

Sergey Smbatyan is the Youngest Ever Armenian Musician to Perform at the Carnegie Hall



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Armenia sees new 'milestone' in relations with EU



Armenia and the European Union have reached a new "responsible" milestone in their relations, President Serzh Sargsyan said at a congress of the European People's Party (EPP) in Madrid, Spain, on October 21.

"Last week the EU Council in Luxembourg approved the mandate to open negotiations on a new, legally binding and overarching agreement with Armenia. I strongly believe that negotiations will result in an elaborate document outlining comprehensive cooperation in all areas of mutual interest, and it will become the best

assurance for our joint commitment to elevate the Armenia-EU relations to a new stage," Sargsyan said, as quoted by his press office.

Addressing the congress presided over by EPP President Joseph Daul and also attended by the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission, Donald Tusk and Jean-Claude Juncker, Sargsyan also spoke about Armenia's further democratization in the context of the planned constitutional amendments.

"In our country we continue to develop democratic institutions, to further balance

the separate branches of power, to protect human rights and independence of judiciary. We have taken an important step in this direction by initiating a constitutional reform in our country, which is implemented in close cooperation with the Venice Commission," the Armenian leader said.

"Should our people approve the constitutional amendments on December 6, Armenia will transform its semi-presidential model of governance into a parliamentary one, which in its turn will make more efficient the interaction of the separate branches of power, will pave the way for more intensive economic development, will increase the level of human rights protection and the institutional role of the opposition."

Serzh Sargsyan said that Armenia has invited the European Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international structures to observe the referendum.

"I am confident that your participation and best practices will give a further impetus to the progress of the democratic process in Armenia," he underscored.

President Serzh Sargsyan meets with EPP President Joseph Daul

President Serzh Sargsyan had a meeting on October 22 with the President of the European People's Party (EPP), Joseph Daul, in Madrid. At the outset, Serzh Sargsyan congratulated Joseph Daul on being reelected as President during the EPP congress on 21 October and wished him success, expressing the hope that under the leadership of Mr. Daul, the EPP, as the most influential political force of Europe, will continue to fulfil its mission and meet the expectations of European voters.

The interlocutors discussed issues pertaining to the further promotion of cooperation with the EPP, the prospects of RA-EU relations, the strengthening of ties between the RPA and EPP, Armenia's collaboration with its EPP partners in international platforms, as well as to common issues and challenges which will also be touched upon during broadened summit of the EPP. The RA president and the EPP president reflected upon the current stage of the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process within the frames of the OSCE Minsk Group and upon the existing problems. The interlocutors also exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East and on the refugee crisis.

Armenia's president presented to Joseph Daul the process of RA constitutional amendments and the importance of making amendments to the fundamental law for our country.

President Serzh Sargsyan noted that he warmly recalls Mr.



Daul's visit to Armenia in April this year and his participation in the events to commemorate the Armenian Genocide Centennial, by which, Armenia's president was certain, the EPP president reiterated his and his party's loyalty to the universal values that underlie European integration. Stressing the importance of the resolution "The Armenian Genocide and European Values" adopted by the EPP Political Assembly, the president thanked the party leader and those EPP members of the PACE who endorsed that statement.

Serzh Sargsyan lauds planned Constitutional Reform



President Serzh Sargsyan used his Friday speech at a gathering of Russian diplomats' training school graduates in Yerevan also to praise the controversial constitutional reform initiated by his administration that he said would increase the institutional role of Armenia's opposition.

Addressing the third forum of MGIMO (Moscow State Institute of International Relations) graduates, which is being held in Armenia on October 22-24 and has brought together dozens of senior diplomats from different countries that studied in the prestigious Moscow higher school, Sargsyan also dwelt on the domestic political agenda, explaining the reasons for launching sweeping constitutional changes that are going to turn Armenia into a parliamentary republic.

Despite a largely positive conclusion from the Council of Europe's Venice Commission regarding the draft amendments that Armenians are going to vote on in a nationwide referendum on December 6, several

of the country's leading opposition parties maintain that the proposed changes are just a ploy to enable Sargsyan to indefinitely stay in power in a different capacity after the end of his second and final presidential term in 2018.

Serzh Sargsyan has denied this, saying that he will not seek to occupy a top government post after retiring from his current post in about three years' time.

Addressing the mostly Russian participants of the MGIMO forum, the Armenian leader argued that the amended Constitution will improve the protection of human rights and freedoms, will better balance the powers between different government institutions and will strengthen the institutional role of the opposition.

Speaking in Russian, Serzh Sargsyan said also addressed other issues, such as Armenia's foreign policies. He spoke about close Armenian-Russian cooperation and friendship, stressing that this cooperation is made even stronger within the Eurasian Economic Union, an economic grouping involving Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan that Armenia formally joined in January.

Sargsyan also spoke in detail about Armenia's cooperation with the European Union in light of the recently approved Brussels mandate for talks around a new legal basis in relations with Yerevan.

"We continue our active cooperation with our Western partners, with whose active support for many years we have been carrying out large-scale reforms aimed at improving democratic institutions, rule of law, ensuring an increased role of civil society in governing the country," the Armenian president said.

It is remarkable that in his message of welcome to the participants of the MGIMO forum in Yerevan, Russian President Vladimir Putin reportedly expressed his gratitude to his Armenian counterpart and Armenian partners for "invaluable assistance" in the organization of the event.

Among those attending the forum is also Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian, who is also a MGIMO graduate.

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Opposition Group Vows Renewed Street Protests Ahead Of Constitutional Referendum

A new anti-government campaign pushing for regime change ahead of the planned constitutional referendum has set December 1 as the day of launching national "mobilization" to oust the current administration with sustained street protests.

Jirair Sefilyan, a leader of the radical opposition Founding Parliament group, addressed supporters during an indoor meeting on October 21 during which he expounded on the "regime change" plan of New Armenia, a new movement set up jointly with the opposition Heritage party, to oppose the controversial constitutional changes, but primary seek a change of government.

"We believe that it is the change of government that can stop the course of these constitutional changes. If so, it is natural that the date [for the start of protests] should be before December 6," Sefilyan said, adding that before that the movement will seek to raise awareness of the population about their plans.

"On December 1, we invite our people not just for another gathering in [Yerevan's] Liberty Square after which we will go home. No, it won't be so. It will be a maximally powerful pressure that will be peaceful by its nature and the measures taken will be within the logic of civil disobedience. Using the entire arsenal within this logic we will put powerful pressure on this regime to make it retreat," he stressed.

According to the hardline opposition leader, the current authorities will have two options - to leave peacefully or use violence.

"If this time they dare use force against peaceful protesters, an adequate response should be given," said Sefilyan, who along with several other radical opposition members was arrested in April and kept in prison for several weeks for allegedly trying to organize violent riots on the day when Armenia marked the centennial of the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

"Let them decide whether they retire peacefully or with violence," declared Sefilyan, a Lebanese-born veteran of the 1992-1994 war in Karabakh.

At the same time, Sefilyan called on



opposition supporters to be prepared for reprisals and violence that he said the authorities are likely to use against them.

Zaruhi Postanjyan of the opposition Heritage party also called for an "uprising" to "get rid of these small people".

In her speech she called on people not to be afraid because, she emphasized, members of the government and [President] Serzh Sargsyan have fears of their own.

"The time for great people has come," the opposition lawmaker underscored.

Postanjyan as well as other speakers stressed that despite the presence of at least two "fronts" opposing the constitutional changes, there are no major rifts in the opposition camp.

Levon Zurabyan, the parliamentary leader of the opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK), also addressed the meeting, saying that he came especially to deliver the message of unity in the face of "government propaganda".

Zurabyan said that the "No" campaign set up by the HAK and the opposition People's Party of Armenia over the weekend did not have any major differences with New Armenia as far as the issues of opposing the constitutional changes and seeking regime change were concerned.

But he stressed that unlike New

Armenia, which seeks to achieve regime change before the December 6 referendum, they view the ballot as an additional means to say "No" to the authorities by passing a vote of no confidence in the Sargsyan government.

A number of opposition parties and groups in Armenia maintain that the proposed constitutional amendments that turn the country into a parliamentary republic with a powerful prime minister and a largely ceremonial president are aimed at enabling incumbent President Sargsyan to indefinitely stay in power in a different capacity after the end of his second and final presidential term in 2018.

Serzh Sargsyan has denied this, saying that he will not become prime minister or parliament speaker in case of Armenia's transformation into a parliamentary republic. Members of Sargsyan's ruling Republican Party and at least two parliamentary minority parties insist that the constitutional reform reflects the need for the country's further democratization. They are going to set up separate headquarters to campaign in favor of the amendments ahead of the referendum.

Legal experts from the Council of Europe's Venice Commission largely endorsed the draft amendments last month after most of the changes in the text recommended by them were accepted by the Sargsyan administration.

Russian-Armenian tycoon reaffirms political ambitions

A Moscow-based Armenian businessman has reaffirmed his determination to pursue a political career in Armenia despite criticism within media and opposition circles regarding his decision.

Ara Abrahamian first revealed his ambitions in Yerevan last week when the Union of Armenians of Russia marked the 15th anniversary of its establishment.

His statement about plans to set up a political party ahead of the 2017 parliamentary elections in Armenia sparked a barrage of criticism in media that challenged his intellectual abilities to engage in politics and called him another pro-government "project" whose aim will be "stealing" the opposition votes in the next general elections.

Some opposition members also consider Abrahamian's possible entry into Armenian politics as another way for Russia to increase the number of its loyalists in the next Armenian parliament.

While Abrahamian himself has denied he will seek a change of government in Armenia, some observers still believe his figure and political team will be counterbalancing the majority that President Serzh Sargsyan's ruling Republican Party of Armenia expects to retain after the planned constitutional reform turning Armenia into a parliamentary republic.

"Today it is time to return to Armenia," the 58-year-old tycoon, who has been engaged in business activities in Russia since the 1990s, said in an interview with an RFE/RL's Armenian

Service correspondent in Moscow.

"Armenia has always been on my mind. I have no problems here [in Moscow]. I've achieved great successes and my financial situation is good. But I know that there are problems in Armenia. And it does not let me be at peace with my conscience," Abrahamian said. "We have concrete economic programs, and I am right now working on them."

Abrahamian, who owns several businesses in Russia and has made a fortune on investments, construction and other services, defies comparisons with Bidzina Ivanishvili, a Russian-Georgian billionaire who set up a political party that came to power in Georgia in 2012.

Abrahamian, who continues to hold Armenian citizenship, under Armenia's Constitution cannot hold major elected posts because he does not meet the residence qualification. But he said he was still determined to play a role in Armenian politics.

"I cannot occupy any post under the new Constitution. I want to set up a movement, a party in order to gather like-minded people, a team around me," he said.

"I don't want to be compared with others. No force can make me [abandon my intention]. I am not doing anything wrong to be afraid of. It is the people who talk too much today that should be afraid. I think time will come and everyone will get their answers," Abrahamian said, without naming names.

Some observers in Armenia believe if



he engages in politics, Abrahamian will occupy the niche left by Gagik Tsarukyan, a local affluent businessman who was effectively ousted from politics last February after he revealed presidential ambitions and challenged President Sargsyan's plans to change the Constitution.

Amid the crackdown against Tsarukyan members of Sargsyan's ruling Republican Party also spoke about the businessman's "low intellectual capacity" and challenged his credentials as a political leader.

Abrahamian, who was born and raised in a central Armenian village, also responded to media criticism regarding his intellectual capacity.

"They say I don't speak a good Russian or Armenian and that whatever I say is not true... Those who stand behind these media are up in arms against me because they know they may be losing their positions," he concluded.

Armenian tycoon questioned over activist assault case

A affluent businessman and head of Armenia's Football Federation Ruben Hayrapetyan has been interrogated as part of a criminal investigation in connection with last month's assault on a member of an Armenian group at odds with the government.

Armenian law-enforcement authorities in September reported the arrest of three men suspected of involvement in the brutal attack against Smbat Hakobyan, a veteran of the 1992-1994 Karabakh war who is currently a member of the opposition Alliance of Freedom Fighters.

The beating of Hakobyan that took place in central Yerevan in broad daylight was condemned by local and international rights groups, with Armenian authorities urged to identify and punish

those responsible for the violence.

Immediately after the assault Hakobyan claimed that one of his attackers was a bodyguard of Ruben Hayrapetyan, a notoriously violent tycoon close to the government. He said Hayrapetyan threatened to have him beaten up in June because of his political activities. The tycoon strongly denied any involvement in the beating.

The Investigative Committee of Armenia released no details of Hayrapetyan's interrogation. It said that charges have been brought against all of the three persons arrested in connection with the assault. Two of them were taken into custody, while the third was released on bail.

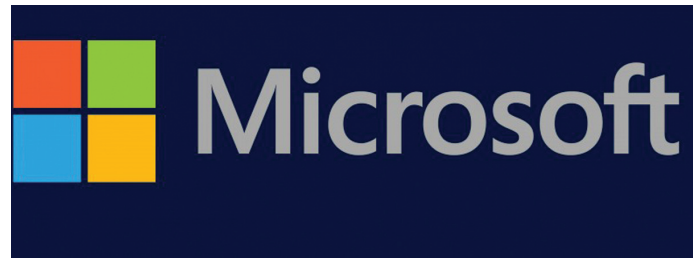
Microsoft's Acceleration Program supports startups in Armenia

Microsoft Innovation Center Armenia has launched the new round of Acceleration Program, targeting startups with innovative solutions. 14 teams, presenting various solutions have been selected out of more than 50 applicants in the result of strict selection and interview. In line with the tendencies, currently dominating in the international market, teams in Armenia offer solutions in such areas as e-commerce, B2B solutions, video editing, social solutions etc.

Artashes Vardanyan, the head of Acceleration Program of Microsoft innovation center mentions that the startups, involved in the program are at different stages of development. There are teams at the idea or prototype stage, at the same time under the Acceleration Program assistance will also be provided to startups, which already have users and ensure stable retention rate, as well as have managed to attract their first investments.

Under the 12-week acceleration program startups will work on the development of their products, powered by mentorship from experienced specialists. This round of the program will involve specialists from Silicon valley, Israel, Australia, Russia, who have huge experience in turning idea into a product. Armenian experts will work with the teams and provide professional and business consultancy. In addition, the participating teams will receive working space and other facilities in the center. They will be able to participate in all events, training courses and seminars, organized by MIC Armenia. Taking into account that some of the teams have already their products developed, the Acceleration program will try to make some connections with investors and venture funds. The program will culminate in the MIC Demo Day, where a global audience will witness the product demonstrations and startups will receive feedback from experts. 4 startups: Solo Learn, Forkize, Flaxton ? Penny, involved in the previous rounds of the Acceleration program attracted more than 350,000 USD for the further development and marketing of their products.

The teams, participating in this round of the Acceleration program are the following:



- BeeCart - an online system of on-demand grocery delivery
- Archimedes - a solution, intended to automate lessons scheduling process at higher educational institutions
- Challenger - an app, intended to help people to achieve their procrastinated goals, by creating challenges and competing with each other
- CPU panda - an online CPU retailer with worldwide shipping
- Follow My Youtube - a web solution, allowing to watch youtube videos together with friends at the same time but from different places
- Friendhub - a mobile application, intended to help people to socialize in real life
- Homesweet - an on-demand cooking order of your favorite food
- Helpie - a solution to make better UX and to help and support communications
- gShop - an automated delivery of household goods, based on consumption behavior
- Masoor solutions - a smart medical scheduler to help patients to take medicine and treatment in time
- NeedChange - an app, that will help to avoid inconvenience while visiting places of entertainment and make reservations.
- Renderforest - a free online video making tool
- New life - an e-commerce platform/aggregator of clothes stores
- Filmer - a mobile app intended to help you find your next favorite movie for watching.

Armenia plans to import more natural gas from Iran

Armenia plans to increase its imports of natural gas from Iran beginning in 2017, a senior government official said on October 20.

According to Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Hayk Harutiunyan, this will enable Armenia to export more electricity to the Islamic Republic as part of the swap program that exists between the two neighboring states.

In August, just one month after Iran and world powers signed a historic agreement concerning the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, Yerevan and Tehran signed a contract worth about \$120 million regarding the construction of a third high-voltage power transmission line that will connect the energy system of the two countries. Construction is expected to be

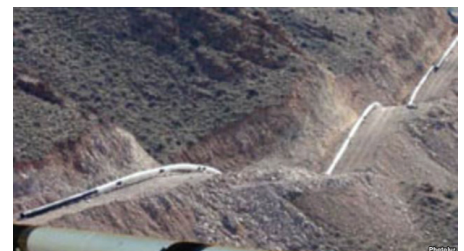
completed within 18 months.

According to Harutiunyan, the third transmission line will increase the volume of the Armenian-Iranian "gas-for-electricity exchange" deal.

"Definitely, the goal of this program is precisely to increase the volumes, because we will make better use of the potential of the Armenia-Iran gas pipeline and better use of our production capacity," the official said.

At the same time, the deputy minister did not cite specific figures. "The capacity of the pipeline is 2 billion cubic meters a year, and the goal is to use it to the maximum," he said.

Data of the Armenian Customs Service show that the Iranian natural gas is less expensive than the Russian one. During 2014, in particular, Armenia



imported 383 million cubic meters of natural gas from Iran at a price of about \$189 per 1,000 cubic meters. Meanwhile, over the same period Armenia purchased more than 2.1 billion cubic meters of Russian natural gas at a price of \$202 per 1,000 cubic meters.

However, the Iranian gas is not sold to Armenian enterprises and households. At the Yerevan thermal power plant it is converted into electricity, most of which is sent back to Iran.

€1.9 million grant for street lighting in Yerevan



The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Ministry of Finance of Armenia and the Municipality of Yerevan city have signed an agreement to allocate a co-financing grant of €1.9 million to support the modernization of street lighting in the city of Yerevan.

The grant is provided by the E5P fund (Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership) which is managed by the EBRD and pools donor contributions from the European Union and a number of donor countries including Armenia.

In May 2015, the EBRD committed a €3.7 million loan to modernise Yerevan's street lighting system by introducing new energy-efficient technologies that will benefit the city's residents. The grant will now help to make the lighting more efficient and environmentally friendly.

The current street lighting network of Yerevan consists of old,

inefficient and environmentally polluting mercury-based lights. The heavy-metal based content of the current lighting system contributes to energy waste and is a considerable environmental hazard. Due to the antiquated condition of the current system and the high percentage of lights that are not working, large parts of the city are not sufficiently illuminated.

The project will help to introduce new energy-efficient LED lighting, a control and monitoring system, pole replacement and renovation as well as power cable replacement. This will result in better service quality and improved environmental standards due to reduced energy consumption and the minimisation of operating and maintenance costs.

Better-lit streets will also be safer for pedestrians and motorists alike. The new LED lighting is expected to cut the cost of energy consumption by 64 per cent and will result in annual electricity cost savings for the municipality.

Mark Davis, Head of the EBRD's Yerevan office, said: "We are very grateful to our donors, especially to the European Union and Sweden, as well as the government of Armenia and the municipality for such a successful cooperation. The grant is a very important contribution by the E5P fund. It will complement the EBRD's initial financing and ensure the successful continuation and completion of the project. This is the first project for E5P in Armenia that sets a standard and an example which we hope to implement again in future projects in solid waste management or energy efficiency with the help of E5P grants."

U.S. Department of Commerce and Customs Service of Armenia hold Workshop on customs procedures



Starting Tuesday, October 20, 2015, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), in cooperation with the Customs Service of the Republic of Armenia, will hold the third in a series of workshops on Customs Valuation, Classification, and Customs Procedures. Participants in the three-day-long workshop will include 30 Armenian customs officials, many of whom have attended the first two workshops. Two CBP officials will lead the workshop, which will address classification, valuation, and customs audits.

This program will build upon discussions that arose during the first two workshop sessions. It will include presentations, exercises, and group discussions on valuation issues, risk assessment, the targeting of audit candidates, importer self-assessments, audits when information and evidence are not fully available, improve-

ments of audit efficiency, and classification of specifically identified tariff lines and goods.

The goal of this program is to further increase the professional qualification of customs officials in Armenia and to ensure that Armenian customs processes are in line with international customs rules and practices embodied in the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT), the World Trade Organization (WTO) Customs Valuation Agreement, and the World Customs Organization (WCO) guidelines.

"The U.S. Government believes that modernized and harmonized customs procedures are increasingly important to a country's ability to attract foreign direct investment," said Mr. Clark Price, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan, who opened the workshop. "Without fair and transparent customs processes, business owners can be hesitant to invest, not knowing what they're getting into. But by creating clear, open customs procedures, the Government of Armenia enhances its appeal as a destination for international investment."

The first of these workshops took place in December 2013 and covered topics such as valuation, select issues in transaction value, classification under the Harmonized System, trade resources, and revenue maintenance. The second workshop, in November 2014, addressed transaction value, appointment of assists, valuation of royalties and proceeds, valuation of identical or similar goods, risk assessment and management, the deductive value method, post-importation verification, the computed value method, and the fall-back method.



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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



3 ROOMS

- ♦3090. **Busand str, /Near Republic Square/**, Newly built, /6th floor,116sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms one in master bedroom, capitally renovated, open balcony. Price: 350.000 USD negotiable
- ♦3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m., without divisions. Price:Negotiable.
- ♦3012.**Aram str**, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price:300.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2998.**North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- ♦2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built,13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally repaired,heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building,4 bedrooms, capitally repaired,heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaied, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- ♦2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built,8/4, 166sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating,AC,security system. Price:320.000 USD.
- ♦1104.**Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m.,stone bld, h-2.75m.,3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000

USD

- ♦2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4,5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- ♦2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- ♦1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m,5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m.,basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price:4.000.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant,1st line, capitally repaired. Price: negotiable.
- ♦1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m.,zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- ♦2035.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m.,1st line, facade-55m.,capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m.,1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m.,window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking. Price:3.600.000 USD
- ♦2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m,1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m.,each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m.,without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price:1.400.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1986.**Cascade**, Land

- 1000sq.m. 3storied building1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price:1.000.000 USD.
- ♦2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- ♦2175.**Tumanyan str**, Ground and 1st floorof the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- ♦2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

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

- ♦2413.**Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2414.**Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price:750.000 USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

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

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

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

•1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD•1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathroom, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD•1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD•1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired. Price: Negotiable•1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.•999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capitolly repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.•1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.•1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, fur-

nished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

•1142. **Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitolly repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.•1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD•327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD•1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitolly repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable•1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD•1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD•1312. **Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable•1317. **Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.•1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

•2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD•1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.•1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.•1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.•1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitolly repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.•1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitolly repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD•1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitolly repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD•1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitolly repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.•2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitolly repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.•2033. **Abovyany str**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m., capitolly repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD•2031. **Vardanants str**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m, Price: 8000 USD•2027. **Sayat Nova str**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capitolly repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

"Charity Kitchen" Program Launches its 22nd Season



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

**Chief
Correspondent**

On 23 October big and long time friend of the Armenian people Pastor **Karl-Heinz Scheide** accompanied by the German Ambassador H.E. Mr. **Matthias Kiessler** and Deputy Mayor of Yerevan **Davit Ohanyan** officially opened 22nd season of the "Charity Kitchen" program at the "House of Hope" Charity Center in Yerevan. Within this annual project started yet in 1994 about 450 elderly, lonely and vulnerable people from Kanaker-Zeytun, Erebuni and Shengavit admin-

governmental organizations dealing with a variety of problems of children with special needs in Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, Stepanakert, Talin, Lernagog, Karakert, Koti, Voskevan and Berd have been receiving financial assistance to care child nutrition needs.

The "Home Care" project started in 2004 encompasses lonely elderly people who are unable to meet their daily problems in Kanaker-Zeytun, Center, Arabkir and Ajapnyak districts of Yerevan. Under

Hope".

Yerevan Deputy Mayor Ohanyan and other Armenian officials thanked German people and Pastor Scheide for the great devotion in helping for many years already those in need in Armenia.

German Ambassador Matthias Kiessler in his speech attached importance to cooperation with private organizations.

"As you know, by now there is very good cooperation between Armenia and Germany, a number of intergovernmental

programs are being implemented. And the cooperation with private organizations is also important. The Embassy will continue to support this important program. This is a successful example for all of us, and I am confident that the program will be continued", Herr Botschafter said. Pastor Karl-Heinz Scheide



istrative districts of Yerevan as well as nearby areas once per day will be provided with hot lunch until the next summer. They will also benefit from the other social services operating under aegis of the "House of Hope" Charity Center.

It is for the third season already the "Charity Kitchen" program is co-financed by the Yerevan Municipality. 130 beneficiaries from Erebuni and Shengavit administrative districts receive outreach services at space provided free of charge by those districts. Expanding from year to year social assistance to those in need, service sector includes beneficiaries of various age and risk groups. Within the framework of the "Charity Kitchen" "Baby Food" and "Home Care" sub-projects are being carried out.

Since 1995, within the "Baby Food" Project, a number of community and non-



the project, social workers and volunteers provide necessary social and psychological assistance to beneficiaries, while in the months of "Charity Kitchen" they deliver to them hot meals. For the beneficiaries in extreme need laundry, bathroom and service of the second hand clothing receipt and free distribution work at the "House of

in his speech thanked the Armenian relevant bodies and persons as well as his team – from a kitchen worker to the architect of the "House of Hope". He in particular said: "Many thanks for the kind words. I also want to convey the words to my whole team. If they were not, there would be no that you might see here today. As a friend of mine in Germany often says, to do good job you need to have good friends. I follow up on that idea, and want to say a special thank you Head of the "Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform" Fund

Movses Poghosyan (Mr Poghosyan is the Head of the Armenia branch of the German Red Cross Baden-Wuerttemberg regional branch headed by Pastor Scheide that is responsible for "House of Hope"- edit.). Our programs were not successful, if it were not your attention and support. Thank you".

To ban genocide denial, Court incites Armenians to commit violence



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

In the case of Dogu Perincek vs. Switzerland, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) sustained in a 10-7 vote the Turkish politician's right to free expression, finding that Swiss courts had wrongly convicted him for denying the Armenian Genocide.

More importantly for Armenians, the Grand Chamber contradicted the Lower Chamber's unwarranted opinion of Dec. 17, 2013, which had questioned the validity of the Armenian Genocide. On October 15, 2015, ECHR's Grand Chamber rectified that jurisdictional issue, ruling that the Court was "not required to determine whether the massacres and mass deportations suffered by the Armenian people at the hands of the Ottoman Empire from 1915 onwards can be characterized as genocide within the meaning of that term under international law, but has no authority to make legally binding pronouncements, one way or another, on this point." This was the judgment of the majority of 10 judges who ruled in favor of Perincek.

The remaining seven judges, not only disagreed with the majority's ruling in support of Perincek, but went on to set the record straight on the Armenian Genocide: "That the massacres and deportations suffered by the Armenian people constituted genocide is self-evident.... The Armenian genocide is a clearly established historical fact. To deny it is to deny the obvious. But that is not the question here. The case is not about the historical truth, or the legal characterization of the events of 1915. The real issue at stake here is whether it is possible for a State, without overstepping its margin of appreciation [limited room to maneuver], to make it a criminal offence to insult the memory of a people

that has suffered genocide. In our view, this is indeed possible," the seven judges wrote in their dissenting opinion.

Nevertheless, the Grand Chamber still reached some unwarranted conclusions that defy logic and common sense. The majority of the judges advanced the meaningless argument that since 90 years had passed between Perincek's statements and "the tragic events" of 1915, there was no need for Switzerland to regulate his speech. Supposedly, the passage of time had made his denial less traumatic on Armenians. As the dissenting seven judges pointed out, the majority's position violates "the principle that statutory limitations are not applicable to war crimes and crimes against humanity."

The majority of the judges also put forward a questionable argument to justify why denying the Holocaust was a crime, and not a violation of freedom of expression. They considered Holocaust denial an "antidemocratic ideology" and "anti-Semitism," whereas they claimed that Perincek's denial of the Armenian Genocide did not result "in serious friction between Armenians and Turks" in Switzerland. Furthermore, while asserting that there was a direct link between Holocaust denial and many of the European "States which had experienced the Nazi horrors," they found no such link between Switzerland and the Armenian Genocide.

There are several problems in the Judges preceding arguments:

- There should not be a double standard in dealing with denial of any genocide. If denial of the Holocaust is a crime, so should the denial of other genocides. The preferential treatment of victims of certain genocides, but not others, is shameful and disgraceful. As editor of a newspaper in the United States, I naturally support the highly protective American notion of freedom of expression rather than the European model of a more restrictive freedom of speech. However,

regardless of which legal system one adheres to, discrimination among genocide victims is not acceptable.

- Majority of the judges repeatedly claimed that since Perincek's denial did not result in causing public disorder by the Armenian community, Swiss courts should not have convicted him. Ironically, by making such a dangerous assertion, the Grand Chamber is actually inciting Armenians to resort to violence to satisfy the Court's requirement that genocide denial could only be criminalized if it is followed by some sort of violent reaction. Since Swiss-Armenians acted in a civilized manner by calling the police and filing a lawsuit instead of bashing Perincek's head, they are now being told that their legal claim is invalid because they did not cause a public disturbance!

- It is historically wrong to state that there was no link between Switzerland and the Armenian Genocide. Over 400,000 Swiss citizens signed a petition in 1890's to protest the Hamidian massacres. Swiss missionaries saved countless orphans during the Genocide and helped provide new homes for them in Switzerland.

Fortunately, the Grand Chamber did not require Switzerland to amend its laws on genocide denial, implying that the law was simply misapplied in Perincek's case. Therefore, Greece, Cyprus, and Slovakia also do not need to change their laws on criminalizing denial of the Armenian Genocide.

Thankfully, the Court rejected Perincek's claim that he is entitled to 135,000 euros (\$142,000) in damages and court costs.

International lawyers Geoffrey Robertson and Amal Clooney, and Armenia's Prosecutor General Gevorg Kostanyan should be commended for their exceptional efforts in representing Armenia in Court and defending the truth of the Armenian Genocide.

VivaCell-MTS and Ralph Yirikian Become Laureates of the "Mercury" Award

The "Mercury" Award of year has taken place. The Award is granted to companies and individuals which have made an outstanding contribution to the economy and business sphere of the country. The Award is international and is organized on the initiative of the Chamber of Commerce of different countries. The Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Armenia has been holding the event since 2006.

The company was awarded for having maintained its positions of the leading telecommunications operator in Armenia. VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian also received "Mercury" Award in recognition of efforts in introducing the corporate social responsibility culture to Armenia.

VivaCell-MTS has completely transformed the business administration culture and business environment in Armenia. In the course of ten years of its operation the Company has drawn the attention of the society to the issues of sustainable development, ethical business administration, environmental protection, equal employment conditions, proper advertising, etc. A number of social-economic problems have been solved owing to the social investments made by the Company. VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian has had an outstanding contribution in integrating the value system based on Corporate Social Responsibility in the Company's culture.

VivaCell-MTS has the widest 2G, 3.75G, 4G network reach and provides a wide range of voice and data services across Armenia. The Company has managed to build a nationwide network and a considerable customer base in a short period of time. As the innovations leaders, the Company has had a significant role driving the development in the Armenian telecommunications market.

This year's "Mercury" Award featured twenty-five nominations encompassing all the spheres of the economy. The research project of expert evaluation has been carried out by the selection board of the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Armenia. The interagency committee, which included representatives of state bodies, has taken part in the final assessment of results.

WE CONGRATULATE THE

COMPANY'S STAFF AND ITS FOUNDING GENERAL MANAGER, HOLDER OF DOZENS HIGHEST ARMENIAN AND FOREIGN STATE AWARDS AND OTHER PRESTIGIOUS PRIZES AND TITLES MR RALPH YIRIKIAN FOR THE NEXT BIG SUCCESS!

VivaCell-MTS has donated AMD 50 million at the 10th annual "Orran" charity dinner

"Orran" benevolent non-governmental organization held its 10th annual charity dinner. The event was aimed at raising funds to continue providing food, social, medical and psychological services, vocational training, and organizing cultural activities for over 200 children and 90 elderly people in Yerevan and Vanadzor



branches of "Orran" NGO.

This year's gala dinner marked the 15th anniversary of "Orran". The event was attended by friends of the organization, both from Armenia and abroad, who have undertaken the mission of supporting it. The gala dinner featured various entertainment activities, dishes from different cuisines, the traditional live auction and a benevolent lottery.

Every year VivaCell-MTS makes a significant contribution in meeting the fundraising objective of the gala dinner. Since 2006 till now the Company has allocated over AMD 331 million for the implementation of "Orran" projects. During this year's dinner overall AMD 74 million has been raised, AMD 50 million of which were donated by VivaCell-MTS; another AMD 2,840,000 was donated by the Yirikian family.

VivaCell-MTS is the General Partner of the Annual International Microelectronics Olympiad of Armenia

VivaCell-MTS is the General Partner of the 10th Annual International Microelectronics Olympiad of Armenia, the final stage of which took place at the Yerevan Computer Research and Development Institute. The organizer of the Olympiad is "Synopsis Armenia".

VivaCell-MTS undertook the general partnership of the Olympiad in 2010 donating throughout six years more than AMD 54 200 000 for organizing the annual event. This year the Olympiad involved young participants from 29 countries: Argentina, Armenia, Artsakh, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Switzerland, UAE, UK, Ukraine, Uruguay, USA, and Vietnam.

"I would like to welcome our guests - talented young people from different countries gathered together for taking part in healthy competition. Microelectronics is one of the areas where the country hopes to have real talents translated into industrial output in the future. The major idea behind our company's long-term support to the sphere of education in microelectronics lies in quite rational argument - microelectronics along with IT and telecommunications - has a potential to become a driver of Armenia's economic development and steady growth, as it had been the case with many countries. We are really proud to be part of this initiative which has a great potential to contribute to the strength of our country," commented VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

The winners of the 10th Annual International Microelectronics Olympiad of Armenia were awarded with prizes at gala evening. The winner of the first prize received a valuable laptop from VivaCell-MTS.

House-building under fire VivaCell-MTS and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia build a house in Tavush region

Nerkin Karmiraghbyur village of Tavush region is located only 1.5 km from the state border.

The position of the village makes it vulnerable to constant fire of the enemy. But the villagers are strong and adamant as ever and are sure that the peaceful days will sooner or later come. Despite all the hardships of the turbulent times, they are engaged in viticulture, continue cultivating their land and prove that the determination and the will to protect one's homeland is much stronger.

Babken Avagyan has passed through the hardships of war. The walls of his home are silent evidence of those days. Years ago the house was mostly ruined from explosion of a shell. The Avagyans, however, did not despair, and started the renovation of their house hand in hand with supporting organizations. Their cherished dream has come true thanks to the support of VivaCell-MTS and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia. Besides providing financial support, VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian, staff members of the Company and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia have also participated in the construction works of Avagyan's half-built house.

"This visit is more of psychological importance. Every Armenian can build a house on his own. Building a house under firings, however, isn't that easy. People living in borderland villages should feel that they are not alone and that the rear is strong. We are trying to provide them the confidence in that by participating in the construction works. After the construction works we will leave the village, while the Avagyans will stay protecting our border. We must appreciate their determination to stay and defend the homeland," VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian said.

In 2014 only, owing to partnership between VivaCell-MTS and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia the housing problem was solved for 16 families from borderland villages in Tavush. Till the end of this year 11 more families will have improved housing conditions.

To remind, in 2015 VivaCell-MTS invested AMD 100 million (AMD 55 million in 2014) for the realization of the project, and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia has undertaken its implementation. Through this partnership, from 2007 up to now, 53 families from different communities of the

republic already have decent homes. Till the end of the year the number of the families having their houses renovated or the construction of the half-built houses completed will reach 93.

VivaCell-MTS is the general partner of "Armagroforum"

Since 2011, every year, on the 3rd Sunday of October, the RA Ministry of Agriculture celebrates the Agriculture Worker's Day, in the frames of which the "Armagroforum" conference and "ArmProdExpo" exhibition of agricultural products and food is being organized.

The general partner of "Armagroforum" is VivaCell-MTS.

"It is the farmers who feed the country. However, they cannot cope with all the problems which stand in the way of getting expected results. The villagers need our support. VivaCell-MTS undertook the support of this sphere years ago, in particular,



by installing anti-hail systems for preventing the threat of the loss of crops. We greet the participants of this important conference and wish them luck in their professional activities," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

VivaCell-MTS has allocated about AMD 10 million for organizing the "Armagroforum". Agriculture has always been in the center of attention of the Company: in the period between 2009 and 2012 twenty-three anti-hail systems were installed in Armavir region owing to financial support by VivaCell-MTS.

VivaCell-MTS is once again the General Partner of the 8th "Return" Classical Music Festival

The grand opening of the 8th "Return"

Classical Music Festival took place in the Aram Khachatryan Concert Hall on 19 October.

This year's festival is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The festival was organized under the auspices of the First Lady of the Republic of Armenia Rita Sargsyan by the "Gallery of Arts" Foundation (president Mariam Shahinyan, director Garik Nazaryan), with support of the RA Ministry of Culture. The General Partner of the festival is VivaCell-MTS. In total, from 2007 to 2015 VivaCell-MTS has allocated AMD 99,300,000 for organizing the annual event.

"The musicians of Armenian descent which have arrived for participating in the festival regularly appear on the best stages of the world and are widely recognized in the sphere of classical music. They prove once again that we, Armenians, are creative, gifted, brilliant people no matter what shores destiny takes us to. The "Return" festival has an important role in bringing together talented Armenian musicians scattered around the world. I am glad that VivaCell-MTS, standing by the side of the

organizers, has a contribution in the shaping, success and progress of the festival, supporting it for already eight years," VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian said.

In the course of eight years the festival has featured such renowned musicians as Sergey Kachatryan (violin, Germany), Suren Bagratuni (cello, USA), Vahan Martirosyan (piano, France), Vahagn Papyan (piano, Israel), Vardan Mamikonyan (piano, France), Levon Muradyan (cello, Portugal), Varduhi Khachatryan (mezzo-soprano, Switzerland), Juliet Galstyan (mezzo-soprano, Switzerland), and others.

Long-Awaited Houswarming in the Borderline Village of Movses

In Movses village of Tavush region locked doors and bullet dents are at every step. Deeply connected to their homeland, the villagers, however, continue to live, work and create under shootings.

The Avalyans are among the old residents of the village. Their house was destroyed by the earthquake. All these years Artak, the father of the family, has tried to construct a new house together with his three sons: stone by stone, they have raised the walls, done the roofing, but had to stop the construction because of the lack of financial means. To earn money for resuming the housebuilding Artak's sons had to leave the country to work abroad and are still there. In the Spring of 2015 the

continued on page 14

VivaCell-MTS and Ralph Yirikian Become Laureates of the "Mercury" Award

From page 13

Avalyans were included in the housing project financed by VivaCell-MTS and implemented by Fuller Center for Housing Armenia.

The construction of Avalyans' house has been finished. VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian and the President of Fuller Center for Housing Armenia Ashot Yeghiazaryan have participated in the housewarming of the Avalyan family sharing the joy of the homeowners.

"Constructing a house before the enemy's very eyes is one of the best ways of defeating him. It translates the message that the Armenian will continue living and working in his homeland, and will not let the desire of the enemy to see the village deserted come true. The fact of living in a borderland village has made the residents of Movses more agile and enduring. We are here to celebrate the housewarming of the Avalyans and give other families confidence in their future. We are with you at all times," VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian said.

11 families of Nerkin Karmiraghbyur, Movses and Aygepar villages of Tavush region have been assisted through the housing project in 2015.

Drinking Water to Artsvaberd

On October 22 a community event marked the completion of the water infrastructure improvement project implemented 2014 through 2015 in the village of Artsvaberd, which has a 34 km-long border in the east of the country. The project was made possible through the joint efforts of VivaCell-MTS, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC).

"We consider it as our duty to relieve the burden of rural communities and make the life a little easier for them by participating in initiatives aimed at offering solutions to vital everyday problems, such as the problem of potable water. When one of the family members is in trouble, all the family unites, encourages him and spares no effort to support him in overcoming the difficulties. Armenia is our home, and borderline villages are its most vulnerable parts as the "live shields" of the country. We ought to stand by our sisters and brothers living in borderline villages just the same way as they defend us, protecting the borders of our country," VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian said.

As part of the project, Artsvaberd's deteriorated pump station, which had been out

of use for around 16 years, was renovated. Two new energy efficient pumps with capacity of transferring 4 liters of water per second and new metal doors were installed in the station coupled with interior renovation works. In the frames of the water supply improvement project also a 7,62km water pipeline and a 4,82km internal network pipeline were constructed. In addition, all the sanitary protection zones were fenced.



Thanks to these efforts, the village's longstanding potable water supply issue has been resolved and the people of Artsvaberd will no longer have to carry water from a spring or collect rain water for different household purposes.

As a result of the project implemented in the frame of the three-sided agreement, the drinking water problem will be solved in Lukashin and Arazap villages of Armavir region, and Berkaber and Artsvaberd villages of Tavush region.

The project has benefitted a total of 6,800 residents in these four communities. VivaCell-MTS and USAID have allocated 70 million AMD and 60 million AMD, respectively, for the implementation of the project.

New 3.5G base stations installed in regional towns and villages

Armenia's widest 3.5G network covers 98.8% of the populated territories of the country

Armenia's largest mobile network expands even further – Armenia's Leading Mobile Operator VivaCell-MTS doesn't stop on what was achieved. Recently another 2.5G/3.5G base station was installed in Armavir region, the village of Jrarbi, thanks to which the population will be provided with voice and data services using HSPA+ technology, with maximum speed of 42.2 Mbps in the downlink and 5.76 Mbps in the uplink.

This base station was installed from scratch, like many other base stations in rural communities. At first, exact location of base station is to be decided, using high precision radio equipment. The next step is construction of the base station according to the project design documentation. In some geographical areas it is required to implement water draining from the ground before having the fundament laid down for the installation of the tower. Only after that GSM/ MW antennas and other equipment are being installed. Finally, at the very end, a set of digital devices necessary for the functioning of the base station is connected and the base station goes live.

Overall, the Company has 1106 2.5G/3.5G base stations. By the end of the year, additional 70 new base stations will be constructed, out of which 40 will be installed on the rooftops and 30 on towers. VivaCell-MTS has the widest in Armenia 3.5G network, which covers the 98.8% of the population.

The expansion of 4G/LTE network is another priority for VivaCell-MTS. The Company is still the only telecommunications operator in Armenia providing 4G services on a commercial basis. Armenia's 4G/LTE coverage now makes up to 45.7%. 4G technology provides 150Mbps at the downlink and 50 Mbps in the uplink was made available in the following cities: Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, Dilijan, Tsaghkadzor, Armavir and Vagharshapat. By the end of 2015, after completing the deployment of planned 5 additional 4G/LTE base stations, VivaCell-MTS will achieve the targeted 255 LTE sites (eNodeBs).

"Initially, when the network was launched our motto was - mobile communication should be made available even to a shepherd in the highest mountain. So, we promised and delivered. At present, no one can be surprised at the fact that VivaCell-MTS' voice and data services are made available even in the most under-populated areas of the country. Step-by-step we are approaching the realization of our next motto – high-speed internet based on 3.5G and 4G technologies should be made available to people living in the most remote areas," VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian commented.

With the help of 3.5G and 4G services, subscribers are able to use advanced online services, including internet surfing, online gaming, video streaming and HD video on a brand new level without any dependence on the fixed network.

As an innovative company VivaCell-MTS cooperates only with the best in class global suppliers of technology and solutions.

Sergey Smbatyan to Perform at the Legendary Carnegie Hall

By Gourgen James Khazhakian
Chief Correspondent

The fact that Armenian State Youth Orchestra's Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor 28-year-old Sergey Smbatyan conducted many prestigious foreign orchestras such as Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, Tampere Philharmonic, the German Symphony Orchestra, Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Dresdener Philharmoniker, the Moscow Philharmonic, Mariinsky Theater Symphony, Moscow State Academic Symphony Orchestras, the Warsaw Philharmonic and a number of other ensembles, is a well-known fact.

But a news we've got knew recently indicates - we think it would not be a great exaggeration to say so - new heights of achievement, of a new quality by the young Armenian conductor: on 27 October Maestro Smbatyan will conduct the Korean Chamber Orchestra in one of the world's most prestigious halls, in New York Carnegie Hall.

Our thorough testing proved that Sergey Smbatyan is the youngest Armenian musician to perform at this legendary concert hall. This, as well as a concert to be held at the Jordan Hall of the New England Conservatory in Boston on the October 31st and conducted by Sergey Smbatyan are dedicated to the Korean Chamber Orchestra's fiftyth and UNESCO's seventyth anniversaries. As the concert poster says, "...Swiss Gart is proud to present Korean Chamber Orchestra on US tour celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2015 after great success on European tour in February this year.

New world star mezzo soprano Carly Paoli who recently performed at Terme di Caracalla in Rome with Jose Carreras and Andrea Bocelli participates on this event thanks to EMMA for Peace.

South Korean violinist Soyoung Yoon, one of the brightest violinists of her generation, will magnify the concert.

The concert is under patronage of UNESCO and part of UNESCO's 70th anniversary celebration, with participation of UNESCO Artists for Peace, violinist Ino Mirkovic and double bass Milton Masciadri.

Conductor of the concert will be Sergey Smbatyan who was honored with the French Medal of Arts and Letters as Knight..."

Among the honored guests invited are top UN officials, including Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (of Korean descent).

Let's note that in 2015 Sergey Smbatyan has already held two concerts with the Korean Chamber Orchestra. The first, in January, was held in the Seoul Arts Center, with participation of the world-famous

Hollywood actor John Malkovich, the second one took place in February in Moscow. On this as well as other issues The Highlights talked to the Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia Dr Sergey A. Smbatyan.

-Maestro Smbatyan, as far as we know, no musician, who is to appear in Carnegie Hall, can avoid serious examination of his/her biography, the way passed by the world prestigious concert hall management...

- Absolutely !

- And, naturally, you're feeling lucky ...

- Of course, since I am the youngest Armenian conductor who has ever honor to perform at this legendary concert hall ...

- So what have you been feeling - a little "fear" at least, waiting for Carnegie Hall's ok?

- Of course, I was waiting for an official



invitation with the inner thrill, and just after its receipt I've started practicing with bigger enthusiasm ...

- And would you please to give The Highlights readers some details on the list of the concerts soloists, the program etc?

One of the soloists is a young but already a world known South Korean violinist Soyoung Yoon, the brightest musician and person who has been twice in Armenia: on 6 June 2010 she opened Aram Khachaturian Intl Competition, and in the same year's November, at the first Armenian Composing Art Festival she performed Lazar Saryan's Concerto.

The concerts in the US will also feature famous Italian singer Carly Paoli (mezzo-soprano) and UNESCO Artists for Peace the world-famous violinist and pedagogue Ino Mirkovic (Croatia-Switzerland) and a prominent double bassist Milton Masciadri (born in Uruguay), and the musical director is the Min Kim (South Korea). The program will include Piazzolla's "Seasons", Mendelsson's 10th Symphony, Schubert's Symphony, pieces by Bottezzini, Gershwin, Elgar and other composers. The two-part Gala concert will take about two and a half hours...

-Now let's turn to our "local", i.e. Armenia's issues... The Youth Orchestra

is an initiator of the Aram Khachaturian Festival that is on by the moment. In your opinion, what makes the current festival different from previous years, Maestro Smbatyan?

- Besides the fact that every year more and more world class musicians come to our country, I'd especially emphasize the fact that for the first time the Festival has a clearcut calendar, drawn yet two years ago, - within some two months a chamber concert takes place every Wednesday, and a symphony one - every Saturday. And this, i.e. "subscription" system is very suitable both for the local audience and the art-loving tourists who visit the country.

Happily for us the organizers, the Festival halls are overcrowded. It was a glorious Saturday's (17 October - **The Highlights**) concert, with young but already world-famous cellist Suren Bagratuny's (US) participation; Armenian State Youth

Orchestra that night conducted Hirofumi Yoshida (Japan). This concert, as well as the one held on 13 October at the Aram Khachaturian House-Museum, was dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the prominent Armenian conductor of the blessed memory Davit Khanjyan. In that same night, at the next door Hall, of the Opera House, we staged the Great Aram Khachaturian's Spartacus ballet, and the hall was jam-packed as well ... The Festival's October 24th concert will be dedicated the 95th anniversary of the famous Armenian composer

Alexander Harutyunyan, and on the October 31st the SYOA will perform Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, with conductor talented Miran Vaupotich (Croatia) and our Orchestra's members Nikolay Poghosyan (bassoon) and Vahram Davtyan (trombone). I believe you'd agree that it's not often when reps of the brass section are the soloists at a concert.

On 7 November gifted violinist Chad Hoopes from the United States, with the Youth Orchestra under your humble servant's leadership will present Armenian premiere of Penderecki's Second Symphony as well as Stravinsky's "The Spring Sacred". And in the same night, within the Khachaturian Fest, at the Al.Spendiarian Opera and Ballet National Academic Theatre Khachaturian's Gayaneh ballet will be performed, with conductor Haroutyun Khachatryan.

So until 3 December, the Festival's official closing ceremony, our listeners will enjoy a lot of nice music surprises...

P.S. When this issue was ready for print, we received the latest news from New York - see a pic captured rehearsal of the Korean Chamber Orchestra with Sergey Smbatyan, Carly Paoli, Ino Mirkovic, for 27 October concert at Carnegie Hall, New York, to celebrate 70th anniversary of UNESCO.

ArmTech Congress 2015, Yerevan, Armenia

The opening remarks by

Tony Moroyan,

Viasphere Technopark Chairman &
Co-Founder of ArmTech Congress

Good morning.

Your Excellency, Hovik Abrahamyan, the Prime Minister of Republic of Armenia and honored guests, participants and sponsors.

Thanks you all for your participation today in ArmTech Congress 2015, Armenia's 8th official Global high Tech industry conference and strategic forum that did its debut in 2007 in San Francisco, the gateway of the Silicon Valley and set an unbroken benchmark there that has not yet been broken and thus establishing an important brand. This was achieved by the hard work of many that includes many of you who are here today. This was made possible by many of you as sponsors including Vivacell and Synopsys as The platinum sponsors.

The objectives of ArmTech Congress have been:

- Create the Global Pan Armenian participation and network of Armenian and non-Armenian IT & High Tech professionals in the world.

- Show case Armenia as a choice destination for foreign investments and setting up operations.

- Create a strategic forum for productive discussions among Government, Academia and Industry to make Armenia even more competitive and conducive for IT and high tech.

I have been asked to comment about our achievements during the last 7 Congresses. We have achieved most of our objectives. Today, Armenia is in a very enviable position in High Tech and IT. Armenia's IT industry growth is driven by supply rather than by demand, i.e. there are more jobs



than number of professionals to fill the available positions. We have successfully been able to drive diversification. We have a good balance of star-ups and multinationals. We have established a solid bridge between Armenia and Silicon Valley; we are known and respected by the VC community in the Si Valley. Indeed we have come a long way from the days "Albania who?" when approached to VC's to today's instant recognition and even have been able to arrange hard to come by private meetings with titans of the Silicon Valley and the founders of major VC's, for example, Irwin Federman of US Venture Partners and Don Vallentine of Sequoia Capital during 2009 Armtech Congress in the Silicon Valley.

We continue the participation of the world wide diaspora. To give you an example today we have participants and guests from USA, Middle East, South America and Europe. 9 participants from France alone! also guests from many ex-soviet republics.

Now we are setting the targets for the next phase goals and strategies. These are equally challenging. Among these, the Foreign investments continue to be strategic for Armenia. The government has been taking even more effective steps to meet and address in a timely manner the requirements. For example, the Protection of IP and the other assets.

Thank you and let us make ArmTech Congress 2015 another major success.

Armenia's 8th Global High Tech Industry Conference and Business Forum
12th OCTOBER, YEREVAN, ARMENIA

LEARNING FROM THE PAST AND INVENTING THE FUTURE

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Film Director Harutyun Khachatryan Awarded Polish Order

By **Gourgen Khazhakian**

Recently the People's Artist of Armenia, "Golden Apricot" International Film Festival Founding Director, film director **Harutyun Khachatryan** was awarded the "Meritorious for Polish Culture" Order. On October 16, during a special ceremony held at the "Moscow" Cinema Theater, Polish Ambassador to Armenia H.E. Mr **Jerzy Marek Novakowski** handed the state award of Poland to the prominent Armenian filmmaker.

"Every year Poland awards a cultural person who contributed significantly to the development of Polish culture. Armenian-Polish relations have long proven their toughness, and an indication of this is Harutyun Khachatryan's life and work. In the recent years he founded the "Golden Apricot" International Film Festival, as well as shoot the films that have won awards and recognition worldwide. During the years of

the "Golden Apricot" more than 60 Polish films have been shown," Ambassador Jerzy Marek Novakowski said.

Harutyun Khachatryan expressed his gratitude for the Award. "It is the great honor



for me to receive this order of Poland. And it is not only mine, it is a merit of the entire "Golden Apricot" film festival. It is also belongs to our spectator who enjoys Polish movies provided by us," the director said.

Harutyun Khachatryan stressed that his

films have been shown in Poland, and Polish films are screened in Armenia, that is no less important.

"Meritorious for Polish Culture" order is usually given to those outstanding personalities who have contributed to the preservation and dissemination of Polish culture: literature, theater, photography, painting, cinema and other cultural areas. The awarding ceremony was followed by screening of the "Forgotten Armenian", a film by Yadviga Novakovska and Harutyun Khachatryan's "Kond".

WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY CONGRATULATE OUR FRIEND, PROMINENT AND BELOVED FILMMAKER AND CITIZEN HARUTYUN KHACHATRYAN ON THIS HIGH AWARD AND WISH HIM ALL THE HEALTH, HAPPINESS WITH HIS SPOUSE, CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN, AND INDEED FURTHER FRUITFUL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES!

Soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian hopes to give voice to her Armenian ancestors



*By David Ng
The Los Angeles Times*

In a profession dominated by Italian and German repertoire, soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian has had the privilege of performing in two languages that are not normally associated with the standard operatic canon: Armenian and the Elvish tongue known as Sindarin.

The latter language she sang in the 2002 Peter Jackson blockbuster "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," based on the J.R.R. Tolkien novel. The soprano performed the ethereally mournful song "Evenstar," heard as the elf Arwen envisions a desolate future without her beloved Aragorn.

Singing in her native Armenian can pose its own challenges because her concerts often attract fellow Armenians.

"They won't let me get away with anything," she said.

On Thursday, Bayrakdarian will perform an all-Armenian concert at the Valley Performing Arts Center in Northridge. The concert, which includes pieces ranging from ancient hymns to 20th century songs, comes on the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide in what is now Turkey.

"I don't consider myself political, but I

am an artistic activist," said the soprano, whose grandparents survived the 1915 genocide.

"I grew up hearing their stories. To this day, I feel their pain, because their pain wasn't resolved. ... Keeping the songs alive gives voice to my grandparents and to all the Armenians who were silenced."

The San Fernando Valley is believed to be home to the world's largest Armenian diaspora.

"Not only is there a significant Armenian population in the Valley, but there's a large Armenian student body at Cal State Northridge," said Thor Steingraber, executive director of the Valley Performing Arts Center, which is on the university's campus.

The concert includes folk songs collected and saved by the Armenian priest and musicologist known as Father Komitas.

"I grew up singing some of them," Bayrakdarian said. "One of them ['Oror,' or 'Lullaby'] is something I sing to my children. ... It puts them to sleep!"

The soprano has a young son and daughter with her husband, pianist Serouj Kradjian, who will accompany her on Thursday and who arranged some of the music on the program.

Bayrakdarian, 41, divides her time between Fresno and Santa Barbara, where she teaches music at UC Santa Barbara. Born in Lebanon, she grew up as the youngest of six siblings in a family where they spoke Armenian at home, Arabic in the community and English at school.

As a teen, she moved to Canada with her family and pursued biomedical engineering at the University of Toronto,

where she graduated in 1997. But music beckoned her.

"I needed an outlet so I started singing on the side, taking lessons. Initially, I just wanted to be able to sing better in church," she recalled.

"I wasn't in a music program, so the only chance I had to really perform was in competitions. And then I started winning them."

In 2000, Bayrakdarian took first place at Plácido Domingo's Operalia competition, which was held that year in Los Angeles. She later had to choose between a job at an engineering firm or a tiny role in a production of "Iphigénie en Tauride."

"It was a no-brainer. I didn't want to be 40 and regret not going this route," she said. To this day, her engineering background still proves useful.

"It has come in so handy. For a long time, I was cramming new roles. To be able to memorize and keep the information - that comes from the discipline of engineering."

Not long after she launched her international career, she was called to London to sing for "The Lord of the Rings." Composer Howard Shore wanted her to sing in a ghostly voice using no vibrato normally associated with opera.

"I was like, 'Are you sure? You don't want me to use the operatic voice I've trained for years?'" she recalled.

Speaking multiple languages proved useful on the movie. "I could draw on Arabic vowels. There were so many things I could tap into to make it authentic," she said.

"Learning languages is so important - not just in today's world, but in life."

Turkish author Pinar Selek's book translated into Armenian

Turkish author Pinar Selek's book titled "Because they are Armenian" has been published in Armenian. The book reflects the author's stance on the Armenian Genocide and the approaches of the Turkish public.

The French translation of the book was released in Strasbourg in February.

"In the book I have written what it means to be Armenian in Turkey," she told a press conference in Yerevan today.

In 1998 Pinar Selek was prosecuted in connection with an explosion that occurred at the Spice Bazaar, but was acquitted by the Istanbul High Criminal Court of Istanbul 16 years later. She had to move to France because of persecutions in Turkey.

The author said she faced the 1915 massacre of Armenians too late. "There can be nothing more precious than the struggle for truth," Selek said.

When writing the book she was

inspired by her late friends, who lived in Turkey. "They can't speak today, and I'm speaking for them."

"I have problems with justice, and I'm struggling for my own justice. That's why I know how important every testimony is for achieving justice," the author said.

"Believe, I'm not alone. I'm a representative of a whole generation, which questions many truths we have been taught in Turkey," Selek added.

Vogue Russia: Armenia in three days

The Vogue Russia team spent three days in Armenia to take photos for the world's most famous fashion magazine.

American-Armenian photographer David Mushegian first visited Armenia a few months ago and was stunned by the beauty of his historic homeland. When he was offered to take photos of ethnic costumes for the Russian Vogue, he advised a trip to Yerevan. He was joined on the trip by Victoria's Secret Angel Stella Maxwell.

The Vogue team was hosted by Armenian artist Lusik Aguletsi, who collects Armenian national costumes and keeps her own museum. Lusik herself is always dressed in taraz - the Armenian national costume.

The team also visited Armenia's legendary duduk player Djivan Gasparyan, 86.



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries

(March 20-April 19)

This is a really challenging time for you and many others as well. You may be presented with a relationship issue that will cause you to distance from a negative bond. Perhaps it is time. But if this is someone you truly don't want to lose, then watch your temper and attempt to talk through problems.

Taurus

(April 20 -- May 20)

This should be a wonderful week for love life and creative activities. Venus, your avatar planet, is favoring Jupiter, Uranus, and Pluto. Honor the artist in yourself. Broaden your definition of "artist" beyond painting. Activities involving your children go well. Aspects favor travel, education and love life.

Gemini

(May 20-June 20)

Challenging news comes your way concerning children, a love affair, or investments. It may be sudden so brace yourself. Stay calm so that you can have your wits about you to think issues through. Rise above the appearance of things so you can envision a larger picture. You need to access your ability to think outside the box.

Cancer

(June 21-July 21)

Changes in your work or daily life are requiring that you bend to accommodate for new technology. You were getting things accomplished just fine, thank you very much. This one just won't go away. It is probably very good for you in the long run. However, just right now the learning curve interferes with your daily output.

Leo

(July 22-August 21)

You may be tending to your own or another's healing on either the physical or emotional level. It is even possible there is a funeral you must attend where you are uncomfortable with other attendees. This is not the time to bring up old hurts and angers. The Other will not be amenable to discussion right now. Find some way to let it go. There will be other opportunities.

Virgo

(August 22-September 22)

You are a giant magnet this week. You will attract supporters wherever you go. People will fall all over themselves for you. Try it. Dress well and move around in the public eye for an ego boost. On another level, there are concerns about the financial picture. Leave your credit cards at home. "Neither a borrower or a lender be"...

Libra

(Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

Many who are upset will be seeking your solace and gift of listening. Do not overload your schedule because even you, the peaceful warrior, may feel short tempered. Drive carefully. Vehicles, tools, or other things may suddenly break. Concentrate on staying with your center. Your intuition is uncommonly accurate now.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 21)

The sun returns "home" to your sign this week. You likely will find it to be energizing. Now is the time to focus on new plans for this next year of your life. Take a fresh look at where you want to direct your energy. It is appropriate that your attention be directed toward yourself right now. But while you are doing this, stay aware of the needs of those around you as well.

Sagittarius

(November 22-December 20)

You are struggling to gain a foothold on the new identity. Let the past go. Keep only what and who is truly important to you. Between now and the year 2018, the main trajectory is to blend what is at your core and unchangeable with what is non-traditional for you. This will be a test of confidence and creativity, but it is timely now.

Capricorn

(December 21-January 19)

Once again, this week may bring sudden developments concerning your home, your property, or your family. For a time things will feel out of control and maybe difficult to understand on any rational level. This struggle could be internal and of the ego. Take time enough to discern the truth before speaking or deciding impulsively.

Aquarius

(January 20-February 17)

One side of you is devoted to maintaining the status quo and following the rules. Another side of you is the rebel deluxe, the one who always colors outside the lines. You probably feel much more comfortable in one mode or the other. Whichever way is your norm, you now encounter your opposite. Stay absolutely true to yourself in the midst of this storm.

Pisces

(February 18-March 19)

There is news to cheer over concerning your Significant Other (business or personal). The relationship is taking a turn for the better. Those with clientele will be super busy accommodating an increased public. You feel generous, almost to a fault. Don't give away the store.

Dan Yessian reflects on Armenian Genocide through music

Dan Yessian hopes his first classical music trilogy teaches an Armenian history lesson that leaves listeners wanting to learn more.

"Maybe, just maybe having listened to the work, they will be spurred on to dig a little deeper from a cultural perspective and historical perspective to see what it's all about," said Yessian, founder of Yessian Music, Inc., in Farmington Hills, hometownlife.com reports.

Yessian's *An Armenian Trilogy* focuses on the Armenian massacre by the Turkish Ottoman Empire in 1915. He wrote the 13 1/2-minute piece for violin and piano, but plans to score it for orchestra next year. Its three movements reflect on freedom, fear and faith..

It will debut at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at the Macomb Center of the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield, Clinton Township. Violinist Sonia Lee and pianist Shawn McDonald will perform the work during *Hope Dies Last*, a multidisciplinary program commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The Detroit Chamber Wind and Strings also will play a new composition for chamber ensemble by Alexandra du Bois, which will be accompanied by photographer

Michelle Andonian's works.

Yessian said he was at a concert in church when his parish priest, the Rev. Garabed Kochakian of St. John Armenian Church in Southfield, asked him to write the commemorative music.

"I said yes. It would be a tremendous challenge. It's not in my wheelhouse of music that I'd customarily write. I started in January or February writing. I was writing that music in between writing apple pie, hot dogs and Chevrolet," he said, referring to his commercial compositions. "I've written thousands of ads in 40-plus years of doing music. Although I've written serious music, this is more involved and complex. It was a labor of love."

While growing up Yessian occasionally heard his grandparents talk about the massacre. He remembers hearing that his grandfather saw his spouse die. There were other stories of enforced marches, with women, children, and the elderly left to die in the desert. Children were stabbed, women were raped and bodies were thrown into the river.

"I told my wife of 43 years I didn't feel like I was writing it myself. I felt like it was writing itself. Maybe God was in control," said Yessian, who



composed the piece mostly by ear at his Milford home on a piano formerly owned by Burt Bacharach.

Yessian studied classical and jazz clarinet and saxophone, but didn't formally study piano. After he wrote and recorded the trilogy, one of his staff composers transcribed the work.

"I'm an ear musician and that is a good thing and not such a good thing. You worry less about technicalities of it and work off of emotion more than anything else," he said, adding that the trilogy is influenced by jazz.

"The thing that grates me about Armenian hymns is that it's sad stuff. It's like funeral music. I wanted to take a western spin on it. I wanted to put myself through a reflection of history and bring some Americana into it."



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