

'Electric Yerevan' Leaders Issue Ultimatum



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Russia 'Negotiating' On New Missile Supplies To Armenia

Russia is reportedly holding negotiations with Armenia on supplying it with sophisticated Iskander-M missiles that would significantly boost Armenian defense capabilities in the unresolved conflict with Azerbaijan.

"A contract has not been signed yet; negotiations are still going on," the official TASS news agency quoted an unnamed source in the Russian defense industry as saying late on Thursday.

The source gave no further details, saying that "all information about such contracts is secret."

The Armenian Defense Ministry refused to comment on the report.

The TASS report came as the Armenian parliament formally allowed the authorities in Yerevan to receive a \$200 million Russian government loan that will be used for financing more Russian arms supplies to Armenia. Deputy Defense Minister Ara Nazaryan told the National Assembly that the "export credit" will enable the Armenian military to obtain new and advanced weaponry which it has not had in its arsenal until now. Nazaryan refused to elaborate on those weapons.

A military source in Yerevan told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) that the money will be spent on various types of "offensive and defensive" weapons.

An Armenian media outlet, 1in.am, claimed on Thursday that Yerevan could specifically get hold of Iskander-M systems, one of the most potent weapons of its kind that could have important implications for the military balance in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The surface-to-surface precision-guided missiles were designed in the mid-1990s and first acquired by Russia's Armed Forces in 2006. With a firing range of up to 500 kilometer, they are thought to be able to overcome any of the existing missile-defense shields.

Armenian leaders have repeatedly hinted at the impending acquisition of Iskander-Ms in recent years. "In one or two years, you will be able to proudly say that the Armenian army possesses weapons which other states 20, 30 or 40 times our size do not possess," President



Serzh Sargsyan told a group of soldiers in December 2013.

"We will have longer-range systems very soon," Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian said for his part in September 2014.

The Armenian army is currently equipped with less advanced Scud-B and Tochka-U ballistic missiles that have ranges of 300 kilometers and 120 kilometers respectively, putting Azerbaijan's vital oil and gas installations within their reach. It also reportedly purchased in 2011 Chinese AR1A multiple-launch rocket systems with a range of up to 130 kilometers.

Armenia makes no secret of its readiness to use such weapons against Azerbaijani oil facilities if Baku attempts to forcibly reconquer Karabakh and Armenian-controlled territories surrounding it.

The Azerbaijani military has dismissed such threats, implying that it can neutralize Scud-B strikes with S-300 surface-to-air missiles purchased from Russia in 2010. Some Armenian military experts claim that the Russian missiles sold to Baku can only be used for anti-aircraft purposes.

Whatever the truth, S-300s would almost certainly be unable to intercept Iskander-Ms. Hence, the significance of the missile deal reportedly discussed by Yerevan and Moscow.

News of the Russian-Armenian talks emerged amid continuing street protests in Yerevan against a controversial electricity price hike initiated by the Armenia's

Russian-owned power distribution monopoly. The nonstop protests seem to have raised fears in Moscow of the kind of Western-backed revolution that toppled Ukraine's pro-Russian government last year. Observers have suggested that the Russians are now trying to placate disgruntled Armenians and shore up President Sargsyan's positions.

The latest Russian loan disbursement might also be linked with growing Armenian criticism of Russia's 2009-2011 defense contracts with Azerbaijan worth more than \$4 billion. The resulting Russian arms deliveries to Baku have included around 100 tanks, over two dozen combat helicopters and dozens of artillery systems.

Armenian politicians, pundits and even some officials have denounced these arms deals, saying that they run counter to Russia's military alliance with Armenia. Russian officials have denied any wrongdoing, insisting that Moscow has not disrupted the Armenian-Azerbaijani military balance.

Thanks to its massive oil revenues, Azerbaijan has increased its annual military spending by almost 30 times during President Ilham Aliyev's more than decade-long rule. It is projected to total \$3.6 billion this year, more than Armenia's entire state budget.

By comparison, Armenia's 2015 defense budget will be equivalent to only about \$500 million. Yerevan has been trying to offset this huge spending gap with Russia weapons delivered at knock-down prices or free of charge.

'Provocative' EU Flags Anger Yerevan Protesters



Paruyr Hayrikyan, a veteran Armenian politician and Soviet-era dissident, scuffled with angry youth activists in Yerevan late on Thursday after joining their non-stop demonstration against an electricity price rise with European Union flags.

They accused him of giving more weight to Russian claims that the ongoing "Electric Yerevan" movement is part of a Western conspiracy to trigger another "color revolution" in the former Soviet Union.

Hayrikyan and about a dozen of his supporters waved EU and Armenian flags as they made their way into a section of the city's Marshal Bagramyan Avenue that has been blocked by the mostly young

protesters for the past 11 days. This angered some of those activists, who started booing and chanting "Provocateur!" and "Go away!"

Hayrikyan and the men accompanying him agreed to remove the EU flags after an ensuing argument and brief scuffle with several dozen protesters.

Hayrikyan condemned their "shameful conduct" and defended his actions afterwards. He said that the flags were meant to support lawsuits that have been filed with the European Court of Human Rights by 16 participants of the June 23 protest on Marshal Bagramyan Avenue broken up by riot police.

Hayrikyan also said that Europe is a symbol of "civilization." "This flag doesn't offend anyone except Russian fascist fanatics and their servants," he told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am).

Hayrikyan and his loyalists similarly carried EU flags when they joined thousands of people in their first march to the avenue on June 22. Organizers of that march convinced them to put down the flags. But that did not keep Russian gov-

ernment-controlled TV channels as well as some commentators from alleging that the West is behind the "Electric Yerevan" movement.

No To Plunder, a youth group that launched the protests, and the current protest leaders have gone out of their way to deny any geopolitical motives behind their campaign, saying that its sole aim is to reverse a more than 17 percent rise in energy tariffs in Armenia.

Davit Sanasaryan, one of those leaders, denounced Hayrikyan, saying that the protest organizers are against displaying any foreign flags at the scene of their continuing standoff with riot police deployed nearby. Sanasaryan also criticized those protesters who responded to Hayrikyan's "provocative" behavior with violence.

Hayrikyan, who will turn 66 on Sunday, had spent more than a decade in Soviet prisons in the 1970s and 1980s because of campaigning for Armenia's independence. He has repeatedly and unsuccessfully run for president since the Soviet collapse. His Self-Determination Union party was represented in Armenia's parliament in the 1990s.

'Electric Yerevan' Leaders Issue Ultimatum

Leaders of the protesters continuing to occupy a central Yerevan avenue on July 4 threatened to advance further towards the presidential palace if the Armenian authorities fail to formally revoke a controversial rise in electricity prices.

They gave the authorities until Monday evening to meet their demands or face a new, "decisive phase" of their "Electric Yerevan" campaign.

"If we don't get an answer we will start moving the barricade [built on Marshal Bagramian Avenue] one step forward every day," one of the protest leaders, Davit Sanasaryan, told several hundred people rallying on a section of the avenue that has been blocked for almost two weeks.

Sanasaryan said this change of tactics will "refresh our civic struggle" and force the Armenian government to stop "ignoring" it. "We are not out to wage a battle. We will carry on with our peaceful but steadfast struggle," he added.

A senior police officer at the scene, Colonel Valeri Osipyan, was quick to approach Sanasaryan after his speech and warn him against escalating their standoff with the government.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, Osipyan accused the protest leaders of seeking to provoke clashes with riot police units deployed nearby in a bid to attract more people to their campaign. He said security forces will not allow them to move the barricade closer to President Serzh Sargsyan's administration building located several hundred meters away.

The police already used force to unblock Marshal Bagramyan on June 23 one day after thousands of people rallied there in protest against the more than 17

percent energy price hike. The use of force only caused more Armenians to march to the avenue later on June 23. The police have since avoided any attempts to break up the nonstop demonstration.

Attendance at the protesters declined dramatically after Sargsyan announced on June 27 that the government will cover the cost of the price hike for the time being. No To Plunder, a youth group that launched the protests, was rebuffed by the protesters when it urged them to leave the avenue and rally in pedestrian Liberty Square on June 28.

A group of other young activists, including Sanasaryan, took over the movement in the following days. They have failed to reinvigorate it so far.

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Russia Warns Against 'Politicizing' Armenian Protests

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov deplored on July 2 what he described as attempts to exploit the continuing street protests in Armenia against an electricity price hike for political purposes.

"A lot of attention is being paid to youth in forming a national agenda, including through the prism of so-called peaceful protests which are increasingly becoming the norm," Lavrov told an international youth forum in Moscow. "You know how the color revolutions began -- the Maidan [movement] in Ukraine, the current events in Armenia."

"There is a temptation to use them as well for whipping up anti-government sentiment, even though the root cause of these events is purely economic," he said, according to the RIA Novosti news agency. "But somebody, it seems, finds it useful to go further and develop these processes in a political direction."

Lavrov did not specify whether he referred to Armenian opposition or civic groups or Western powers that have long been accused by Russia of trying to drive ex-Soviet states out of its orbit.

Russia has been extremely critical of "Euromaidan" movement in Ukraine that deposed the country's pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich last year. It claims that the popular uprising in Kiev was engineered by the West.

The Russian government is more

cautious on the "Electric Yerevan" protests, even if some pro-Kremlin politicians and pundits have compared them with the Ukrainian revolt. On June 24, two days after thousands of mostly young people occupied a central Yerevan avenue, one of Lavrov's deputies, Grigori Karasin, urged the Armenian authorities to reach a compromise deal with the protesters.

A Russian-Armenian intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation discussed the controversy over Armenian energy tariffs when it met in Yerevan two days later. The Russian co-chair of the commission, Transport Minister Maxim Sokolov, also discussed the matter separately with President Serzh Sargsyan and two Armenian cabinet members.

It was announced after those talks that the two sides agreed to launch an emergency audit of Armenia's power distribution network owned by a Russian energy company. Many Armenians feel that they are forced to pay more for electricity because of fraud and mismanagement within the loss-making network. The Armenian government will subsidize the increased electricity prices until the release of the audit's findings.

On Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin phoned Sargsyan to congratulate him on his 61st birthday

anniversary. A Kremlin spokesman claimed afterwards that the two men did not discuss the energy tariffs because "this is an internal Armenian issue."

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and his Armenian counterpart Hovik Abrahamyan had a phone conversation on Wednesday. Abrahamyan's office said they discussed the results of the Russian-Armenian commission meeting but did not elaborate.

Earlier this year, Lavrov, whose father was an ethnic Armenian, accused unnamed foreign forces of seeking to gain "geopolitical advantages" from public outrage that was caused by the January 12 killings, apparently committed by a Russian soldier, of seven members of an Armenian family in Gyumri.

Lavrov spoke just days after thousands of Gyumri residents took to the streets to demand that the soldier, Valery Permyakov, be extradited to Armenian law-enforcement authorities. Russian officials rejected those demands, saying that the suspect will be tried by a Russian court.

President Sargsyan announced during his June 26 meeting with Sokolov that Moscow has finally agreed to transfer the high-profile murder case to Armenian jurisdiction. Some Armenian observers linked the development with Russian fears relating to the "Electric Yerevan" protests.

Police Crackdown 'Investigated'

An Armenian law-enforcement agency launched on July 3 a criminal investigation into excessive police use of force against protesters and journalists which was reported during last week's dispersal of a demonstration in Yerevan.

The police detained more than 230 people early on June 23 as they broke up a protest on the city's central Marshal Bagramyan Avenue against a controversial electricity price hike. All of them were set free several hours later.

More than two dozen protesters were injured in the crackdown. Sixteen of them reportedly filed lawsuits with the European Court of Human Rights in the following days.

The Armenian police also attacked and detained more than a dozen reporters and smashed or confiscated cameras used by some of them. Among them were RFE/RL journalists Artur Papyan and Sisak Gabrielyan and cameramen Garik Azibekyan and Garik Harutiunyan.

General Levon Yeranossyan, a deputy police chief, swore at them as they were attacked by his subordinates in the city's Liberty Square.

The officers broke Papyan's mobile phone and smashed a video camera that was used for the live streaming of the overnight protests. Azibekyan was also forced to surrender another camera's memory card.

The police seemed particularly anxious to get hold of professional footage of the crowd dispersal criticized by the United States, the European Union and Western human rights watchdogs.

Armenia's Special Investigative Service (SIS) said on Friday that it has opened a criminal case in connection with those abuses. It said the investigation will be conducted under Criminal Code articles dealing with abuse of power, obstruction of journalists' work and deliberate damage caused to their equipment. The SIS did not immediately

charge anyone.

Armenian press freedom groups reacted cautiously to the criminal proceedings, saying that it remains to be seen whether any police official will be prosecuted for the violence. "Closing a criminal case is very easy," said Ashot Melikyan of the Committee to Protect Freedom Of Expression. "So opening one alone doesn't mean much."

Some of the attacked journalists were also skeptical. "All that [violence] was done deliberately," said Mkrtich Karapetyan, a correspondent for the "Haykakan Zhamanak" daily. He said senior police officers looked on as plain-clothes men attacked him and smashed his camera on Marshal Bagramyan Avenue.

"The situation at the square was chaotic," said RFE/RL's Papyan. "They were catching both protesters and journalists indiscriminately. They were hitting everyone indiscriminately."

4 Arrested Over 'Shooting Attack' On Armenian Governor



Four men were arrested on July 3 on suspicion of attempting to assassinate Suren Khachatryan, the governor of Armenia's southeastern Syunik province who has long been notorious for violent conduct.

The National Security Service (NSS) service said the arrests were made in connection with the reported May 20 shooting attack on a car carrying Khachatryan.

Khachatryan, his driver and assistant claimed to have come under fire on the road connecting the provincial capital Kapan to Goris, the governor's hometown also located in Syunik. None of them was hurt, even though photographs released by law-enforcement authorities showed their car riddled with bullets.

In a statement, the NSS said its offi-

cers have found a "large quantity" of weapons, including a Kalashnikov rifle, in the homes belonging to the arrested men. It said forensic experts are now trying to establish whether that rifle was used in "the murder attempt."

One of the suspects is Ara Budaghyan, a younger brother of Avetik Budaghyan, a Goris businessman who was shot dead outside Khachatryan's villa in June 2013. Avetik died when he and his second brother, Artak, bitterly argued there with the governor's son, Tigran Khachatryan, and bodyguards in still unclear circumstances. Artak, who is an army colonel, was seriously wounded in that incident.

Tigran and one of the bodyguards were arrested in the following days only to be cleared of murder charges and set free two months later. Law-enforcement authorities said the gunshots fired by them constituted legitimate self-defense.

Despite denying any involvement, Suren Khachatryan was sacked in the wake of the 2013 shootings. But he was reinstated as Syunik governor a year later.

It was not immediately clear whether Ara Budaghyan and the three other

detained men admitted to the alleged murder attempt. None of them was formally charged as of Friday evening.

The Armenian authorities' handling of the 2013 shootings probe reinforced a widely held belief in Armenia that Khachatryan and his family enjoy impunity because of their staunch loyalty President Serzh Sargsyan.

The governor's car came under fire more than two weeks after a brutal attack on two other brothers living in Goris. One of them suffered a broken nose while the other lost vision in one eye. The victims say that their attackers were led by Tigran Khachatryan.

The governor's son so far been questioned only as a "witness" in the high-profile case. Law-enforcement authorities have levelled criminal charges against five other men instead. Among them is Suren Khachatryan's brother Seyran and nephew Mayis.

Mayis went on the run after being formally charged last month. He was convicted of killing a Goris man and sentenced to 12 years in prison in 2004. He served only half of the sentence as President Sargsyan pardoned him in 2010.

OSCE Minsk Group trying to organize a meeting of Armenian, Azerbaijani Presidents



Ambassador of France to Azerbaijan Pascal Monnier says when the parties take no steps, the process stops.

He made the remarks commenting on the progress of negotiations to settle the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

"It is important that both parties take

steps and set up claims," the Ambassador told Trend News Agency.

"The Azerbaijani and Armenian sides should know that this point is very important and is in everyone's interests."

The ambassador said that France puts efforts for the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Having reminded about the visits of French President Francois Hollande in September 2014 and April 2015 to Azerbaijan, Monnier said that talks were held during the visits.

He said that this issue was discussed more than once with the participation of the OSCE Minsk Group during the visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to Baku on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the first European Games.

"Also, the Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group traveled to France, where the discussions continued," said the ambassador. "The OSCE Minsk Group is trying to organize a meeting of presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia in order to find a peaceful solution to the conflict."

The ambassador went on to add that France has good relations with both Armenia and Azerbaijan and intends to expand cooperation with these countries.

"France is home to half a million Armenians, who are very active," said the French ambassador. "Azerbaijan is important to France as a strategic partner. Every eight months, the French president meets with the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia."

Planned Rise In Yerevan Water Price Abandoned

A French-run company managing Yerevan's water distribution network has abandoned attempts to slightly raise the price of its drinking water following a much sharper rise in energy tariffs that sparked angry protests in the Armenian capital.

Earlier this year, the Yerevan Jur operator asked Armenia's Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC) to approve a 1.4 percent rise in the cost of water supplied to households. It cited consumer price inflation and a sizable depreciation late last year of the Armenian dram.

A PSRC spokeswoman, Mariam Stepanyan, told RFE/RL's Armenian service on July 1 that the company withdrew the request two days ago. She said its director, Gor Grigoryan, informed the regulators in a letter that the Yerevan Jur has increased the efficiency of its operations by significantly cutting back on the use of electricity in water distribution.

Therefore, Grigoryan wrote, the company now thinks that the water tariff can remain unchanged at 170.3 drams (36 U.S. cents) per cubic meter.

"They also took into account the need to ease the burden on their consumers amid increases in the prices of public services," Stepanyan added in an apparent reference to the PSRC's controversial decision on June 17 to raise the electricity prices by over 17 percent.

The decision prompted thousands of Armenians to take to the streets and demand its annulment. Scores of mostly protesters have been camped out on Yerevan's Marshal Bagramyan avenue for the past ten days. President Serzh Sargsyan failed to placate them with his weekend announcement that the Armenian government will subsidize the energy tariffs and thus ensure that they remain unchanged for households for now.

No To Plunder, an Armenian youth movement which



launched the protests, linked Yerevan Jur's decision with the ongoing campaign against the electricity price hike. "I'm sure that they would have made water more expensive had there been no processes going on in the city," one of its leaders, Maxim Sargsyan, told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am).

Yerevan Jur is controlled by the French company Veolia Water in accordance with a 10-year management contract signed with the Armenian government in 2006. Veolia has since significantly improved water supplies in the city by upgrading its obsolete water distribution and sewerage networks, including with loans provided by the World Bank and the French government.

Veolia's chief executive, Antoine Frerot, visited Armenia and met with President Serzh Sargsyan as recently as on June 1. According to Sarkisian's office, Frerot said his company wants to not only continue managing water supplies in Yerevan but also extend its operations to other parts of Armenia.

The Road Ahead: An Interview with Garo Paylan

Nanore Barsoumian
The Armenian Weekly

Three weeks after his election into Turkey's Parliament on the People's Democratic Party (HDP) list, Garo Paylan spoke to the Armenian Weekly about his path to parliament, and the challenges of being an Armenian in Turkey's political scene.

During the interview conducted in Istanbul, Paylan also discussed issues that are close to his heart, including the HDP's politics and commitment to creating what he terms a "new world" founded on equality.

In recent weeks, Paylan has been trying to save Camp Armen, the former Armenian orphanage in the Tuzla district of Istanbul that is facing demolition. He has vowed to work on the cases of Hrant Dink, the editor of the Turkish-Armenian newspaper Agos who was gunned down by an ultra-nationalist youth, and Sevag Bal'kç?, the 25-year-old Armenian soldier who was killed on April 24, 2011, while serving in the Turkish Army. In both cases, justice has not been served.

A former, longtime member of an Armenian school board, Paylan is also deeply dedicated to working on some of the challenges facing Armenian schools-issues ranging from discriminatory laws that humiliate Armenian parents to ensuring that school administrators have a say in which teachers are assigned to their

schools.

NANORE BARSOUMIAN: First, congratulations. Armenians all around the world, I think, are quite excited to see your name, because you're not just an Armenian name in parliament, but you are a member of a [political] party that's very open to Armenians and Armenian rights, and that is very important. So, let me ask you a basic question: Why did you decide to run for office?

GARO PAYLIAN: Actually, I was not trying to run for office. I was and still am an activist. It is what I consider myself-an activist. And I feel proud whenever someone calls me an activist.

Before Hrant Dink's murder, I was an activist mostly struggling for Armenian rights. I was a board member of an Armenian school, and was thus concerned with Armenian schools and issues. Then I became a supporter of the BDP [Peace and Democracy Party], a Kurdish party, and worked for their campaigns. I supported them because they were suffering as well, like us. Then, at the 2011 [parliamentary] election, we came together-a coalition of feminists, greens, etc. All the identities came together.

After that, we decided to create a congress, which we called the People's Democratic Congress. I became the person representing the Armenians at the Congress. We put all the identities, all the left-

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Russia loans \$200 to modernize Armenian Army



The National Assembly formally allowed the Armenian government on July 2 to borrow \$200 million from Russia for purchasing new and advanced Russian weapons for Armenia's armed forces.

The parliament overwhelmingly ratified a relevant Russian-Armenian agreement that was signed in Yerevan last Friday.

The Russian "export credit" carrying a 3 percent interest rate is repayable in 13 years, with a 3-year grace period.

"We are acquiring a new type of weapons which the Armenian armed forces have not had in their arsenal until now," Deputy Defense Minister Ara Nazaryan said, presenting the agreement to lawmakers.

Nazaryan did not specify what kind of weapons will be delivered to the Armenian military. He indicated only that the fresh Russian arms deliveries will boost the military balance in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. "This is aimed at enabling us to continue to ensure peace and the balance in the region," he said.

Gagik Minasyan, a senior lawmaker from the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK), said Armenia will be buying the weapons directly from their Russian manufacturers at internal Russian prices that are well below international com-

mercial levels. "We will be paying for this weaponry as much as the Russian military pays," he said.

Citing an unnamed HHK source, 1in.am news service reported earlier in the day that Armenia could specifically get hold of sophisticated Iskander-M missile systems with a firing range up to 500 kilometers.

Armenian leaders have repeatedly hinted at the impending acquisition of Iskander-Ms in recent years. The missiles known for their precision would significantly enhance the Armenian military's ability to attack Azerbaijan's vital oil and gas installations in case of another war for Nagorno-Karabakh.

The release of the Russian loan followed growing criticism in Armenia of recent years' large-scale Russian arms sales to Azerbaijan. President Serzh Sargsyan added his voice to that criticism earlier this year.

The Russian-Armenian agreement on the loan was signed on Friday amid continuing street protests in Yerevan against an electricity price hike initiated by Armenia's Russian-owned power distribution network. Serzh Sargsyan made major concessions to the protesters the following day. He said the Armenian government will tap its funds set aside for a "further strengthening of national security" to subsidize the energy tariffs in the country in the coming months.

This fueled opposition claims that a part of the Russian loan will be used for that subsidy. Nazaryan dismissed such speculation on the parliament floor.

Other Armenian officials denied any connection between the "Electric Yerevan" protests and the latest Russian-Armenian arms deal.

Russia has long been the principal source of weapons delivered to Armenia. A military alliance with Moscow and membership in the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) entitles Yerevan to receiving Russian-made weapons at discounted prices or even free of charge.

Armenian school to open in Alfortville: Armenian, French PMs to attend the event



An Armenian school will be opened in Alfortville, France on July 4 in the presence of the Prime Ministers of Armenia and France Hovik Abrahamian and Manuel Valls, VMTV reports.

This project was conducted by The APCAF (Association for the Promotion of Armenian Culture in France), in partnership with the Association of School and St. Mesrop Alfortville Municipality.

Arabian school is a private school under contract. It covers 1,585 square meters and is built along the Seine. It will open its doors in September 2015 with 300 students from elementary school with a view of opening a college in the future.

The school's inauguration will be attended by many public and political figures, including French Prime Minister, Mr Manuel Valls, the Prime Minister of Armenia, Mr. Hovik Abrahamian, the Senator-Mayor, Mr Luc Carvounas, the main sponsor of this project, Mr. Gevorg Arabian, Monsignor Norvan Zakarian, President of APCAF, Bishop Vahan Hovhannessian, Primate of the Diocese of France of the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Deputy of Val-de-Marne, René Rouquet.

Over 1,000 people are expected for this event that will take place between 10:30 and 16:30 on the Komitas Street and around the Seine.

All donors whose donation exceeds € 2,000 will have their name or the name of their choice written on a wall inside the establishment.



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1 ROOM

- 1696.**Tumanyan str.**, 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- 1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

- 3003.**Sayat-Nova str**, 5/3, 105sq.m, 2bedrooms, stone building, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1560.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built,10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired,climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- 2818.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, Ac, furnished . Price:400.000USD
- 1156.**Komitas Ave.**, Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price:300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998.**North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built,13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally 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,capitally repaired,heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,capitally repaied, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built,8/4, 166sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.

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

PREMISES

- 1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m,5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m.,basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price:4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant,1st line, capitally 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.,capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- 2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m.,1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- 2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m.,window glasses, capitally 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 building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price:1.000.000 USD.
- 2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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,capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired, hjeating system,elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- 3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m,2 storied bld-520sq.m,6 bedrooms,5 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD.
- 2099. **Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600 USD.
- 1972. **Northern ave.**, 8/4, 80sq.m., 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, climate control. Price: 1200 USD
- 2171. **Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sq.m., 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capitolly repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2367. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9th floor, 98 sq.m., capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2347 **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable
- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, with or without furniture.

Price: Negotiable.

- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2286. **Sose str**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

- 1142. **Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitolly 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, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly 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, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basement, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitolly repaired, AC, parking, Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitolly repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitolly repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitolly repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitolly repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- 2033. **Abovyany str.**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m., capitolly 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, capitolly repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

The Road Ahead: *An Interview with Garo Paylan*

From page 6

ist parties together, and we put all their agendas on the table. A new environment was born out of that. Step by step it developed; and everybody pointed at me to be a member of the Central Committee of the Congress. Sometime later, I became one of the founders of our party, HDP.

I was not going to run for any position, but the path opened in front of me, and everyone thought I should be the representative. And I was happy to be there because I was not only involved in Armenian issues, but other issues too. It healed me as well, because if you work only for Armenian issues, it's a disease. I didn't want to be that, but the situation forced us to speak only about Armenian issues.

With this new movement, the Kurds and other politicians also spoke about our problems, and I was involved with their problems as well. Anyway, we founded a new environment, and we came to this election with our message-and our message won.

So no, I was not trying to run for office, but we came together on this road, and we succeeded in these elections. Our discourse succeeded.

N.B.: The HDP received 13 percent. You were aiming for 10 percent. Why do you think you got such a good response from the people?

G.P.: Because it is a new world. Thirteen years ago, the AKP [Justice and Development Party] was willing to change the system. They said the conservatives and the Muslims are suffering because of the Kemalist system. They said they would change the system and create a democratic system that's for everybody. In the first period-until 2009-everybody believed in them, that they would actually change the system. After the 2011 election, [it was clear that] they were not the ones to change the system. They were in charge, in power, but they didn't change it.

Turkish citizens want the change-so they will vote for whoever speaks the new language for them. We wanted equality, and they heard us. It's the radical democrats that for the first time are offering equality. We are radical democrats and we have everyone sitting at our table. This is why we have to struggle for LGBT rights, for the Armenians, the Kurds, and the Alevis. We have to offer equality to every identity.

Of course, we had some concerns. For instance, we were concerned that people were not ready to hear about the Armenian Genocide. Yet, we are vocal about the Armenian Genocide. We also support LGBT rights, and equality between men and women-everything that is considered radical about democracy. This is about [creating] a new world.

Many young people of every identity voted for us. And that is the important thing-that young people are voting for us. At least 90 percent of Armenians, young and old, voted for our party. [President Recep Tayyip] Erdoğan badmouthed us on several occasions. However, this message of equality was new, and people just opened their ears and hearts to us.

N.B.: So it wasn't just those who are marginalized that voted for you. You think you reached out to the larger community.

G.P.: Yes, and the good thing is that 4 years ago, 90 percent of the country hated us. They thought we were marginal, and that we were terrorists, etc. Now what's good is that although we earned 13 percent of the votes, we have 60 percent of people sympathetic to us. They are not ready to vote for us yet. Maybe in the following elections we can have their votes as well.

N.B.: What do you think changed in the Turkish reality that made these marginalized and radical ideas more acceptable for the general public?

G.P.: The system-as well as conservative Muslims-didn't accept some identities, or didn't accept them enough. After 2001, the AKP took over. They said we are firstly Muslims, and so let's come together as such. To the Kurds, they said you are Kurds but you are Muslims, so we are brothers. They failed to understand that the Kurds also want a national identity. They want their identity to have that honor as well. The AKP thought that being a Muslim was going to be enough. But it wasn't enough. The Kurds witnessed the developments with ISIS. Moreover, the government didn't do anything for Kobane. After Kobane, the Kurds were disappointed, and most of them turned to us.

The AKP thought that insulting Armenians will gain them the Muslim votes, but it didn't work. They tried to spotlight the fact that we had an LGBT candidate, thinking that it would affect the conservative vote, but it didn't. There were

other similar attempts, but they also failed. This is important. Our words won. We trust our words. This is what's most important.

N.B.: That your message won them over?

G.P.: Yes, that HDP's message won. This is the new world. The young citizens, they don't know much about the 1980's and the early 1990's. They are the new Gezi youth. They want freedom. They all want freedom, and they are here, ready to hear about this new world. That is why we got their vote.

We received 13 percent of the total votes, including around 6-7 percent of the votes of the older generation, but we earned 25 percent of the votes of the young generation, the 18- to 25-year-olds. This is why we can say that if we continue this discourse [of equality], we can increase our votes in the future.

N.B.: What were the challenges of running for office as an Armenian?

G.P.: I didn't encounter any challenges within my party. I don't feel like I am Armenian Garo; I am just Garo for my peers. It's what makes me normal, and I need it. Every Armenian needs it.

The AKP also has an Armenian candidate, as does the CHP [Republican People's Party]. But they act as symbols. They are not really seen as equals. It allows the party to say, "See, we also have an Armenian in our party." However, they are not really part of the politics; they are only Armenians at the table.

On the other hand, I am an equal member. I have my message and my politics. Of course, in some ways, if an Armenian issue is on the table, they ask my opinion. Similarly, if an issue pertaining to Alevis is on the table, they ask the Alevi colleagues for their input. However, in the broader issues like the economy, education, and politics, I have my say. They see me as Garo; and on those types of broader issues my opinion is valued. I suppose that this is what every Armenian needs.

Being an MP is new for me. Whatever the responsibilities are, if I am in it I will go all the way.

N.B.: What types of Armenian issues are you going to focus on in parliament?

G.P.: Nowadays, we are working for Camp Armen.

N.B.: And you were at the protest yesterday...

GP.: Yes. About a month ago, I heard the news that there is a bulldozer at Camp Armen. I was the first one to go there and stop the bulldozer. I simply talked to the driver, and told him, "This is the property of Armenians. Stop the demolition."

N.B.: Describe those few moments. Did you run in front of the bulldozer?

GP.: Yes. First, I thought to myself, I am going to die here. The bulldozer was still running and I was the one who stopped it. I just explained to the driver that this is the property of Armenians. It's Hrant Dink's property. I asked him to stop. I told him how the children constructed this building. Then, the driver stopped and said that he has children of his own, and that he can't finish this job even if they offer him a million. And he just drove the bulldozer out of the camp. It really was something. It also shows something about the conscience of Turks. This was not about the past, it was about today.

They always say, leave [the Armenian Genocide] to the historians. But when it's about the present...it's a symbol of genocide again, and it's why we say that the genocide is still continuing.

It's been more than eight years since Hrant Dink's [murder]. I am one of the organizers of the Friends of Hrant Dink organization. I will work on the Hrant Dink case. I will also work on Sevag Bal'kç's case. It is hard to start with 100 years ago. I can start with today: Camp Armen, Hrant Dink, and Sevag. If we can be successful with these cases, we can perhaps go back further and further. Of course, I will do a lot on the genocide issue. After all, my party recognizes it, and wrote it in their program—that we have to ask for recognition of the Armenian Genocide. We are very open about it. And this is why I think I am the luckiest one really, the luckiest Armenian MP.

I will also focus on Armenian schools. I know every detail about Armenian schools. The first day I really got to work with the Minister of Education, we discussed so many problems. He just gave me his word that he would address some of the problems. Yesterday, we dealt with two very important issues for the Armenian schools. Of course, we have more problems, and I will give reports to the new Minister of Education. I know these issues because I worked for the schools for 15 years, and I know every detail about them.

N.B.: What were the two issues you brought up that were signed?

GP.: Unfortunately, there is an identity

code in Turkey. It is a vicious thing.

N.B.: The three codes that citizens are assigned based on their identities.

GP.: Yes, those codes. Armenians are number "2's". If you are to send your child to an Armenian school, you have to prove that you are in fact Armenian. You have to submit a form, and they look if you are a number 2 or not. But there are many Islamized Armenians, and children of mixed marriages. Our parents have so many problems with the coding system. It's actually humiliating. I argue that we know each other; we know who is an Armenian and who is not. You have to give us that permission. So [the Minister of Education] just signed it—it's no longer going to be based on the code. We are going to decide who can attend our schools.

I will still open another case about the coding, because it's not just about the education system. Whenever we go into military service or apply for public service positions, they look at the code again. We have to get rid of that code. Luckily, we got rid of the code in the education system. Our parents won't have to prove that they are Armenian anymore.

There is another important issue. [The government] sends Turkish language and history teachers to our schools. The teachers can stay at our schools for 5 years each. We are arguing that there are some teachers that we are quite happy with, and 5 years are not enough. [The Minister of Education] just signed that if we are happy with a teacher, we can keep that teacher for longer. This is also important. They were sending us these teachers without our input. Perhaps we prefer Ayse, or Hasan, so now we can choose the teacher before they approve.

N.B.: Is that the same procedure with every school, or just the Armenian schools?

GP.: This is the situation for the Armenian, Greek, and Jewish schools. Our demand is that we don't want certain teachers. We don't want you to send the teachers. We have to change the law. There is a law that gives the Ministry of Education the right to send the history and Turkish-language teachers, because they don't trust us.

N.B.: The educational issues are very important, as the educational system can implant prejudices and discrimination in society. We know that in Turkish textbooks, for instance, Armenians are painted in a very bad light. They are portrayed as treacherous. Do you plan on working on this issue as well?

GP.: Some things have changed. Let's

say there were 100 [negative] sentences 7 years ago, now we have 10-12 bad sentences. We still have to get rid of them. We need to instead show that we used to live together, and that something bad has happened. We need to show that Armenians are part of this land. Armenians belong here. The young generations don't even know that Armenians used to live here, or they still live here, and they are part of the history. We need to get rid of the negative language, but we also need to replace them with positive language.

However, I don't want to be involved only in Armenian issues, but in everything, and especially in issues pertaining to the education system. The Alevis, the Kurds, and the Armenians have the same problems. Also, the Armenian school system needs reform. We need to invest more in the Armenian schools. If we have autonomy—especially for the Armenian or Kurdish schools—it will be significant. It would be very significant if we can change the legislation on it.

When I go on television shows, sometimes I want to say more, but I stop and think to myself that I don't have the right to cause more fear to my people—to the Armenians.

N.B.: Are you concerned about your own safety?

GP.: Not at all. However, today, I went to an Armenian high school graduation party where everybody was afraid that something bad would happen to me. I don't have any such fears. But I do have the fear in the sense that I don't want them to go through something again. Everyone says that we lived through Hrant Dink, and we don't want to live through it again. So, no, I have no fear because I am on this road, but I fear disappointing them; that's why I am careful sometimes.

We need more people from the young generations. We need more people from the diaspora to come here. We need more [political] actors that work on these issues, and we need more Armenians to be more politically active. If I am the only target, that's not good. Hrant Dink was a phenomenon. And being a phenomenon is sometimes a good thing and sometimes a bad thing. It's not good to put all your expectations in one man or one woman. You have to have many [political] actors. I'd like to work with new groups, and with more people. I'm trying to give that courage to the younger generations. I hope that in the coming years we'll have more people in politics.

“VivaCell-MTS: 10 Years of Friendship”

Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator and We the Subscribers Celebrate Company's First Jubilee



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

Chief Correspondent

1st of July marks 10 years of VivaCell-MTS, a Company that has set a standard on what the Mission of business and its relationship with the society should be.

During a press conference held at VivaCell-MTS Headquarters, VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Cesar Yirikian** highlighted the major achievements of the Company.

Major achievements of the company in the market are not limited to still unsurpassed key performance indicators related to the market activity but extend to the larger societal relationships. True cooperation of business with the society through accountability, responsiveness and transparent relationship extend far beyond the traditional model of relationship between the businesses and the consumers. New model of responsible behavior owns to the culture of productivity and innovative management, developed in the course of ten years of dedicated teamwork. As such, the unique organizational culture at VivaCell-MTS is not easily replicable, yet the Company has been open to share its huge knowledge and values for the creation of public good and sustainability.

Armenia's leading telecommunications operator has achieved leadership position, which is marked by a significant market share reaching to more than 60% with over 2 million subscribers, out of which 1.12 million use data exchange services. VivaCell-MTS provides roaming services in 196 countries through 494 roaming partners. The Company has become much closer to its customers with its 92 service centers across the country, including 2 flagships offering 24/7 operation in Yerevan.

Enhanced with the launch of DC

HSDPA, providing up to 42.2Mbps in 615 settlements, of which 48 are towns, the biggest 3.5G network in Armenia provides the Company with a very important platform for delivering high quality and innovative voice and data services to its subscribers. VivaCell-MTS is Armenia's absolute leader in terms of network coverage – the 3G network (more than 1175 base stations) covers about 98.8% of the population and the 2G network is available to 99.8% of the population. Even more competitive services are offered to the Armenian market since 2009 with the



launch of 4G/LTE network, for the first time in Armenia, providing speed up to 150 Mbps in the downlink. 4G network covers over 45,7% of the population (more than 250 base stations), including 7 major cities.

As part of close integration of the business performance to the commitment to society, throughout ten years VivaCell-MTS has allocated more than AMD 28.9

billion for the implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility and sponsorship projects. Capital Investment alone amounts to more than AMD 182 billion. Consolidated revenues throughout 2005-2015 made up over AMD 675.4 billion. Over the same period, as a major taxpayer, VivaCell-MTS has paid over AMD 188.2 billion to the state budget. Having grown to become a team of 1400 motivated professionals, whose average age is 34, to date, the Company has paid more than AMD 66 billion as a salary fund. Apart from competitive salaries, social benefits system has been put in place for the employees.

“The 10 years of friendship have been full of challenges of turbulent economic times and competition. For us VivaCell-MTS is more than operation – it's a life, full of days and nights of hard work, successes and setbacks. Our story of success makes us fully ready and confident to continue working having in mind one objective: customer satisfaction and public good. And after 10 years we are faster, more efficient, more focused, more responsible, more transparent and closer to our subscribers and society, at large. Thank you for your trust, which obliges us to do more,” said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

...Once your author heard (by chance) the following “discussion” between a jobless neighbor and his five year old son: “Daddy, I wanna bicycle!” – a kid started to beg his father again and again... “My son, by the moment we have no money, but I promise you: the first thing that I do when having money, I'll buy your bicycle”, that was really uneasy answer...

“I can no more wait – I go to Ralph (Mr Yirikian)”, - that was an indisputable statement by a five year old kid...

This half-funny story illustrates best what do the Company and its Founding GM mean for us the Armenians...

Congratulations, Friends !

VivaCell-MTS is the General Partner of the 4th International Medical Congress of Armenia

The opening ceremony of the 4th International Medical Congress of Armenia took place in the Armenian National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after Alexander Spendiaryan. The Congress program included an outstanding list of internationally recognized experts and healthcare professionals, with participation of Armenian medical doctors and nurses from all over the world.

The General Partner of the Congress was Viva Cell-MTS. The Company has allocated AMD 10 million for the organization of the Congress.

During the 4th Congress the speakers and participants discussed current issues of healthcare and medicine. They highlighted advances in various fields of medicine, surgery, dentistry, nursing, health education, ethics, complementary and alternative medicine, as well as other issues of interest and concerns within the allied healthcare fields.

Nearly 500 registered participants from Armenia and 16 countries participated in the Congress. Additionally, the number of participants of satellite symposia was ranging from 1500 to 2000.

VivaCell-MTS is the General Partner of FRESCO Festival

Nowdays FRESCO Annual Festival of Modern Art and Spiritual and Moral Films is being held in Yerevan and the regions. The General Partner of the festival is VivaCell-MTS.

The festival contains both competitive and non-competitive programs. Fiction and



documentary, full-length and short-length films and video materials of different formats, in which wars, violence, national, religious and any other types of discrimina-



tion, ecological disasters of human origin are denounced, and where peace, tolerance, humanism and global values are advocated.

FRESCO offers an informal approach to the participants of the film festival along all the stages of the festival starting from the film review up to the places the events are held: the wonderful films, photo exhibitions, and shows brought to Armenia have gone out from cinemas and have literally "entered the streets". Round-the-clock

open air demonstrations and film reviews "with no ticket" have literally become part of the Armenians' everyday life.

Informal approach is shown to the selection of sites for film reviews. Traditional sites in the Centre used for such events are replaced with crowded areas of the city (gardens, church yards, etc). Some of the festival events are to be held outside Yerevan, in picturesque corners of Armenia. Participants will have the opportunity to participate in unprecedented film-watching camps.

The festival also gives a special importance to the employment of special social groups and especially individuals with limited abilities. Due to the cooperation with the institutes specialized in the field individuals with a disablement will not only participate in all the measures of the festival, but also be actively involved in all the organizational works of "FRESCO".

And last, but not the least, not at all!

On July 3 we've got areally terrific news from Armenia's leading telecom operator...

"City Talks": the embedded airtime can also be used for calling to 374 97 and 374 47 networks, USA, Canada and Russia

Now VivaCell-MTS' "City Talks" tariff plan Option 1 subscribers have an opportunity to use the 150 minutes of embedded airtime for calling to both RA other, and to 374 97 GSM and 374 47 fixed networks, as well as to Russia, USA and Canada.

A "little" clarification from The Highlights: 37497/47 are the area codes, mobile/landline for the SECOND ARMENIAN REPUBLIC, i.e. of Nagorno-Karabakh.



Recent News from the Armenian State Youth Orchestra...

Sergey Smbatyan Awarded the Medal of Arno Babajanyan Contest

On June 17, during the official opening ceremony of Arno Babajanyan Young Pianists Contest, the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia **Sergey Smbatyan** was awarded the Medal of the Contest. The Award was presented by **Armen Harutyunyan**, Director of the Yerevan State Musical College after Arno Babajanyan. When handing the Award, Director thanked the State Youth Orchestra and its Artistic Director and Principal Conductor for the constant support of the Contest.

Ambassador **Richard Mills** and honorary guest PM **Hovik Abrahamyan** referred with satisfaction to the close Armenian-American relations, stressing the historic,



Press Conference and the Concert on the International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians (Moscow)

On July 7, at 18:30, the Komitas Chamber Music Hall will host a press conference dedicated to the 9th International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians (traditionally held in Moscow).

Among speakers there will be **Sergey Demensky** (Deputy General Director of MKR (International Development Corporation)), **Andrey Shcherbak** (Director General of Association of Tchaikovsky International Competition Stars), **Tigran Hakobyan** (CEO of MKR Media Armenia), **Martoun Kostandyan** (Principal of

the Yerevan Tchaikovsky Special Music School) and **Sergey Smbatyan** (Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia). Participants will touch upon topics related to the International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians and the participation of the younger generation in this cultural event.

SYOA opens the 4th International Medical Congress of Armenia

On 1 July at the A.L. Spendiaryan National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet the 4th International Medical Congress of Armenia was solemnly launched. The official part of the ceremony was followed by a concert of the SYOA.

Under the charming sounds of classical music a documentary on the Armenian healthcare history, development of medicine and prominent doctors was shown. At the end of the concert singer Nune Yesayan inaugurated a song written by the First Lady of Armenia Mrs **Rita A. Sargsyan** called "Dedication to Generations".



First Lady Rita A. Sargsyan on the right, with Health Minister Armen Mouradyan and Mrs Mouradyan

cultural and family ties connecting both countries.

The Ambassador



SYOA Plays at the US Embassy Reception on the America's Independence Day

On Tuesday 30 June the US Embassy in Armenia held a reception for the 239th anniversary of the US independence.

expressed words of gratitude to the 10 long-term Armenian workers of the Embassy.

During the event, State Youth Orchestra of Armenia performed its well-known and beloved by the audience Hollywood Non-Stop cinema music program. This concert kicked off a number of July cultural events held by the US Embassy in Yerevan.

After the press conference, at 19:30, the final concert of the 9th International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians in Armenia will take place. **Arthur Grigorian** (piano), **Andranik Aghajanian** (cello), **Diana Adamyan** (violin), young finalists of the Competition as well as the soloist **Haik Kazazyan** (violin) and the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia headed by the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor **Sergey Smbatyan** will perform during the evening.

The competition organizers are Association of Tchaikovsky International Competition Stars, International Development Corporation.

The concert organizer is the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia.

General Sponsor is MKR Media Armenia.

Rare images of Armenian Genocide survivors on show in Italy



Rare, moving images of survivors of the 1915 Armenian genocide will be shown in Bologna on Thursday as part of the 29th edition of the city's "Cinema Ritrovato" (Rediscovered Cinema) festival, Agence France-Presse reports.

A significant historical source that was discovered completely by chance, buried away and forgotten in the US Library of Congress, the silent film dates from 1923 and includes images of children packed onto boats in Turkey and lines of refugees trudging along roads.

The film is being shown as part of a selection intended to honour Armenian cinema a century after the beginning of the slaughter of Armenians at the hands of Ottoman Turkish forces.

Also on show during the festival are "Namus" (Honour), a 1925 work by Hamo Beknazarian that is considered the first Armenian film, "Sayat Nova" (The Color of Pomegranates) a 1969 film by Sergei Paradjanov and "Naapet", Henrik Malyan's 1980 film about a genocide survivor. Other rare documentary images include a five-minute film shot by the French army of Armenian refugees in camps at Port Said in Egypt.

But the jewel in the festival's crown is the four minutes of "Armenia, Cradle of Humanity" shot in Turkey soon after the end of the killing - a time thought previously to have only been recorded in still images such as those of German photographer Armin Wegner.

Mariann Lewinsky, one of the festival's curators, came upon the film by "a miracle" as she clicked through the internet data base of the International Federation of Film Archives (Fiaf).

Who shot the film and how it got to the Oregon Historical Society before being deposited in the Congress library is a mystery, says the Swiss researcher as she runs the recently-restored reel.

"I sent a little email to my colleagues in the library and they told me, 'Yes we have something, but we don't know what.'"

"I insisted a bit and asked if I could come and see the condition of the film."

Normally such a demand would take a bit of time to get a response but Lewinsky was quickly sent some photos and a telephone contact number. "The images were extraordinary, boats full of children, trains."

Having obtained the reel, she quickly dated it to 1923, but her first thought was the people shown could be displaced Greeks - a theory that was dropped when she recognised a well-known Istanbul palace in the background of one shot.

Colleagues confirmed that, after the end of World War One, British forces assembled Armenian orphans in the building for evacuation. "It is a miracle," Lewinsky said.

A century on, Lewinsky believes a new Turkey is emerging in which Kurds, Greeks, Armenians and ethnic Turks are moving towards "moments of reconciliation".

Films like "Armenia, Cradle of Humanity" can only help this process, she says, invoking her hope that it could be shown at a small silent film festival in Istanbul in the near future.

Professor Taner Akçam, a leading international authority on Armenian Genocide, lectures in Antelias

On June 30 evening His Holiness Aram I presided over a special event on the Armenian Genocide organized by the communication department of the Catholicosate of Cilicia. Professor Taner Akçam, Professor of History and the Robert Aram, Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University, spoke on the topic, "The Armenian Genocide research, findings and current challenges." A large number of clergy, academics, students and members of the community attended the lecture given by the Turkish scholar at the Cilicia Museum Hall in Antelias, Press Service of the Catholicosate of Cilicia reports.

Very Rev. Sipan Kechedjian introduced Professor Akçam as a Turkish intellectual who teaches, publishes and openly discusses the Armenian Genocide. In his lecture, Professor Akçam spoke of the contribution that Armenian and non-Armenian scholars have made to the historical study of the Armenian Genocide and discussed his extensive research on the Ottoman archives. He stated that the Armenian Genocide was premeditated and well planned by the Turkish authorities of the time and that the First World War had provided the appropriate context and the time to the Turkish Authorities to execute their plan. He concluded his lecture by stating that there is a crying need for new historical

research on the Armenian Genocide, and he encouraged Armenian youth to become actively involved in this research.

Following a question/answer period, His Holiness Aram I concluded the evening by thanking Taner Akçam for his courage and commitment to the Armenian Genocide and also for accepting to join the team of experts who filed the lawsuit with the Constitutional Court of Turkey on 27 April 2015, demanding the return of the property of the See of Cilicia in Sis. Stating that he shares Professor Akçam's concern to have more youth interested in the history of and research on the Armenian Genocide, His Holiness Aram I announced his determination to assist interested candidates.

One photographer's personal endeavor to track down survivors of the Armenian Genocide, 100 years later

As children, they escaped ruthless state-sponsored violence. Now, these Armenian women and men visit the aching memory of what they left behind

By Jenna Krajeski

Photos by Diana Markosian
Smithsonian Magazine

Few places are more important to Armenian national identity than Mount Ararat, the snowcapped peak that looms over Yerevan, the capital city. A centerpiece of Armenian folklore and religious history where Noah's Ark is said to have landed, the mountain evokes pride and a sense of place. It is featured on the Armenian coat of arms and currency. But it also looms as a reminder of the tragedy that has dominated Armenian life: Mount Ararat is visible from Armenia, but it belongs to Turkey.

A hundred years ago, as the Ottomans anxiously tried to hold together their collapsing empire, they launched a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the territory's Armenian population, whom they feared as a threat to Turkish rule. Between 1915 and 1923, Ottoman forces killed 1.5 million Armenians and expelled half a million more in what is widely considered the first major genocide of the 20th century. Men, women and children were marched to mass graves in the Syrian desert or massacred in their homes. Ottoman soldiers destroyed Armenian churches and villages and confiscated property. Survivors fled into Armenia, then a republic that would soon be swallowed by the Soviet Union. Others scattered around the world.

The Armenian-American photographer Diana Markosian, who had a great-grandfather from eastern Turkey who survived the genocide because Turkish neighbors hid him until it was safe to flee, has undertaken to document the national memory of the event in portraits of living survivors. Raised in Moscow, Yerevan and Santa Barbara, California, Markosian says that she long felt the weight of the genocide as a burden, a "monstrous history you inherited because of your ethnicity." It's a history that hasn't been fully acknowledged. To this day, Turkey disputes the extent of the killings and denies that they were planned by Ottoman officials, and the U.S. government declines to recognize the atrocities as a "genocide," a word no sitting American president has used to describe the fate of the Armenians.



Consulting voter registries to track down Armenian citizens born in Turkey before 1915, Markosian found some survivors still alive in Armenia, now an independent nation of three million people. She photographed them in their homes and, later, after traveling to the places they had fled, she reunited the survivors with images of their lost hometowns and documented the reunions.

The images are surreal meetings at the crossroads of place and memory. Farmland has overtaken villages; ancient mountaintop churches stand in ruins. Some of the survivors wept when they saw her photos of their former homes, which beckoned like Ararat in the distance, enduring but out of reach. "I wanted to help the survivors reclaim a part of their own history," Markosian says. "But how do you show something that's not there?"



Drawings by Armenian artists to be showcased in Cyprus



The Pharos Centre for Contemporary Art in Cyprus will showcase a drawing exhibition by Arshak Sarkissian entitled Tera-Genesis as of tomorrow, July 1st, the Cyprus Mail reports.

Sarkissian's art revolves around contemporary man, the complexities and controversies that surround him as well as his metaphysical peculiarities as refracted through the artist's imagination. Convinced that the world is a pluralistic place that is not just limited to physical reality and in which many worlds - directly inspired by arts and literature - are just as factual, his world is informed by the Magic Realism of South America as well as Asiatic Shamanistic traditions.

Therefore Sarkissian illustrates the supernatural aspects of everyday life in his

art. For him as an artist, the comprehension of multidimensional realities is fundamental in recognizing man's own reality, and he is fascinated by exploring the extremes of human behavior and nature.

Sarkissian's study of the human personality's multitude of dimensions comes out in his drawings, which are peopled with self-conscious entities that seem to be in psychological experiments with themselves in a process of self-discovery and evolution. It is through such experiments that the personality gives way to the genesis of either a monstrous abnormality or a hybrid of fauna or flora, until human and inhuman ultimately become indistinguishable before the next stage of metamorphosis.

The drawings express the artist's never-ending yearning for change and the novel. They are figurative as well as contemporary, and are greatly influenced by Renaissance art. His characters have an eccentric temperament and an exotic disposition, and his animal hybrids always reveal extra dimensions and expressions along the way. They emerge from an ancient world that was populated by half human, half animal prototypes, whose mythologies revealed complex worlds. The drawings, however, place these creatures in a post-modern, contemporary world where they still struggle with their daemons.

Sarkissian, from Armenia, studied at

the National Aesthetic Centre of Art in Armenia and went on to participate in a residency under Stass Paraskos at Lemba Art School in Cyprus supported by the Pharos Arts Foundation.

The artist has had solo shows at the Albemarle Gallery in London, Gavriel Gallery in Bremen, Mildberry Gallery in Moscow, in Paris and New York, and participated in group exhibitions in the Centre for Contemporary Experimental Art and the Gyumri International Biennale in Armenia, the Charlie Smith Gallery in London, the Harvest Gallery in California and the Marie Pavgas Art Gallery in North Carolina.

He has been commissioned to create work for the passenger terminals at Zvartnots International Airport in Armenia. He has participated in numerous art projects, among others, as part of his residency in the OMI International Arts Centre in New York, in the "Stand Up For Your Rights" Design and Illustration Programme in Buntingford, UK, and the Andorran National Commission for the UNESCO International Art Camp in 2014. Sarkissian works and lives in Yerevan, Armenia. His works can be found in several important private collections.

The exhibition will run at the Pharos Centre for Contemporary Art until July 29 and can be viewed by appointment after the initial opening tomorrow.

ISIS aims to cleanse the region of Christians: Experts



The Islamic State has caused a huge damage to civilization over the past year of its activity and aims to cleanse the region of Christians, experts of Arabic studies Sargis Grigoryan and Armen Petrosyan told a press conference on July 1.

The Islamic State has managed to expand the areas under its control in Iraq and Syria. This is a new reality for the world, since ISIS has set a new benchmark for radicals. The latter's activity will now serve the Islamic State.

Sargis Grigoryan said "immediately after the Islamic State was

proclaimed, a number of Islamist structures in the Muslim world vowed their loyalty to the Caliph. This was followed by establishment of vilayets in areas controlled by those organizations.

"At this point there are about 35 vilayets in different parts of the Muslim world - from North Africa to Pakistan," he said.

The last announcement was about the creation of a vilayet in the Caucasus. According to the expert, this means "IS has far-reaching plans connected with this stricture in the region. The Islamic organizations in the Caucasus will receive military, financial and other assistance from the Islamic State."

"I think the radical Islamist trends will further intensify, as the radical Islamic groups need to prove they are worth being "administrative units" of ISIS," Grigoryan said.

Armen Petrosyan spoke about the way different regional players use the IS factor for their geopolitical interests. "If there is any provocation in the Caucasus, i.e. the South of Russia, it will be enough for the world to speak about the reinforcement of ISIS positions in Russia," he said.

"This will mean a serious blow to Russia, which will make the country redirect a huge portion of its resources from Ukraine to the Caucasus," Petrosyan added.

He said the developments are even more alarming, considering that there are a great number of Armenians living in those regions.

MASTER OF THE GARDEN

Opera based on oral traditional Armenian Folk-Tale

Authors/Role Casting

PERFORMANCE

Composer and Head of the Orchestra: **Suren Shahi-Djanyan**
 Libretto by **Danielle Dalloz**
 Stage Director: **Yves Coudray**
 Decorator/Theatrical Painter: **Damien Schoëvaërt-Brossault**

Folk-Tale Narrator: **Vincent Pavesi** (bass)
 King: **Christian Termis** (Actor)
 12th Gardener: **Christophe Schuwey** (Tenor)
 Samvel: **Romain Champion** (Tenor)
 Vard: **MaliaBendiMerad** (Soprano)

The premiere took place in La PénicheOpéra in Paris on Saturday - April 4, at 8:30 p.m. 2015, on Sunday - April 5, at 4p.m., 2015, on Monday - April 6, at 8:30p.m., 2015. Afterwards in Studio Raspali in Paris on Saturday - June 27, 2015, on Sunday - June 28, 2015

About the authors

Suren Shahi-Djanyan

Armenian conductor and singer Suren Shahi-Djanyan began his creative activity in the Conservatoire of Armenia, in Marianna Harutyunyan's class, afterwards in Jane Barbier's class of Paris Conservatoire, enjoying CNSMDP prize. After being trained in the Musical Education Centre of Paris Opera he as bass soloist sang on international stages.

In 2002 his recording of Chaikovsky's works together with Claude Lavoie in "Zig-Zag territoire" enjoyed a number of prizes, including Fischer-Dieskau prize of Opera Disc Academy. In 1996 he is the laureate of Belgian Queen Elizabeth competition.

After singing with the orchestras led by well-known conductors in Paris Opera, in La Scala of Milan and in Salzburg Festival he devoted himself to the conductor's work. Since 1991 he is the co-founder and conductor of the "Armenian Chamber Players" Orchestra. The Orchestra performed for more than thousand concerts, enjoying great success everywhere in Europe.

As a composer Suren Shahi-Djanyan has written Armenian Church service for choir and soloists, vocal series based on HovhannesTumanian's quatrains, as well as choir works on the basis of veda texts.

Danielle Dalloz, libretto writer

Danielle Dalloz is a psycho-analyst. She is an author of a number of works, including "The Lie" and "The Jealousy" (Bayard Presse), "What Do the Children Dream" (Audibert), "Where Does the Violence Begin" (Albin Michel), "If They Rold Me about the Jealousy" (La Martinière). Soon the author's work "If They Told me About Time" will be published.

During this very last study he met with Suren Shahi-Djanyan in order he would explain some words in the Armenian folk-tale "The Master of the Garden."

In 2006 by the request of the Director of the Péniche-OpéraMirelleLaroche she founded the amateur C'POP choir, andshe is its Chair.

About Artists and Performers

Yves Coudray, Stage Director

At the age of 18 entering Paris CNSM, Yves Coudray began his singer's career. His repertoire is rich and comprehensive, at the same time he gave preference to the French music art. He had sung in many opera theatres of France and Switzerland, at the same time in Ex-en-Provence, Utrecht, Montpellier and Saint-Étienne festivals.

In parallel with the performer's activity Yves Coudray also works as a director, as well prepares young singers. As a stage director he has led during the solo concert of Steven Colin, Animals Big and Small, as well as took part with Chanticleer ? Handel & Haydn Society of Boston ensembles in Sir John Taverner's world performance of drama "Lamentations and Praises" in San Francisco, New York and Boston.

From 2010 he is the Artistic Director of Etretat Offenbach Festival.

Damien Schoëvaërt-Brossault, decorator/theatrical painter

In 1972 the Lecturer of the South Paris University and Doctor of hospital Damien Schoëvaërt-Brossault began getting interested in the works of the Vincent Theatrical Marionettes (André Verdun) Group, in 1981 together with Ann-Marie Courteau founding Au Clair de Lune Theatre. He created numerous performances of the theatre of objects and images, pop-up books being shown on the stage, which were staged in the Charleville-MeziereMarionnettes International Festival.

He has prepared marionette objects for the Péniche-Opéra for such performances, which were shown in different theatres of Paris, as well as in Bastille Opera of Paris and in Havre Museum of Natural Sciences.

In 1996 he founded the working group "To See and Produce Images of Art and Science" of South Paris University. At present he is a member of the Péniche-Opéra Artistic Board, where he takes part in making the programmes of the seasonal programmes.

MaliaBendiMerad, Soprano (The Rose)

MaliaBenadMerad performed in a role of Night Queen in 2010 in November, on Bouffe du Nord Theatre of Paris, in Peter Brook's performance. In 2011 the performance left for tours to Europe, America and Asia. This world-round tour ended in December 2013, passing through such stages, as London Barbican Centre, Milan Small Theatre, New York Lincoln Centre, Luxembourg Big Theatre, etc.

MaliaBenadMerad's professional debut took place with Cleveland Orchestra in 2003. She was a student when Master Franz Welser-Möst chose her to sing the voice of the sky in Don Carlos next to Samuel Ramey and Simon Keenlyside. Later the

authoritative orchestra repeatedly invited her to sing the first Flower Girl's role in Wagner's "Parsifal." She has sung in the Montpellier, Marseilles, Nice, Lion operas and repeatedly received invitations from Rene Opera.

After getting education in Paris he decided to devote herself to music and study in the United States, where in 2003 she got a title of bachelor of music in Oberlin Conservatoire of Ohio.

In 2010 in the Comic Opera she sang Filin in "Mignon" of Ambruaz Thomas led by Francois-Gzavier Roth.

Vincent Pavesi, bass (Folk-Tale Narrator)

Vincent Pavesi is a laureate of Paris Music and Dance Higher National Conservatoire, studied in the classes of RejinCrespin and Christian Masterson, afterwards he continued his education in London with Valery masterson and Tom Krauz. At present he gets trained at Hannah Schwartz. After his debut with British Young Opera he was invited to perform a large repertoire, from baroque opera up to Britten and Elena Katz-Cerny, certainly including also Mozart.

His international career leads him to international authoritative theatres: Amsterdam, Brussels, Berlin, Norway, also South America, Australia and Japan, as well as Paris Opera and Comic Opera.

Romain Champion, Tenor (Samvel)

In 2005 he entered the European Academy of Ambrone, took part in the performance "Tectful Europe" of André Camprastaged by William Christ, having tours in France and Spain. Afterwards he cooperated with the majority of the French baroque conductors. You could hear him singing in many theatres of Paris, also in many other institutions of France and in the festivals abroad.

His noble tenor is sharp and flexible, which makes him demanded and evaluated in the wide repertoire: baroque, classical, also modern.

Christophe Schuwey, Tenor (12th Gardener)

In parallel with the thesis of the literature Christophe Schuwey studied singing with Mari-Francoise Schuwey in Fribourg (Switzerland) and with Suren Shahi-Djanyan in Paris, also with Jean Viniger studied theatrical work. He took part in many stage working meetings, also in the performances of Eric Perez, Jean Bellorini and Vincent Vittoz. In different concerts he performed as a soloist.

In 2010 he founded Free Buff Company, signed a treaty with Dédé, opérette, Henry Kristine and Albert Willemetz for his first performance, which they played in September 2011 in Fribourg. Afterwards he staged "Orpheus and Evridika" by Gluck (2012), "Seven Deadly Sins" by Wale (2013) and "Apollo and Hyacinthus" by Mozart.

The Concept of the Performance

"The Master of the Garden" opera is about searches of eternity of a tyrant king. He has imprisoned a rose-tree which will give eternity to him when it blossoms. Alas, the rose-tree is desperately dry. He asks his twelve gardeners to help: they fail and get ruthlessly punished. The thirteenth gardener due his competence succeeds to change everything but it is already late for the king.

The Armenian folk-tale is in the basis of the opera, the lyricism of which has enchanted the lyric performer, Head of the Orchestra and composer **Suren Shahi-Djanyan**. He wrote music and asked to write libretto the psycho-analyst and author Danielle Dallozwho is well aware of that story.

Being a **powerful bridge connecting the East and West**, this workpromotes the strengtheningof **cultural ties between Armenia and France**, gives new impetus to the millennia-old Armenian culture and attracts the attention of the community to the philosophical, lyrical and musical legacy.

Perceiving as a chamber opera Suren Shahi-Djanyan imagined minimal accompaniment (piano and percussion), narrator (bass) which presents the characters, who embody three lyrical singers (tenor in the role of Samvel and the twelfth gardener, and soprano in the role of Rose-tree) and one performer in the role of king. The antique choir composed of about fifteen singers comments the actions.

The stage full of miniatures reveals the special magic and miracle to the folk-tale. This simple staging takes the spectator to a imaginary world that has been born as a result of text and music. On this very harmonious stage the actors embodying the lyrical and real world are sometimes characters and sometimes performers.

In the hall having an intimate atmosphere like La PénicheOpéra in Paris the decision of staging this performance stems from the opportunity of being very close to each other given by the hall to a spectator and actors.

Synopsis of the Performance

Once upon a time lived an Armenian King...

In the middle of his gardens full of rare trees and flowers a thin, but precious rose-bush out of all other bushes was growing: "Eternal" was its name. This rose-bush never was blooming. They were cherishing the rose-bush like a beloved woman, as they were expecting a rose from her, the only and unique one, about which it was written in the old books. It was said like this: "One day will come, when the Eternal bush-rose will blossom and give the noble rose that the Master of the Garden will grant eternal youth..."

Based on the book "Master of the Garden"

This story is about the King of Armenia, who wanted only to keep in his hand the power of the "Eternal" rose. This rose symbolizes spotless perfection as a data of the infinitely reviving life. The King thinks that they will get eternity, if the rose-bush blossoms in his garden.

"The Master of the Garden is almost a fable, as it is not only about the punished ill-disposed or awarded noble person. It is a fable, which teaches us the force of the word, shows the real anti-poison against almighty "I" and the unsaid poison, a fable which tells us that the caring man reaches eternity that we can reach everything only with real love and wish and grow a rose even on seeming dry food."

Yves Coudray, stage director

Ornella Muti, Nastassja Kinski guests of honor at Golden Apricot International Film Festival in Yerevan

Ornella Muti and Nastassja Kinski will be guests of honor at the 12th edition of the Golden Apricot International Film Festival in Yerevan, Director General of the Festival Harutyun Khachatryan told reporters on July 2

Italian film star Ornella Muti made her debut in 1970 in the film *The Most Beautiful Woman*.

She's better known to the Armenian audience for her role in the comedy *Il Bisbetico Domato* (*The Taming of the Scoundrel*) where she plays alongside Adriano Celentano.

Ornella Muti is a permanent guest of honor at the Cannes Film Festival.

Within the frames of the Golden Apricot, the film *Swann in Love* with Ornella Muti will have its Yerevan premiere.

Nastassja Kinski is famed for roles in films by directors Roman Polanski, Wim Wenders, Francis Ford Coppola and others.

The German-born actress had her worldwide breakthrough in 1978 with Italian-Spanish romance *Stay As You Are* by Alberto Lattuada. Then she starred in Roman Polanski's Golden Globe award-winner *Tess* (1979). One of her most celebrated parts is Wim Wenders' *Paris, Texas* (1984), which went on to win top prizes at Cannes.

This year's retrospective screening



of the Golden Apricot Film Festival will be devoted to Nastassja Kinski.

French actor and director Patrick Chesnais will also arrive in Yerevan as a special guest of the festival. The film with Chesnais *Not Here to be Loved* by Stephane Brize will be screened within the framework of the festival.

Harutyun Khachatryan was an honorary Jury member at the Moscow International Film Festival's Documentary Competition. On June 25 a special evening was held on the occasion of the director's 60th birthday anniversary. During the evening his full-length debut, *The Wind of Oblivion* (1989)

was screened.

The Moscow International Film Festival awarded Harutyun Khachatryan with a prize for his contribution to cinema and Armenian-Russian cultural cooperation.

The Russian Guild of Film Critics and Film Journalists awarded Khachatryan with its prestigious "Elephant" prize for his great contribution to world cinema and for the establishment of the Golden Apricot International Film Festival.

Khachatryan said a special "Never Again" program of the Moscow IFF was dedicated to the centennial of the Armenian Genocide.



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