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End of proportional vs majoritarian dispute

HIGHLIGHT

Ministry of Justice of France starts drafting new bill criminalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide

Ministry of Justice of France has started drafting a new bill criminalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide. It was stated by the representative of the Ministry Bruno Badre.

"The timeframe of presentation of the bill will be clarified after analyses," he said. The Élysée Palace has instructed the Ministry of Justice of France to draft the bill. The specialists of the Ministry will make the new text of the bill correspond to all the necessary European and international standards.

The Constitutional Council of France recognized the bill authored by Valerie Boyer unconstitutional, after which President of France Nicolas Sarkozy instructed to draft a new bill for penalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide.



The National Assembly rejected a bill which Armenia's leading opposition forces say is essential for the freedom and fairness of the May 6 parliamentary elections.

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Again about the measures to maintain ceasefire regime in Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone

by David Petrosan

A. The "conspiracy of silence" on the agreement signed 17 years ago

In May 2012 we will mark the 18th anniversary of the signing of the Permanent Agreement on the Ceasefire in effect as of May 12, 1994, in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone. The agreement was signed by the three conflicting parties, namely Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, with the mediation of Russia.

In fact the war could have ended earlier. Short-term ceasefires were achieved many a time, but the Azerbaijani side either was unwilling to extend them, or even violated them, trying to gain the upper hand by force of arms. For instance, a protocol envisag-

ing a ceasefire to come into effect on 1 March 1994 and the withdrawal of troops from the line of contact was signed at the Russian Ministry of Defense on February 18, 1994. The protocol was signed by the defense ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Russian Federation, and a representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. However, Azerbaijan evaded fulfilling the obligations assumed under the protocol and the war continued for another two months.

In February of this year, it was 17 years since the Agreement on Strengthening the Ceasefire Regime in the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict (sometimes it is also referred to as the Agreement on

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Council conclusions on the South Caucasus

3149th Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union meeting held on 27 February 2012, in Brussels

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"1. The EU welcomes the significant progress made in the framework of the Eastern Partnership to strengthen the European Union's relations with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. In this regard, the EU underlines the importance of the Eastern Partnership as a specific Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

2. Recalling its core interests in the region, notably related to security and stability, democratic reforms, energy and economic investments, the EU remains committed to promoting prosperity, security, democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, good governance, sustainable development and regional cooperation throughout the South Caucasus, and is ready to enhance efforts to support confidence

building and peaceful settlements to the conflicts in the region, in close cooperation with all relevant parties.

3. The EU emphasises the importance of the continued implementation of the commitments made in the Joint Declaration of the Warsaw Eastern Partnership Summit, Warsaw 29-30 September 2011, and reiterates that the pace of reforms will determine the intensity of the cooperation, and partners most engaged in reforms will benefit more from their relationship with the European Union, including closer political association, deeper gradual economic integration in the EU Internal Market, enhancing mobility of citizens in a secure and well managed environment and increased EU support.

Armenia

4. The EU welcomes the progress made in the negotiations on the Association Agreement (AA) between the EU and

Armenia. The EU notes that the conditions have been met for the start for the negotiations on DCFTA and looks forward to the launch of the negotiations in the first semester of 2012. The EU emphasises that Armenia should continue to advance sectoral reform and regulatory approximation in trade and trade-related areas, building on the achievements of the preparatory process for the DCFTA and that EU stands ready to provide continued support in this regard based on jointly identified needs of Armenia. The EU welcomes the imminent start of Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreement negotiations.

5. The EU stresses the utmost importance of ensuring that the Parliamentary elections in May 2012 and the Presidential elections in 2013 meet internationally recognized democratic standards and will closely monitor developments in Armenia leading up to the elections.

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Edward Nalbandian paid an official visit to Singapore



The Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs being in Singapore on an official visit on February 28th was received by Tony Tan Keng Yam, the President of Singapore.

Welcoming the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Singapore's President noted, "The Armenians have left a deep trace in the history of our country and had a great contribution to the development of the state, the great proof of which is the fact that the Orchid flower, Singapore's national symbol - is named Vanda Miss Joaquim, a Singaporean with an Armenian origin and the country's first church in the 19th century was built by the Christian Armenians."

Thanking for the reception, Minister Nalbandian conveyed Singapore's President the greetings and wishes of the President of the Republic of Armenia. Minister Nalbandian mentioned that the visit of Singapore's Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew to Armenia in 2009 opened a new page in the relations between the two countries.

The Armenian Minister expressed hope that the state visit of the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan to Singapore by the invitation of President Tony Tan Keng Yam would give a new impetus to the development of the friendly interaction between the two countries.

The President of Singapore asked the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs to pass to President Sargsyan that Singapore is waiting for the first visit of the Armenian President in bilateral history with warmth and pleasure.

Singapore's President and the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs discussed the steps to be taken towards the development of bilateral relations, as well as the possibilities to expand economic cooperation and the interaction in the field of investment. The sides exchanged views on international agenda issues, as well.

On the same day took place the talks between Edward Nalbandian and Singapore's Foreign Minister K

Shanmugam, the agenda of which included preparatory works of the Armenian President to Singapore and the possibilities of the expansion of bilateral cooperation in various spheres.

Minister Shanmugam underlined that the first visit of the Armenian President to Singapore on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two countries is a symbolic one and would give a new impetus to the development of bilateral relations.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Singapore had a thorough talk on the issues related to the reinforcement of legal framework and agreed to prepare a number of documents for signing in the near future.

Singapore's Minister of Foreign Affairs attached great importance to the contribution of the Armenian community in Singapore to the development of his country. Minister Nalbandian expressed gratitude for their caring attitude towards the Armenian cultural heritage existing in Singapore.

The sides discussed in detail a number of issues of an international importance, in particular the Asian regional issues and the developments unrolling in the Middle East.

In the course of the meeting the cooperation being conducted in the frames of the ASEAN was touched upon, as well.

Minister Nalbandian presented his Singaporean counterpart the steps being taken by Armenia towards the maintenance of security and cooperation in the region and the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

The discussions were continued during the official dinner hosted by the Singaporean Minister of Foreign Affairs in honor of the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In Singapore Edward Nalbandian visited the Armenian Church of St. Gregory Lusavorich (Illuminator) built in 1835 where he had a meeting with the representatives of the Armenian community. The Armenians in Singapore informed Edward Nalbandian about their activities, preservation of the Armenian identity and cultural heritage in Singapore.

Concluding the visit on the same day Edward Nalbandian left for Yerevan.

Armenian FM is sure that many countries will make a decision to criminalize Armenian Genocide's denial

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian stated that the law on criminalization of the Armenian Genocide's denial adopted by the National Assembly and Senate of France "can only be beneficial for the Armenian-Turkish relations".

"It's only the approach adopted by the Turkish side that hinders normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations. After signing the Protocols in Zurich, Turkey made a step back by refusing to realize the reached agreements. The international community thinks that the ball is on Turkey's field", said Edward Nalbandian in his interview to the Austrian Der Standard newspaper.



Answering the question whether Armenia thinks the law "a model" which is to be followed by other countries as well, the Armenian FM expressed confidence that "many countries will

make such decisions as long as Turkey pursues the state policy of denying the Armenian Genocide".

"Denial of the Armenian Genocide evokes an adequate reaction", said the Minister.

The meetings of the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs in Hong Kong

In the frames of the Asian trip on February 27th the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandian who is in Hong Kong on a transit visit met with Hon Jasper Tsang Yok-sing, the President of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong.

The interlocutors had a thorough talk on the issues related to the economic cooperation between Armenia and Hong Kong. In the context of the development of bilateral relations, the importance to facilitate visa regime between the two countries was underlined.

Minister Nalbandian informed the President of the Legislative Council about the intent to establish an Armenian Honorable Consulate in Hong Kong.

Edward Nalbandian had a meeting with Ambrose Lee Siu-kwong, the Secretary for Security of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, as well. During the meeting the sides discussed the possibilities of the visa regime facilitation between Armenia and Hong Kong.

Edward Nalbandian met with the heads of a number of big com-

panies and presented them the economic reforms being conducted in Armenia and investment opportunities. In the course of the meeting the sides discussed the implementation of the agreements reached during the visits of Hong Kong businessmen to Armenia in December of 2011 and in February of 2012, as well as the steps to be undertaken in that sphere.

On the same day Edward Nalbandian left for Singapore where meetings with the leadership of the country are scheduled.

Armenian Defense Minister, NATO Assistant Secretary General discuss cooperation

Armenia's Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan on Wednesday, February 29 received a NATO delegation led by Ambassador Hüseyin Dirioz, NATO's Assistant Secretary General for Defense Policy and Planning.

The NATO delegation's visit to Armenia is interlinked with NATO joint group's visit to the country, MOD informed Noyan Tapan.

The parties reflected on the main directions of the cooperation between Armenian MOD and NATO, and Armenian peacekeepers' involvement in NATO-led operations.

They also recorded Armenian MOD's progress, and pointed to the priority directions of cooperation with NATO.



Ambassador Dirioz expressed NATO's readiness to increase its consultative and expert support to Armenia in the defense sector.

Also, the parties exchanged views on the main issues that are on the agenda of NATO's next summit to be held in Chicago.

Council conclusions on the South Caucasus

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6. The EU encourages Armenia to pursue further reforms in strengthening democratic institutions, enhancing the independence of judiciary, encouraging political pluralism, freedom of equal access to media as well as ensuring protection of human rights and fundamen-

tal freedoms and the EU will continue to support these reform efforts.

7. The EU underlines the importance of effectively fighting corruption and welcomes Armenia's declared commitment to address corruption. Real progress in this area remains fundamental for economic growth and development.

Azerbaijan

8. The EU takes note of the progress made in the negotiations on an Association Agreement between the EU and Azerbaijan and encourages enhanced efforts to make further progress. The EU also expresses its commitment to upgrading the trade and investment

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Parliament Rejects Opposition Election Bill

The National Assembly rejected on February 29 a bill which Armenia's leading opposition forces say is essential for the freedom and fairness of the May 6 parliamentary elections.

Only 30 members of the 131-seat Assembly voted for draft amendments to the Electoral Code that would have required the authorities to hold the elections only on the party-list basis. They were put forward by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun) and the Zharangutyun (Heritage), the two opposition parties represented in the outgoing parliament.

Fifty-six other deputies voted against the bill. Most of them are from President Serzh Sargsyan's Republican Party of Armenia (RPA). The RPA has repeatedly spoke out against the abolition of parliamentary elections held in 41 single-mandate constituencies.

Significantly, most deputies from the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP), the RPA's junior partner in the governing coalition, attending the parliament session sided with the opposition.

The RPA and the government remained adamant in rejecting the proposed voting reform despite weeks of intense pressure from the

ARF, Heritage and the Armenian National Congress (ANC). The three rival opposition groups joined forces to campaign for the bill's passage.

Stepan Safarian, a Heritage deputy, expressed hope that they will continue to work together in trying to prevent electoral fraud. He told that they should be ready to "rapidly react and jointly act" in response to vote irregularities.

Armen Rustamian, an ARF leader, agreed. He said the opposition forces should now try to win in at least some of the single-mandate districts that have until now been mainly swept by government-linked wealthy candidates.

Opposition rally kicks off in center of Armenia's capital

A rally of the oppositional Armenian National Congress (ANC) kicked off on March 1 in Liberty Square of Yerevan. The rally was dedicated to the fourth anniversary of the March 1, 2008 events.

First President of Armenia and ANC leader Levon Ter-Petrosian, head of the People's Party of Armenia Stepan Demirchian, chairman of the "Republic" party's political council Aram Sargsyan and heads of other parties are on the platform.

Opening the rally the ANC member, editor-in-chief of Haykakan Zhamanak daily Nikol Pashinian said that over four years the Armenian authorities did nothing to solve the murder of civilians.

Opposition leader Levon Ter-Petrosian again reached out to Armenia's second largest governing party on Thursday, downplaying its alleged links with former President Robert Kocharian and reacting positively to former Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian's decision to join it.

Addressing thousands of supporters rallying in Yerevan, Ter-Petrosian reaffirmed his readiness to cooperate with businessman Gagik Tsarukian and his Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP).

"If Oskanian's membership in the Prosperous Armenia deepens disagreements within the ruling coalition and contributes to the PAP's growth as a fully independent political force, then his step can only be welcomed," he said.

Commentators agree that Oskanian's move was a further indication that Tsarukian is



increasingly at odds with the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), his senior coalition partner led by President Serzh Sargsyan. Some of them, especially those sympathetic to the opposition, link it to Kocharian's perceived efforts to return to the political arena and challenge the current president. Oskanian was an important member of the Kocharian administration in 1998-2008.

Ter-Petrosian deplored such speculation, saying that it is spread by "supporters of conspiracy theories." "By terrifying the people with the specter of Kocharian, they contribute to the strengthening of Serzh Sargsyan's dictatorship," he told the rally held in Yerevan's Liberty Square.

The leader of the opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC) insisted that Tsarukian's and Oskanian's presumably convivial relations with Kocharian are "totally devoid of political content." "Robert Kocharian is a sunken ship while Serzh Sargsyan a sinking one, and a political force that ties its

fate to them cannot choose a shorter path to its demise," he said.

Ter-Petrosian publicly floated the idea of the ANC's cooperation with Tsarukian's party last November. He said it "could radically change the configuration of political forces" in Armenia ahead of the May 2012 parliamentary elections. The PAP did not accept or reject these overtures at the time.

In his latest speech, Ter-Petrosian spoke of the ANC's unfolding "constructive dialogue" with the PAP as well as the rival opposition ARF (Dashnaktsutyun) and the Heritage (Zharangutyun) party. He referred to the joint opposition efforts (tacitly backed by the PAP) to have the upcoming elections held only on the party-list basis. He said the four political groups are now in a position to work out an "effective joint mechanism" for preventing vote rigging.

The ANC leader, who had served as Armenia's first president, was very critical of both the ARF and the Heritage in his speeches last year.

Law on legal regime of state of emergency will legalize the mechanism of punishment



Bagrat Asatryan and Artak Davtyan

Former Chairman of the Central Bank of Armenia Bagrat Asatryan expressed the opinion that the draft law "On Legal Regime of State of Emergency" adopted by the parliament in the first reading today "is meant for legalizing the mechanism of punishment".

Bagrat Asatryan said that on the threshold of the parliamentary elections, the adoption of such a law is kind of a signal by the authorities to the opposition meaning "you sit back so we'll do everything we want".

Representative of the Republican Party of Armenia, Chairman of the NA Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Artak Davtyan stated in his turn that the discussion of the law on the threshold of elections is a mere coincidence and he expressed confidence that involving the army during state of emergency won't lead to negative outcomes.

"I don't think that there will be anybody in the Armenian army to lift his hand against his country", said Artak Davtyan.

HERITAGE: THE 7th CONGRESS Toward a New Armenia



Yerevan- The 7th Congress of the Heritage Party convened today at the Government Hall to formalize, on the eve of parliamentary elections, a public report on five years of the party's parliamentary and extra-parliamentary activities, and to adopt a resolution titled "Resolution for a New Armenia." The invitees included rank-and-file citizens and intellectuals, members of the media, ambassadors, as well as leaders of Armenia's major political parties.

The Congress kicked off with reception marking the 20th anniversary of Armenia's accession to the United Nations. On that historic day in 1992 Raffi K. Hovannisian, independent Armenia's first Minister of Foreign Affairs, raised the Armenian flag before the UN headquarters in New York. Twenty years later, an ocean and a continent away, Hovannisian spoke to his countrymen about the unfinished symbolism of that tricolor. Remarks were also made by acting UN Resident Coordinator, UNHCR representative Armenia Damtew Dessalegne.

The reception was followed by the opening of the 7th Congress of the Heritage Party. Armenian Revolutionary Federation Bureau member Vahan Hovhannisyan, leader of the Free Democrats Party Khachatur Kokobelyan, and former National Assembly Vice Chairman Karapet Rubinyan were among the guests who appeared before the overflowing government hall to voice their solidarity with Heritage.

Heritage MP Zarouhi Postanjan was first among her party to take the floor. She spoke passionately about human rights and electoral justice, and then introduced Hovannisian.

Raffi Hovannisian, the chairman of the Party Board, assumed the floor to deliver his vision for the future of the Republic. "Together we shall achieve a new Armenia," he said. "And our message we shall take everywhere, from the citizens of our glorious capital to the most distant and deaf villages of our land." Hovannisian also welcomed the collaboration of the Heritage and the Free Democrats parties, while stressing the importance of continued cooperation with the ARF, both inside the National Assembly and "beyond those useless and wretched gates." He spoke about finding common ground with the Armenian National Congress and also with other powers represented in the nation's parliament.

Party vice chairman Ruben Hakobyan reported on the Board's activities in the past term. The leader of Heritage's parliamentary faction Stepan Safaryan spoke about the activities of the faction's five years in the legislature.

Addresses were also made by the head of the party's Yerevan chapter Susanna Muradyan, board member Susanna Barkhudaryan, special projects coordinator Lusine Petrosyan, and Heritage youth activist Gevorg Karapetyan.

The Congress concluded its session by adopting its "Resolution for a New Armenia." On the eve of parliamentary elections, the resolution enshrines the struggle for a new Republic-the brave generation-transforming mission to create an unprecedented government of, by, and for its citizens.

Heritage Party Press Service

Armenian parliament votes in favor of state of emergency draft law

Armenia's National Assembly voted, in its first hearing on Thursday, in favor of the bill on the Legal Regime of the State of Emergency. The controversial draft law passed with a vote of 67 for, 1 against, and with no abstentions.

Solely the ruling coalition voted for the bill, whereas the parliamentary opposition Heritage and ARF Dashnaktsutyun parties' MPs did not take part in the voting.

The opposition considers this

law proposal to be unacceptable; noting that the latter curtails the parliament's power and a precedent is set for using the armed forces in domestic politics, which is inconsistent with the country's Constitution.

French Council rules Genocide bill as unconstitutional

The French Constitutional Council ruled the bill criminalizing the Armenian Genocide denial as unconstitutional.

On January 23, the French Senate passed the bill criminalizing the Armenian Genocide denial with 127 votes for and 86 against. If signed into law by the President, the bill would impose a 45,000 euro fine and a year in prison for anyone in France who denies this crime against humani-

ty committed by the Ottoman Empire.

Two separate groups of French politicians who oppose the legislation - from both the Senate and the lower house - said they had formally requested the Constitutional Council examine the law. The groups said they each had gathered more than the minimum 60 signatures required to ask the council to test the law's constitutionality.

Turkey reacted furiously when the Senate approved the law. Ankara halted political and military cooperation with France and was threatening to cut off economic and cultural ties if the law took effect.

Earlier, President Nicolas Sarkozy pledged to immediately submit a new draft of a law punishing denial of the Armenian Genocide if France's top judicial body rejects it.

Valérie Boyer will continue to fight



The decision of the French Constitutional Council was a great disappointment for French-Armenians and the French fighting for human rights.

"Like all decisions of the Constitutional Council, this was also based on the interpretation of the Constitution, but even if it is impossible to appeal it, it has to be

considered highly disputed," Boyer mentioned, stressing that several constitutional experts consider that law constitutional, but unfortunately, their voices were not heard.

The French Deputy also underlines that the inequality that France shows for the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide is unacceptable. "The freedom of expression is

not absolute. It is also relative, and there can be a legislative process regarding that freedom," Boyer stressed. According to her, if the interpretation of the Constitution leaves room for discrimination, then there has to be a new bill, and President Sarkozy has already assigned the government to draft a new bill. "This legislative process was very important for the country, and I am proud that I participated in that process, despite huge pressure," Boyer underlined.

The Deputy says the decision of the Constitutional Council is a new obstacle that has to force everyone to centralize forces to continue the struggle. "The pressures from a foreign country of denial cause harm to France's greatness. As for me, I will continue the fight until the end," Valérie Boyer emphasized.

US Congressman Schiff gives Clinton opportunity to correct misrepresentation of Genocide, Clinton dodges question



In a forceful series of questions offered during the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations hearing with Secretary Clinton, Rep. Schiff referenced the U.S. record of affirming the Armenian Genocide, citing a document submitted to the International Court of Justice in 1951 clearly referencing the Armenian Genocide, President Ronald Reagan's affirmation of the Armenian Genocide in 1981 and Secretary Clinton's own statements as Senator properly characterizing those, crimes reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

The California Congressman then juxtaposed this record with recent statements made by the Secretary in January, in which she referred to the Armenian Genocide

as a "historical debate," and asked "is there any question that you have that the facts of that tragic period between 1915 and 1923 constitute genocide? Do you have any different view on the subject now than you did as a state - as a U.S. senator?"

Once again, Secretary Clinton was evasive, resorting to euphemisms such as "terrible events," and "one of the worst atrocities of the 20th century," but stopping short of her clear statements as Senator in 2008, when she affirmed that "the horrible events perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against Armenians constitute a clear case of genocide." She noted President Obama's annual April 24th statement, in which he has argued that "a full, frank and just acknowledgement of the facts of what happened is in everyone's interest," then put the onus on the Turkish and Armenian people, and their respective governments, to resolve the issue.

"The Armenian Genocide is a major crime against all humanity, requiring international justice, not a simple bilateral conflict between nations needing mediation," stated ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. "According to her morally and factually flawed logic,

America and the international community should have remained silent in the face of the Holocaust and other genocides in Rwanda and elsewhere, leaving it to the perpetrators and victims of these crimes to come to a common understanding of their past. Its truly a sad spectacle to see our nations top diplomat pressured by Turkey to dance around the truth and play word games with genocide."

Both Representatives Jesse Jackson (D-IL) and Steve Rothman (D-NJ) associated themselves with Rep. Schiff's statement and inquiry during the hearing. Rep. Jackson went on to express concern about President Obama's proposed 19% cut in assistance to Armenia.

Earlier this week, over 60 Members of the House of Representatives sent a letter to Secretary Clinton, asking her to renounce her recent public mischaracterization of the Armenian Genocide. In that letter, Members stated that the "historically inaccurate description of the Armenian Genocide as an open question, in addition to the offense it represents to Armenian Americans and other victims of genocide, provides American encouragement to the Republic of Turkey in its shameful campaign of denial."

Constitutional Council of France equates denial with ordinary opinion: Patrick Devedjian

The decision of the Constitutional Council of France should be respected but criticism is not prohibited either, Patrick Devedjian, French politician of the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) Party, says in his analysis (Nouvelles d'Armenie)

"While criticizing the Constitutional Council I use the same freedom that conditions the given decision," the MP writes.

Patrick Devedjian claims that adopting such an incomplete decision, the Constitutional Council of France equates the denial with an ordinary opinion.



"Propaganda of denial by a foreign country and offence against French citizens of Armenian descent has hereafter become admissible by the Constitutional Council of the very country," The French MP of Armenian descent concludes.

Turkey 'Ready to share Armenian Pain'

Turkey is ready to share the pain of Armenians ahead of the 100th anniversary of the 1915 Armenian massacres in the Ottoman Empire, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu reportedly said late on Tuesday.

"We want to share the pain of those who are ready to share it with us," Davutoglu was quoted as saying by Anatolia news agency in an interview with state-run television TRT Haber.

"It is necessary to keep channels open in order to share history," he said in remarks cited by the AFP news agency.

Davutoglu did not say if Ankara could eventually acknowledge that some 1.5 million Ottoman

Armenians were massacred during World War I in the first genocide of the 20th century.

Successive Turkish governments have for decades insisted that Armenians died in much smaller numbers and as a result of civil strife, rather than a premeditated government policy. Some Turkish leaders, notably Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, have said that it was Armenians who massacred Turks.

Erdogan has repeatedly stated that Ankara will never recognize the genocide. His government has at the same time been advancing the idea of setting up a Turkish-Armenian commission of historians that would examine the highly sensitive subject.

Free access to Karabakh to give opportunity to be informed about the situation on the ground, Michael Kambeck says

EU Council wants free access to Karabakh and for Armenia Visa Facilitation, free trade and more democratisation. Secretary General of European Friends of Armenia Michael Kambeck referred to the framework defined on February 27 by the Foreign Affairs Council of the EU for the EU's relations with the South Caucasus for the near future.

Press service of the EuFoA told Armenpress that in his statement Kambeck says, "The Council statement describes a new quality of relations between the EU and Armenia, including Visa Facilitation and the DCFTA, but also the conditions for further assistance and integration. But most strikingly, the EU acknowledges that the EU officials should travel freely to and engage with Nagorno-Karabakh, disregarding infamous pressures from Azerbaijan. With this new clear mandate of the Council, we now expect that Special Representative Philippe Lefort, Ambassador Traian

Hristea and other EU officials will visit Nagorno-Karabakh and retain first-hand information about the situation on the ground, but also help build up strong confidence building measures. The EU has the capacity and the neutrality required for this", commented Michael Kambeck.

The statement of the EU Council calls for more direct involvement of the EU in confidence building, while continuing to support the OSCE Minsk Group format and the Madrid Principles. The EU again reiterates the importance of the Deauville statement of the leaders of the OSCE Minsk group mediator countries, the statement made by the presidents of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan in Sochi. In this context the EU expresses its concern over the tension on the line of contact and stresses the importance of confidence building. The EU also underlines the need for unconditional access for representatives of the EU to Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding regions.



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FOR SALE

1 ROOMS

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

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS

- ♦ **2474. Koryun Street.** 5/3, 100 sq.m., 3 turned into 4, euro repair , euro windows, permanent gas, balcony, 2 AC, opportunity. Price 160.000 USD
- ♦ **2454. Moskovyan str.,** 5/2, 180sqm, normal state, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, permanent water, gas. Price 370.000USD
- ♦ **2453. Koryun str.,** 6/4, 100sqm, 4 rooms, euro repaired, 2 lavatories. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2429.** Ekmalyan street, 10/9, 178sqm, 3bed-rooms, 3lavatories, capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price-360.000USD
- ♦ **2393. Moskovyan street**, 5/3. 110 sq.m., euro repair, logha balcony 17 sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, cube 700 l, electric heating system, natural gas, Ariston, 2AC, satellite. Price: 400 000 USD
- ♦ **Tumanyan str.** 5/3, 170 sqm, 4 rooms, 2 garages for 3 cars, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped, permanent water, gas, heating system, 3 balconies. Price: 1100 USD
- ♦ **2335. Mashtots Avenue.** 4/4, 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, stone building, euro repair, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquetry, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 125000 USD
- ♦ **2348. Abovyan Street,** 4/2, 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, concreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system, Price: 250000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **2395.** North Avenue. 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD

PREMISES

- ♦ **1710. Sayat - Nova str.,** 1st floor, 420sqm, 2 rooms, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price 1.000.000USD
- ♦ **1727. Baghramyany str.,** 2 storied, 230sqm, capitally repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1725. Hanrapetutyany str.,** 1storied, 171sqm, 2 entrances, capitally repaired, permanent hot and cold water. Price 500.000USD
- ♦ **1703. Northern Avenue,** 9/7, 66sqm, capitally repaired, heating, lavatory, 30000AMD service rent, view to Teryan street. Price 220,000USD
- ♦ **1553. Kasyan street.** 170sq.m., working fashion saloon, large windows, facade-15m, 1room+foye, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500 000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **1598. Nairy Zaryan street**, 180 sq.m., 1st floor, a working restaurant, hall-100 sq.m. 1st line, repaired, tonir. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1383. Nalbandian St,** cellar + 1 story, 30 sq. m. cellar, 90 sq. m. story, Euro repair, hall, kitchen, lavatory, 24-hour hot and colds water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- ♦ **Tumanyan str.,** 3/1, 100 sqm, office space, not repaired, entrance from the street, windows looking at the yard. Price: 115.000 USD
- ♦ **1603. North avenue**, 159 sq.m., 1st floor.

Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1 sq.m. 10 000 USD

- ♦ **1588. Tigran Mec street**, 256 sq.m, 5/1.2 , trade area, stone building, euro repair, 1st floor trade area - 210 sq.m., 2nd floor 46 sq.m. residential Area. Price: 600 000 USD

LANDS

- ♦ **2122. Davitashen**, 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- ♦ **1869. Kaskade.** 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **2121. Centre**, land-1338sqm, 1100sqm has permission for building. Price-2million USD
- ♦ **2107 Monument**, 2400sqm, permission for building, 2 projects to build 3 storied building, possibility of water, gas, electricity, beautiful view of city and Ararat. Price-500USD per sqm.
- ♦ **2033. Tsakhkadzor**, New Quarter, 600 sq.m., 1st line, asphalted road, premises, designed for construction of residential house, with all communal conveniences. Price: 120 USD for 1 sq.m.
- ♦ **1939. Kotayk region**, Aghavnadzor district. Land 5000 sq.m., suitable for building a resort place. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2011. Proshyan street.** Land 400 sq.m. for building a house, privatized, 2nd line/ near the garden/. Price 1 sq.m. beginning from 700 USD
- ♦ **2013. Cascade.** Land 1000 sq.m. For public construction needs, First line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 2800USD
- ♦ **2028. District of Erebuni**, Arin-Berd street. Land 2 acr. With a 2 storied partially built building, water, electricity plastered.h=4.20m. Price 1 sq.m, 50 USD
- ♦ **Avan, Ayntapi str.,** near Star Supermarket, 1st line, 528 sqm, land attached to a house, water, canalization, front-25m. Price: 60.000 USD
- ♦ **1402. Hr. Kochar St**, 1,100 sq. m, personal plot, front -25 m, privatized, empty, possibility for building communications. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1351. Monument**, 2,000 sq. m, privatized, front - 17 m, APZ permission, for social purposes: suitable for a restaurant, hotel. Price negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **2725. Nork-Marash**, building - 733.25sqm, land-620sqm, semi-basement +2floors, euro repaired, semi-basement is sport room, sauna, summer room, pool, fireplace, 1st floor- sitting room, 1 bedroom, cabinet, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Spanish tiles, 2 AC. Price - 500.000USD
- ♦ **3063. Komitas A.** Avetisyan street, 3storied+cellar, total-500sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, cabinet, possible to sell with furniture. Price-negotiable
- ♦ **3059. Vahagni community**, total-1500sqm, building-280sqm, 2.5 storied, newly built, not lived in, 1st floor-living room-44sqm, kitchen, family room-24sqm, 2nd floor-3bedrooms, 3 lavatories, garage for 2 cars, cellar, security system, possible to sell with furniture. Price-negotiable.
- ♦ **3210 Aygestan community.** 2 stories, land: 480 sq.m, building: 310 sq.m, 1st floor is not repaired, garage, 2nd floor: repaired, kitchen, lavatory-tiled, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi system, a place for barbeque, garden, trees Price: 270.000 USD
- ♦ **3103. Ajapnyak community**, Miraqyan street. 1 storey, land -264.8 sq.m., building 110 sq.m., euro repair, euro windows, 5 rooms, 1 lavatory , Baxi system, kitchen, book , ramparted. Price: 90 000 USD
- ♦ **3105. Kaskad, Antarain.** 4 stories, land 1800 sq.m., building 1000 sq.m., newly built, need of cosmetic repair, windows, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, 4 bedrooms, ramparted, solar lamps, security system, cameras, external lighting. Price: 1. 300.000 USD
- ♦ **3054. Blur, Kharkovyan street.** 3 storied building, land 400 sq.m., building 450 sq.m., new, euro repair, ramparted, 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories inside, 2 lavatories outside, Baxi system. Price 800 000 USD
- ♦ **2916. Ashtarak highway**, village Nazrvan. 3 storied building. Land 3500 sq.m., building 760 sq.m., euro repair, 3 tiled lavatories, a sauna, billiard, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, garden, pool, garage.The building is ramparted. Price 50000 USD

NEWLY BUILT

- ♦ **87. Sayat-Nova street**, newly built building Given to the operation in December 2012. Climate control, gas, the fasad sector has 3 bedrooms-188 sq.m, 199 sq.m, 1 sq.m- 1900 USD, 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight- 117 sq.m, 120 sq.m, 124 sq.m, 1 sq.m-1700 USD Price: 1 sq.m-1900-1700 USD
- ♦ **90. Main avenue.** Newly built, 2 buildings, 14 stories. Ready for habitation/ at the end of 2013, at the beginning of 2014. Comercial areas on the 1st and on the 2nd floors, flats on the higher floors. Price: 1 sq.m.- 1150 USD 1 sq.m.- 1300 USD
- ♦ **91. Main Avenue**, Park, near Malibu cafe, 16storied newly building, Capitally repaired, heating and security system, 2 lavatories. Price: 1 sq.m.- 2.000 USD

- ♦ **93. Kievyan street**, newly built building Given to the operation in October 2011, gajats, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas supply, the second floor has a parking lot, parking is possible for sale. Price 12 000 USD



possible with mortgage, for 13 years term

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

FOR RENT

1 ROOMS

- ♦ **1031. Byuzand street.** 1 room, 34 sq.m, capitally repair, newly built, furniture, techniques, heating, AC, cabin. Price 600 USD
- ♦ **1009. Teryan str.,** 4/3, 1room changed into 2, 50sqm, euro repaired, furnished, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique, ariston heating system. Price 800USD per month, 60USD per day
- ♦ **1057. Argishti str.,** 14/9, 1 room, furnished, heating system, permanent hot and cold water, AC
- ♦ **1005. Lalayanc str.,** 11/5, 1room changed into 2, euro repaired, furniture, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique. Price 600USD per month, 40USD per day
- ♦ **1024. Amiryan street.** 12/3, 1turned into 2, 50 sq.m, euro repair, techniques. Price: 1 day 60 USD
- ♦ **853. Amiryan street**, 10/7. 1 turned into 2, 50 sq.m., euro repair, Italian furniture, bed, utensil, techniques, permanent water, gas, antenna, Baxy system. Price 700 USD, 50 USD per day

2 ROOMS

- ♦ **1024. Amiryan street.** 12/3. 2 rooms, 50 sq.m, euro repaire, furniture, techniques. Price: 1 day -50 USD, a month: 700 USD
- ♦ **2064. Aygedzor**, 7/1. 2 rooms, 60 sq .m, capital repair, euro windows, Baxi system, AC, heating floor, camera, cabin. Price 800 USD
- ♦ **2037. Baghramyany str.,** 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, modern furniture, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, AC, technique. Price 100USD per day
- ♦ **2022. Amiryan street**, 4/3. 74 sq.m., 2 turned into 3, newly repaired, Spanish tiles, jakoozi, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, techniques. Price 1500 USD, 1 day 100 USD
- ♦ **2057. Sayat-Nova.** 11/4, 2 turned into 3, 78 sq.m., capitally repaired, Baxi system, furniture, techniques, AC, satellite. Price: 1 day- 80 USD, a month- 900 USD
- ♦ **1961. Tumanian street**, 4/2, 86sq.m., 1 bedroom, Euro repair, Euro windows, Furnished, permanent hot and cold water. Price: 1200 USD, 1day: 70USD
- ♦ **115. Buzand str. Building 7, /near Republic Square/,** 9/4, 75 sq.m, 2 rooms, newly built, capitally and euro repaired, furnished, equipped, permanent water, gas, heating system, AC, open balcony. Price: 1100 USD long-term, 1500 USD short-term.
- ♦ **2119. Argishti/Glendale Hills I**, 7th floor, 2 rooms, 46 sq.m, capitally repaired, new furniture, tiled bathroom, equipped, water, gas, Baxi heating system, refrigerator, TV, balcony for storage. Price: 450 USD , 50 USD per day
- ♦ **2108. Amirtyan str. /City center/,** 2 rooms, AC, washing machine, TV, refrigerator, satellite, bed sheets, utensil, all the conveniences. Price: 600 USD , 60 USD per day
- ♦ **2099. Sayat-Nova Ave.,** 12/6, 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 550 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦ **1137. Moskovyan str.,** 6/1, 2 bedrooms, lavatory, pool, normal state, furnished, technique, DVD, AC, permanent hot and cold water. Price 1100USD, possible daily rent.
- ♦ **1950 Crossroad of Khanjyan**, Mashtoc/8 2 bedrooms, New stored , 163 sq.m , absolutely repaired, 2 bathrooms, furniture, heating condition, Climate control, looks to the garden, including exploiting costs. Price 2500\$
- ♦ **1856 Abovyan str.** 5/4 floor 3 rooms, 95 sqm, euro repaired, 2 bathrooms,heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, satellite. Price: 750USD, 70-75 USD per day.
- ♦ **1951 Crossroad of Khanjyan**, Mashtoc /13 2 bedrooms, New stored 122 sq.m absolutely

repaired, 2 bathrooms, furniture, heating, Climate control, including exploiting costs . Price 2000\$

- ♦ **1874 Amiryan str.** 14/5 floor 120 sqm, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, 2 AC, heating system, parking, looking at the boulevard Price: 2000USD
- ♦ **1406. Sayat-Nova str.,** 7/3, 110sqm, 2 bedrooms, euro repaired, gas, furnished, technique, permanent hot and cold water , baxi. Pric negotiable
- ♦ **1790. Byuzand street**, close to Abovyan st., 7/5, newly built, 2bedrooms, euro repaired, 2 balconies, furnished, baxi, technique, 2 lavatories, garage. Price 1600USD per month.
- ♦ **1810. North Avenue**, /5, 2bedrooms, newly built, euro repaired, beautiful view, refrigerator, washing machine, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, garage, TV, lavatory, Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1787. Koghbaci street**, 13/6, 2bedrooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, 2 lavatories, central heating. Price 1700USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1793. Teryan street.** 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1564. Tumanyan street**, 7/4. 110 sq.m., euro repaire, 2 lavatories, Spanish tyles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.
- ♦ **1720. Amirian Street.,** 3 bedrooms, 190 sq/m, newly built, euro windows, permanent hot and cold water, gas, central heating, 2 open balcony, nice view to the city, possible with or without furniture, parking for 3 cars. Price 3000USD per month negotiable, for long term-6 months and more.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **1094. Noy block**, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **1095. Aygestan**, 1 storied building - 105sqm, 3bedrooms newly built repaired, furniture, technique 1 lavatory, garden. Price 1000USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1808. Amiryan**, 4/3 3 rooms, 64 sq.m, capi-



tally repaired, Venetian style, furnished, equipped, Spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, no balcony. Price: 800-900 USD, 50 USD per day

- ♦ **971. Norq-Marash community** The gardens of Norq Ground 620sq.m, basement +2f. con 733.15 sq.m, basement: the sport hall, sauna, room for summer, swimming pool, fireplace, 1st floor: leaving room, bedroom, kitchen, office, corridor, bathroom, 2nd floor 4 bedrooms, 2 bathroom(Spanish), always running cold and hot water, natural gas, 2 conditioner, baxi. Price 1500\$
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, 4 storied building, each floor-160sqm, total-400sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor-garage, sport room, swimming pool, 4 bedrooms, summer kitchen, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, furnished, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 4000USD
- ♦ **455. Norq**, 3 storied building-150sqm, total - 600sqm, 3bedrooms, lavatory, capitally repaired, furnished, technique, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **1135. Monument V.** Papazyan street, 2floors, total-375sqm, stone building-210sqm, cellar, euro repaired, baxi, AC, garage-14sqm. Price 2000 USD per month.
- ♦ **1164. Arabkir, Monument.** 1 storied, land-300 sq.m, building-150 sq.m., capitally repaired, 3 bedrooms, 2 lavatories, pool. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **211.** Ajgedzor. 2 storied, 3 bedrooms, permanent water, capitally repaired, beutifull view. Price: 1300-1500 USD
- ♦ **721. Blur Qery street**, land 150 sq.m., 2 stories+ a cellar, 200 sq.m., newly built, telephone, refrigerator, washing machine, 3 bedrooms, garage, 2 lavatories, a pool, camin, permanent hot and cold water, a cellar is used as a sport hall. Price : 3000 USD
- ♦ **1117. Aygestan**, land-420 sq.m., building 646 sq.m., 3 storied, 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, euro repair, new tiles, furnished, techniques. Price* 5000 USD
- ♦ **1121. Vahagni community.** 2 stories, building 402 sq.m.(including garage and cellar) euro repair, 3 bedrooms, hall, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, heating floor, kitchen and dining room are furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **1142. Djrvje**, Bagrevand community. 3 storied, land-1000 sq.m., building-700 sq.m., 1st floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3rd floor- resting room, 1 bedroom repaired, each bedroom has its lavatory, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary/garage for 2 cars, parquet,

Spanish tiles. Price: 4 000 USD.

- ♦ **1114. Gulakyan street.** 3 storied building 500 sq.m., euro repair, 1st floor: sauna, a pool, kitchen, 2nd floor: kitchen, dining room, 3rd floor 3 bedrooms, lavatories in each floor. Price: 3300 USD
- ♦ **1109. Blur**, 3 storied building, land 400 sq.m., building 450 sq.m., new, euro repair, ramparted, 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories inside, 2 lavatories outside, Baxi system. Price 3800 USD
- ♦ **662. Norq gardens**, Amaranocayin street. 2 storied stone building.Land 1000 sq.m., building 300 sq.m., ramparted, 3 lavatories, 3 bedrooms, hall, camin, gas, heating system, stained glasses. Price 3000USD negotiable
- ♦ **1071. Noy block.** 2.5 storied, land 400 sq.m., building 500 sq.m., garden 250sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories, 2 kitchen, a hall. Price 3000 USD priliminary
- ♦ **1085. Aygestan district.** 2 storied stone building, land 500 sq.m., each floor 12 X 14, 3 bedrooms, a cabinet, 3 lavatories, a cellar, a sauna, kitchen with cupboards, Baxi system, AC. Price 3000 USD
- ♦ **1139. Komitas, Sundukyan street**, 2 stories, stone building, land : 700 sq.m, each floor 185 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, cellar 185 sq.m, , capital repair, Baxi system, swimming pool, a place for barbeque, 2 lavatories, garden, 1 cabinet. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **333. Nork**, 3 storied, 250sq.m, euro repair, 4 bedrooms,7 lavatory, permanent hot and cold water, central heating, natural gas, garden, pool. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1014. Norq Marsh district.** 2 storied, a cellar, capitally repaired, land 567sq.m., building 551 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 1 cabinet, furnished, a heating system. Price 2500 USD primary.
- ♦ **1076. Nork**, 2 storied, 220 sq.m., euro repair, in the 1st floor 2 rooms, kitchen, lavatory, in the second floor, separate entrance, open kitchen, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, furnished, view to city, garage, garden. Price: 2000USD
- ♦ **990. In Monument, Papazian street**, 2 storied stone building + half-cellar, has mansard,5bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2bathrooms, laundry, permanent hot and cold water, gas, plot of land 250sq.m, the size of whole construction is 370 sq.m. Price 2500USD
- ♦ **1019. Nork**, 2 storied, separate structure, 700 sq.m. land, 350 sq.m. construction, capital euro repaired, fimished, garage with remote control, pool, 3 bedrooms, one with bathroom, and 2 separate bathrooms. In the first floor sitting-room, gas, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi System, fire-place, view to town, walled. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

- ♦ **1869. Kaskade.** 720 sq.m., 1st line, building permission, suitable for new building or a business center. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1461. Sayat - Nova str.,** 1st floor 95sqm, capitally repaired, 2 halls - 32sqm and 46sqm, kitchen, lavatory, 1 line, 2 entrances. Price 3000USD
- ♦ **1821. Argishti** 14/7 3rooms,-87sq.m repaired.- modern stile ,non populated ,2bathroom.heating /furniture ,technique satellite, when renting for the long time also internet, b. looks to the country. Price 800\$, 1day 20.000AM dram
- ♦ **1438. Komitas**, Hr. Qochar str., 6storied building + cellar + cockloft, total-960sqm, each floor-120sqm, needs to be repaired, plastered, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1525. Hanrapetutyany street**, 1st floor, 3steps up, h-3.20m, repaired, 1 large hall+3 rooms, 2 entrances, kithen, lavatory. Price 1400USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1526. Byuzand street**, 5/semi-basement, 170sqm, 4-5 step down. cellar-50sqm, has 6 rooms, the largest is 30sqm, 2 entrances, 2 lavatories, 6 windows from street side. Price 2000USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1528. North Avenue**, 9/1, 2 floors, total area 159sqm, 1st floor-66sqm, 2nd floor 93sqm, newly built, euro repaired, has the entrance from the street, security system, heating system. Price 7500USD per month.
- ♦ **1482. North Avenue**, 210 sq.m., 1st floor, with 2 floors, h=8m. Price 10.000 USD
- ♦ **1113. Abovyan Koryun district**, 2 storied, 400 sq.m., 2 separate entrances, capital euro repair, convenient for restaurant or shop, has a possibility for open air café. Price: Negotiable
- ♦ **1408.Zarobyan street**, parallel to Baghramyany, 2 storied, 300sq.m.construction, 600 sq.m. land, in a first floor hall and kitchen, in a second floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capital euro repair, gas, baxi system, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, garage, fruit garden. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦ **1438. Komitas**, 6 floors, cellar, mansard. Each floor is 120 sq.m., hasa need for cosmetic repair, walls are plastered, floor is leveled, hanging ceilings, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price: Negotiable
- ♦ **1429. Nalbandian St**, 2 stories - 78 sq. m, each story - 38 sq. m, hall, lavatory, 2 sh ow windows, door, two-way entrance, 24-hour water, gas, suitable for any activity. Price: 23000USD
- ♦ **1461. Amiryan** (down-town), 1st circle, 5 stored building, 300sq.m is renovated, the rest is under renovation, central heating, climate-control, parking, (tax included) . The price is available for 5 and more years, 2500sq. Price: 1sqm - 400USD
- ♦ **1462. Teryan street**, 3 storied, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Price: 10.000USD

Again about the measures...

from page 1

Incident Resolution) was signed. The agreement took effect on 6 February 1995 and was signed by the defense ministers: by M. Mamedyarov - Azerbaijan, S. Sargsyan (the incumbent President of Armenia) - Armenia, and S. Babayan, the commander of the Defense Army of Nagorno Karabakh. It should be noted that the proposals of the mediators were sent on February 3 to the first persons of the conflicting parties, namely G. Aliyev, L. Ter-Petrosian, and R. Kocharian, which means that those proposals could not be signed without their personal consent. It is also noteworthy that Russian and Swedish Co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group on Nagorno Karabakh - Ambassador Vladimir Kazimirov and Ambassador Anders Bjorner acted as mediators in the signing of the Agreement on Strengthening the Ceasefire Regime in the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict.

By the way, so far it has been the only agreement on Karabakh to be signed under the aegis of the OSCE. The author believes that this agreement is one of the examples of successful interaction between Russian and Western diplomats regarding the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

It should be observed that although 17 years have passed since the signing of the Agreement on Strengthening the Ceasefire Regime in the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict, the agreement has not been implemented so far, despite the fact that immediately after the agreement's signing, in the first ten-day period of February 1995, the Russian Co-chair V. Kazimirov made sure that the conflicting parties exchanged HF numbers (in the Soviet time, it was a means of private telephone communication of the government), allowing the political and military leaders of the conflicting parties to rapidly get into touch with each other in case of an incident. Besides, communication among the conflicting parties' sub-unit commanders in the field was carried out. Subsequently, direct two-way communication between the parties was not properly established due to Baku's refusal to act in compliance with the letter and spirit of the agreement.

The two main goals of the abovementioned agreement were: the resolution of incidents through direct communication between the parties (in particular, such communication was expected to be carried out by fax and international communication lines of the government) and the prevention of propaganda campaigns aimed at stirring hostile sentiments.

Interestingly, the overwhelming majority of those concerned with the subject of the Nagorno

Karabakh conflict settlement (diplomats, experts, journalists, etc) are aware of the Agreement on Ceasefire in effect as of May 12, 1994, but very few of them are aware of the Agreement on Strengthening the Ceasefire Regime. No less curious is the circumstance that the Co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group seldom mention the 1995 Agreement on Strengthening the Ceasefire Regime - in the past 17 years they have referred to it only a few times. It looks very much like maintaining a "conspiracy of silence" established by Baku with respect to the only serious juridical act of the OSCE Minsk Group.

It is noteworthy that prior to the meeting of the presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Russia in Kazan last year when the sides were expected to sign the Madrid Principles, the main negotiating strategy of the OSCE Minsk Group mediators had been aimed at signing that very document. Yet, after the document remained unsigned and the meeting virtually ended in failure, the three co-chairs focused on the confidence building measures. The first words about that were spoken during the most recent regional trip of the co-chairs in 2011.

There is some difference between the steps that the co-chairs took 17 years and the current steps of the co-chairs: in 1995 the Russian and Swedish co-chairs laid stress not so much on the investigation of incidents as on their localization and elimination, as well as on the creation of difficulties for those trying to use incidents for hostile propaganda campaigns. Now the co-chairs focus on incident investigation, but this is only half the work.

Besides, as is generally known, Russia, the United States, and France have decided to lay stress on the fact that the conflict must be settled not only based on the principles of territorial integrity and the right of nations to self-determination, but also based on the principle of non-use of force or threat of force. One of the reasons for not signing the Madrid Principles is that one of the parties (Azerbaijan) has not renounced the use or threat of force for the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

The next step of the Co-chairs was their attempt in December 2011 to expand the opportunities (to increase the level of financing) of the Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office in the conflict zone. The matter was that the Office of the Personal Representative should assist with investigation of possible incidents on the contact line of the armed forces of the conflicting parties in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone, including in pursuance of the Agreement of February 4, 1995. Baku blocked the proposed increase in the level of financing, giving a reason that a final agree-



The maps accompanying the article were taken from the report "Nagorno Karabakh: A Plan for Peace" by Crisis Group in 2005 (see Report No. 167, Europe, October 11, 2005).

Annex A

Map of Transcaucasia

This map is for reference only and shall not be used for political interpretation of the information contained in it.

Annex B

Map of Nagorno Karabakh and Seven Adjacent Regions

This map is for reference only and shall not be used for political interpretation of the information contained in it.

ment on details of the incident investigation mechanism had not yet been reached.

Yet the agreement signed 17 years ago under the aegis of the OSCE clearly sets forth the mechanism of actions of the parties and the mediators in case of an incident. In particular, the matter concerns Articles 1, 2, and 4 - 8 of the Agreement on Strengthening the Ceasefire Regime.

The next attempt to use the elements of the agreement signed 17 years ago can be seen from the results of the meeting of the three presidents in Sochi in January 2012. In particular, it was said in the final joint statement issued by the presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Russia that: "the Presidents... took note of the report of the Co-chairs about the mechanism for conducting investigations along the ceasefire line, which they had developed jointly with the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, and they instructed the Co-chairs to continue this work".

It follows from this statement that the Co-chairs are working on the proposals concerning the mechanisms for conducting investigations along the ceasefire line. Since there have been no reports that the conflicting parties and the mediators have repudiated the agreement signed 17 years ago, we suppose that the proposed mechanism is based on the 1995 agreement, which was an agreement of unlimited duration.

Thus, we witness the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs making efforts not for the purpose of full or stage-by-stage implementation of the 1995 Agreement on Strengthening the Ceasefire Regime in the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict, but making an attempt to draw some ideas from that document in order to establish a mechanism for investigation of incidents.

The mediators apparently

believe that by that means a step forward can be taken in implementation of confidence building measures, reduction of the threshold of confrontation between the conflicting parties, and ensuring the conditions for the non-use of force or threat of force in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone. If they succeed in achieving conditions for the implementation of the principle of non-use of force or threat of force, one can also expect progress in other directions of settlement.

B. The realities of the line of contact of the conflicting parties

Let's take a look at the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone.

The situation remains most acute if we look at the contact line from the western (Armenian) side in Aghdam, Mardakert, and Martuni directions, as well as to the south/ closer to the border with Iran (from the side of Hadrou regional center). For convenience, let's call this section of the line of confrontation of the warring parties "western". It is here that violations of the ceasefire regime are most frequent; it is here that snipers "work", subversive sorties are organized, and offensive reconnaissance is conducted. Since the signing of the Agreement on Ceasefire in effect as of 12 May 1994, this section of the line has witnessed major skirmishes and clashes between the warring parties. It is here that some sections of the defensive lines briefly changed hands several times. In this section, the warring parties suffer heavy casualties from enemy fire or as a result of skirmishes.

The "northwestern" section of the contact line where Karvajar (Kelbajar) region borders on Azerbaijani positions can be considered relatively calm. The Armenian side occupies here the dominant heights of the Mrov Mountain Range and has the opportunity to rake with fire the

positions (not the most advantageous) of Azerbaijani subunits.

The total length of the "western" and "northwestern" sections of the contact line is approximately 330 km.

The northwestern section of Armenia's border, especially in Noyemberian-Ijevan region (its length is 136 km along the straight line), is much more restless. The situation here is in many ways similar to that in the abovementioned "western" section of the contact line.

Yet, another relatively calm section of the line of confrontation at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border is 70 km in length and runs parallel to Lake Sevan. Part of this section runs along the Sevan Range where Armenian subunits have quite advantageous positions. Skirmishes and shooting incidents are a rare occurrence here.

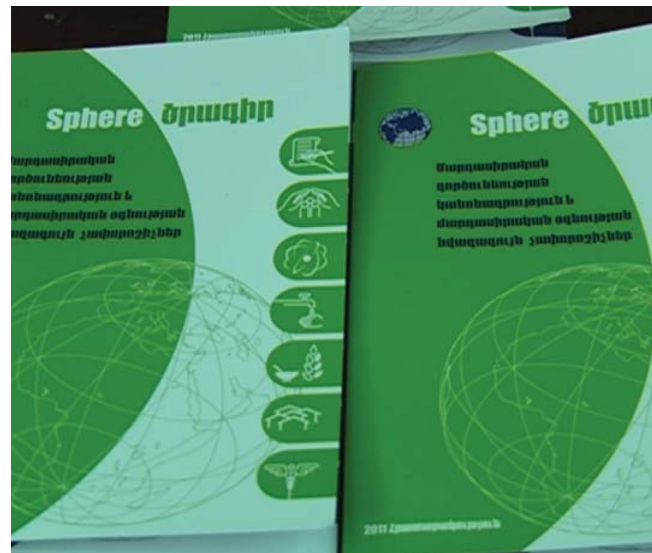
No doubt the quietest section of the contact line and the whole conflict zone is Armenia's border (221 km long) with the Nakhijevan Republic. The summer of 1992 saw battles here between the then irregular subunits of the conflicting parties, but as soon as Geydar Aliyev came to Nakhijevan, the situation became less tense. The patriarch of Azerbaijani politics entered into negotiations with Armenian leaders (President Levon Ter-Petrosian and his chief advisor on national security Ashot Manucharian) and by the mid 1993 a ceasefire regime came into effect along the Armenian-Nakhijevan border, without the mediators' help. Although this was not documented, shootings have become rare on this border. Nevertheless, some stationary posts continue guarding the border from both sides.

Some 3,000 Azerbaijani servicemen and some 900 Armenian ones have died on the contact line since the signing of the ceasefire agreement in 1994. In the past 18 years no exact information about the number of casualties on the contact line has been published. The author collected the abovementioned data from various sources and these figures have never been refuted by any official source of the conflicting parties. In addition, there is no exact information on dynamics of casualties suffered by the two sides in the past 18 years, but according to some sources, most casualties occurred during the first five years after the signing of the ceasefire agreement.

For example, according to the information provided by Armenia's Military Prosecutor General G. Kostanian, the number of combat casualties in the Armenian armed forces amounted to ten in 2011. The remaining 26 are non-combat deaths (suicides, deaths resulting from violence, disease, mine explosion, etc), i.e. the number of deaths resulting

continued on page 10

"Work was done in a serious and appropriate way..."



Gayane Melikian

The Armenian version of the handbook called "The Sphere Project: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response" was presented in Yerevan on February 20. In their speeches, the representatives of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia and the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) expressed their special gratitude to Oxfam Great Britain International Humanitarian organization's office in Armenia for the translation and printing of the Armenian version of this handbook and underlined that it was "serious and appropriate".

According to the representa-

tives, the handbook creates a broad opportunity to make the current national standards fall in line with international standards in order to make global assistance more effective.

Giving a brief presentation of the handbook, Director of Oxfam Armenia Margarita Hakobyan informed that the Armenian version of the handbook was unprecedented and that it was translated and printed in Armenian for the first time ever.

"The handbook was first created by several international non-governmental humanitarian organizations in 1997. The Red Cross and the Red Crescent (Karmir Mahik) organizations, as well as OXFAM played a huge role as well. The handbook was revised



and modified in 2009, 2010 and 2011 with the participation of governments and different experts", said Margarita Hakobyan.

The handbook has already been translated into 40 languages, and the latest version was translated into Armenian in 2011. It was also mentioned that the standards mentioned in the handbook are applied not only for responding to, but also reducing and preventing disaster risks and in recovery efforts. Margarita Hakobyan expressed hope that the harmonization of the national standards with the internationally recognized and applied standards would facilitate and coordinate the efforts to be taken during disasters and emergency situations.

According to Deputy Head of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Ara Barseghyan, the handbook will become a working book for all organizations involved in disaster risk reduction in Armenia.

Ara Barseghyan mentioned: "We highly appreciated this initiative and used it to create a

panel group for setting national standards of crisis management which will help develop national standards and make them fall in line with international standards."

Deputy Head of the Armenian Rescue Service at the Ministry of Emergency Situations Nikolay Grigoryan attached great importance to the release of this handbook and said: "As we take a look back at the great disaster in Armenia, that is, the earthquake in Spitak, we remember how all the organizations that extended a helping hand to Armenia weren't speaking in the same language and how we Armenians weren't able to speak with foreigners in their respective languages. This doesn't only refer to foreign languages, but also terms and standards. Today, in that sense everyone is speaking in the same language."

According to Nikolay Grigoryan, all international organizations are currently working on achieving one goal, and from that angle, this handbook and OXFAM play an invaluable role in these efforts.





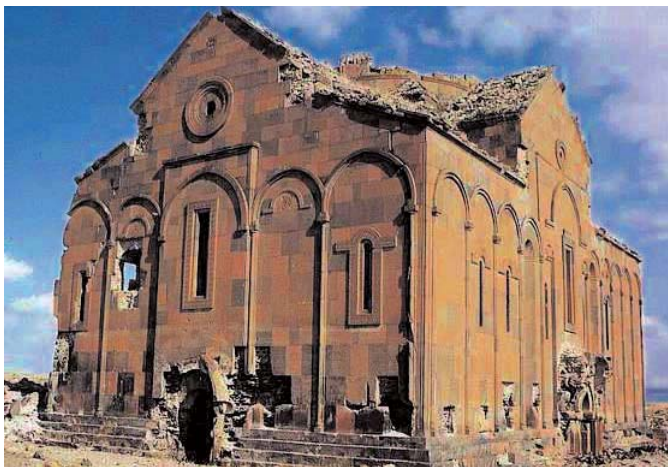
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Noyan Tapan Photo Studio



The newly-opened Kaissa chess school organizes paid training courses for schoolchildren and announces admission.

The courses start on March 15.
Applications will be accepted starting February 1, 2012.

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NASDAQ OMX Armenia Announces Best Exchange Members of 2011

On February 24, 2012, NASDAQ OMX Armenia, part of the NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc. at a special ceremony announced winners of the Best Member Awards 2011. The Ceremony has been held for the 2nd time already and according to the results of 2011 the Award was granted for the following nominations:

"Best Exchange Member in Corporate Securities Market;

"Best Exchange Member in Government Bonds Market;

"Best Exchange Member in Credit Resources Market;

"Best Exchange Member in Foreign Currency Market.

Grand Prix "Best Exchange Member" was introduced this year to evaluate overall activity of members on all the markets of NASDAQ OMX Armenia, as well as their input in development of exchange trading in Armenia. First Grand Prix was awarded this year and will be an annual tradition since then.

Capital Asset Management cjsc was awarded for the Best Exchange Member in Corporate Securities Market for the 2nd

time, while Armenbrok ojsc and Armswissbank cjsc were among the best performers in corporate securities market and were nominated for the title of Best Exchange Member in this market.

Araratbank ojsc won the title of the Best Exchange Member in Government Bonds Market, with other two best performers of this market - Ameriabank cjsc and Armswissbank cjsc - nominated for the Award.

Ameriabank cjsc was recognized as the Best Exchange Member in Foreign Currency Market, competing with best nominees - Unibank cjsc and Areximbank-Gazprombank Group cjsc - for this Award. Noteworthy that Ameriabank cjsc was also nominated for Best Exchange Member in Government Bonds Market Award.

Armbusinessbank cjsc won the title of Best Exchange Member in Credit Resources Market. The other best nominees for "Best Exchange Member in Credit Resources Market" Award were Araratbank ojsc and HSBC Bank Armenia cjsc. To recall,

Armbusinessbank was among the nominants for this Award in previous year and succeeded to win it this year.

Araratbank ojsc was acknowledged as the Best Exchange Member of 2011, considering its active involvement in all the marketplaces of the Exchange, as well as its proactive policy of issuing stocks and corporate bonds and their listing at NASDAQ OMX Armenia. HSBC Bank Armenia cjsc and Ameriabank cjsc were among the best and were nominated in this Award.

Best Member Awards by NASDAQ OMX Armenia was introduced in 2011 to encourage those investment services provider companies and exchange members actively involved in trading on various Exchange markets, participating in activities dedicated to developing and improving Armenian capital markets, as well as keeping the code of professional ethics.

Award is granted once a year to the Exchange member companies based on the results of each year as of December 31.

Mr. Henri Bergström Registered as Chairman of Supervisory Board at NASDAQ OMX Armenia and Central Depository of Armenia



Mr. Henri Bergström was registered as Chairman of Supervisory Boards of NASDAQ OMX Armenia and Central Depository of Armenia by the

Decision of the CBA Chairman dd 28 February 2012.

Mr. Bergström holds the position of the Director of New Markets at NASDAQ OMX, leading company's initiatives aimed at identifying and acting upon growth opportunities from Eastern Europe and Central Asia. One of the projects he led was the acquisition by NASDAQ OMX of stock exchanges and central depositories in the Baltic countries followed by their integration and creation of joint Baltic market and joint offering.

After more than a decade's experience in the industry (Nokia, TT-Innovation), in 1991, Mr. Bergström started his career in the

financial sector as the Deputy CEO of the Finnish Central Securities Depository, which later merged with the Helsinki Stock Exchange (HEX). In 2001 he joined HEX in the capacity of the Head of Issuer Information Services, a unit responsible for providing information and services to listed companies based on depository, registry and stock data. In 2003, after HEX merged with Swedish OM AB, Mr. Bergström was appointed as the Director of New Markets, the position he holds now at NASDAQ OMX.

Mr. Bergström received his MBA degree from Helsinki Business School.

Deflation is registered in Armenia

As compared with January 2012, a 0.9-percent deflation is recorded in Armenia in February 2012, the National Statistical Service informs.

And as compared with February 2011, there was a 3-percent inflation, which, however, is the lowest 12-month inflation indicator for the past three years.

By and large, the past month's deflation was registered in the food products (1.6 percent), specifically in fruits, vegetables, and potatoes.

And as compared with January 2012, a 0.2-percent inflation was registered in February 2012, in the



non-food market. This was greatly conditioned by the price increase in gasoline and diesel fuel. As compared with February 2011, the prices of gasoline and diesel fuel increased

by 13.2 percent and 16.8 percent respectively, in February 2012. And as compared with December 2011, this upsurge was 3.0 percent and 0.9 percent correspondingly.

Volume of e-trade in Armenia may grow up to USD 100mln annually after the reforms



Adviser of the Armenian Minister of Economy Vahe Danielyan

Adviser of the Armenian Minister of Economy Vahe Danielyan said Wednesday 29 February that the legislative problems concerning the development of e-trade in Armenia will be solved this year.

Vahe Danielyan, head of the interdepartmental group for considering e-commerce problems, said that the customs and tax problems require some legislative and administrative changes whereas payment and account problems including particularly the licensees for internet acquiring through VISA system (which is not available in any of the Armenian banks) should be solved with participation of the private sector.

"Central Bank reported us that

4 banks already hold negotiations on obtaining licenses for internet acquiring through VISA system and it's quite encouraging", said Vahe Danielyan adding that the expected improvement of joint processing of national ArCa payment and account system will enhance its security and reliability.

Executive Director of the Union of the IT Enterprises Karen Vardanyan noted that if now the annual volumes of e-trade in Armenia make USD 10mln, overcoming of infrastructure, legislative and administrative barriers will lead to the abrupt growth of the sphere and "in the initial phase, the volumes of e-trade will make about USD 100mln annually".

Karen Vardanian: Electronic trade system function in Armenia in a year

In Armenia, trade is still conducted in shops, but electronic trade infrastructure is already being set up to create conditions for online trade. The Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE) is doing work in this direction. The UITE is now implementing a program aimed at promoting electronic trade in Armenia. "The purpose of the program is to gradually move physical shops to virtual reality", said UITE Executive Director Karen Vardanyan, adding that for this purpose three important steps should be taken: creation of a favorable environment and a management body, and encouraging young people to set up their own businesses.

According to K. Vardanyan, during the sitting of the Council for Information Technology Development Support held on November 30 of last year and chaired by the Armenian Prime Minister, the Union presented customs and tax problems related to the organization of electronic trade in Armenia, as well as pro-

posals concerning their solution. Based on these proposals, an attempt is made - through electronic trade - to solve domestic problems related to sale of products and services, exports of Armenian goods, and delivery of foreign goods to Armenia. "As a result of this work, each Armenian citizen will feel the positive effect of electronic trade in a year," K. Vardanyan assured us, noting that Armenia's electronic trade infrastructure is still in embryo.

The UITE director said that the Union also provides advisory services, organizes the IT sector-related events for various age groups, creates a favorable environment by uniting similar structures, and in general promotes the development of Armenia's IT sector. The number of the UITE member companies is rapidly growing: it reached 58 in early 2012. Among the Union members are local and foreign organizations that specialize in software development, Internet technology, electronic trade, etc.

Again about the measures...

from page 6

from other causes is 2.5 times the number of deaths resulting from combat operations.

Following the full re-equipment of the positions, the number of casualties of the two sides has declined and, according to the abovementioned information provided by the military prosecutor, does not exceed 10-20 servicemen a year. We believe that the number of combat casualties sustained by Azerbaijan's armed forces every year does not differ greatly from the number of casualties of the Armenian side.

Now let's look at the existing situation from two points of view:

- from the military point of view: if we divide the total number of casualties suffered by both sides by 18 - the number of years that have passed since the signing of the agreement, we will find out that 216 people from both sides died on the contact line a year on average. If we assume that in the

past ten years the number of combat casualties of both sides was, on average, limited to 40 people (20 from each side), then it is not a large number, taking into account the fact that in the conflict zone the entire length of the line of contact of the parties is about 760 km. It appears that one serviceman from both sides dies a year on average per 19-20 km of the line of contact of the conflicting parties. It is a small number, and on the whole, taking into consideration the fact that there are neither peacekeepers/ peace-keeping forces nor stationary posts of military observers from OSCE and other international organizations in the conflict zone, one can say that the Agreement on Ceasefire in effect as of May 12, 1994, has been carried out successfully. It would be even better if the Agreement on Strengthening the Ceasefire Regime, too, would be implemented because it would help to

minimize skirmishes and local clashes along the contact line in the conflict zone and to stop the sniper war and withdraw snipers from the firing line;

- from the military-political and diplomatic points of view: The main thing necessary for the successful settlement of the conflict is the strict and full implementation of all the legally binding agreements signed earlier, including the Agreement on Strengthening the Ceasefire Regime in the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict Zone. Under the agreement signed 17 years ago, each incident in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone shall be investigated, and only information, which was verified and reconciled between the parties, may be given to the press. This will help ease tension on the conformation line, create an atmosphere of at least a partial trust between the parties, and add a real meaning to the legal term "non-use of force or

threat of force". The full implementation of the agreement will reduce the likelihood of a surprise, accidental, or unsanctioned war. Later this atmosphere may lead to a drop in the rate of military spending growth and the arms race. The implementation of the whole Agreement on Strengthening the Ceasefire Regime in the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict Zone will enhance the authority of the OSCE Minsk Group mediators, improve the atmosphere of the negotiating process, and create the necessary prerequisites for a social dialog.

We should remind the hopeless pessimists that even during the 1991-1994 war there were quite a few cases when the sides managed to achieve brief ceasefires. In such cases:

- the ceasefire regime was observed and a swap of bodies of killed soldiers took place;
- joint Armenian-Azerbaijani groups of sentries were posted

along the contact line, which seems incredible today,

- there were periods, although brief, when round-the-clock direct telephone communication was established between commanders of Armenian and Azerbaijani sub-units.

We should also mention that more or less effective ceasefires were arranged 6-7 times, mostly with the assistance of Russia, but they were violated by the Azerbaijani side more frequently (no less than four times) than by the Armenian side. Once there was a brief ceasefire during the visit of a Finnish colonel, but Baku refused to extend it. Other mediators, namely Iran, the OSCE, and Kazakhstan, also failed to ensure that the ceasefire came into effect in practice.

Summing up the aforesaid, we should note that the Agreement on Ceasefire in the Nagorno

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Council conclusions on the South Caucasus

from page 2

ment provisions of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which would serve as a basis for Azerbaijan's future WTO membership and a possible DCFTA with the EU. The EU also welcomes the imminent start of Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreement negotiations.

9. The EU emphasises the need for progress in democratic reform, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially in freedom of expression and assembly, as well as principles of international law as a crucial factor for the further deepening of the EU's bilateral relations with Azerbaijan. The EU notes that further efforts are required in this regard. The EU will closely monitor developments in Azerbaijan leading up to the Presidential elections in 2013.

10. The EU calls on Azerbaijan to extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for political prisoners.

11. The EU also stresses the importance of making further efforts in fighting corruption, as a key condition for the success of all reform and modernization efforts, especially those affecting economic development.

12. The EU recalls the importance of energy issues for EU-Azerbaijan relations and notes recent intensified cooperation. The EU welcomes progress in the realisation of the Southern Corridor in this regard, including the launching of negotiations between Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and the EU on the development of a Trans-Caspian Pipeline.

Georgia

13. The EU welcomes the progress made in the negotiations on the Association Agreement (AA) between the EU and Georgia, and the launch of negotiations on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. The EU emphasises that Georgia should continue to advance sectoral reform and regulatory approximation in trade and trade-related areas, building on the achievements of the preparatory process for the DCFTA and that the EU stands ready to provide continued support in this regard based on jointly identified needs of Georgia. The EU also encourages and stresses the need for continued effective implementation of the Visa Facilitation and Readmission agreements in order to open a visa dialogue between EU and Georgia.

14. The EU reconfirms its readiness to promote mobility of citizens of Georgia and to take gradual steps, including establishing a two-phased Visa Action Plan, towards a visa-free regime in a secure and well managed environment in due course. Under these conditions, the EU is committed to the shared objective of visa free travel.

15. The EU acknowledges the European aspirations and European choice of Georgia and its commitment to build deep and sustainable democracy. The EU welcomes Georgia's efforts in modernizing and reforming its society and fighting corruption.

16. The EU stresses the utmost importance of ensuring that the Parliamentary elections in 2012 and the Presidential elections in 2013 meet internationally recognized democratic standards and will closely monitor develop-

ments in Georgia leading up to the elections. The EU stresses the need for consolidating democracy in Georgia, including strengthening democratic institutions, allowing for genuine political pluralism and freedom of assembly, freedom and equal access to media as well as further strengthening of the independence of judiciary. Peaceful settlement of conflicts in the region

17. The EU emphasises the importance of finding peaceful settlements to the conflicts in the region and calls for strong commitment by all concerned parties in this regard. The EU believes that the strengthened relations between the EU and the three countries in the South Caucasus have opened new avenues and opportunities for the EU to support conflict settlement efforts in the region. The EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia will continue to play a significant role in this regard.

18. The EU reiterates its firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders and reiterates its concern about the continuing Russian military and security-related presence and infrastructure reinforcements in the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The EU calls on Russia to fulfill its obligations under the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 and the Implementing Measures of 8 September 2008, including by providing access to EUMM to the breakaway regions.

19. The EU calls on the participants of the Geneva International Discussion to the conflict to continue to work together towards sustainable security arrange-

ments. In this regard, a clear non-use of force commitment by Russia would be necessary.

20. The EU confirms its commitment to remain engaged and involved in the stabilization and conflict resolution efforts in Georgia, including by continuing its engagement as co-chair in the Geneva Discussions, the efforts of the EUSR for South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia and the continued presence of the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM).

21. The EU welcomes the steps undertaken by Georgia in implementing its strategy on engagement with the breakaway regions and encourages Georgia to pursue a more effective engagement policy and to take a pragmatic, positive and constructive approach to encourage trade, travel and investment across the Administrative Boundary Line.

22. The EU also underlines that it will enhance its engagement with the two breakaway regions, including to the benefit of the people living in these regions. This includes achieving greater EU visibility in the regions and active work to promote economic and trade relations, facilitate travel and start transformative and approximation work in line with its non-recognition and engagement policy, in full respect of the principle of territorial integrity.

23. The EU reiterates its commitment to help improve the situation of Internally Displaced Persons in Georgia and refugees from the conflicts and their unconditional right to safe and dignified return, while underlining also the need to enhance efforts to provide livelihood options and to provide conditions allowing those Internally Displaced Persons who choose to stay in Tbilisi administered territory to integrate fully

into society.

24. The EU expresses its concern at the slow progress in the negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In this regard, the EU continues to support the OSCE Minsk Group and acknowledges in this context the efforts of the President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev to achieve progress in trilateral talks. The EU reiterates its support for the Madrid principles and calls on Armenia and Azerbaijan to step up their efforts to reach agreement on those principles as a basis for peace. The EU recalls the joint statement of the presidency of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chair countries at the G8 Summit in Deauville on 26 May 2011 and the commitments made by the Presidents of both countries in the framework of the Minsk Group, most recently in Sochi, and calls for their full implementation. In this regard, the EU expresses concern on increased tension along the Line of Contact and underlines the importance of urgent steps to implement the ceasefire and to adopt appropriate confidence building measures.

25. The EU stands ready to provide enhanced support for confidence building measures, in support of and in full complementarity with the Minsk Group, with a view to facilitating further steps towards the implementation of peace. In this regard, the EU underlines the need for unconditional access for representatives of the EU to Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding regions. The Council invites the High Representative and the Commission to develop, in close consultation with the OSCE, post conflict scenarios for Nagorno-Karabakh as a basis for future EU engagement."

Again about the measures...

from page 10

Karabakh Conflict Zone, which took effect on May 12, 1994 and was signed with the mediation of Russia 18 years ago, is implemented with reservations. However, the implementation of this agreement, for the time being, is not a guarantee of non-resumption of hostilities in the conflict zone, especially against the background of quite a high level of militarization of the conflicting parties. The implementation of the 1995 Agreement on Strengthening the Ceasefire Regime in the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict Zone will reduce the likelihood of resumption of hostilities and become a significant step forward in advancement of one of the three principles of settlement - the principle of non-use of force or threat of force.

C. It is necessary to study and use experience of ceasefire regime in other conflicts

As stated above, based on the results of the Sochi meeting of the presidents, the Co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group are preparing new proposals to work out a mechanism for investigation of violations of the agreement on strengthening the ceasefire regime in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

As of today we know at least two big conflicts, in which, as in the case of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, the ceasefire regime is maintained without the participation of peacekeeping forces. The matter concerns the conflict between India and Pakistan over

Kashmir as well as the conflict between North and South Korea.

In the former case the ceasefire was violated several times due to outbreaks of hostilities between India and Pakistan, and these hostilities were so large-scale that they could be called war (in 1947-1949, 1965, 1971 and 1999). After both countries obtained nuclear weapons, no resumption of hostilities has taken place anymore. It is so very understandable: nuclear weapons are a serious factor of deterrence.

As regards the 1953 armistice between the army of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on the one hand and the army of the United Nations (in reality the U.S.) and the Republic of Korea on the other, in the past 50 years the Armistice Agreement has been largely observed, except for a few cases of the escalation of the situation. Most recently, the situation worsened in 2011, after the incident with the South Korean corvette Cheonan.

A military demarcation line runs along the 38th parallel. On both sides of the line, there is a demilitarized zone approximately 4 km wide. The military demarcation line is marked by black-and-yellow poles, put up at a distance of 100-200 meters from each other. There are barbed wire fences (three meters high) that stretch along the demilitarized zone, on both its northern and southern sides.

The U.S. acting under the flag of UN plays an important role in

observing the Armistice Agreement here. On 17 November, 2000, after a regular meeting of representatives of DPRK and the UN, i.e. the U.S., it was decided that following "unexpected armed incidents" in "some parts" of the demilitarized zone, they must be resolved directly between the military of North and South Korea. The territories where inter-Korean projects such as construction or repairs of railways and highways would be carried out were meant by "some parts" of the demilitarized zone.

The most famous place in the demilitarized zone is Panmunjom. Located at the western end of the demilitarized zone, it has an area of 800 sq. m. and belongs to neither DPRK nor the Republic of Korea. This is the Joint Security Zone, with a facility for talks (also called the New Freedom House). The army of DPRK and the UN forces, i.e. the U.S. forces, ensure security in this zone, where each side has 6 observation posts and 35 servicemen. The New Freedom House hosts meetings and talks between North and South Korea and houses the department for ties between DPRK and the Republic of Korea, where a special hot line was set up. Despite the confrontation, DPRK and the Republic of Korea have observed the armistice for almost 60 years.

We would not suggest that something like the demilitarized zone at the 38th parallel can be organized in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone and along the line of contact of the conflict-

ing parties. The point is neither conflicting party will agree to withdraw from its fortified positions. The idea of a military demarcation line in the conflict zone is unlikely either.

In this connection we should remind the reader that after the signing of the Agreement on Ceasefire in effect as of May 12, 1994 in the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict Zone, another meeting of the defense ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia and the commander of the army of Nagorno Karabakh took place at Russian Ministry of Defense on 16 May 1994, during which a demand for withdrawal of troops from the contact line was made again. Yet the then defense minister of Azerbaijan M. Mamedyarov was urgently called to Baku by President Geydar Aliyev and later he avoided withdrawing the troops, giving a reason that the contact line passed mainly through the territory of Azerbaijan and that the Armenians must withdraw from the contact line and let Azerbaijani troops stay where they were. Naturally the Armenian side refused to take such a unilateral step.

On the other hand we do not rule out that the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the conflicting parties could discuss the establishment of a joint security zone in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone and the creation of a negotiating facility equipped with a hot line, similar to the New Freedom House in Panmunjom.

The author does not rule out

that establishing an analogue of the mentioned joint security zone and the negotiating facility in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone, with the mediation of the Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, would contribute to the implementation of the Agreement on Strengthening the Ceasefire Regime. In our opinion, this agreement should remain the main one and should not be changed.

As for the mechanism (currently being drafted by the mediators) for investigation of incidents along the ceasefire line, we believe that it should be based only on the Agreement on Strengthening the Ceasefire Regime. Yet it would be helpful to study the PROCEDURE for investigating incidents and armistice violations, which has been used by the conflicting parties on the Korean peninsula for almost 60 years.

In case of a thorough examination of the issue, the consent of the conflicting parties, and the need, these procedures or their elements could be adapted for use in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone. This could contribute to the implementation of the Agreement on Strengthening the Ceasefire Regime in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone.

The maps accompanying the article were taken from the report "Nagorno Karabakh: A Plan for Peace" by Crisis Group in 2005 (see Report No. 167, Europe, October 11, 2005).

Harut Sassounian: How to Counter Appeals Court's Ruling Against Insurance Claims



By Harut Sassounian
Publisher, The California Courier

The federal Court of Appeals issued a shocking decision last week. In a unanimous ruling, it struck down a California law that had allowed heirs of Armenian Genocide victims to sue life insurance companies for unpaid claims.

Acknowledging its reliance on the "rarely invoked doctrine" of "field preemption," the Court judged the state law to be unconstitutional, claiming that it intruded into the federal government's foreign policy prerogative.

The Appeals Court thus annulled a law passed by the California legislature in 2000, which had extended first to 2010 and then to 2016, the deadline for Armenian Genocide heirs to sue life insurance companies. On the basis of that law, California attorneys filed lawsuits against the New York Life and French AXA insurance companies. Both lawsuits were settled out of court for a total payment of \$37.5 million.

In 2003, Armenian plaintiffs filed a class-action lawsuit in U.S. federal court against German life insurance companies. Rather than fulfilling their long overdue contractual obligations, these companies sought the lawsuit's dismissal, arguing that the reference to the Armenian Genocide in the State law was an encroachment on the federal government's foreign policy powers. After several appeals, a panel of 11 federal judges dismissed the lawsuit against the German companies on February 23, 2012. This decision, however, does not undo the settlements reached earlier with New York Life and AXA.

I believe the Appeals Court's decision is highly flawed for the following reasons:

1) The Court took the unusual position that the State law constituted an intrusion into the federal government's foreign policy domain, even in the absence of any conflict between the two. In fact, the State of California and the federal government are in agreement on the genocide issue, since the House of Representatives recognized the

Armenian Genocide in 1975 and 1984, Pres. Reagan acknowledged it in a Presidential Proclamation in 1981, and most importantly, the U.S. Justice Department cited the Armenian case as an example of genocide in an official report submitted to the World Court in 1951.

2) The Appeals Court overstepped its judicial bounds by paying undue attention to Turkish denials, pressures, and blackmail, and charging that the California statute "imposes the politically charged label of 'genocide' on the actions of the Ottoman Empire (and, consequently, present-day Turkey) and expresses sympathy for 'Armenian Genocide victims.'" This assertion is totally untrue, as the California law makes no reference to "present-day Turkey." Delving further into political arguments rather than sound legal judgments, the Appeals Court quoted from newspaper articles -- that were not part of the court record -- to illustrate Turkey's angry reaction to the French bill on penalizing genocide denial and Ankara's rejection of the genocide label.

3) The Court could have sev-

ered the reference to genocide from the California statute, while keeping valid the legitimate demands of life insurance claimants, since the purpose of the lawsuit was the recovery of insurance benefits, not asserting genocide.

Armenians should not be discouraged and not give up the struggle for their legitimate rights, despite this temporary legal setback. Here are some possible steps that could be taken to remedy the situation:

1) File an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, even though the High Court hears only a very small percentage of the cases submitted to it.

2) Ask the California legislature to pass a new law that would broaden the category of possible claimants, in order to overcome the Appeals Court's objection that the existing law is "for a narrowly defined class of claims."

3) Lobby the U.S. Congress to pass similar legislation allowing lawsuits against delinquent insurance companies.

4) Launch a new Armenian political initiative at the federal level, seeking the establishment of

a "Presidential Advisory Commission on Armenian Genocide Assets," similar to the existing commission on the Holocaust, which would use U.S. governmental channels rather than the courts to recover genocide-era assets.

5) Embark on a worldwide campaign to protest and boycott German insurance companies that refuse to live up to their financial and moral obligations.. Stage demonstrations in front of German companies' offices in different countries until they realize that they would lose more business by ignoring the Armenian claims than paying the amounts owed to heirs of life insurance beneficiaries. Furthermore, Armenians must demand that Germany, Turkey's ally during World War I, passes a law mandating that German companies pay delinquent insurance claims.

Clearly, the pursuit of Armenian demands is more of a marathon than a sprint! Armenians must persist in their struggle and overcome all obstacles until their long overdue quest for justice is realized.

Grand celebration of Mother Language in the Netherlands



After its establishment last year, the Platform for One-Day Armenian Schools in the Netherlands organized an event dedicated to Mother Language Day at the Van School in Nijmegen on February 26. The event was organized for the second time.

The platform includes the schools functioning under the Armenian organizations in the Dutch cities of Hertogenbos, Maastricht, Assen and Nijmegen. The event was as multifaceted and interesting in content as the sounds of the Mother Language and the peculiarities of the Armenian language. Each school had put in efforts to help the students sing, dance and recite.

As "Hayern Aysor" reports, the opening speech was followed by a speech by Priest of the Armenian

Apostolic Church in Almelo, Father Mashtots and a prayer. The performance of the Armenian national anthem was followed by a speech by Advisor to the RA Minister of Diaspora in Holland, President of the Union Coordinating Armenian Organizations Smbat Martirosyan, who also handed diplomas to several educators for their longstanding and patriotic activities and great contributions to the preservation of the Mother Language.

President of the "Komitas" Armenian community in Hertogenbos, school principal, Doctor, Professor Matun Elbakyan gave a meaningful lecture on the history of the mother language.

The event was attended by Dutch composer Rolf Strafer, who recently visited Armenia, fell in

love with the country and the people and decided to learn the Armenian language. He already pronounces many words in Armenian, knows some letters of the Armenian alphabet and continues to enhance his knowledge of the language.

The event organized by the Platform ended with a consultation held by teachers and the school's principals. There were so many issues and things to do that it was decided to convoke another special consultation by the proposal of initiator and president of the Platform, President of the United Armenians in Holland in Nijmegen, Principal of Van School Sveta Abrahamyan.

During the consultation, the children, parents and guests got acquainted and established new contacts.

The event filled the children and students with energy as they wrote their wishes, most significant words and word combinations in Armenian on papers, posted them on the balloons in three colours of the Armenian flag and let them go in the air with the hope that they would reach Armenia and their wishes would come true.

Armenia's Premier presents award to Lithuanian actor



Armenia's PM Tigran Sargsyan received a Lithuanian delegation, which is currently in the capital Yerevan within the framework of the "Armmono" 10th Annual International Theater Festival. The delegation included renowned Lithuanian actor, USSR People's Artist, Regimantas Adomaitis.

Welcoming the guests, Sargsyan specifically noted: "Regimantas Adomaitis is a legendary man in Armenia. Everybody knows him very well in our country. There is a special connection between you and Armenia, especially in the field of culture, cinematography and theatrical art. You may know that many cultural

norms are transmitted through the cinema and as seen from this perspective, you are a friendly figure in Armenia. It is a great pleasure to host you in our country."

Afterwards, the parties discussed cultural cooperation between Armenia and Lithuania, and reflected on ongoing programs. Prime Minister Sargsyan underscored the signing of the "Agreement between the Government of Armenia and the Government of Lithuania in the Field of Culture."

The interlocutors also exchanged views on the establishment of democratic values and the formation of a civil society in both countries.

And on the occasion of Regimantas Adomaitis' 75th birth anniversary, and for his considerable merit in world and Lithuanian cinema, Tigran Sargsyan awarded the Lithuanian actor with the "Prime Minister of Armenia Commemorative Medal."

To note, the "Armmono" 10th Annual International Theater Festival of mono performances is being held in Yerevan from February 29 to March 5.

Naregatsi Art Institute opens 8th Spring Events Series Season

The Naregatsi Art Institute enters on its 8th Spring Events Series Season on Friday by a grand gala concert and exhibition featuring some of Armenia's most prominent musical and visual artists.

A unique event, the "Vernal Octad," as we have designated this year's spring season by a reference to the stem of the Greek number eight, oktás, will, by the same token, also mark the kick-start of this year's overly packed timetable at the Naregatsi Art Institute designed to include around 90 concerts, master classes,

exhibitions, presentations, meetings with remarkable men and other events incorporated into the 35 permanent event series now available on our events timetable.

The March 2nd opening concert and exhibition are, in that sense, inscribed with a symbolic charge, since being comprised of a diversely multimodal program of different genres and styles of artistic endeavor, they well reflect the manifoldness of the vectors that constitute collectively the activities of the Naregatsi Art Institute.



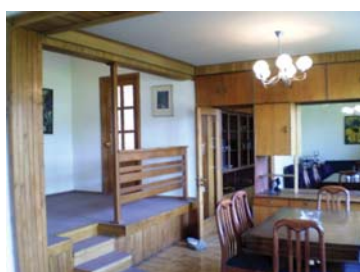
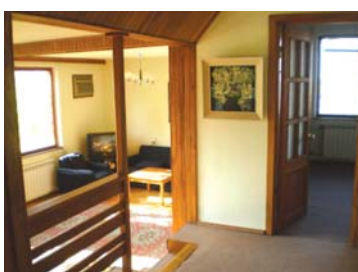
APARTMENT FOR RENT

A comfortable, western style apartment in the center of the city. The second floor of the nice private house with a separate entrance from the street. The apartment has a dining room, two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and two balconies. It has a heating system, permanent cold and hot water, TV satellite, air conditioners and other facilities. A nice view to Mount Ararat. The house has a nice garden.

Price for a long term: 1000 -1100 USD monthly including gas, heating, electricity and water. for a short term 60-80 USD daily.

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For more information call (37410). 278-709, mob. 093. 229 570



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DID YOU KNOW?



Heading by
Marina Harutiunyan
marina@nt.am
Comments are
welcomed!

A Day in Armenia's Wine Country

About an hour and a half south of Yerevan on the main road is the village of Areni. You will know that you are approaching the village when the roadside stalls, usually reserved for fresh fruit, become displays of Coke and Fanta bottles that look suspiciously like they have something besides the advertised product inside. Most of the bottles are, in fact, empty and only painted to look filled, but that little tidbit of information shouldn't



stop you from pulling over to sample what they are selling: wine and spirits made from local fruits.

In 2007, archaeologists discovered a winery dating back over 6000 years in what is known as the Areni-1 cave. It is the oldest winery ever discovered, predating any other by 1000 years. (Also found in the Areni-1 cave is the world's oldest leather shoe dating back over 5000 years.) With so many years of practice behind them, it is easy to understand why Areni is the wine-making capital of Armenia.

As you approach the village, on the left is a large, grey-stone building with a red roof. This is the Areni wine factory and it is open to tours. But most people prefer to sample the homemade products at the numerous stands along the side of the road. Products on offer include grape, cherry and apricot wines as well as "vodka" (much more similar to grappa) made of the same fruits. Some of these

really pack a punch, so make sure you have a designated driver before you start tasting!

According to some, the reason for the Coke bottles is so that Iranian truck-drivers can bring the wine back with them across the border. I think the explanation is much simpler: recycling.

Areni is a picturesque village complete with river views and a historic church, Surb Astvatsatsin, the stone carvings and architecture of which are attributed to Momik. The best time to visit is the fall; there are many harvest festivals in early October and, of course, the Areni wine festival in mid-October. The foliage is spectacular and the weather is still warm, plus there's plenty of wine and kebab to sample.

If fall is the best time to visit Areni, winter is the best time to check out the village of Khachik. Take the winding road through Areni up the mountain and hold your breath. You will be amazed at the views of Ararat, which seems to hover above the snow and clouds. When you reach the village, you won't be able to escape the mountain. It is simply magical.

One of many breathtaking views on the way up to Khachik. The village school looks out on an equally impressive panorama. Imagine trying to concentrate on lessons!

After you've spent the day wandering



around Areni and Khachik, continue south for a nice khorovats. There are several choices along the main road including one at the turn-off to Noravank and Lchak restaurant, situated on a pond. If you feel like travelling a bit farther, there's a great restaurant at Noravank as well. But the best in the neighborhood is in Getap. Continue south on the main road until you reach the turn off to Martuni. Take that road to the second of two restaurants, Sisakanots, where they have excellent pork and fish khorovats. In season, you can sit outside at a private table overlooking the Yeghegis River.

Rebecca is an American Peace Corps volunteer who lives and works in Vayots Dzor marz. The views and opinions expressed are hers and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Peace Corps.



ARMENIAN POETRY

Sona Van

ALONE WITH ANDREY
BITOV'S BOOK AT NIGHT

*-Your eyes are two evasive lies . . . quick
(as the shadows of wet
deer*

*crossing the road
in the rain)*

*you said and looked directly at me
as if a great and truthful god*

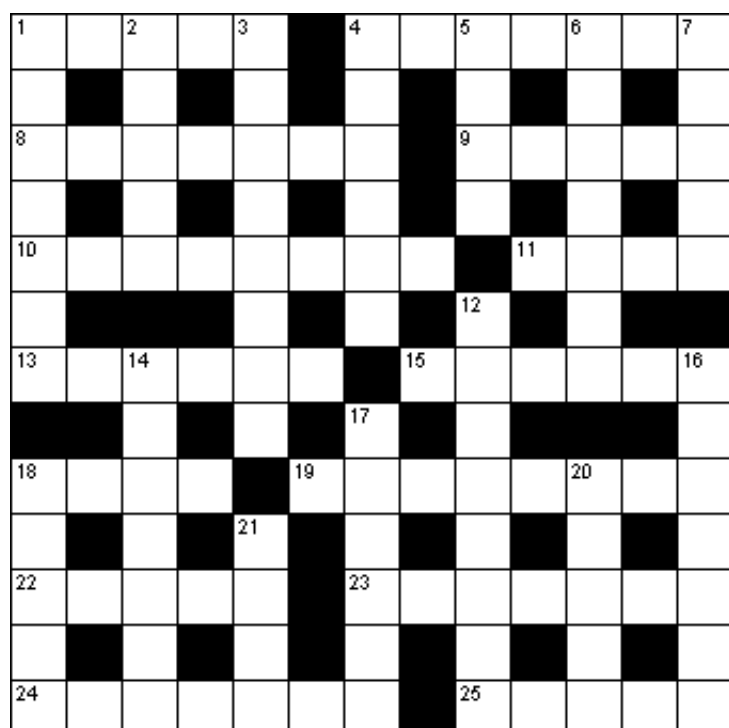
*"two evasive lies?" I thought
"a pair of shadows running
in the rain?"*

*and I stopped like a deer
caught in the headlights
while crossing the road*

*it's late now we are sitting lotus-style
as two coextending yogis
at night
(wine and time between us)*

*I look out suspended
from your lines
(as I once hung from
the accidentally-left-open window
of my childhood home)
from where I can see life
as it is*

CROSSWORD



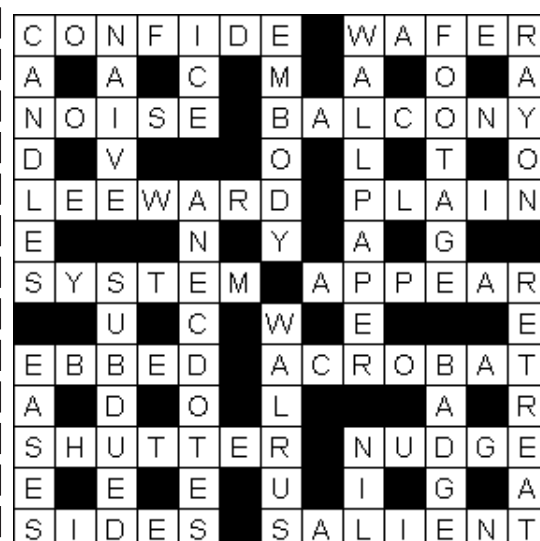
Across

1. Direction (5)
4. Equilibrium (7)
8. Brass instrument (7)
9. Fruit (5)
10. Beamed (8)
11. Singing couple (4)
13. Kind of lake (6)
15. Movie house (6)
18. Large and scholarly book (4)
19. Precise (8)
22. Tooth (5)
23. Inactivity (7)
24. Family name (7)
25. Laconic (5)

Down

1. Notation cancelling a previous flat or sharp (7)
2. A regular route (5)
3. Seven-sided polygon (8)
4. Dairy product (6)
5. Jump (4)
6. Planet (7)
7. Choose by vote (5)
12. Venomous (8)
14. Risk taker (7)
16. Norm (7)
17. In operation (6)
18. Domesticates (5)
20. Theatrical performer (5)
21. Song for solo voice (4)

Answer of previous crossword



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries (Mar. 20 - Apr. 19):



Mercury enters your sign on Mar. 2 this week. Your mind is racing from one thing to another and some of these thoughts have real potential for creative works. However, within a few days, Mercury will be changing directions and you will think again about decisions made now so save time for reflection.

Leo (July 21 - Aug. 22):



This looks like a week in which you really want to say your piece, but you have a sense that would be a bad idea. Agreed. Mars continues to retrograde. If someone "attacks" you, then you may safely defend yourself. But if you want snipe at another, you may regret taking action now.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 20):



Late in the week an opportunity to expand your social life brings smiles. You may be invited to a party or you might meet someone new. This aspect is from Venus, goddess of love and creativity. The muse may be at your side as you produce a particularly creative idea or solution to a problem.

Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 19):



Circumstances involving love life and money may feel a bit tight. You may experience an emotional droop near the 4th, in which you perceive yourself to be alone in the world. This is a temporary mood, so don't take it seriously. After Mar. 5 you will feel much better.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sep. 22):



Continue to hold your tongue in any potential disagreement with another. Do not initiate battle. However, if someone shoots sniper fire at you, then you may do what you need to take care of yourself. Your attention is moving toward the subject of taxes. Triple check your tax return before taking it to the mailbox during this period.

Capricorn (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19):



Your attitude is somber. This is a good time to work alone and concentrate on a calming project, rather than a challenging exploit. Your reflexes are a bit off. Drive and use tools carefully. You could be having a blue mood, but it is passing. Don't take it seriously.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20):



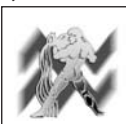
You are finishing a work project and shifting gears into new territory this week. You will be focusing on communications with friends, acquaintances, and building your network. You may encounter a whole new group of people at this time. Backup everything on your computer.

Libra (Sep. 23 - Oct. 22):



Life does not flow so smoothly this week. You might find reasons to feel sorry for yourself. Make an effort to avoid dwelling on sorrowful thoughts. People you normally count on to be there may be unavailable right now. Hold onto your peaceful place. On the 5th and beyond you will be feeling better.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 17):



You have a genuine need to do your own thinking this week. You are mulling over an issue that requires a unique perspective to resolve. This may take a while. Don't push it too quickly. Don't allow fear and pessimism to interfere with your pleasure in life now.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21):



You are conflicted on the subject of romance versus caretaking, which is your natural instinct. Perhaps you are caught in the middle between the needs of a spouse and your children. Sometimes a Cancerian becomes a parent to the partner, which usually creates a troubled internal atmosphere. Set aside decisions on these matters until you are more centered.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21):



Make time for plenty of space between yourself and a lover or your children this week. It is a challenge to keep your temper. It also is not the best to "attack" another while Mars is retrograde. You will live to regret it. Get a babysitter for a few hours. Go for a walk. Exercise. Vent that irritation in more appropriate ways.

Pisces (Feb. 18 - Mar. 19):



Your optimistic and happy attitude causes others to join your bandwagon and support your projects. You can envision a grand result and are able to express it in a way that others can understand. The reward will be great enough that everyone will benefit.

HUMOR

A stolen credit card

A man said his credit card was stolen but he decided not to report it because the thief was spending less than his wife did.

The bum on a street

A bum asks a man for \$2. The man asked, "Will you buy booze?" The bum said, "No." The man asked, "Will you gamble it away?" The bum said, "No." Then the man asked, "Will you come home with me so my wife can see what happens to a man who doesn't drink or gamble?"

Discussing finances

A couple was having a discussion about family finances. Finally the husband exploded, "If it weren't for my money, the house wouldn't be here!" The wife replied, "My dear, if it weren't for your money I wouldn't be here."

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WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?
Enjoy your leisure

Al. Spendaryan National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet

Bloch: Shelomo

Bernstein: 3 Meidations

Prokofiev: Excerpts from

the ballet "Romeo and

Juliet"

Don Quijote

March 8, at 7 p.m.

Ludwig Minkus

Concert Show

Ballet in 3 acts.

Concert dedicated to the

Conductor: Atanes

Arakelyan

Staging: Vilen Galstyan

Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall

International Women's Day

Participants: Kristine

Pepelyan, Lilit

Hovhannisyan

Arame, Mihran Tsarukyan

Malxas Jazz

March 6, at 7 p.m.

March 5, at 9 p.m.

Spring Brings Love

Artoisis Group and

The concert is dedicated to

Shushan Petrosyan

mother's and beauty day.

March 6, at 9 p.m.

Participants:

Jazz Trio and singer

Aghvan

- singers Alik Gyunashyan,

March 7, at 9 p.m.

Susanna Safaryan,

A Series of Quintet:

Alexander Poghosyan,

Saxophone, Guitar,

Arayik Hambardzumyan,

Instrumental Program

Davit Ghulghazaryan

March 8, at 9 p.m.

- actors Samvel Mikaelyan,

Time Report

Juliet Babayan,

March 9, at 9 p.m.

Zhasmen Gevorgyan

Concert Group

- dancer Lilit Muradyan

March 10, at 9 p.m.

- musicians Hovik

Latino-American Jazz

Karapetyan,

March 11, at 9 p.m.

Hamestuhi Sargsyan,

Impression Band

Sevada Shvoyan,

Harutyun Safaryan

- as well as dance troupes

"Husher" and "Krunk".

Quote of the week

**When you say one thing, the
clever person understands
three.**

Chinese proverb

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