** p.10
- Youth Orchestra Starts Saturated Season 2015/2016** p.11
- 18th annual ARPA International Film Festival to open with 'Lost Birds'** p17

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## President Sargsyan addresses UN General Assembly, speaks on Armenian Genocide, Karabakh, Middle East

On September 29, President Serzh Sargsyan partook in the 70th session of the c in New York, where he made an address.

### Statement by the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly

Distinguished President Lykketoft,

I congratulate you upon election to the honorable post of the President of the United Nations General Assembly. I am confident that under your able leadership this jubilee Session will meet expectations we all harbor.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I also congratulate all of us upon the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. The establishment of this Organization had been one of the greatest achievements of the humankind that consolidated nations around shared aspirations and principles. The past 70 years have been characterized by the most important positive developments - an end was put to colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid. Many people around the world exercised their right to self-determination, got in charge of their own fate by establishing and building independent states of their own, thus increasing the number of the UN member States from 51 to 193.

Amid all these achievements, we shall recognize that currently the world faces new challenges such as terrorism, extremism, intolerance, economic crises, climate change, trafficking in human beings and their organs, as well as drugs and arms, migration crisis etc. The list enumerating these challenges is long. It is the very necessity to struggle against them that obliges us to resolutely reiterate our joint commitment to the mission of this Organization and its Charter.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last year, on the eve of the Armenian Genocide Centennial, from this podium I expressed our gratitude to the nations that recognized the Armenian Genocide and named them all individually. I called upon the international community to bolster the struggle against the recurrence of the crime of genocide through recognition and condemnation.

Today, from this very podium, I thank Pope Francis, and acknowledge the historical Mass he celebrated; the European Parliament, and recall the Resolution it adopted; the German President, and, believe me, his well-known statement will thenceforth take part in the pages of our nation's history textbooks. I thank the legislative bodies of Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile,

Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, numerous provincial and city councils, as well as dozens and hundreds political and non-governmental organizations.

I thank the Presidents of Russia, France, Cyprus, and Serbia, as well as delegations of numerous other countries that on April 24 paid tribute to the victims of the Armenian Genocide in Yerevan.

Our determination to keep the prevention of the crime of genocide on the international agenda is testified by the Resolutions we periodically table at the Human Rights Council, and the latest one to that effect was adopted this year. Building further upon it, just a few days ago this Assembly passed a resolution establishing December 9 as "the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime."

Dear Attendees,

The peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh problem remains one of the most salient issues in our region. I shall note that aggressive policy pursued

by Azerbaijan resulted in the absence of any meaningful progress of negotiations for the conflict settlement, and the situation drifts toward increasing tension. The dictatorial regime of the country made disgraceful repression an instrument to strangle the people's wrath as the oil-based economy obviously falters, and even that, nevertheless, it considers being inefficient. Now it needs images from the Line-of-Contact in order to divert the attention of its own public. I would like to draw the attention of this Assembly to the fact that Azerbaijan, besides various provocative actions, has now started to apply large-caliber artillery firing at the peaceful settlements of the bordering districts of both the Republic of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

Just a few days ago in the bordering area of Armenia three women fell victim to Azerbaijani bombardment. The question that comes up to one's mind is whether there is any reasonable person that can demonstrate any unflawed logic of that cruelty. It is obvious for us that the Azerbaijani leadership has irreversibly lost both the sense of reality and of norms of human conduct.

Azerbaijan completely disdains 5 joint Statement issued by the Presidents of the U.S., Russia and France, and the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group. Shall it continue its such an aggressive policy, it will not leave Armenia any other choice but to take necessary legal and political-military steps to provide the Republic of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh Republic with the opportunity to develop in security and peace.

Although it is obvious to everybody as to which party instigates the cease-fire violations, I still would recall some facts.

It is strange - isn't it? - that now it has already been for years that Azerbaijan stubbornly refused to withdraw snipers and estab-





lish incident investigation mechanism, which were proposed by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs. The question that comes up to one's mind is what Azerbaijan is afraid of?

It is strange - isn't it? - that during the European Games hosted by Azerbaijan, when they needed image of stability, there had been almost no shooting fired at the border, while immediately subsequent those Games shootings extensively renewed. I do not expect you to buy assertions of any of the parties, but still anticipate you to exercise your mother wit.

It is strange - isn't it? - that in the 21st century our neighbor day in, and day out, relentlessly and indefatigably takes pride in excessive accumulation of arms and manifold expansion of the military budget; it stubbornly continues making bellicose threats to renew the military hostilities, and does it at the highest level of the head of state.

I think now it is obvious to everyone why Armenia had consistently been urging the international community to make statements that were not generic, but were unambiguous as to whom it was addressed to while discussing the ceasefire violations. We shall understand that muffling of the early warning signals of threats to the peace and security may materialize in catastrophic repercussions.

Dear Colleagues,

Today we witness unspeakable cruelty taking place in the Middle East. The religious intolerance resulted in the irreversible aftermath. We have been most directly affected by the atrocities unfolding there, since they result in the destruction of the Armenian spiritual and cultural heritage artefacts, murder and expulsion of the numerous Armenians residing in Iraq and Syria. The Armenian community of Syria, whose history is centuries-long, shares and experiences all hardships that the Syrian people are undergoing in these difficult times. We are trying to aid the refugees to the best of our abilities: until this day, Armenia received more than 16 thousand refugees from Syria. By this sheer figure, Armenia is one of the first among recipient European countries.

Armenians know well the fate of the refugees, of the exiled and expelled. The Armenian Genocide should have claimed many more lives, and the survivors should have gone through much

more hardship unless a number of nations, our friends had given us their shoulder in those difficult times. Today it is Germany, Sweden, and some other countries that deserve their due praise for humanism they displayed. They provided hundreds of thousands of refugees with safe haven, and thus reiterated that the assistance was necessary both from the legal and humanist perspectives.

Dear Colleagues,

This year we all witnessed how the joint and adequate actions paved the way to smoothing out a difficult international issue. An historical agreement was made on the nuclear program of the Islamic Republic of Iran, an immediate neighbor of ours. That critical deal is undoubtedly going to contribute to the global settlement of the conflict situations and consolidation of the mutual trust, and it was made possible by the extended and consistent political and diplomatic efforts.

All these come to prove that when there is a political will to bridge disagreements and emphasize the spirit of cooperation, it is indeed possible to find solutions for the most complicated issues. From this podium I would like to once again stress the importance of taking diplomatic efforts, especially with the aim to eliminate the closed borders. Armenia has been subjected to the illegal blockade by its neighbors, and we deem unacceptable such an improvident policy that in the 21st century establishes artificial obstacles disrupting intercultural, human to human and trade contacts. In this context, we highly value the periodic review carried out under the framework of the UN Conferences on Landlocked Developing Countries. We stand ready to invest further efforts in this endeavor, also by hosting intermediate workshops on this topic in our country.

Mr. President,

To conclude I would like to join all speakers who have called to take joint efforts to struggle against the darkness, vandalism and hatred. There can be no great and small countries for that cause, and every single one has a role to play. Armenia stands ready to make its contribution to that joint struggle of ours.

Thank you.



## Armenian President addresses UN Summit on Peacekeeping Operations

President Serzh Sargsyan, who has arrived in the United States of America to take part in the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, participated in the UN Summit on Peacekeeping Operations on 28 September in New York, where he made an address.

### Statement by the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan at the UN Peacekeeping summit

Dear Colleagues,

I thank President Obama for the initiative of this summit, which is of pivotal importance from the international security perspective.

Despite the immense efforts directed by the international community toward prevention of conflicts and their peaceful resolution, peace and security remain fragile and vulnerable.

I am glad to note that despite the present tensions on our borders, Armenia's engagement in the area of international peacekeeping has gradually expanded both geography-, and quantity-, and quality-wise. Currently Armenia is already an active contributor to the international peace and security, and in the course of the preceding decade it accumulated considerable experience.

Since 2004 Armenian peacekeepers joined the operation in Kosovo, and later the same year - the one in Iraq. Since 2010 we have taken part in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. Since 2015 we have partaken in the Resolute Support Mission in that very country, and, as we have declared on numerous other occasions, we will stand there with our international partners until that mission is accomplished.

Last year we expanded our engagement with peacekeeping missions. Now we are also present in the UNIFIL mission that is stationed in Lebanon. Moreover, this July Armenia launched its participation in the MINUSMA peacekeeping mission in Mali.



And, most recently, we have undertaken new commitments to develop appropriate skills to be provided in the course of our future participation in the UN peacekeeping operations such as a Role II medical hospital and training of associated personnel, as well as training of a company of EOD/C-IED (Explosive Ordnance Disposal & Counter-Improvised Explosive Device) soldiers.

The U.S., Greece, Germany, as well as NATO structures and other member States have played pivotal role in the establishment and development of the Armenian peacekeeping capabilities, and I extend our special gratitude to them upon it.

Preservation of international peace and security is a primary responsibility for all, both great and smaller States, and peacekeeping is a major conduit to achieve that objective. Today we still need to take additional collective measures for its further consolidation. It is obvious that a peaceful and safe world may be secured solely by comprehensive, joint and careful measures to be taken.

Thank you.

## Armenian President briefs UN Secretary General on Azeri violence

President Serzh Sargsyan, who is visiting the United States of America to take part in the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, had a meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on September 29. The president congratulated the secretary-general upon the 70th jubilee of the organization, stressing that when Armenia joined the UN 23 years ago, it has felt supported by the organization from the very first day.

Serzh Sargsyan expressed his satisfaction with the successful end of the final summit of the program "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" a few days ago, in which the UN secretary-

general has played his role. Armenia's president expressed the hope that the new comprehensive program will help raise the quality of living conditions for all people on the planet.

At the meeting, the parties touched upon the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process. The president informed Ban Ki-moon about the current stage of the conflict, the present problems and especially about the tensions at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and the contact line with Nagorno-Karabakh caused by the recent ceasefire violations of Azerbaijan, which he had also touched upon at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly. The UN secretary-general

expressed his concern over the current tensions, stressing the need for a settlement mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs.

The interlocutors exchanged views on present-day international issues, and on worrisome events occurring in the world - new conflicts, increasing terrorism and extremism, the growing tensions in the Near and Middle East. Ban Ki-moon welcomed and thanked our country for the steps to provide refugees from northern Iraq and Syria with safe haven in Armenia. The UN secretary-general attached importance to the forum on global challenges of peacekeeping to be held in Yerevan in the near future.



## Nagorno Karabakh: Victoria Nuland concerned by renewal of violence

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian had a meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland.

The parties hailed the high-level bilateral relations and emphasized the importance of the agreement on visa facilitation that came into force in 2015.

Reference was made to the perspectives of development of Armenian-American economic cooperation. The interlocutors exchanged views on the forthcoming founding meeting of the U.S.-Armenia Trade and Investment Council.

Minister Nalbandian briefed Victoria Nuland on the process of constitutional reforms in Armenia.

Cooperation within international organizations was also on the agenda. The Assistant Secretary of State expressed gratitude to Armenia for the active participation in peacekeeping operations.

The Armenian Foreign Minister and the US Assistant Secretary of State exchanged views on the process of peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict. Minister Nalbandian pre-



sented the situation established as a result of harsh violations of the ceasefire regime by Azerbaijan.

Victoria Nuland expressed her deep concern over the escalation of tension and stressed the importance of observing the ceasefire.

The interlocutors referred to issues of fighting terrorism, the developments in the Middle East, the protection of minority rights.

## Armenia chides ex-soviet allies over Karabakh

Armenia criticized the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) for not overtly backing it in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as it hosted on September 30 military exercises of six ex-Soviet republics making up the Russian-led military alliance.

Colonel-General Yuri Khachaturov, the chief of the Armenian army's General Staff, voiced Yerevan's discontent after some 600 troops from the CSTO member states began simulating peacekeeping operations at a vast shooting range about 40 kilometers west of the Armenian capital.

The participating troops, 100 of them from Russia, are part of a CSTO peacekeeping force created in 2008. They are backed up by about 50 tanks, armored vehicles, artillery systems, combat helicopters and drones.

The five-day exercises began just days after a fresh escalation of tensions in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone which Armenia blames on Azerbaijan. Neither the CSTO's Secretariat in Moscow nor any official representing the bloc has reacted to this or previous upsurges in truce violations there.

Khachaturov deplored this fact when he spoke to reporters after the opening ceremony of the drills codenamed "Indestructible Brotherhood-2015." "As regards CSTO members not reacting [to



Azerbaijan's actions,] of course we wish they were more active," he said. "Unfortunately, there has been no serious reaction yet. It's desirable to hear such reaction."

"We are part of the same security structure and there should at least be a reaction. We are not asking for [military] assistance for now. But it would be good to at least get moral support," added the Armenian army chief.

Valery Semerikov, the CSTO's deputy secretary general monitoring the drills, defended the bloc's cautious stance, saying that CSTO heads of state "paid a lot of attention" to the Karabakh escalation when it was brought up by President Serzh Sarkisian at a recent summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Semerikov also

argued that the Armenian military is capable of dealing with "provocations" in the conflict zone without outside assistance.

"We are able to deal with the problems which Azerbaijan creates for us every day," confirmed Khachaturov.

Armenia has previously accused some of its ex-Soviet allies of effectively siding with Azerbaijan in the Karabakh dispute. Two of them, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, signed up in 2013 to a declaration of Turkic states that called for a Karabakh settlement "within Azerbaijan's internationally recognized borders."

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan well as Tajikistan had earlier backed even more pro-Azerbaijani statements adopted by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

## Sale of Armenian Power Grids cleared by regulators

Armenian regulators on October 1 formally allowed Russia's Inter RAO group to sell Armenia's national electric utility owned by it to a Russian-Armenian tycoon who has pledged to overhaul the heavily indebted company.

The Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC) made the decision one day after the announcement of the deal struck by Inter RAO and Samvel Karapetyan's Tashir Group mainly operating in Russia. It is still not clear how much Tashir will pay for the acquisition of the Electric Networks of Armenia (ENA) company.

Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian stressed the importance of the deal at a cabinet meeting held later in the day. He said that the Armenian government itself asked Karapetyan to take over the ENA earlier this year after Inter RAO "expressed a desire" to sell its loss-making Armenian subsidiary.

"At our request, Tashir Group has committed itself to ensuring that the company is managed in accordance with international standards and reducing its technological and commercial losses over the next five years," Abrahamian told ministers. He indicated that the ENA will be managed by Kaskad-Energo, a Russian energy firm which is part of Karapetyan's business conglomerate.

Kaskad-Energo specializes in manufacturing low-voltage electric equipment and installing it at residential and office buildings and industrial enterprises.

In a joint statement with Inter RAO issued on Wednesday, Tashir said it has drawn up an "anti-crisis program" for the ENA that will involve "tighter controls" over the company's finances widely believed to be embezzled by ENA staff. Tashir also pledged to embark on a "gradual modernization of the power



grids' equipment."

The ENA has incurred mounting losses since 2010 despite repeated increases in electricity prices approved by the utility regulators. The most recent price hike announced by the PSRC in June sparked dramatic street protests in Yerevan. They forced the government to subsidize power supplies and thereby make the energy tariffs unchanged for households and some small businesses.

Abrahamian confirmed that Karapetyan, who was born and lived in Armenia until the early 1990s, and the government will jointly finance the subsidy at least until August 2016. He cautioned, though, that it will only apply to individual and corporate consumers using up to 250 kilowatts of electricity per month.

Abrahamian estimated that nearly 80 percent of Armenians will be covered by the subsidy. He insisted that the other, wealthier households can afford higher tariffs.

## IFC finds export, investment opportunities for Armenian fish production

A new study released today by IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, shows that improvements in productivity, output quality, and food safety standards, combined with market and product diversification, can increase the competitiveness of Armenian fish products and lead to greater access to export markets.

Armenia's aquaculture sector is an important employer, a key food provider, and an engine for export-driven economic growth. It is also one of the country's fastest-growing sectors. Yet its untapped potential remains significant: At the request of Armenia's Ministry of Economy, the IFC Armenia Investment Climate Reform Project has produced a sector review to pinpoint market imperfections and offer recommendations.

"The Armenia Aquaculture Sector Review developed at the Ministry's request by IFC will be a useful tool for policymakers and businesses operating in this sector," said Sergey Avetisyan, Deputy Minister of Economy of Armenia. "It will help develop the country's fish industry and stimulate export performance."

The report found that improving export and import procedures can help increase the competitiveness of aquaculture products. It also stressed the importance of addressing the challenges and opportunities of exporting to foreign markets, including the benefits of improved food safety practices, a stronger supply chain, and reduced administrative barriers.



"This review aims to help tap the country's significant potential and thereby contribute to Armenia's economic development," said Arsen Nazaryan, the IFC Armenia Investment Climate Reform Project Manager. "We look forward to continued cooperation with our partners to do more to enhance the competitiveness and promote exports of the country's agriculture products."

The IFC Armenia Investment Climate Reform Project is implemented by the World Bank Group Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice, in partnership with Austria's Federal Ministry of Finance and Hungarian Partnership Funding/Hungary EXIM Bank.



## World Bank approves US\$21 million loan for Armenia's public sector modernization



The World Bank Board of Executive Directors today approved a US\$21 million loan for the Third Public Sector Modernization Project (PSMP III) for Armenia. This project will further assist the Government of Armenia in its on-going efforts to improve quality of the public financial reporting and to improve access to selected enhanced e-government services.

PSMP III supports three main components: (i) Public Financial Management Information Systems; (ii) e-Governance Solutions for Improved Service Delivery; and (iii) Capacity Building and Small Capacity Building Interventions.

The first component will assist the Government to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and comprehensiveness of its financial management and accounting through the development of a Government Financial Management Information System (GFMIS). The proposed GFMIS modules will include improvement, among others, in budget planning, budget execution, public procurement, debt management, accounting, budget reporting, and the general ledger.

"Strengthening governance through improved public service delivery is among the priorities for Bank support," said Laura E. Bailey, World Bank Country Manager for Armenia. "I will particularly highlight the proposed Citizen-Government Interface for Accountability under the second project component. This will

support the establishment of feedback mechanisms to facilitate citizen and business access to government services, address grievances, and monitor client satisfaction."

The second component will support the implementation of select priorities as identified in Armenia's e-Governance Strategy. Key elements will include: development of the enabling environment by strengthening policy, regulatory frameworks and building institutions and capacity within the government to undertake introduction of e-governance platforms, and introduction of foundational platforms and infrastructure necessary for government-wide e-services.

Other sub-components are focused on developing: e-Transport modules to improve efficiency and the quality of transportation services in Yerevan; additional modules to the current e-Consular system, including a consular registration process for travelers and issuing e-visas; and upgrading the current e-Licensing system through automation of the simplified procedure of licenses issued on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, management of electronic license registry, and streamlined reports and notifications.

The third component seeks to strengthen the capacity of the Civil Service Council and Armenian Academy of Public Administration to modernize the training system for public servants and raise the quality of trainings.

PSMP III continues the reforms supported under PSMP I and PSMP II (on-going). PSMP-I, implemented between 2004 and 2011, supported institutional reforms in the areas of policy formulation, local government and civil service, together with Public Financial Management interventions in the areas of public procurement and external and internal audit.

The World Bank will provide a US\$21 million IBRD fixed spread loan with a 14.5-year grace period and a total repayment term of 25 years.

Since joining the World Bank in 1992 and IDA in 1993, the commitments to Armenia total approximately US\$2,179.730 million.

## Consulting firm says power price hike in Armenia justified



Deloitte and Touche international audit firm has said the power price hike in Armenia was justified.

The company has presented the report on the first stage of

consulting services to the Public Services Regulatory Commission.

"We analyzed the situation in Armenia, where the sole energy supplier stands at the verge of default, which is mainly connected with the inconsistency between the predictions of the system's operator and the load capacity," Deloitte and Touche said in the report.

"Power generating companies had already felt the influence of the scarcity of financial means of the company [Electric Networks of Armenia], which would threaten the whole energy system of the country in the short-term perspective," the report reads.

"Under these conditions we consider that the decision of the regulatory body to stabilize the situation in the sphere and ensure reliable energy supply to consumers is justified.



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### 1 ROOM

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

### 2 ROOMS

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



### 3 ROOMS

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

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

### PREMISES

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

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

### LANDS

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

### PRIVATE HOUSES

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

### NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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





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## 1 ROOM

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

## 2 ROOMS

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

## 3 ROOMS AND MORE

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

- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2286. **Sose str.**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

## PRIVATE HOUSES

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

- 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- 1142. **Dirvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitally repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- 1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price- 4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitally repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitally repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- 2033. **Abovyan str**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD
- 2031. **Vardanants str**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m., Price: 8000 USD
- 2027. **Sayat Nova str**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

## German Unity Day Celebrated in Yerevan



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

**Chief  
Correspondent**

On 2 October newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Armenia Herr **Matthias Kiesler** and Frau **Karin Marmsoler** hold reception at the Yerevan Armenia Marriott Hotel on the occasion of the German Unity Day. His Excellency reminded an impressive crowd of guests gathered at the hall the history and meaning of the National Day of the Bundesrepublik. Talking about the Day of German reunification, Mr Kiesler said: *"Exactly 25 years ago, East and West Germany were re-united, overcoming the painful separation happened as a result of the World War II."* Mr Ambassador invited the guests to get acquainted a photo exhibition at the entrance to the Hall illustrating the path the Germans passed on behalf of the reunification. Ambassador Kiesler mentioned that the meaning of the historical events took place a quarter century ago was, among others, reconciliation of the two parts of the German people and normalization of relations with Germany's neighbor countries such as Poland, in Ambassador's words, *"the first victim of the Nazi Germany in the WWII"*. Due to this spirit of compromise today the two countries are good partners and friends, stressed Ambassador Kiesler.

further develop cultural and educational cooperation. After the EU and the US Germany is the largest development cooperation partner for Armenia," - he said.

And then Herr Kiesler told some phrases in German to his fellow compatriots.

Armenian Prime Minister **Hovik Abrahamyan** who attended reception, delivered a congratulatory speech, which particularly read, *"On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and on my own, I cordially congratulate You, Mr. Ambassador, the staff of the German Embassy and, through the Embassy, the friendly nation and the authorities of Germany on the occasion of the Unity Day of Germany. The day of October 3 is, indeed, an important day for the Federal Republic of Germany. The old dream of millions of Germans, unification of the two*

thousand Armenian community in Germany, serve as favorable grounds for developing Armenian-German bilateral relations.

*High level political dialogue has been established and successfully continues during intergovernmental cooperation dating back over two decades. Close ties have been established between the National Assembly of Armenia and German Bundestag"*.

PM Abrahamyan also indicated the partnership in culture, science, trade and other spheres, adding that Germany is an important trade partner of Armenia and the first one among EU member states. Hovik Abrahamyan emphasized the existence of German capital in Armenia indicating that over eight dozens of German companies operate in Armenia. He particularly emphasized the military cooperation between the two states within the framework of international peacekeeping missions.

*"At the same time I am sure that bilateral cooperation has development potentials. I hope that we will not only preserve what we have achieved, but also, by mutual efforts, foster further the positive dynamics of development of relations"*, the Armenian PM said.

Concluding his speech, Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan once again congratulated everyone on this memorable day wishing Germany and its people further achievements and peace.

In his brief interview with The Highlights Ambassador Mathias Kiesler said that he felt himself in Armenia very good as *"people here is warm and hos-*



*parts of Germany, came into reality 25 years ago, on October 3 of 1990. It was a development of European and world importance as well, as the collapse of the Berlin Wall signaled the end of a whole era of*



The Ambassador stressed that Europe today confronts a number of serious challenges. But, nevertheless, according to Herr Kiesler, *"the EU is a success story"*. And... *"I am convinced that hand-to-hand Europeans can overcome all these challenges,"* Matthias Kiesler said.

As to bilateral German-Armenian relationship, they have developed in various spheres, Mr Ambassador said. According to Mathias Kiesler, *"Number of mutual visits were registered, in particular, through the activities in connection with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 24 April" (Armenian Genocide - The Highlights)*. *"German President Gauck gave a climactic speech in the Berlin Cathedral. More recently, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding to*

*totalitarian rule, launching the free end democratic development of Eastern Europe and influenced the future world developments. Today, unified Germany is an important player on the international platform, is actively engaged in overcoming global challenges, as well as has its significant contribution in the regional security and stability. Consistent development of relation with Germany was and remains among foreign priorities of the Republic of Armenia. We attach great importance to strengthening and extending relations with Germany both by bilateral and multi-level formats, including within the framework of Eastern partnership. Centuries-old historical-cultural ties between our two nations, as well as the factor of the existence of the multi-*



*pitable, and the relations between Germany and Armenia are excellent". And..."...just in ten days I handed my credentials to the President of Armenia His Excellency Mr Serzh Sargsyan, so the beginning was fantastic...And presence of so big number of the guests at today's reception is the indication of the big interest from Armenians to Germany..."*

Mr Ambassador said he's got knew about *"the horrible history"* of the Armenian people from his New York-based lady friend, an Armenian from Lebanon while not so many people in Germany knew about, - as this time Herr Kiesler said, - *"Genocide"*. *"But this year was different, - so many in my country already know about it"*, His Excellency emphasized.



## State Youth Orchestra Opens a Saturated Concert Season 2015/2016

**The Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia Sergey Smbatyan mentioned that it is a rather important day both for him and the Orchestra...**

On the 1st of October, at the National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after Al. Spendiaryan a nice concert was held that marked the opening of the 2015/2016 season of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (Partner - "Unibank"). The SYOA performed Pyotr Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No.1 (**Armen Babakhanyan**/piano), pieces from Aram Khachaturian "Spartacus" Ballet (Introduction and Dance, Adagio Spartacus and Phrygia, Variation of Aegina and Bacchanalia, Scene and Dance with Crotalums, Dance of Gaditanae and Victory of Spartacus). The jam-packed Hall was blasted that night by non-stop "Bravo"-s and "Encore"-s, and there were a sea

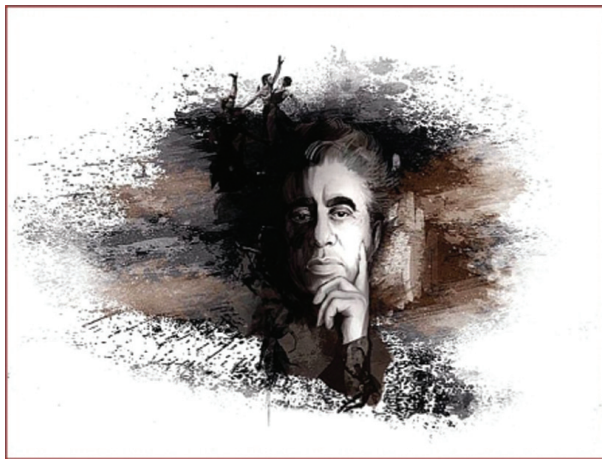
held. During the last season the SYOA was the official orchestra of Al Bustan International Festival and this is a long term process. Performances at UNESCO

at the world famous stages: Brucknerfest and the Vienna "Musikverein", "Mozart" concert hall in Zaragoza and the "Teatro Real" in Madrid. Within the new season, from October 3 to December 5, the Youth Orchestra will present Khachaturian International Festival, which since 2015 is held under the patronage of RA President **Serzh Sargsyan**. The festival will feature symphony (on Saturdays) and the chamber (on Wednesdays) concerts. In December of new 2015 season the Youth Orchestra will present Non Stop Concert Program and in January the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia will celebrate its 10th anniversary. All this will be broadcast on-line on SYOA TV.

You can watch the first con-



of flowers from grateful listeners... The Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia **Sergey Smbatyan** mentioned that it was a rather important day both for him and orchestra. Musicians always look forward to the new concert season. The Maestro underlined that a very active concert season with a busy schedule both in Armenia and abroad is expected: "We know that the Armenian audience is waiting for us, and we will do every possible to realize more interesting projects." Summing up the results of the previous season, it should be noted that it was productive, effective and full of achievements. Numerous meetings with the Armenian audience and concert series abroad which have received the appreciation of foreign audience were



Hall in Paris and at "Debussy" concert Hall in Cannes were milestones. And the Orchestra has just returned from Austria and Spain, where preformed with concerts

cert of the State Youth Orchestra's new season here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=2&v=qkSi1Hv24po>

So on 3 October 3rd Aram Khachaturian Festival started with SYOA performing the following program:

Aram Khachaturian - Triumphant Poem; Aram Khachaturian - Symphony No.2 - "The Bell Symphony". Conductor that night was Sergey Smbatyan. Notably, concerts of the 3rd Khachaturian Festival are available online.

You can follow up all the concert at SYOA TV, using

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsnBgpm7fC9P4ucAg4wYxg>



## Armenian President addresses a reception at US Congress

On 30 September, President Serzh Sargsyan took part in a reception held by the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation at the United States Congress in honor of the RA president. Apart from foundation representatives, the reception was attended about two dozen congressmen, e.g. Ed Royce, chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressmen Adam Schiff, Brad Sherman, Jackie Speier, Robert Dold, Jim Costain-Dave Trott, David Valadao, Judy Chu, and by some influential representatives of the Armenian community. During the congressional reception, the RA president made an address at the end of which the foundation members handed over the Raoul Wallenberg Foundation Medal to Morgenthau's grandson Robert Morgenthau. The congressmen and the other guests welcomed the RA president and stressed that as friends of Armenia and the Armenian people, they will thenceforth continue to stand beside Armenia to help deal with its vital problems and contribute to the development, strengthening and well-being of Armenia.

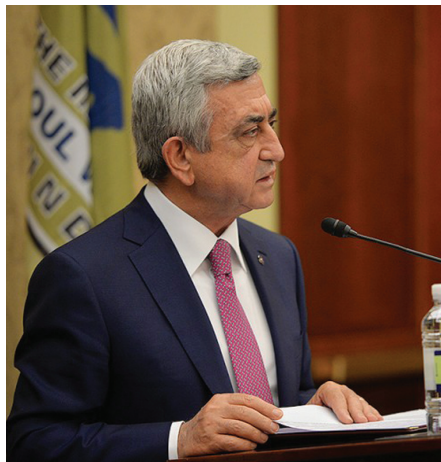
### Remarks by the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan at the Congressional Luncheon

Eminencies,  
Honorable Chairman  
Royce,  
Distinguished Members  
of the Congress,  
Distinguished Messrs.  
Eurnekian and  
Tenenbaum,

It is a great honor for me to be here today. This gathering is paying tribute not only to the victims, survivors, and their descendants, but also to the entire Armenian people. This is equally an expression of respect for all nations that have ever gone through the ordeal which is genocide.

This provides yet another opportunity to state that tolerance, alongside pluralism and equality in rights, is the source of ultimate values, though it may also be

nefarious when the object of tolerance is vice, when the deplorable is tolerated. Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor and Nobel prize winner, said: "Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become



irrelevant. Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must - at that moment - become the center of the universe."

In this respect the initiative to posthumously award the International Raoul Wallenberg Medal to Henry Morgenthau, Sr., is momentous and possesses a particular significance. I am delighted that his grandson, Mr. Robert Morgenthau, is here with us today.

Mr. Morgenthau,

Your grandfather was the first American to tell the world of the mass atrocities by the Young Turks against the Armenian people, qualifying them as a "campaign of race extermination". Holding the office of the U.S. ambassador to the Ottoman Empire and having witnessed the nightmare first hand, he was to subsequently write in his Ambassador Morgenthau's Story: "I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared with the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915. ... For all I know this represents a new crime pursuing wholesale extermination." Subsequently this new crime that Morgenthau detailed was to be qualified as Genocide by Raphael Lemkin.

They say that as long as memory stays alive, so does the truth.

Quite a number of facts associated with the Armenian Genocide have passed to us through Henry Morgenthau's memoir. To this day his account is one of the most important original sources documenting the premeditated nature of the savage and inhuman crimes by the Young Turks. It is appropriate to recall how one of the organizers of the Armenian Genocide, interior minister of the Ottoman Empire Talaat had reproved Ambassador

Morgenthau: "Why are you so interested in the Armenians anyway? You are a Jew; these people are Christians... Why can't you let us do with these Christians as we please?"

It was the same Morgenthau who conceptualized and advocated for the American Committee for Relief in the Near East. Hundreds of its workers in various countries, including Armenia, undertook to provide care for orphans, saving tens of thousands of parentless



Armenian children from imminent death. Upon completion of diplomatic service, he continued humanitarian endeavors, providing assistance to Armenian, Assyrian and Greek exiles who had survived the mass slaughter and had been purged from their homeland. This remains one of the highlights of American humanism.

Henry Morgenthau's name is indelible for every Armenian: as a champion putting truth above silence, who preferred the selfless and sometimes unsafe task of helping those who were in peril. It is not incidental that the memorial wall next to the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, among other intellectuals and prominent figures who had raised their voice against the Armenian Genocide, contains an urn with soil from Morgenthau's grave. In April this year the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute held a tribute, with the participation of his family, launching the publication of Morgenthau's Story in the Armenian language. Moreover, the Armenian Postal service issued a stamp in his memory, and I too attended its official First Day cancellation ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Ladies and  
Gentlemen,

Several months ago I visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. It is a most compelling and articulate testimonial to the crime of genocide. Museums on crimes perpetrated against humanity convey a clear message to current and future generations: never to forget the grim chapters of history. Still, we should not rely solely on museums and memorials. Remaining faithful to the dictum "We Remember," we must do everything possible, and the impossible, to secure a safe future for those who come after us. Hence, propagating the mission of Henry Morgenthau and his successors acquires great importance for us not only with a view of pre-

serving memory for the future generations of Armenians and Americans, but also in the context of humanitarian education on a global scale. We should converge our efforts to keep alive the memory of the victims of the crime of genocide, to build a world free of violence. The prevention of the crime of genocide and fighting its denial is an important pivot in this pursuit.

I reiterate my words of gratitude addressed to the Raoul Wallenberg

spared no efforts over years towards the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Your role in the recognition and condemnation of our national tragedy is undeniable. I am certain that the work you have done shall culminate in its logical conclusion.

While being here, at the Capitol Hill, I would like to extend our words of gratitude to the people of the United States, and the U.S. Congress for the humanitarian assistance allocated to Nagorno Karabakh over the years. That assistance has been significant for the people of Artsakh both from the humanitarian and, first and foremost, moral perspective. It comes to testify, time and again, that the Nagorno Karabakh Republic has not been forgotten in its efforts to build independent and democratic state while countering the persistent provocations of Azerbaijan, which has chosen the path to perfect the tyranny. It is unambiguous that the Nagorno Karabakh people's path toward freedom, toward determination to master its fate on its own, and toward building a democratic society is irrevocable. In this context, your continued support is indeed crucial.

Dear attendees,

Allow me to conclude in an optimistic key: if there is agony and genocide in this world, there also exist

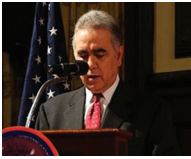
Wallenberg and Morgenthau, who have long become common name for us. Common name, since they stand for all humanitarians of this world, whether Christian or Muslim, female or male, kin or alien, jeopardizing their existence, saving Armenians and Assyrians, Greeks and Jews, Darfurians and others from the claws of death. Henry Morgenthau and Raoul Wallenberg, and those who carry their torch today can bring about change, help life triumph over death.

Foundation for their efforts to safeguard universal memory. Eternalizing the memory of the Mets Yeghern, Shoah and other crimes of genocide, persistently presenting these horrendous episodes of human history, and sending through them important messages to the generations to come shall have a conclusive significance in keeping the world free of that crime.

I address words of gratitude to the U.S. Congress and to all Congressmen and Congresswomen present, who have



## Everyone Should Support Nomination of Pope Francis for Nobel Peace Prize



*By Harut  
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The  
California Courier*

Several weeks ago, Sarkis Assadourian, a former member of the Canadian Parliament, informed me that at his request Parliamentarian Judy Sgro had nominated Pope Francis for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize.

In her nomination letter, Sgro praised His Holiness for crafting "a papacy of inclusion, openness, and reform." She described the Pope as "an inspirational force for good" and "a symbol of hope. ... From his efforts at reconciliation of past misdeeds and conflicts, to his work geared to promote peace and a greater understanding and tolerance of those with differing viewpoints, Pope Francis has already established himself as a genuine and constructive instrument of global change."

Assadourian asked me if I could find a U.S. legislator who would likewise nominate Pope Francis for the Nobel Peace Prize. I immediately contacted Congressman Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), who not only agreed to nominate the Pope, but also sought the support of other House members by circulating a letter addressed to the Nobel Committee.

Schiff's Sept. 23 letter states: "With unsurpassed eloquence, humility, and compassion, the Pope has used his pulpit to exhort people and nations around the world to conduct their affairs with spirituality, morality, and integrity. ... Pope Francis has been a powerful advocate for peace, urging an end to conflict and support for constitutive ties among nations. He has

called on the world to use diplomacy and discussion to solve disputes, rather than military force, coercion, or intimidation. This commitment to nonviolence, which the Pope has put into practice every day through his words and actions, is at the core of the principles behind the Nobel Peace Prize."

In view of the Pope's reaffirmation of the Armenian Genocide during a Vatican Mass in early April, Schiff commended "his courageous stand for human rights and his condemnation of all genocides, both past and present." His Holiness has also condemned "the persecution of Christians and other minorities in Syria and Iraq."

Schiff also characterized Pope Francis as the "leading advocate of relief" for large numbers of refugees currently flooding Europe. The Pope has even invited "a Syrian refugee family to reside in his residence at the Vatican."

Finally, in his letter of nomination, Schiff emphasized that "Pope Francis has also worked to galvanize the international community to take on global problems, such as the changing climate and environmental degradation. ... Pope Francis casts the issue of an unhealthy earth in religious terms, emphasizing our joint duty to care for the world and to pass on an unspoiled environment to future generations."

Coinciding with the Pope's U.S. visit and address to the joint Houses of Congress, Schiff's letter attracted great attention from colleagues and the media. The Washington Post, for example, in a lengthy article, "Should Pope Francis receive the Nobel Peace Prize?" noted that "a peace prize for

Francis would be historic: no Pope has ever won the honor."

A nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize is considered valid only if it is submitted by a person who falls within one of the following categories:

- members of National Assemblies and governments of states;
- members of international courts;
- members of the Institut de Droit International;
- university rectors; professors of social sciences, history, philosophy, law, and theology;
- directors of peace research institutes and foreign policy institutes;
- persons who have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize;
- board members of organizations that have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize;
- active and former members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee; and
- former advisers to the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

The Pope's nomination would be considerably strengthened if it is also backed by U.S. Senators and legislators from other countries, including Armenian parliamentarians. The deadline for submitting nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize is Feb. 1, 2016. The recipient is selected by a five-member Norwegian Nobel Committee appointed by the Parliament of Norway. The prize is awarded each year on Dec. 10 in Oslo City Hall.

Pope Francis fully deserves the Nobel Peace Prize even though he is too modest to seek it or even accept it. Should he win the prize, His Holiness would most probably donate the \$1.5 million award to the poor and the destitute around the world.



## Armenian President meets with Italian, Swedish PMs in New York



President Serzh Sargsyan, who has arrived in the U.S. on a working visit, had a meeting with Italy's Prime Minister Matteo Renzi on September 28 in New York.

Serzh Sargsyan and Matteo Renzi discussed a broad range of issues pertaining to the political dialogue between Armenia and Italy and their trade and economic collaboration, and touched upon the two countries' cooperation within the frames of international organizations.

The interlocutors expressed their satisfaction with the fact that Armenian-Italian interstate ties have always developed in the spirit of mutual understanding. However, they stated that the two countries' potential allows for further intensification of bilateral relations. The RA president and Italy's prime minister attached importance to the promotion of stable political dialogue between the two countries, to which the interlocutors are sure frequent reciprocal visits could considerably contribute. In that context, President Serzh Sargsyan warmly recalled his official visit to Italy in April this year and the meaningful and interesting meeting with President Sergio Mattarella.

Armenia's president stressed that through concerted efforts, the two countries can elevate Armenian-Italian interstate relations, as well as their cooperation within the frames of the EU to a qualitatively new level.

Serzh Sargsyan underscored that Italy

is important to Armenia also as a leading EU country, and the promotion of comprehensive cooperation with it continues to hold a serious place in Armenia's foreign policy agenda. The president expressed the hope that Italy will continue to support the implementation of the current RA-EU agenda.

Armenia's president placed importance on defense cooperation which has occupied a special place in the Armenian-Italian bilateral agenda since 2012, underlining that the defense cooperation is not limited to bilateral format: since last November, 32 Armenian peacekeepers have joined the UN peacekeeping forces under Italian command in Lebanon, which, according to the president, can truly be considered as a successful example of cooperation between Armenia and Italy.

At the meeting, the RA president and the Italian prime minister attached importance also to the role of parliamentary diplomacy to develop bilateral relations.

Noting that trade and economic relations are among vital components on the Armenian-Italian agenda, the interlocutors expressed satisfaction with the fact that in the last four years, despite the global financial and economic crisis, the two countries have witnessed considerable trade growth. Furthermore, according to the previous year's indicators, Italy is the 2nd trade partner of Armenia among the EU countries (the first is Germany). The parties were sure that this bears testimo-

ny to the fact that there is serious potential for better results, at which vigorous efforts need to be directed.

The RA president and Italy's prime minister touched upon regional issues and challenges, including the current stage of the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process and the present problems. President Serzh Sargsyan stressed that as a friendly country, Armenia values Italy's stable and balanced position on the NK conflict.

On September 28, Serzh Sargsyan also had a meeting with Prime Minister Stefan Löfven of the Kingdom of Sweden in New York.

The president spoke highly of the Armenian-Swedish cooperation, which, according to him, has experienced tangible development in recent years, marked by the active dialogue of foreign ministers, the increase in the number of embassies and by various reciprocal visits.

The RA president and Sweden's prime minister highlighted the special place of Armenian-EU relations and collaboration in the Armenian-Swedish cooperation agenda. Armenia's president stressed the role of Sweden, a co-author of the Eastern Partnership, in the reinforcement of Armenia-EU relations.

The interlocutors talked about the need to develop bilateral trade and economic ties, stating that unfortunately, the current economic indicators do not correspond with the huge economic potential of cooperation between Armenia and Sweden. The parties agreed that in order to reveal the full potential, there is a need to foster mutual contacts and exchange of information at a state level, develop a comprehensive legal framework, and hold business forums.

At the meeting, President Serzh Sargsyan attached importance to Sweden's balanced position on the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process.

The parties also reflected upon issues pertaining to cooperation within the frames of international organizations.

Serzh Sargsyan and Stefan Löfven placed importance on the intensification of parliamentary cooperation between the two friendly countries.

## Constitutional reform opponents hold first Yerevan rally

A coalition of opposition and civic groups rallied supporters in Yerevan on October 2, again accusing President Serzh Sargsyan of seeking to "perpetuate" his rule and urging Armenians to reject his constitutional changes.

The No Front attracted a relatively small crowd to the city's Liberty Square during its second rally against the changes envisaging Armenia's transition to the parliamentary system of government after Sarkisian completes his second presidential term in 2018.

"If we vote for those changes it will be our last vote," claimed Aram Manukyan of the Armenian National Congress (HAK), the largest of the opposition parties aligned in the grouping. "Such an outcome of the referendum [on the proposed constitutional amendments] ... would constitutionally perpetuate Serzh Sargsyan's and his Republican Party's rule."

"Do the citizens of Armenia want Serzh Sargsyan to govern Armenia perpetually?" said Arshak Musakhanyan, a leader of the You Won't Pass It pressure group that helped to cobble together the alliance last month.

The Armenian parliament held heated debates on Sargsyan's constitutional package late last month and is expected to approve it next week. That will pave the way for the conduct of a nationwide referendum on the amendments. Officials have said that the referendum will likely take place by early December.

The proposed amendments have been endorsed by not only Sargsyan's Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) but also some of the opposition parties represented in the Armenian parliament. This fact has led senior HHK figures to declare that the Sargsyan administration has managed to muster broad-based political support for the controversial constitutional reform.

Speakers at Friday's rally denied this assertion. "There is no consensus on the constitutional changes," insisted Musakhanyan.

The No Front launched its campaign with a rally held in Gyumri on September 25. It plans to hold such demonstrations across the country in the coming weeks.

## Armenian Foreign Minister addresses meeting on OSCE peace operations

On October 1, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian participated in a meeting in the UN Headquarters, New York, dedicated to OSCE peacekeeping missions, organised under the auspices of Foreign Ministers of the OSCE Troika - Switzerland, Serbia, and Germany.

In his speech at the discussion, Edward Nalbandian particularly said:

"The attitude of Armenia towards peace-keeping missions can be tested by the geography of our engagement in such past and present missions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon, Mali. I would like to note that in four days Yerevan will host the international conference on peacekeeping operations, assisted by Edmond Mulet, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

Speaking here at the UN Headquarters, I would like to once again acknowledge the central role of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security and meanwhile to recall our shared conviction that the OSCE is a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region. It is in this vein that we view the current discussions on the OSCE peace operations - a concept which has yet to be defined within the framework of our Organization.

It is our conviction that it should be guided by and based on the commitments adhered to by the OSCE on the maintenance of peace and security. In this regard, I would like to recall the pledge made at the Astana Summit to increase efforts to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats.

In the case of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict the agreed format is the Co-chairmanship of the OSCE Minsk Group. Thus, all international, including the OSCE efforts for further addressing the conflict related matters in this case should be implemented through this framework.

The Co-chairmen of the Minsk Group are assisted on the ground by the team, led by the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, which is the only permanent presence in the conflict zone, monitoring the observance of the cease-fire. There is no doubt that strengthening this presence means enhancing capabilities of the Organization in fostering peace and con-



solidating the cease-fire on the line of contact and borders. This is a tangible case where further involvement of the Organization can make a real difference on the ground, including through the establishment of an investigative mechanism on the cease-fire violations - a Confidence and security building measure which has long been on the table - proposed and thoroughly supported by the international community. In their statement of September 28th the co-chairs once again reiterated this proposal. The political solutions should decide and guide the design and possible deployment of the peacekeeping operations. It has been stated by the Minsk Group Co-chairs on numerous occasions, including on the level of the presidents of the Co-chair countries, that international security guarantees would include a peacekeeping operation as one of the elements of the Basic Principles of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement. It is aimed at separation of armed forces and keeping peace once the political resolution to the conflict is reached. No other mandate or component, including the one related to the police activities is attached to the peacekeeping operation in this particular case.

The situations and challenges of our shared OSCE area, which we are trying to address can be substantially different and there are no universal remedies to fit all of them. The Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping held two days ago, here at the UN welcomed the report of the High Level Panel on UN Peace Operations, which warns us "too often mandates and missions are produced on the basis of templates instead of [being] tailored to support situation-specific political strategies". Tailored made approaches, carefully crafted to avoid harming or intervening the ongoing processes within internationally mandated agreed formats should form the basis of our endeavors".

Thank you".



## 18<sup>th</sup> annual ARPA International Film Festival to open with 'Lost Birds'



### Asbarez

The Arpa Foundation for Film, Music and Art (AFFMA.org) announces its 18th annual Arpa International Film Festival (Arpafilmfestival.com), to be held on November 13-15, 2015 at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood. The Festival will kick off on Monday, November 9 at Cal. State University Northridge (CSUN) campus in partnership with the University's selected student film shorts along with Festival shorts from 7:30 till 10 pm.

This year's Festival focuses strongly on humanitarian issues internationally such as genocide, holocaust, human freedom, women's rights, homelessness and many others. Once again, Arpa is proud to have selected a diverse and a choice program featuring the works of seasoned and up and coming filmmakers from over 23 countries.

"We are thrilled about this year's festival line-up, which includes works of award winning filmmakers," said the Festival Director, Michael Ashjian. "It's our goal to stay true to our mission in cultivating awareness of important topics that affect our society through the medium of film." Each night, the festival will feature premiers with red carpet and after parties. The featured program will be announced in the coming weeks.

The Opening night's World Premier Film "LOST BIRDS" is a heartwarming film from Turkey in Armenian and Turkish language filmed in Capadoccia, Turkey, by Aren Perdeci and Ela

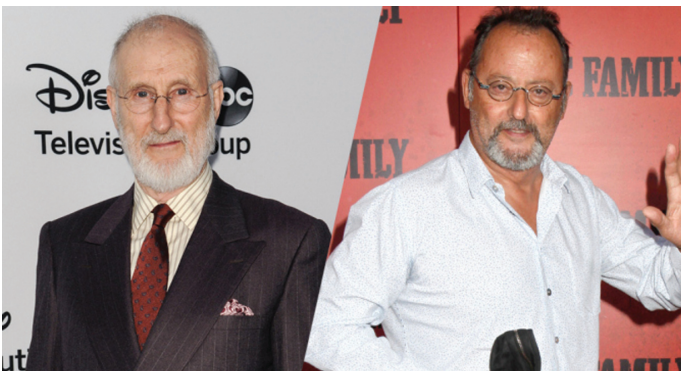
Alyamac. For these two young co-directors, it took a five year journey to realize their passion project. They shared directing, producing and writing duties. Perdeci was also the director of photography of this amazingly beautiful film. This movie presents a historical tragedy that takes place in 1915, from the point of view of two children. The story is about Bedo, played by (Heros Agopyan) and Maryam, played by (Dila Uluca), whose beautiful, warm, and happy lives in Anatolia comes to an end when their grandfather played by ( Sarkis Acemoglu) is taken away by soldiers. Out of extreme fear, their mother, played by (Takuhi Bahar), forbid the children to go outside, but being children, they sneak out to their favorite spot to play, only to come back to an empty home and an empty village. Their fear takes over, and with their bird that they had saved, they embark on a journey toward Aleppo to find their mother, and their fellow villagers.

This beautiful film made by an Armenian and a Turkish filmmaker with passion is a cinematographic beauty to watch. September issue of "American Cinematographer" magazine has written a nine page article on Lost Birds under the title of "Lost and Found" with photo scenes from the film worth reading.

"Arpa International Film Festival tries to garner the talents of filmmakers, those who are at the forefront of the newest and best filmmaking techniques, in order to present their work to the world," said AFFMA founder Sylvia Minassian. "This year's festival represents a culmination of a year's work for our committee in selecting what we think is our most varied and interesting program yet."

The Festival is led by AFFMA Founder Sylvia Minassian, Festival Director Micheal Ashjian, Executive Producer Alex Kalognomos, Marketing Coordinator Maral Kazazian, Jury Liaison Sonia Keshishian, Producer and Technical director Vanja Srdic along with an amazing group of dedicated and talented committee members who put in their passion and diligent work to make the festival a success.

## James Cromwell, Jean Reno join Armenian Genocide-themed film "The Promise"



James Cromwell and Jean Reno have joined Christian Bale and Oscar Isaac in the historical romance "The Promise," a new Armenian Genocide-themed film, Variety reports.

Terry George ("Hotel Rwanda") is directing from a script he wrote with Robin Swicord, centering on a love triangle in 1922 with a medical student, an American journalist based in Paris and

a beautiful and sophisticated woman, portrayed by Charlotte Le Bon. Bale will play the reporter, and Isaac will portray the student, conflicted by old-world traditions.

Cromwell will play an American ambassador who becomes heroic when challenged, while Reno will play a French admiral deeply conflicted in the face of life-threatening danger. The story is set amid the final days of the Ottoman Empire.

Shohreh Aghdashloo and Daniel Gimenez Cacho also star.

Shooting has started in Spain and Portugal and will go into December. Eric Esrailian will produce on behalf of Survival Pictures with Mike Medavoy for Phoenix Pictures, Ralph Winter and William Horberg ("Milk"). Survival was unveiled as a production company in July by Tracinda Corp., the holding company founded by the late Kirk Kerkorian.

"The Promise' beautifully intertwines heroism and love," said Esrailian and Medavoy.

Cromwell was most recently seen on AMC's "Halt and Catch Fire." Reno starred in the French action film "The Squad.

## Water on Mars discovered in a crater named after Armenian village of Garni

Dark narrow streaks, called "recurring slope lineae," emanate from the walls of Garni Crater on Mars, in this view constructed from observations by the High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) camera on NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. Garni crater's name originating from a village in Armenia was approved on April 24, 2015.

New findings from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) provide the strongest evidence yet that liquid water flows intermittently on present-day Mars, according to NASA's official website.

Using an imaging spectrometer on MRO, researchers detected signatures of hydrated minerals on slopes where mysterious streaks are seen on the Red Planet. These darkish streaks appear to ebb and flow over time. They darken and appear to flow down steep slopes during warm seasons, and then fade in cooler seasons. They appear in several locations on Mars when temperatures are above minus 10 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 23 Celsius), and disappear at colder times.

These downhill flows, known as recurring slope lineae (RSL), often have been described as possibly related to liquid water. The new findings of hydrated salts on the slopes point to what that relationship

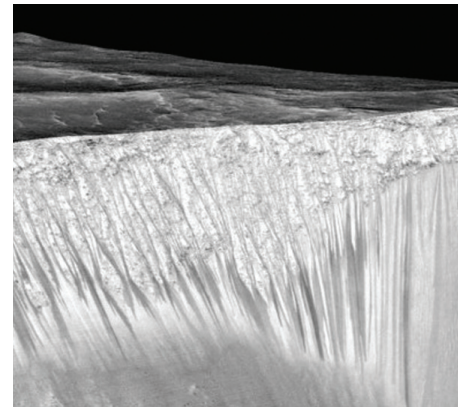
may be to these dark features. The hydrated salts would lower the freezing point of a liquid brine, just as salt on roads here on Earth causes ice and snow to melt more rapidly. Scientists say it's likely a shallow subsurface flow, with enough water wicking to the surface to explain the darkening.

The spectrometer observations show signatures of hydrated salts at multiple RSL locations, but only when the dark features were relatively wide. When the researchers looked at the same locations and RSL weren't as extensive, they detected no hydrated salt.

Perchlorates have previously been seen on Mars. NASA's Phoenix lander and Curiosity rover both found them in the planet's soil, and some scientists believe that the Viking missions in the 1970s measured signatures of these salts. However, this study of RSL detected perchlorates, now in hydrated form, in different areas than those explored by the landers. This also is the first time perchlorates have been identified from orbit.

MRO has been examining Mars since 2006 with its six science instruments.

"The ability of MRO to observe for multiple Mars years with a payload able to see the fine detail of these features has enabled findings such as these: first identi-



fying the puzzling seasonal streaks and now making a big step towards explaining what they are," said Rich Zurek, MRO project scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California.

For Ojha, the new findings are more proof that the mysterious lines he first saw darkening Martian slopes five years ago are, indeed, present-day water.

"When most people talk about water on Mars, they're usually talking about ancient water or frozen water," he said. "Now we know there's more to the story. This is the first spectral detection that unambiguously supports our liquid water-formation hypotheses for RSL."

The discovery is the latest of many breakthroughs by NASA's Mars missions.

## New details emerge about Hrant Dink's murder

Police officer Muhittin Zenit, who had been in contact with a key informant in murder of Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink, has said he was prevented from giving testimony in the slaying by former police intelligence chiefs Ramazan Akyürek and Ali Fuat Y?lmazer, the Hurriyet Daily News reports.

Zenit, who was arrested as part of an investigation into public servants accused of negligence in the murder of Dink, wrote his testimony on March 20 before sending it to the Istanbul Public Prosecutor's Office.

After Zenit's statements, prosecutor Gökalp Kürkçü took the testimony of several officials, including Y?lmazer, who was the former Istanbul police intelligence chief when Dink was shot dead on Jan. 19, 2007, in Istanbul.

Akyürek was the Trabzon Police

Department head at the time of murder.

On May 28, Y?lmazer reportedly told prosecutor Kürkçü that he told Akyürek, the former head of Turkey's Police Intelligence Department, and Zenit not to go to Istanbul to give testimony regarding incidents in the lead-up to the Dink murder.

Y?lmazer told the prosecutor that he had informed Zenit and Akyürek that it not be correct to provide testimony regarding key figure Erhan Tuncel's past as a police informant.

"I told Ramazan Akyürek not to be part of such an incident. I said his [Tuncel] contact with us had been cut long ago and that he had not informed us correctly about the incidents. We cannot talk about a person as an informant when he hides the facts about a murder. A week later, Muhittin Zenit called me and said

that his testimony had been demanded in connection with [Tuncel] in Istanbul. I told him that it was not right for him to get involved over someone who had already cut his ties with us," Y?lmazer reportedly told the prosecutor.

The Istanbul Police Department later learnt that Tuncel was a former police informant from his own testimony rather than learning it from the Trabzon police or police intelligence unit.

Ogün Samast assassinated Dink in broad daylight on a busy street outside of the office of the bilingual Turkish-Armenian weekly Agos in Istanbul's ?i?li district. Samast is serving a sentence of 22 years and 10 months in a high-security prison. Yasin Hayal and Tuncel were accused of encouraging Samast to kill Dink in the Black Sea province of Trabzon.



## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

### Aries

**(March 20-April 19)**

It is generally unwise to take initiatives for two weeks even though your impulse calls you to revel. Your intentions may be misunderstood or you may be dealing with deceptive people. Avoid pointing fingers at yourself or anyone else. It's a challenge for you to "see" yourself into the future with accuracy at this time.

### Taurus

**(April 20-May 19)**

If there are "power" issues between you and another, this is the week that they will be in full bloom. Discomfort means that change is needed in one or both of your attitudes. Intensity is the theme. Concentrate on remaining conscious so that you won't fall into manipulative games, especially the one called "prove it if you love me."

### Gemini

**(May 20-June 20)**

During this time old issues may surface concerning your relationships to children and romantic partners. This is a good time to make amends, if that is needed. You may wish to back off from interaction while you assess your feelings. Avoid making false declarations of love.

### Cancer

**(June 21-July 21)**

Fortunately, the eclipses of September are over. Give yourself a week to sit back, breathe, and relax. Slow your regular routine to a pace that feels "right" for you. There may still be work to do, but it does not have to flow at the same breakneck speed.

### Leo

**(July 22-August 21)**

During this equinox period, changes in your work environment will pressure you to overcome your pride. You must adapt, whether or not this is what you want. Other issues at hand involve siblings and/or family matters. Vehicles or other equipment that has been overused may break.

### Virgo

**(August 22-September 22)**

This is a challenging week. You may very well feel disappointed and angry, but there seems to be nowhere to clearly direct those feelings. The best solution is to identify what, who or where you find solace and deliberately connect with the person, place or thing that will offer reassurance.

### Libra

**(Sep. 23-Oct. 22)**

For roughly two weeks before and after Oct. 6 there is likely a crisis of decision in front of you. The subject matter is about property and family matters. It is an old issue, returning for review. At depth the most crucial factor is who you really are now and where you want to belong.

### Scorpio

**(October 23-November 21)**

Transformation lands right on your doorstep and demands that you step up to the best and most mature your Sun Sign can become. It will require that you summon courage to manage yourself, but if you run away the result would be absolute defeat.

### Sagittarius

**(November 22-December 20)**

You are just barely slipping into the new life after Saturn re-entered your sign on Sep. 17th. This can sometimes feel like a lonely period and that may be true for a while as you go about re-creating yourself. However, this week there are resources and friends who will help you find your way.

### Capricorn

**(December 21-January 19)**

You may be applauded for your ethical and moral behavior patterns. Others will let you know your efforts have been noticed. Don't slippery-slide around the ethics line. If you do, then a person of minor authority may fine the error and bring it to the attention of others. One gets what is deserved on this aspect.

### Aquarius

**(January 20-February 17)**

This is an excellent time to pursue any activity that requires your mental concentration. It will work even better for you if you are revising, editing, or itemizing details. Contracts, communication with others at a distance, legal interests, along with short distance travel, have go signals.

### Pisces

**(February 18-March 19)**

You are one whose compassionate nature occasionally attracts energy vampires. The next two weeks may bring one or two of these into your environment. Don't go beyond what you truly want to give or you may burn out your energy. Do not expect gratitude. It is unlikely to be given, but if it comes, that's a bonus.

## My heart is in Tsitsernakaberd every April 24<sup>th</sup>, Turkish singer says

Every year on April 24 Turkish singer Leman Stehn apologizes to the Armenian nation for the crime committed by her ancestors. Familiar with the true story, she never avoids the word 'genocide.' She first visited Armenia a few years ago and visited the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial. The singer is again in Armenia for a Komitas festival.

Every year Leman Stehn participates in commemoration events held in different countries of the world.

"Things should be called by their names," she told a press conference in Yerevan. "I'm aware of what befell the Armenian nation and cannot understand how one can avoid the word 'genocide.' Of course, there was an Armenian Genocide. I consider it a duty to participate in events targeted at preventing genocide," she said.

The Armenian national has been in her heart since youth. Born in Turkey, she moved to Germany at an early age and



returned to Turkey only as a student. She learnt about the Armenian nation and culture thanks to her Armenian friends.

"I was young, when we returned to Turkey. Only then I came to know that Armenians previously lived on the territo-

ry of Turkey, that it was their homeland. I opened a new world for me," the singer said.

Leman Stehn confessed she had been persecuted in Turkey for her pro-Armenian views, but this made her continue the struggle for justice with a greater vigor. After graduating from the Conservatory, the singer returned to Germany.

She had long abandoned the Armenian music until she heard the news of Hrant Dink's assassination. "I was shocked to hear we lost my lovely brother Hrant Dink. 'Sari Gyalin' was one of his most favorite songs," Stehn said. This was the song she performed at the festival dedicated to Komitas. The Turkish singer once again apologized to the heirs of victims of the Armenian Genocide for the crime committed by the Turkish nation and promised to visit Armenia again on April 24.





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

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

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