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HIGHLIGHT

Armenia's Ambassador to UK dies unexpectedly

Armenia's Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Karine Ghazinyan passed away unexpectedly on December 6. According to preliminary data, she died in the United States where she was undergoing medical treatment.

Ghazinyan was born in 1955, and, during the Soviet era she worked at the USSR embassies in Mozambique and Portugal. Following Armenia's independence in 1991, she performed the duties of the country's ambassador to Romania, Germany, and-until her passing away - UK. In addition, she worked as Deputy FM and Armenia-EU Association Agreement Chief Negotiator.

She was a graduate of Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Karine Ghazinyan was awarded the Mkhitar Gosh Medal, and the Order of the Grand Cross of Romania.

The Editorial Staff of Noyan Tapan expresses deepest condolences to Ambassador Ghazinyan's family, relatives and friends.



The Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries: (l-r) Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov, Minister Delegate for European Affairs of France Bernard Cazeneuve, and Secretary of State of the United States Hillary Clinton, at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Dublin, 6 December 2012. See below

Moscow steps up pressure on Azerbaijan

by David Petrosyan

The events related to Russian-Azerbaijani relations in the last three months have aroused great interest among observers in Yerevan.

Tension is gradually mounting in relations between Moscow and Baku. Earlier we already paid attention to the fact that a number of elements in the policy implemented by the administration of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev annoyed the Kremlin.

In particular, we should remind the reader that the Azerbaijani leadership refuses to prolong the agreement on the lease of the Gabala Radar Station on the previous terms. According to unofficial sources, Azerbaijan proposed raising the rent from current \$7 million a year to \$300 million (more than a 40-fold increase!). Baku justifies its proposal by the circumstance that the Gabala region is a favorable area for tourism development.

The new position of Azerbaijan is related to Russia's position on the Karabakh problem. At the time Baku, when allowing the Russian Federation to use the radar station, counted on "Moscow's objectivity" in this issue, hoping for at least Russia's neutrality in the context, in which such neutrality is understood in Azerbaijan. However, it annoys Baku that Russia, being a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, that is, an official mediator in the negotiations on the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, provides military support to its ally Armenia, including in the sphere of military-technical cooperation. This circumstance undoubtedly allows keeping the military balance between the conflicting parties, whereas Baku strives for military superiority and tries to resolve the conflict by force.

At the same time, one should take into account the fact that

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Mediating Powers Criticize Armenia, Azerbaijan for Karabakh Impasse



The United States, Russia and France on December 6 criticized Armenia and Azerbaijan for the lack of progress in their long-running peace talks and called for a "greater sense of urgency" to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and French Minister Delegate for European Affairs Bernard Cazeneuve indicated their frustration with the impasse during an OSCE ministerial meeting held in Dublin.

"We regret that the expecta-

tions of more rapid progress in the peace process, which were raised by the Joint Statement of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, with the President of the Russian Federation at Sochi on January 23, 2012, were not met," they said in a joint statement. "Instead, the parties have too often sought one-sided advantage in the negotiation process, rather than seeking to find agreement, based upon mutual understanding."

"We call upon the parties to demonstrate a greater sense of urgency in the peace process and to work with the Co-Chairs [of the

OSCE Minsk Group] to give full and careful consideration to ideas presented by the Co-Chairs during their trip to the region in November," added the statement. It shed no light on those ideas.

The statement came as U.S., Russian and French diplomats co-chairing the Minsk Group held separate meetings with Foreign Ministers Elmar Mammadarov of Azerbaijan and Edward Nalbandian of Armenian on the sidelines of the OSCE gathering. No details of those meetings were

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Armenian President meeting with Vladimir Putin



President Sargsyan, who was in Turkmenistan on a working visit, participated on December 5 at the Council of the Heads of the CIS member states in Ashgabat.

At the sessions conducted first in the closed and later in the extended formats, the Heads of the CIS member states delegations discussed and adopted over two dozens of documents pertinent to the deepening of cooperation in the economic and humanitarian areas, security and some other areas. It

was decided to hold the next meeting of the Heads of the CIS member states in October 2013, in Minsk. Chairmanship of the CIS was passed on to Belarus.

In the framework of the Summit held in Ashgabat, today President Serzh Sargsyan had a brief meeting with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. The Presidents of the two countries discussed a number of issues of the Armenian-Russian strategic partnership agenda.



The Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the CIS Ministerial meeting

On December 5, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian participated in the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States held in Ashgabat.

The Council's agenda included more than a dozen issues related to the documents to be presented during the discussion at the Summit of the Heads of the CIS states to be held on December 5, as well as issues related to the main directions of a comprehensive cooperation in the CIS territory.

In particular Foreign Ministers discussed the draft of a declaration on the further development of cooperation in the frames of the CIS initiated under the Turkmen chairmanship. The draft was included in the Council's agenda of the Heads of the of the CIS states.

At the Ministerial Council the Foreign Ministers touched upon issues related to the further deepening of cooperation in the humanitarian, ecological and security spheres, as well as in the sphere of struggle

against terrorism.

Foreign Ministers particularly discussed the issues of the implementation of upcoming inter-state CIS Cultural Capitals project and the issues related to the carrying out of a project of preparatory events in the sphere of humanitarian cooperation of the CIS states for 2013-2014.

The draft of a decision for the preparation of the events dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945 was discussed.

The Ministerial meeting focused on the activities of the CIS sectoral cooperation bodies, as well. In Particular, the Foreign Ministers touched upon the activity of the.

In Ashgabat a meeting took place between Edward Nalbandian and Konstantin Grishchenko, Ukraine's Foreign Minister, which is going to assume the presidency of the OSCE in 2013.

During the meeting the sides discussed the results of the recently held Armenian-Ukrainian inter-governmental commission and the steps to be undertaken towards the further development of bilateral relations.

Ministers Nalbandian and Grishchenko touched upon issues included in the agenda of the OSCE Ministerial meeting to be held in Dublin on December 6-7.

Armenia-EU cooperation is a of a certain importance for UK

On December 4 the RA NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan received the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the RA Katherine Jane Leach.

Welcoming the Ambassador the NA Speaker has noted that during the recent years the Armenian-British cooperation develops, and Armenia highlights the deepening of cooperation with the United Kingdom in bilateral and multi-lateral formats. Hovik Abrahamyan has underlined that Armenia gives great importance to the development of relations with the EU member countries and the European integration is one of the priorities of the RA foreign policy. To the conviction of the Head of the Parliament, the activation of the relations between the legislative bodies

is important for the development and expansion of the Armenian-British inter-state cooperation. "We highlight the inter-parliamentary cooperation between Armenia and Great Britain with conviction that the parliamentary diplomacy is one of the important levers for advancing the political dialogue between the countries, and as NA Speaker, I am ready for making efforts in advancing the Armenian-British inter-parliamentary cooperation and supporting all the initiatives, which will promote the strengthening of friendship between the two countries and peoples," Hovik Abrahamyan noted. To the NA Speaker's conviction, there is big potential for activating the political dialogue between Armenia and Great Britain, further effective development and reinforcement of relations, activation of the contacts in

different formats and expanding the cooperation borders. He also highlighted the activation of economic cooperation between Armenia and the United Kingdom.

Expressing her gratitude for reception the Ambassador Leach also deemed necessary the development and deepening of the Armenian-British cooperation in different directions, and in this context she emphasized the activation of the inter-parliamentary relations. Mrs Leach stressed that Great Britain as EU member country highlighted the development of Armenia-EU cooperation and welcomed Armenia's efforts in that direction.

In the course of the meeting the interlocutors discussed regional issues, touched upon the NK problem settlement, Safarov case and other issues of bilateral interest.

Romania celebrates the 94th anniversary of its National Day

"Romanian and Armenian people are partners for centuries and the recognition of the Republic of Armenia by Romania strengthened the relations between the two countries even more. Today, the two countries spare no efforts to develop and expand the fields of cooperation", said Romanian Ambassador to Armenia Crina Prunariu during the reception organized by the Romanian Embassy on December 3. The ceremony was dedicated to the 150th anniversary of Romanian diplomacy and the 94th anniversary of the country's National Day. The reception was attended by different ambassadors accredited in Armenia, representatives of ministries, high officials and other guests.

During her speech the Romanian Ambassador briefly introduced the history of the Romanian National Day and the formation of the modern Romania.

"Romania has passed through many difficulties, however it has become a full trusted European Union family member thanks to its democratic policy for the past 20 years", mentioned the Ambassador.

During the ceremony C. Prunariu awarded certificates on the behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affaires to those political and cultural figures who had a role in the development of the Armenian-Romanian relations, including Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosyan.



The Romanian Ambassador ended her speech by suggesting drinking to Armenian-Romanian relations and the prosperity and happiness of the two nations.

Mediating Powers Criticize Armenia, Azerbaijan for Karabakh Impasse

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immediately made public.

Mammadyarov and Nalbandian held no face-to-face talks in the Irish capital. According to Clinton, Lavrov and Cazeneuve, they are ready to "meet jointly with the Co-Chairs early in 2013."

The Minsk Group co-chairs visited Armenia, Azerbaijan and Karabakh and met their leaders late last month. They gave no indications of any progress towards an Armenian-Azerbaijani peace accord.

The peace process has been effectively deadlocked since an Armenian-Azerbaijani summit that was hosted by Russia in Kazan in June 2011. President Serzh Sargsyan and his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev came close agreeing on the Basic Principles of a Karabakh settlement proposed by the mediators. The Kazan meeting yielded no breakthrough, however.

The Armenian side said Aliyev scuttled an agreement with last-

minute demands for changes in the text of the framework peace deal put forward by the mediating powers. Baku did not explicitly deny seeking such changes, while blaming Yerevan for the fiasco.

In an op-ed article published by "The Wall Street Journal" on Thursday, Mammadyarov reiterated his government's position that the conflicting parties should start working on a comprehensive Karabakh peace accord before ironing out their differences on its key elements.

"I suggest we move forward in Dublin and achieve progress on this issue beyond what has already been agreed with Armenia and the three OSCE co-chairs: France, the U.S. and Russia," wrote Mammadyarov. "After drafting a comprehensive peace agreement within a fixed time frame, the OSCE should agree on a new Minsk Group meeting to be attended by all parties."

Armenia has brushed aside this idea before. In a November 13

interview with the French daily "Le Figaro," Sargsyan said, "Baku refuses to accept the principles proposed by the international mediators as a basis for negotiations and thinks that it is possible to directly negotiate a [comprehensive] peace accord without agreeing on the basic principles. But a peaceful accord may be viable only if it is based on clear principles acceptable to everyone."

Speaking to "The Wall Street Journal" earlier in November, the Armenian leader claimed that Baku is waiting for "an opportune moment" to start a new war for Karabakh.

Mammadyarov insisted, however, that "Azerbaijan wants peace so that we can continue to grow our economy, develop our energy resources and advance our relations with Europe and our neighbors." He went on to call for "an immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian forces from our territory."

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Tsarukian Angers Government with Scathing Attack

The Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) leader Gagik Tsarukyan faced an angry reaction from the government on December 6 after effectively alleging during a visit to Brussels that his country is run by corrupt individuals.

Tsarukyan dealt what may have been an irreparable blow to his relationship with President Serzh Sargsyan during a meeting on Wednesday with Alejo Vidal-Quadras Roca, a deputy speaker of the European Parliament.

A PAP statement said they discussed the political and socioeconomic situation in Armenia. "During the unconstrained conversation, Gagik Tsarukyan expressed a view that it was impossible to fight against corruption in the country if that fight is led by the main corrupt individuals," it said without giving further details.

Eduard Sharmazanov, the spokesman for Sargsyan's Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), denounced the PAP statement as "shameful." He said the PAP, which was part of the Armenian government until last June, itself has a poor reputation among European Union officials and that the RPA has avoided publicizing that for ethical reasons.

"We are not saying that in Europe, according to written opinions of our European partners, the Prosperous Armenia Party is regarded as an artificial force," Sharmazanov told RFE/RL's Armenian service. "We are not saying that the Prosperous Armenia Party, again according to European deputies, has achieved some success as a result of populist policies."

"We are not saying that according to some European deputies, the

Prosperous Armenia Party leader has quite scant knowledge of international politics and current political affairs in general."

Tsarukyan and several senior PAP figures accompanying him left for Brussels earlier this week for talks with EU officials and lawmakers amid growing expectations that he will be Sargsyan's main challenger in next February's presidential election. He has not announced his participation in the vote yet.

Tsarukyan's rapport with the Armenian ruling party has worsened dramatically over the past year because of his reluctance to back the incumbent president's reelection bid. The PAP leader, who is one of Armenia's wealthiest men, pulled his influential party out of Sargsyan's governing coalition after the May 2012 parliamentary elections.

The PAP statement said the presidential ballot was on the agenda of his meetings with Vidal-Quadras and other EU parliamentarians. It quoted Vidal-Quadras as saying that Tsarukyan would make a "superb candidate" because of his "human and optimistic traits."

Former Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian, one of the senior PAP

members accompanying the tycoon, insisted late on December 5 that the Brussels visit was not connected with the approaching election. He said European officials were raising the matter because "they know that Prosperous Armenia is a quite strong party."

Oskanian also suggested that Tsarukyan's long-awaited decision on whether he will run for president will be announced next week. "This visit will in no way determine the essence of that announcement," he told RFE/RL's Armenian service. Tsarukyan has not alleged high-level government corruption until now. Asked why he decided to make such allegations at this juncture, Lyova Khachatryan, a BHK deputy, said, "Maybe he has had enough. Maybe he hoped that people will correct themselves."

The burly tycoon made much of his fortune during the 1998-2008 tenure of President Robert Kocharyan, with whom he is believed to maintain a warm rapport. Opposition politicians and media have long accused him of using his government connections to evade taxes, a charge he has always denied.



Ruling Party 'Unfazed' by Tsarukian's Presidential Bid

The Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) leader Gagik Tsarukyan will pose no serious threat to President Serzh Sargsyan's reelection plans if he decides to run for president, a top representative of the ruling Republican Party (RPA) said on December 4.

"I don't quite imagine [Tsarukyan] in the position of a presidential candidate ... because any candidate in presidential elections should act more resolutely and come up with more alternative programs, alternative budgets, rather than dither," Eduard Sharmazanov, the RPA spokesman and deputy parliament speaker, told RFE/RL's Armenian service.

"I can't tell whether or not he will run," Sharmazanov said. "It's up to his political team to decide. But regardless of who runs and who doesn't run, including Gagik Tsarukyan, I don't think that President Sargsyan will face a serious rival for the first place [in next February's election]."

Other senior RPA figures have likewise said that the incumbent president will face no serious challengers in his bid to win a second term in the upcoming election.

Despite their stated self-confi-

dence, the Armenian authorities appear to have pressured the PAP and its leader over the past year to throw its weight behind Sargsyan's reelection bid. Tsarukyan has not caved in so far and is now widely expected to announce his presidential candidacy.

Sharmazanov was even more dismissive of other potential presidential candidates' chances. "No opposition politician sees a real possibility of win-

ning the presidential elections," he said.

In Sharmazanov's words, this is why opposition leader Levon Ter-Petrosian, who was Sargsyan's main challenger in the 2008 presidential election, is unlikely to contest the February 2013 ballot. Ter-Petrosian realizes that another presidential run would amount to his "political suicide," claimed the vice-speaker.



Sargsyan Reassures EU over Armenian Presidential Vote



President Serzh Sargsyan reassured the European Union over the weekend that Armenia's forthcoming presidential election, in which he will be seeking a second five-year term, will be free and fair.

Speaking after talks in Yerevan with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, Sargsyan also said his government expects to complete by the end of next year ongoing negotiations with the EU on a far-reaching "association agreement."

"I assured Mr. Barroso that we are committed to holding in February 2013 presidential elections meeting the highest international standards," he told a joint news conference.

"We agreed that it is critically important that the next presidential elections are impeccable," Barroso, who runs the EU's Brussels-based executive body, said for his part.

The EU officials have stressed in recent months that a further deepening of Armenia's ties with the 27-nation bloc, sought by the Sargsyan administration, is contingent on the proper conduct of the presidential election. They have implied that a clean vote is also essential for the holding of an unprecedented conference of Armenia's foreign donors planned by the EU.

Armenian leaders and Sargsyan in particular have repeatedly pledged to live up to these expectations. They point to their handling of last May's parliamentary elections, which was cautiously praised by the EU.

Barroso reaffirmed that praise but, like other EU officials,

called for further improvements in election administration.

Armenia's main opposition groups dismiss the government pledges and say Sargsyan will seek to win reelection at any cost. They also claim that the May elections were rigged in favor of his ruling Republican Party of Armenia.

Barroso arrived in Yerevan to attend a summit of the leaders of Armenia, Georgia and Moldova that was organized by the European People's Party. The one-day meeting was devoted to the efforts by the three former Soviet republics to integrate more closely with the EU within the framework of the Eastern Partnership programme. Association agreements currently negotiated by each of them stem from that programme.

The European Commission chief held separate talks with Sargsyan on December 1. The Armenian president said he "reaffirmed our determination to develop and deepen Armenia-EU cooperation." He also stated that Yerevan hoped to wrap up its complex association talks with the EU by November 2013.

A key component of the EU's future association agreement with Armenia is the creation of a "deep and comprehensive free trade area." The Eastern Partnership also makes the country eligible for a facilitation of the EU's strict visa requirements for Armenian citizens.

Brussels and Yerevan finalized a visa facilitation agreement in mid-October. Barroso and Sargsyan announced that it will be signed in December.

ANC Collects Sufficient Signatures for Constitutional Court Petition

On December 4 the opposition ANC (Armenian National Congress) was able to gather the number of signatures needed to take the matter of a calling for a special session to discuss a draft bill to make modifications and amendments to the country's Electoral Code to the Constitutional Court.

34 opposition MPs signed on to the initiative while only 27 were needed.

On November 21, the MPs of the ruling Republican Party and its junior coalition partner the Country of Law, walked out of the parliament in a move

designed to declare the session null and void.

The ARF did not join the initiative, arguing that the party would instead petition the National Assembly's Ethics Committee.



Armenia participates in Eastern Partnership meeting in Brussels

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The Meeting of the Eastern Partnership senior officials was held on December 4 in Brussels. Armenia's delegation led by Deputy FM and Armenia-EU Association Agreement Chief Negotiator, Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, also attended the event.

In his opening remarks, Štefan Füle, the European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, reflected on the revised policy of the European Neighbourhood, Armenian MFA press service informs. It was noted that the EU will apply the "more for more" precept. Also, the Commissioner recalled that European Commission President José Manuel Barroso was greatly impressed by his recent visit to Armenia.

In his turn, Mnatsakanyan stressed that Armenia's relations with EU were being built on a com-



mon system of value. He added that carrying out reforms, which are anchored in common values and principles with EU, is a part of Armenia's domestic agenda, and Eastern Partnership provides an opportunity to stimulate them. Armenia's Deputy FM reaffirmed the country's readiness to finish the talks on the Armenia-EU Association Agreement-including the establishment of the Armenia-EU Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Zone-prior to the Eastern Partnership summit to be held in Vilnius next year.

The interlocutors also discussed regional security and stability matters.

Armenia is on the 105th place in the world according to Corruption Perception Index 012

The British The Guardian daily reports that Transparency International human rights organization made a list of the countries noting the situation of corruption in them. Armenia is the 105th according to the list.

We should recall that last year our country was 129th. The source informs that Azerbaijan is on the 139th place, Georgia in the 51st Iran 133 Turkey in the 54th and Russia in the 133rd.

New Zealand, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Singapore are the countries which have the less corruption.

The Corruption Perceptions Index ranks countries and territories based on how corrupt their public sector is perceived to be. A



country or territory's score indicates the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale of 0 - 100, where 0 means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt and 100 means it is perceived as very clean. A country's rank indicates its position relative to the other countries and territories included in the index. This year's index includes 176 countries and territories.

Presidential elections scheduled for February 18 in Armenia

Tigran Mukuchyan, the Central Election Commission chairman declared about the launch of Presidential Elections due in Armenia in 2013 on December 8. CEC chairman stated the elections are set to be held on February on 18. The day is declared day non-working.

Central Election Commission will convene a special session on December 8, 15.00 pm. Preparatory works and the timetable refer to the launch of the main events are scheduled to be approved during the session. Different political parties are coming forth



with the announcement about their participation formats and possible candidates. Reportedly the names of Presidential candidates will be known only in late December.

Danish Royal Library under Fire for Armenian Genocide Exhibition

By Christian Wenande

The Royal Library has attracted heavy criticism after agreeing to let Turkey co-arrange an alternative exhibition about the Armenian Genocide.

The library has complied with the wishes of the Turkish ambassador to Denmark to be involved with the exhibition, 'The Armenian Genocide and the Scandinavian response', which is currently on display at the University of Copenhagen.

The Turkish Embassy has been granted the opportunity to stage a Turkish version of the historical events in a move that has generated criticism from a number of circles, including politicians, historians, and the Armenian Embassy in Copenhagen.

"This is giving in to Turkish pressure and it won't do. Without comparing the two events, it's like asking neo-Nazis to arrange a Holocaust exhibition," Søren Espersen, a spokesperson for Dansk Folkeparti (DF), told Berlingske newspaper.

Turkey refuses to use the 'genocide' to describe the deaths of over an estimated one million Armenians who died during the mass extermination carried out by the Ottoman Empire between the years of 1915-1923. Turkey counters that the deaths were a by-product of the First World War and that the issue should be left to historians.

But Matthias Bjørnlund, a historian and leading Danish expert on the Armenian Genocide, is perplexed over the Royal Library's decision in the case.

"If you believe that all versions of history are equal, then you've undermined your role as a research institution," Bjørnlund told Berlingske. "It was genocide and not all interpretations of this history are correct."

The Armenian ambassador to



Denmark, Hrachya Aghajanyan, who is a co-host of the original exhibition, is disappointed by the move.

"I hope that the Royal Library will reconsider their decision and not give in to the possible Turkish pressure," Aghajanyan told Berlingske.

But Erland Kolding Nielsen, the director of the Royal Library, denied that the institution buckled under pressure from Turkey.

"One can't pressure us, and we have not spoken about removing the Armenian exhibition. We have simply given them the opportunity to show their alternative exhibition," Nielsen told Berlingske.

Currently, 24 nations - including France, Germany and Russia - officially consider the killings as genocide, but Denmark has yet to

make that assertion.

Earlier this year, Turkey condemned the French senate's adoption of a law criminalising those who refuse to recognise the killing of Armenians in 1915 as genocide in France. The Turkish government froze political and military ties with France after the law passed in late January 2012, which would impose a fine of 335,000 kroner and a one-year jail sentence on those found guilty of denying that the deaths amounting to genocide.

It is not yet known when the Turkish exhibition version will debut, but the Turkish embassy said that preparations were underway.

The Copenhagen Post; December 4, 2012

American biggest companies apply to President Obama to support U.S.-Armenia economic relations

A broad range of American companies doing business in Armenia, including Microsoft, FedEx, and NASDAQ, have,

in letters shared with the U.S. Embassy, called upon the Obama Administration to take concrete action prioritizing the growth of U.S.-Armenia economic relations through the negotiation of a bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). As The Armenian National Committee of America informed, ANCA, in the interest of job-creation in both America and Armenia, is actively engaged with the White House, the U.S. Trade Representative, the Congress, and the Departments of State, Treasury and Commerce in support of a broad array of

practical steps and policies to promote U.S.-Armenia economic and commercial relations.

The Armenian government has long been on record requesting that its U.S. partners join with them in negotiating a TIFA, as well as a much-needed Double Tax Treaty. President Obama promised, during his 2008 campaign, to foster expanded trade with Armenia. U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, John Heffern, for his part, during his confirmation process, also spoke of his interest in expanding the U.S.-Armenia trade relationship.

Copies of the letters, addressed to President Obama, were handed to Ambassador Heffernon December 8 during his meetings with Armenian

American organizations and community members in the Los Angeles area.

These firms employ thousands in Armenia and worldwide, generate tens of millions of dollars in revenues, and are engines of progress, friendship, and cooperation for both nations. Among those joining with Microsoft, FedEx, and NASDAQ in petitioning for a TIFA were: Marriott, Ameria Banking Group, Grant Thornton, Tufenkian Heritage Hotels, Altacode, Levon Travel, Unicom, Synopsys, Megerian Carpet, National Instruments, Mentor Graphics, First Mortgage, Geoteam, Hylink, LC Distribution, Linkgard Systems and others.



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FOR SALE

1 ROOMS

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

2 ROOMS

- ♦ **1579** Krtu str. 17/11, 100 sq.m, newly built, 2 rooms, euro repaired, furnished, not inhabited, swimming-pool, tennis court, view to canyon.Price: 270.000 USD
- ♦ **1560** Northern Ave., 10/3 130 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, climate control, parking, windows looking to the Northern Avenue, exploitation rent 28.000 AMD. Price: 400.000 USD
- ♦ **1445. Sayat-Nova street**. 5/4, 73 sq.m. 2 rooms, stone building, capially repaired, furnished, h-3 m. Price: 150 000 USD
- ♦ **1467. Mashtoc av**. 8/5 81sq.m.2 made 3 , stone , special project , old but repaired, always running hot and cold water, looking at the Sun. Price 125.000\$
- ♦ **1440. North Avenue**, 3rd floor, 110sqm, 1 bedroom, newly built, euro repaired, furniture, parking, h-3m, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, heating system. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1459. Baghramyan Avenue**. 5/3, 55 sq.m., 2 rooms, capially repaired, h-3.8 m, balcony, iron door, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, furniture and techniques. Price: 49. 000.000 AMD
- ♦ **1458. Bryusov street**. 9/8, 68 sq.m., 2 rooms, normal state, Baxi system, Czech tiles, showcases, wood doors and parquet. Price 75.000 USD
- ♦ **1469 Tumanyan st.** 4/3 50sq.m. 2 rooms, repaired, furnished. Price 47.5mln. AM dram
- ♦ **1357. Pushkin street**, 8/6 floor, 77 sq.m., 2 rooms, newly built, furniture, techniques. Price 165000\$

3 ROOMS

- ♦ **2682** Aram Str. 13/6 187sq.m, newly built,4 rooms, 3 bedrooms, drywall, buckle,2 open balconies, beautiful view. 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 1sq.m 574 000 AMD
- ♦ **2676** Amiryan Str. 16/12 259 sq.m, 4 rooms, 3 bedrooms,N-3 meters, capially euro repaired,view to yard, concrete floor, heating system, water, gas, AC, underground parking, separate furnished kitchen Price: 550.000 AMD % included
- ♦ **2674** Qeru Str, 17/3 103 sq.m, 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms,N-3U meters, elite building, 2 bathrooms, swimming-pool, tennis court,parking(not included in the price) heating, gas, water, AC, sold with and without furniture Price: without furniture 160000 USD with furniture 175000 USD
- ♦ **2474. Koryun Street**. 5/3, 100 sq.m., 3 turned into 4, euro repair , euro windows, permanent gas, balcony, 2 AC, opportunity. Price 160.000 USD
- ♦ **2454. Moskovyan str.**, 5/2, 180sqm, normal state, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, permanent water, gas. Price 370.000USD
- ♦ **2453. Koryun str.**, 6/4, 100sqm, 4 rooms, euro repaired, 2 lavatories. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2429. Ekmalyan street**, 10/9, 178sqm, 3bedrooms, 3lavatories, capially repaired, AC, parking. Price-360.000USD
- ♦ **2393. Moskovyan street**, 5/3. 110 sq.m., euro repair, logha balcony 17 sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, cube 700 l, electric heating system, natural gas, Ariston, 2AC, satellite. Price: 400 000 USD
- ♦ **2335. Mashtots Avenue**. 4/4, 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, stone building, euro repaire, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquetry, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 125000 USD
- ♦ **2348. Abovyan Street**, 4/2, 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, conreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system, Price: 250000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **2395. North Avenue**. 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD

PREMISES

- ♦ **1710. Sayat - Nova str.**, 1st floor, 420sqm, 2 rooms, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price 1.000.000USD

- ♦ **1727. Baghramyan str.**, 2 storied, 230sqm, capially repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1725. Hanrapetutyan str.**, 1storied, 171sqm, 2 entrances, capially repaired, permanent hot and cold water. Price 500.000USD
- ♦ **1703. Northern Avenue**, 9/7, 66sqm, cap- itally repaired, heating, lavatory, 30000AMD service rent, view to Teryan street. Price 220,000USD
- ♦ **1553. Kasyan street**. 170sq.m., working fashion saloon, large windows, facade-15m, 1room+foyer, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500 000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **1598. Nairy Zaryan street**, 180 sq.m., 1st floor, a working restaurant, hall-100 sq.m. 1st line, repaired, tonir. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1383. Nalbandian St**, cellar + 1 story, 30 sq. m. cellar, 90 sq. m. story, Euro repair, hall, kitchen, lavatory, 24-hour hot and cols water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- ♦ **1603. North avenue**, 159 sq.m., 1st floor. Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1 sq.m. 10 000 USD
- ♦ **1588. Tigran Mec street**, 256 sq.m, 5/1.2 , trade area, stone building, euro repair, 1st floor trade area - 210 sq.m., 2nd floor 46 sq.m. residential Area. Price: 600 000 USD

LANDS

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **2725. Nork-Marash**, building - 733.25sqm, land-620sqm, semi-basement +2floors, euro repaired, semi-basement is sport room, sauna, summer room, pool, fireplace, 1st floor- sitting room, 1 bedroom, cabinet, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Spanish tiles, 2 AC. Price - 500.000USD
- ♦ **3348. Blur, Barbyusi**. 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, building-700 sq.m, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1.5 million USD
- ♦ **3059. Vahagan community**, total-1500sqm, building-280sqm, 2.5 storied, newly built, not lived in, 1st floor-living room-44sqm, kitchen, family room-24sqm, 2nd floor-3bed-rooms, 3 lavatories, garage for 2 cars, cellar, security system, possible to sell with furniture. Price 490.000\$.
- ♦ **3210 Aygestan community**. 2 stories, land: 480 sq.m, building: 310 sq.m, 1st floor is not repaired, garage, 2nd floor: repaired, kitchen, lavatory-tiled, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi system, a place for barbeque, garden, trees Price: 270.000 USD
- ♦ **3292. Arabkir**, 2 floors, land - 1200 sq.m, building - 340 sq.m, 4 rooms, newly built, repaired, euro windows and doors, sauna, 2 swimming-pools, 5 bathrooms, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, Jacuzzi, fire-place, laundry room, cameras, 2 satellites, garage for 2 cars, basement, fruitful garden, brick fence. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ♦ **3313 Blur, H. Emin**, 3 floors, land - 550 sq.m, building - 450 sq.m, capially repaired, furnished, 6 bedrooms. Price: 1 600 000 USD
- ♦ **2916. Ashtarak highway**, village Nazrvan. 3 storied building. Land 3500 sq.m., building 760 sq.m., euro repair, 3 tiled lavatories, a sauna, billiard, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, garden, pool, garage.The building is ramparted. Price 50000 USD

NEWLY BUILT

- ♦ **74. Cascade, Verin Antarayin**. electricity,

water, gas, euro window, drywall, no exploitation fees, parking - 15.000 USD. 136-315 sq m.



- 1 sq m - 1200 USD
- ♦ **107. Monument, Verin Antarayin**. inhabited, 8th floor cockloft, gas, window, street view - 1 sq m -1000 USD, city looking - 1 sq m -1500 USD, parking - 4 million preliminary, price: started from 40 sq m
- ♦ **100. Leo str**. half basement parking, 1st floor - shops, 2nd floor - office spaces, elevator, equipped kitchen, central heating, water, height - 2.80 m, beautiful view, will be ready to for use at the end of 2013. 60-300 sq m. 16 floors
- ♦ **87. Sayat-Nova street**, newly built building Given to the operation in December 2012. Climate control, gas, the fasad sector has 3 bedrooms-188 sq.m, 199 sq.m, 1 sq.m- 1900 USD, 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight- 117 sq.m, 120 sq.m, 124 sq.m, 1 sq.m-1700 USD Price: 1 sq.m- 1900-1700 USD
- ♦ **93. Kievyan street**, newly built building Given to the operation in October 2011, gajats, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas supply, the second floor has a parking lot, parking is possible for sale. Price 12 000 USD possible with mortgage, for 13 years term
- ♦ **94. Masiv**. Newly built, , coupling, 8 flats, in each cottege 4 flats, totall-2000 sq.m, each flat has 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking: 80 sq.m. Price: 160 000 USD

FOR RENT

1 ROOMS

- ♦ **1005. Lalayanc str.**, 11/5, 1room changed into 2, euro repaired, furniture, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique. Price 600USD per month, 40USD per day
- ♦ **853. Amiryan street**, 10/7. 1 turned into 2, 50 sq.m., euro repair, Italian furniture, bed, utensil, techniques, permanent water, gas, antenna, Baxy system. Price 700 USD, 50 USD per day

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦ **2021** Teryan Str, building 8, 9/8,9 4 bedrooms, newly built, 245 sq.m, capially repaired, euro doors and windows, not inhabited,3 bathrooms, 2 halls, heating system. Preliminary price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **2043** Saryan Str., 24 aptt 8/2 3 bedrooms,147 sq.m, 2 bathrooms, tiled floors, AC, heating system. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **2005. Northern Ave.**, 8/8, 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD
- ♦ **1998 Buzand Str.**, 9/6 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, water, gas, heating, view to Republic Square, parking, no service fee. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **2008 Komitas, Vagharshyan Str.**, 7/3, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capially repaired, furnished, heating, 2 bathrooms. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1739. Pushkin str**. 6/5, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capially repaired,2 bathrooms, parking, price: 1600 USD
- ♦ **1723. Northern Ave**. 8/4. 3 bedrooms, 170 sq.m., 3 bedrooms,3 bathrooms, newly built, repaired, furnished , open kitchen, Falkon system. Price: 2000 USD

- ♦ **1942. Teryan str.**, 4/2. 3 bedrooms, 120 sq.m, repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **942. Teryan str**. 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m, concrete, Hgt. 3.50, loggia-2, tile/ital., renovation. Price: 1500 USD
- ♦ **1969. Amiryan str**, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, capially repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed, climate control. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦ **1967. Pushkin str.**, 8/6. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1966. Ekmalyan str.**, 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capially repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed. Price: 1300 USD
- ♦ **1951. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad**. /13, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 122 sq.m, capially repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, usage fee included. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1950. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad**. /8, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 163 sq.m, capially repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, open balcony, view to the garden, usage fee included. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1137. Moskovyan str.**, 6/1, 2 bedrooms, lavatory, pool, normal state, furnished, technique, DVD, AC, permanent hot and cold water. Price 1100USD, possible daily rent.
- ♦ **1790. Byuzand street**, close to Abovyan st., 7/5, newly built, 2bedrooms, euro repaired, 2 balconies, furnished, baxi, technique, 2 lavatories, garage. Price 1600USD per month.
- ♦ **1793. Teryan street**. 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built



- Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1564. Tumanyan street**, 7/4. 110 sq.m., euro repaire, 2 lavatories, Spanish tyles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.
- ♦ **1720. Amiryan Street.**, 18/10, 2 bedrooms, 190 sq/m, newly built, euro windows, permanent hot and cold water, gas, central heating, 2 open balcony, nice view to the city, possible with or without furniture, parking for 3 cars. Price 3000USD per month negotiable, for long term - 6 months and more.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **1191 Aygestan**, 2 floors, land 350-400 sqm, building - 270 sqm, 1sr floor - living-room, kitchen, study. 2-nd floor - 4 bedrooms, bathroom, storage room, partly furnished, summer garden, garage, swimming- pool. Starting Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦ **1218. Cascade, freeway**. 3700 sq m, 3 floors brick building - 1490 sq m, capially repaired, walls - otto chento, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, heating, gas, Price: 12.00 USD
- ♦ **999. Aygedzor 1st lane, Land** -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors' 310 sqm, capially repaired, 4 bedrooms, living room, hall, 4 bathrooms, new furniture, equipped, 3 AC, Baxi, sauna, swimming-pool, house garden, barbeque equipment. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1094. Noy black**, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **1095. Aygestan**, 1 storied building - 105sqm, 3bedrooms newly built repaired, furniture, technique 1 lavatory, garden. Price 1000USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, 4 storied building, each floor-160sqm, total-400sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor- garage, sport room, swimming pool, 4 bedrooms, summer kitchen, 3 lavatories, capially repaired, furnished, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 4000USD
- ♦ **1152. Baghramyan**, 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, each floor - 200 sq.m, 10 rooms, 7 bathrooms, newly capially repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, 3 TV, heating system, garage. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **1197. Blur str**, 2 floors, land -779 sqm, building-720 sqm, first floor from the yard, basement on the street side, swimming-pool, sauna, living room, 1st floor - hall, study, dining room, 2 bathrooms, 2ond floor -4 bedrooms, 1 study, 4 bathrooms, barn, no furniture. Price 8000 USD
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, Qeru, 5 floors, each floor 160 sqm, land-400 sqm, euro repaired,1st floor-gym, garage, 3rd floor-4 bedrooms, open balcony, nice view, summer kitchen, fireplace, swimming-pool, 5 bathrooms, Jacuzzi. Price: 4000 USD
- ♦ **211. Ajgedzor**. 2 storied, 3 bedrooms, permanent water, capially repaired, beutifull view. Price: 1300-1500 USD

- ♦ **721. Blur Qery street**, land 150 sq.m., 2 stories+ a cellar, 200 sq.m., newly built, telephone, refrigerator, washing machine, 3 bedrooms, garage, 2 lavatories, a pool, camin, permanent hot and cold water, a cellar is used as a sport hall. Price : 3000 USD
- ♦ **1117. Aygestan**, land-420 sq.m., building 646 sq.m., 3 storied, 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, euro repair, new tiles, furnished, techniques. Price" 5000 USD
- ♦ **1195. Nork**, Armenakyan str, 4 floors, land - 2000 sqm, building-520 sqm, capially repaired, furnished, basement, 1st floor-1 living room, study, kitchen, bathroom, living room, swimming-pool, sauna, 2nd floor - 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3rd floor - open balcony, 1 bedroom, bathroom, gym, garden. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1142. Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. 3 storied, land-1000 sq.m., building-700 sq.m., 1st floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3rd floor- resting room, 1 bedroom repaired, each bedroom has its lavatory, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary/garage for 2 cars, parquet, Spanish tiles. Price: 4 000 USD.
- ♦ **1114. Gulakyan Str. in parallel with Baghramyan Str**. 3 storied building 500 sq.m., euro repair, 1st floor: sauna, a pool, kitchen, 2nd floor: kitchen, dining room, 3rd floor 3 bedrooms, lavatories in each floor. Price: 3300 USD
- ♦ **1190. Aygestan str**, 3 floors, capially repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1203. Blur**, H. Emin str, 3 floors, land - 550 sqm, building-450 sqm, capially repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 6000 USD.
- ♦ **1219. Monument**, Aram Cholakyan str, 3 floors, land - 800 sqm, building - 300 sqm, newly capially repaired, partly furnished, euro windows and doors, 1st floor - 2 rooms, garage, 2nd floor - 1 bedroom, 2 rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathroom, 3rd floor- 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, water, gas, heating system. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1085. Aygestan distriect**. 2 storied stone building, land 500 sq.m., each floor 12 X 14, 3 bedrooms, a cabinet, 3 lavatories, a cellar, a sauna, kitchen with cupboards, Baxi system, AC. Price 3000 USD
- ♦ **1139. Komitas, Sundukyan street**, 2 stories, stone building, land : 700 sq.m, each floor 185 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, cellar 185 sq.m, , capital repair, Baxi system, swimming pool, a place for barbeque, 2 lavatories, garden, 1 cabinet. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **333. Nork**, 3 storied, 250sq.m, euro repair, 4 bedrooms, 7 lavatory, permanent hot and cold water, central heating, natural gas, garden, pool. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1014. Norq Marash district**. 2 storied, a cellar, capially repaired, land 567sq.m., building 551 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 1 cabinet, furnished, a heating system. Price 2500 USD primary.
- ♦ **1076. Nork**, 2 storied, 220 sq.m., euro repair, in the 1st floor 2 rooms, kitchen, lavatory, in the second floor, separate entrance, open kitchen, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, furnished, view to city, garage, garden. Price: 2000USD
- ♦ **990. In Monument, Papazian street**, 2 storied stone building + half-cellar, has mansard,5bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2bathrooms, laundry, permanent hot and cold water, gas, plot of land 250sq.m, the size of whole construction is 370 sq.m. Price 2500USD

PREMISES

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

Schiff Seeks to Stop Military Aid to Baku



Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA), a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, on Tuesday called on his House and Senate colleagues to cut all security assistance to Azerbaijan, reported the Armenian National Committee of America.

His request comes in the wake of the continuing scandal surrounding Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's pardon and promotion of Ramil Safarov, a confessed axe-murderer who killed an Armenian officer while he slept during a 2004 NATO Partnership for Peace training exercise in Hungary.

"We join with Congressman Schiff in opposing U.S. taxpayer subsidies to an openly aggressive Azerbaijani regime that makes heroes of racist murderers, and unapologetically threatens to use every military resource at its disposal to renew its aggression against both Artsakh and Armenia," said Aram Hamparian, Executive Director of the ANCA. "If the Safarov scandal has taught us anything, it's that, rather than funding and arming the Azerbaijani military, the U.S. government should be using the full

measure of America's geo-political leverage to block Baku's drive to plunge the entire Caucasus back into war."

Representative Schiff's request, which he sent in letters to Senators Patrick Leahy and Lindsey Graham, and Representatives Kay Granger and Nita Lowey, the Chairs and Ranking Members of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittees in the Senate and House, made the case that: "Azerbaijan has committed the most terrible subversion of justice - making a hero of a cold-blooded killer. Plainly the investment we have made in training Azeri forces has been worse than wasted. The United States must not tolerate any acts of aggression against Armenia or Nagorno-Karabakh, and this hateful action by President Aliyev undermines all international efforts to bring about a peaceful solution in the region."

Congressman Schiff also emphasized, in his letter, that: "Azerbaijan must pay a high price for its actions. Baku treasures the security assistance that it receives from Washington, not because it needs the money (it does not), but because it signifies a certain closeness in the bilateral relationship. By cutting off military aid to Azerbaijan, the United States would signal its disgust with the Safarov affair, while also reminding Aliyev that the United States will not tolerate any acts of aggression against Armenia or

Nagorno-Karabakh."

The ANCA, in testimony presented to House Appropriators this March and in many other settings, has long been on record opposing any and all military aid to the Azerbaijani government, both prior to and after the Safarov scandal.

The complete text of letter Congressman's Schiff's sent to the Chairmen and Ranking Members is provided below:

Dear Chairmen Leahy and Granger and Ranking Members Graham and Lowey:

As you continue work on the 2013 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs appropriations bill, I urge you to cut all security assistance to Azerbaijan, including Azerbaijan's IMET funding, in response to the egregious repatriation and release of Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani army captain who had confessed to the savage 2004 axe murder of Armenian army lieutenant Gurgen Margaryan, while the latter slept. At the time, the two were participating in a NATO Partnership for Peace exercise in Budapest, Hungary. After the murder, Safarov was sentenced to life in prison by a Hungarian court and imprisoned in Hungary.

On August 31, Safarov was sent home to Azerbaijan, purportedly to serve out the remainder of his sentence. Instead of prison, he was greeted as a hero by the Azeri government and promenaded through the streets of Baku carry-

ing a bouquet of roses. President Ilham Aliyev immediately pardoned Safarov and he was promoted to the rank of major and given a new apartment and eight years of back pay.

The Aliyev government's rapacious welcome for Safarov in Baku exposes a fundamental contempt for the rule of law that is the underpinning of any state that aspires to greater integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions. It also further poisons relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the ethnic Armenian territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. The OSCE's Minsk Group (United States, Russia and France) has been trying to work with the parties to fashion a settlement to a crisis that threatens to plunge the Caucasus into war. That effort, already difficult because of years of repeated sniping incidents by Azeri forces, as well as a stream of bellicose statements from Baku, is now even more challenging.

Azerbaijan must pay a high price for its actions. Baku treasures the security assistance that it receives from Washington, not because it needs the money (it does not), but because it signifies a certain closeness in the bilateral relationship. By cutting off military aid to Azerbaijan, the United States would signal its disgust with the Safarov affair, while also reminding Aliyev that the United States will not tolerate any acts of aggression against Armenia or Nagorno-Karabakh.

Furthermore, the United States should immediately suspend all IMET activities with Azerbaijan. According to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, which oversees IMET, the program has two aims:

- To further the goal of regional stability through effective, mutually beneficial military-to-military relations which culminate in increased understanding and defense cooperation between the United States and foreign countries; and

- To increase the ability of foreign national military and civilian personnel to absorb and maintain basic democratic values and protect internationally recognized human rights.

Azerbaijan's actions in pardoning, parading and promoting an axe-murderer like Safarov clearly indicate that our investment there in IMET has been an abject failure. The funding, training and support has plainly not fostered either regional stability or the absorption of democratic values and a respect for human rights.

I would be happy to discuss this issue further with you or your staff, but we cannot continue to embrace a government and a military that operates at cross-purposes to our own interests and in violation of the most basic norms of international behavior.

Sincerely,
Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



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Ticketing / Transportation Department

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- Reservation and issuing of train tickets
- Special offers and Group rates for more than 10 travelers

Department of Incoming & Domestic Tourism

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- Organization of individual and group tours in Armenia
- Organization of vacation in Armenian Rest & Health Resorts,
- Organization of business incentive activities
- Providing transportation services

Outgoing Department

- Worldwide hotel reservation
- Organization of tailored individual and group tours abroad;
- Organization of rest combined with therapeutic treatment at famous European resorts and SPAs
- Visa Support
- Ensuring access to destination information

Department of Educational Tourism

- Professional Courses like ACCA, CIM etc.,
- Language Courses
- Specialized trainings in Accounting, Marketing, Financial Services, Business Development & Sales etc.,
- Undergraduate and Postgraduate Education Worldwide

*There are so many places in the world where you
can spend your money ...
Give us a chance to spend it on you
unforgettable trip!*

Armenian Folk Group "Gurdjieff" Wins Edison Award

Armenia's Gurdjieff Folk Instruments Ensemble has won the 2012 Edison Awards prize for best folk album.

Levon Eskenian, founder of the Ensemble, and members Emmanuel Hovhannisyan and Norayr Gaboyan, travelled to the Dutch city of Eindhoven for the awards ceremony on November 28.

Upon accepting the award Eskenian said, "Winning this award is a great honor for us. It has



given us a huge creative boost. It was also a great opportunity for the ensemble to once again perform on the international stage."

The Edison music award is an annual Dutch music prize, awarded for outstanding achievements in the music industry. It is one of the oldest music awards in the world, having been presented since 1960.

The Gurdjieff Folk Instruments Ensemble was founded in 2008 by the Armenian musician Levon Eskenian with the aim of creating ethnographically



authentic arrangements of the G.I. Gurdjieff/Thomas de Hartmann piano music.

The ensemble consists of leading Eastern folk instrumentalists in Armenia playing duduk, blul/nay, saz, tar, kiamancha, oud, kanon, santur, dap/daf, tombak and dhol.



ABOUT THE "SPIDER"-WOVEN VISION (AND MUCH MORE)

By Samvel Smbatyan

"Life is doomed without the collision of tradition and innovation."-Herbert Read

Inspired by the visual imagery of Sona Van's poem "I Am the Eight-Legged Eternal Spider" from her latest volume of poetry *A Bird Called Chara*, as well as influenced by the poet's free, allegorical thinking, I wrote this "book-length" essay from a film director's perspective using the poem and its brilliantly montaged "shots" as my focal point. In taking this episode, I have tried to highlight the impact of the material unity of pathos and enchanting power in the artistic word (I have only tried . . .).

The Mystery of "Beads Falling from the Pearl Rosary"

The very first poem in Sona Van's latest volume, "I Am the Eight-Legged Eternal Spider," an extremely emotional piece for Armenians that refers to the Great Catastrophe, reverberated in my heart with an instantaneous force, transporting me into the unknown, an Edenic world of which we the living have heard but never seen, with a vision of a blazing sphere, all-encompassing like the sun, emanating the seven rainbow rays of light:

"And at that moment I saw an image more unusual than anything else-beads falling from the pearl rosary with gold thread strung around the one and only God's universe (the tasbih that our forefathers held in their hands for centuries, uttering the words 'bliss,' 'curse,' 'God' . . .), through the light of the ancient Armenian lyra (as I envisioned it), underneath entrancing sounds of sacred hymns, guided by the Muse Erato,* one of the 'sisters of Parnassus,' and angels, calmly falling like snow flakes and lining up with a soldierly discipline

* It is worth mentioning here that there was a queen named Erato in the Armenian antiquity, who, according to Hayk Khachatryan's *The History of Rulers*, "among 141 kings, was the only ruler who was crowned thrice (8 BC - 11 AD). Following the customs of the era, she was named after one of Apollo's Nine Muses-Erato-the muse of love songs. When the queen was asked whether she had experienced the kind of love that was worthy of her name, she answered 'No,' adding, 'My duties as ruler left me with no time for love. I appeared to the world and to the people as Erato, a woman, but I bore the weight of seven kings on my shoulders.'"



Poetry by Sona Van in front of the poet, arranging themselves in the order of "the God-given alphabet of the Azkanazian nation and of the land of Armenia." The light intensified after that moment and in the reflection of the specter, at the apex of the artistic process, the sacred beads like heavenly manna transformed into poetic lines, which with the guidance of the mysterious emissaries, who had descended with a mission to inspire the vatic process of the poet, ascended and disappeared into the infinity of the sky".

And here the vision ended. But it continued on the conscious level of my imaginary through intuitive thinking that these newly created poetic lines, blessed by God, will thrice take their place in the UNIVERSAL GOLDEN ALMANAC of artistic works created by man under the protection of the Highest Patron."

Lessons from a Classic-For Those Who Need Them

Let us return to the real world of Sona Van's poetry, where the optimistically peaceful and bucolic life is full of "roses" and where the sounds of "war" are deafened with a sheet of rose petals. Noyan Tapan continues to publish the works of this prominent representative of vers libre,

whose new series of poems distinguish themselves through their deep philosophico-psychological metaphors and meanings contained in single-word lines.

It is perhaps right to mention in this context that Van's verses are sometimes pleasantly difficult to digest, which might produce different erroneous opinions about the work. The lines that I am citing below from Silva Kaputikyan can serve as a point of clarification and a lesson on how to read Van's poetry.

In her response to Van's literary success, Kaputikyan's evaluation in its theoretical commentary and heart-felt wishes shows a healthy understanding of cultural development activated through a modernist language with its figurations of new collocations. The words of the talented and prolific Kaputikyan are also an astute response to those who depreciate and object to art that is free from clichés and who have deluded ideas about innovative thinking. Kaputikyan's words, at the same time, are a literary commandment to the new generation of poets, who can learn from the modern stylistics, the unusually and minimally structured images in Van's poetry. Addressing her fellow poet in 2003, Kaputikyan congratulates Van on the publication of a new volume of poetry:

"Our poetic handwriting, our poetics, the approaches to art and literature are different, but that doesn't deter me from appreciating your poetry, the freshness of your style, uniqueness, your distinctive perceptions of the divine. Your "God / is my upstairs / neighbor / I / often knock on His door / and ask . . . for an onion / sometimes He helps me / sometimes He doesn't. Your charming feminine "audacity" helps me to deeply think and appreciate your meditative state and your undeniable writing ability. I congratulate you on the publication of the volume I Don't Have a Name and its success and I wish that you find a nourishing literary atmosphere in the Diaspora, which will allow you to fully realize your divine gifts".

(This poem was published in "The Noyan Tapan Highlights", Issue 39, 2012.)

(To be continued)



I am the eight-legged eternal spider

I stretch between the window and the screen ad infinitum between the hollow time of physical death and virtual death

I can see everything from my center

a blossom opened a bit more again a bird sang a familiar song on the screen- a woman gave birth to a son again a soldier blew up before the blossom could open

you see the light first then you hear the sound (the laws of nature are preserved unlike those of the conscience) the light the sound the dust the shoes

she (the mother) screams and falls down

the earth is an underground museum this is the soldier four centuries after his death and here he is-only four hours later everything repeats identically . . . which means something must be wrong

I am the eternal mourner in my four black veils

my grandfather was killed by a

Turk

my father was killed by a German my son was killed by an Azeri and yesterday my daughter gave birth to a son

they killed they killed they killed

history repeats itself identically it's time to elect a new Barabbas

I am the four-part choir of an eternal jeremiad

I am the velvety mezzo-soprano of a virgin I am the lyrical tenor of a new bride

I am the restrained baritone of a widowed woman I am the hoarse bass of my cataracted grandmother

I am the eternal eight-thighed nothingness

my grandmother knelt and gave birth to a son my mother knelt and gave birth to a son I knelt and gave birth to a son my daughter knelt and gave birth to a son

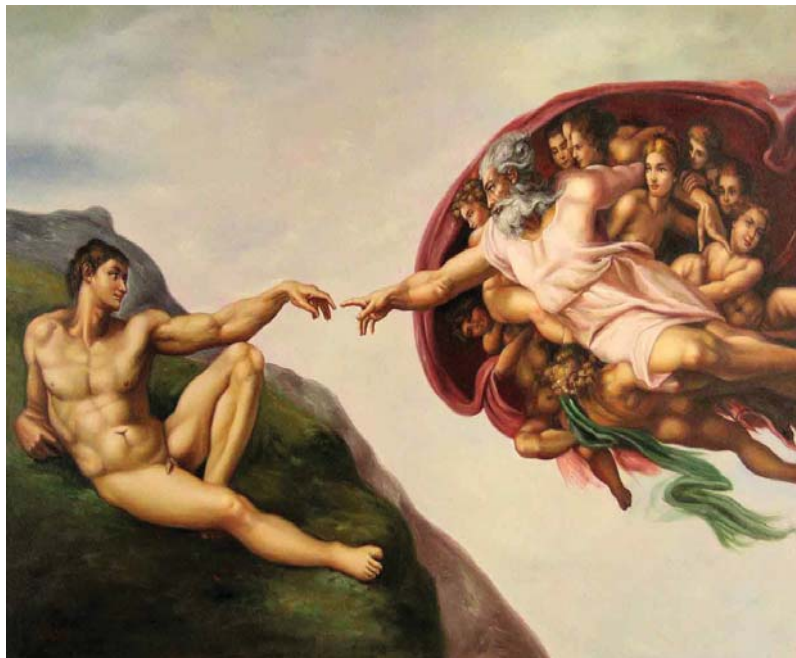
our sons crawl stand up and fall down

the oceans need the drowned

I am the eternal dancer of time the same cabaret dance quartet the same eight-thighed chain of muscles and the same dance of death beneath the flashing lights of guns

my grandmother bends her left knee and looks right my mother bends her left knee and looks right I bend my left knee and look right my daughter bends her left knee and looks right (how I hate these plagiarizing knees)

I am the goddess of war shining in metal in a blood red camouflage skirt with two bombs instead of breasts time touches them and falls down I will always be . . . that's not the question I just need four moods of sadness but it's summer here all year round



Classicism and Modernism together are a condition for the continuation of life

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The mystery of Haghtanak Bridge

Evidence of pre-civilization in Yerevan ?

No attempt has been made so far by Armenian scientists and their colleagues from other countries to reveal the factual evidence, which was discovered in Yerevan about 70 years ago and shows that another, highly developed civilization existed on the earth in prehistoric times. Experts call it "pre-civilization" for convenience.

The last publication about it was released in 2005 when resident of the city of Hrazdan Aramays Gareginian, the son of the man who had discovered the factual evidence, implemented his father's last will and spoke about the discovery made by Armenian builders in 1943.

builder suddenly approached him, saying that they found a strange object. It was the upper part of a metal pole, 25 centimeters in diameter, with a cone-shaped head. There was no doubt that it was an artificially made object, and the metal was so hard that the builders were unable even to scratch it with a tool. There were no rust stains on the metal, although the pole had remained in the wet soil of the riverbed for a long time, perhaps for thousands of years.

When the builders attempted to hit the unfamiliar metal object with heavy hammers, the hammers bounced back like rubber balls. It is well known that a metal hammer



Aramays Gareginian

Aramays Gareginian recounted how the builders of Haghtanak Bridge in Yerevan came across a strange object, after they reached the necessary depth, while digging a base for a supporting column of the bridge in the bed of the Hrazdan River. His father, military engineer Hrant Gareginian was in charge of the team of builders. After finishing excavation works, Hrant Gareginian made the last measurements, and the area was soon to be covered with concrete when a



Hrant Gareginian

always leaves dints even on the hardest steel, but the tools used for cutting metal did not leave any marks on the found object. Hrant Gareginian decided to deepen the hole in order to remove the larger part of the unusual pole from the soil. He informed the management about the object and asked them to give him time for deepening the hole. Receiving permission, the builders made an attempt to pull the pole out of the ground, but their attempts were futile. They came to the conclusion that the pole was only part of a much larger object, which had been made using high technologies - to judge from the metal.

Gareginian suspended the construction work and asked the management to get into touch with the Academy of Sciences, but before scientists could visit the site, on the same day he received an order to resume and finish the work. The managers took a decision to pour concrete into the pit and then to inform the appropriate bodies about the found thing. However,



Gareginian realized that they would not do it because at the time, informing the authorities about such an event posed a double danger: on the one hand the construction managers could be accused of covering the discovered object with concrete, while on the other hand they could be accused of falling behind schedule. In wartime, in case of non-execution of an order or even a delayed execution, one faced the risk of being tried by a military

tribunal. In the postwar period, it was also dangerous to tell anyone about the discovery so all the witnesses of the event kept silent.

It was not until his father's death that Aramays Gareginian told the public about the event in a program of ALM Television Company. After the broadcast of the program, there were a lot of enthusiasts ready to open the supporting columns of the bridge, which would be a dangerous and possibly futile attempt

because, in order to find the mysterious pole, it is necessary first of all to scan and explore the riverbed with special equipment. Yet, when experts undertake this work, it is quite likely that one of the most sensational archeological discoveries awaits us.

The article is based on Armen Petrosyan's documentary film "Unkown Pro Civilization".
<http://www.nt.am/en/news/174309>

Armenia marks 20th anniversary of cooperation with World Bank



The World Bank celebrates the 20th anniversary of cooperation with the Republic of Armenia, which is of great positive influence on the living conditions of children, women and men of Armenia.

The celebration was attended by many guests, including high-ranking officials, representatives of business and banking system, program implementing offices, think tanks, civil society representatives and media.

"This is a significant achievement and we are proud to provide such service for the people of Armenia.

Armenia has gone a long way in the last two decades. In 1990s, thanks to the projects of the government, the citizens have been able to increase their revenues and improve the transportation system and infrastructure, as well as to reduce poverty. Nevertheless, during the global financial crisis the country continues to resist socio-economic challenges. During all these changes the World Bank will continue its involvement in formation of a steady partnership, both in the good and bad times," the World Bank Country Director for South Caucasus Henry Keralin said.

Armenian economy is conducive for trade, investment and technological innovation

Armenian economy has undergone serious transformations during last 20 years; a market environment has been formed thanks to inclusive growth and structural reforms, which today is conducive for trade, investment and technological innovation. This has been noted by World Bank's Country Manager for Armenia Jean-Michel Happi during the reception dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Armenian membership with World Bank.

"We have passed a long way with Armenia, which was aimed to improve living standards. It is of crucial importance for the World Bank to witness the poverty reduction, improvements of public



administration and infrastructure in Armenia. Yet, we acknowledge that there are still some challenges which have to be solved and the World Bank is willing to support Armenian government and nation"

Jean-Michel Happi said.

Armenian and World Bank have implemented 1, 6 billion dollar joint programs during last 20 years.

Tigran Sargsyan: "Armenia and the World Bank are reliable partners"

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan attended a World Bank membership 20th anniversary-dated reception.

Welcoming the participants on behalf of the Government of Armenia, the Prime Minister stated in part, "Armenia's economic reforms and the structural changes are difficult to imagine without the World Bank's active participation. It is no secret that the most important problem faced by transition nations is to mobilize the potential of reforms so that citizens come aware of their impact. The World Bank's mission is just to help get tangible results. There is hardly any area where the World Bank has not been involved, including the disaster zone and the financial sector. I am happy that no World Bank-assisted program has failed so far. We have been doing a teamwork aimed at the strengthening of the State. I wish to reiterate that the World Bank and Armenia are reliable partners, and we are eager to continue working together on our joint programs. We still have a long way to go."

The Prime Minister advised that an exciting discussion had been held with the World Bank team concerning future action, where the Bank's experts provided analyses on how Armenia could address upcoming challenges through new methods and tools.

The head of government thanked the staff of the Bank in the person of the Armenia mission head Jean-Michel Happi for effective cooperation.



Barroso in Yerevan: Visa Simplification, Free Trade Agreement in the Cards



In a move designed to pull Armenia deeper into the European fold, European Commission President Jose Barroso touted the goal of a simplified visa regime between Armenia and the European Union during his visit to Yerevan last week.

"Our long-term goal is clear and we will work for it -- we want visa-free travel," the EU leader declared, adding that a visa facilitation agreement could be signed as early as December 17.

Under the reforms, lower visa fees for all Armenian citizens would

be implemented and waivers would be issued in certain categories, such as family members and pensioners.

Barroso noted that a readmission agreement between Armenia and the EU would soon follow.

Basically, both sides would be obligated to readmit their national who are found to be in "Irregular situations" on the territory of the other party.

In simple parlance, Armenia would be obliged to take back its nationals found to have illegally entered the EU.

While in Yerevan, Barroso also expressed confidence that an economic association agreement, including a "deep and comprehensive free trade" deal, would be ironed out with Armenia in time for the European Union's November 2013 Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius.

"iTechnology.am" The new voice of Armenia's IT



Stanford University: "iTechnology.am," the new voice for the Armenian information technology business sector, will make its digital debut at the ArmTech Congress 2012 at Stanford University. The innovative, monthly, digital magazine presents exclusive tech-specific, business-building news and features in an interactive format that is easy and engaging to browse -- and also completely social-media enabled, available in English, Armenian and Russian.

About the IT Industry in Armenia

-The Armenian Technology sector has has an incredible compounded annual growth rate of 27% between 1998 and 2011.

-For the same period, it has grown almost 2x faster than the Armenian economy reaching \$205.1 million in revenues (2% of GDP) in 2011 and 8% of total exports. An impressive track-record for a landlocked, capital-starved country.

-It is boosting job creation and generating much needed export revenues, becoming a key driver in the sustainability of Armenia's economic development.

The debut issue is available on the Web at www.itechnology.am. It is designed for the iPad, iPhone and other mobile devices and offers 9 exclusive features, including:

-HTML5 or Native App... That is the question - An in depth look at using HTML5 vs native apps for software development.

-Understanding Content Marketing: Six Questions for Getting Started - By Harvey Hudes, the founder of Caliber Corporate Advisers, a New York-based integrated marketing firm. (Syndicated from CommPRO.biz)

-Learn Computer Science in Armenia for Free - Listings of the growing education options from around the world for Armenians.

-Gyumri Information Technologies Center - A look at the educational tech center that is the IT catalyst in Gyumri, Armenia's second largest city.

The publication is available, free of charge, to professionals interested in the development of the information technology (IT) business sector in Armenia and around the world. The publication features content syndicated from CommPRO.biz, the international online hub for marketing communications news and knowledge.

For more information, please visit www.iTechnology.am.

About iTechnology.am

iTechnology.am, the monthly, digital magazine, is the new destination for the Armenian information technology business sector. Created to give the fast-growing Information Technology sector in Armenia a new voice.

Talking about the Neighbourhood

Export Helpdesk - your gateway to European markets

Imagine you own a small company in Armenia and you're about to take a strategic decision as to whether to export your dried fruit or apples to the European Union. Will the business be profitable? What are the chances of success? The EU's Export Helpdesk is your first port of call to find answers to these sorts of questions, explains Holger Standertskjold-Nordenstam, Head of the Information, Communication and Civil Society Unit at the European Commission's Directorate General for Trade, in an exclusive interview with the EU Neighbourhood Info Centre.

Interview with Holger Standertskjold-Nordenstam

How would you describe the EU's Export Helpdesk?

The Export Helpdesk is a single point of access for online information about exporting to Europe. The idea was to set up a platform for companies from non-EU countries wanting to sell products on the EU market. The system is built in such a way as to reflect, in real time, the conditions for exporting any type of item, from handbags and t-shirts to honey and wines. It takes into account existing standards, trade agreements, rules of origin, etc. What's important is that it's not a static database but a system that allows you to make precise calculations depending on which country you come from and what exactly you want to export.

The Export Helpdesk was established in 2004 and, to date, the EU is the only trade partner in the world to offer such a service.

The key to its effectiveness is its wide scope of dissemination. People should be able to access the information on it in languages that they understand. The helpdesk is in English, French, Russian and Arabic. It's also in Spanish and Portuguese.

As regards the EU's neighbourhood, we have long-standing relations with the southern neighbours, where association agreements have been in force for a long time, and we now see ever-growing interest from the EU's closest neighbours to the east. The Export Helpdesk translation into Russian in 2010 was a clear step from the EU towards its neighbours.

The Export Helpdesk mainly assists smaller companies and newcomers on the market. They're the backbone of any economy. They're the ones that generate real economic growth and change a country's performance.

So how does the Export Helpdesk function?

First and foremost, anyone who is not an expert in trade should be able to use it. Once you've decided what you want to export, you find the code of the product in the database and start the search. The platform will come up with the actual rules that apply to your product and your country. The goal is to provide concrete information applied to your specific case. A potential exporter's calculations need to be based on very precise information. If someone is exporting

wines from Armenia, they don't want nasty surprises such as finding that their precious wine is stuck at the border. Any mistake of that kind can be very costly. The Export Helpdesk informs you on what to do and which documents you need to avoid that.

Do you have a call centre?

You cannot run a call centre in our case because you cannot have people with this type of expertise working full time. We have a service that collects questions and provides answers to the questions. You can send a request using the online form. You should count on getting an answer within two to three days.

Where would a small Armenian company that wants to export fruits to the European market start?

It should start by using the Export Helpdesk website to find out what sort of conditions apply in its case, such as health requirements. So it would check the phyto-sanitary rules that are in place. All food products, be they wine, fish or ice cream, have to comply with EU health standards and proof that they do so. There are also rules you must know such as "what to affix on the label?"

The Export Helpdesk can help users find all this information. To make it easier, we train people on how to use the system jointly with the EU delegations as well as through business associations and chambers of commerce. The idea is to have a multiplier effect whereby big users from industry get the training and then they disseminate information to their networks.

Do you keep track of the number of users and the type of information people search?

Yes, we have very detailed statistics by product and by country. In fact, the request may not come from the country where the product originates. It could be a wine merchant in London or Amsterdam enquiring about a particular brand of wine. By pulling these figures together, we are building a bigger picture that shows the distribution of products by country and by region.

Is exporting to Europe from the EU's Neighbourhood countries affected by the current financial crisis?

No, the EU is still the biggest market for these countries. In fact, over 40% of their exports go to Europe. We are not closing our doors because of the financial crisis. Europe continues to be the biggest importer and exporter in the world and there is a big demand for goods here.

In reality, we've seen a marked increase in the use made of the Export Helpdesk over the years. In fact usage has doubled in the last five years, growing by 20% per year. This has happened despite the turbulence in the EU's southern neighbourhood. By comparison, the EU's eastern neighbourhood has not been that turbulent.

What are the main achievements of the Helpdesk?

The biggest one is that it is up and running and that it's free. No country or region in the world has ever offered this kind of service to busi-



nesses that want to export to it. Normally what you do is you look after the interests of your own companies. In our case the whole operation was put together because we realised that trade is a two-way street. That's why the EU wanted to help exporters in other countries.

The EU is now negotiating new association agreements, including deep and comprehensive free trade areas, with eastern partners. When they come into force, how rapidly will the platform be adjusted to reflect the new situation?

The new agreements will not be implemented overnight. On the EU side, we need to allow time for the customs service in the EU's member states to start applying the new rules. The amount of time depends on the size of the country and the volume of trade. Let's say the agreement with Armenia will enter into force on a specific date. We would know that date about a year in advance. This time will also be used to update our system.

What is your biggest challenge?

The reason why it is difficult to set up a system like ours is that it contains an enormous amount of information given covering so many countries. So we provide detailed information on what kind of requirements exist, tariffs apply, preferential conditions affect, rules of origin relate to products exported from 176 countries. This data has to be continuously fed into the system, updated and translated because the conditions are changing all the time. One single error in the system might result in erroneous calculations for a company when it's about to take a strategic decision as to whether or not to export to the EU. For example, one day a GSP (Generalised System of Preferences) agreement comes into force. All of a sudden the exporter discovers that he does not have to pay any duty to enter the EU market. That is a lot of money he can save!

Another big challenge, strange as it may seem, is to keep users aware that the Export Helpdesk exists, otherwise there would be no point in maintaining it. We need to keep both exporters and importers in the EU aware of it, because, after all, trucks carrying goods go in both directions.

In Focus

Export Helpdesk

http://exporthelp.europa.eu/thdapp/index_en.html

EU Neighbourhood Info Centre Library - Export Helpdesk publications

http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id=401&id_type=9&lang_id=450

Winning Move: Chess Reigns as Kingly Pursuit in Armenia

No One is Bored With Board Game in Nation That Adores Grandmasters

By Joe Parkinson, The Wall Street Journal

YEREVAN, Armenia-Reporters stake out Tigran Petrosian's home. Fans seek his autograph. His image is splashed across magazine covers, and his youthful face beams from posters on teenagers' walls.

The sturdy 28-year-old isn't a star athlete or a movie star. He is a chess grandmaster. In this chess-crazy country, that makes him a king among pawns.

"Chess here is like soccer in Brazil or football in America," Mr. Petrosian said over coffee at the Yerevan Chess Academy ahead of a concert to honor the country's top players. The concert featured musicians and singers performing in front of 10-foot-high chess boards while the audience clapped rapturously.

Mr. Petrosian-whose father named him Tigran after a former chess champion with the same surname-is one of a legion of top chess players that have catapulted this poor nation of three million into world beaters on the 64-square board. In September, he was part of the five-man squad that claimed Armenia's second consecutive gold medal at the World Chess Olympiad.

Being good in chess carries big benefits in Armenia. Top players say they struggle to be allowed to pay for gasoline or parking. Restaurant bills sometimes never materialize when they go out to eat.

"Some girls giggle when they see us on the streets and some even give me presents," says 30-year-old Levon Aronian, Armenia's No. 1 player and the second-ranked player in the world. "Most of us are just regular nerds, so it's quite a lot to get used to. I've changed the way I dress for photo shoots but that's all."

Armenia's veneration of its chess players recalls a bygone era when the game produced a series of global household names.

In a Cold War grudge match that captivated audiences worldwide, American Bobby Fischer in 1972 broke Soviet dominance by beating champion Boris Spassky. Chess is still popular across much of the former Soviet Union, a legacy of Moscow's patronage of a game it said demonstrated its intellectual superiority over the West.

But whereas chess players are on their own in many Soviet spin-offs, they still have full state support in Armenia. The country's president, Serzh Sargsyan, also is the president of the Armenian Chess Federation.

In September 2011, his government passed legislation that made chess compulsory in schools. Promising players get

free training at elite chess academies. The state pays for children to play in foreign championships and pays a salary to all grandmasters.

Mr. Sargsyan hailed a "golden age" for Armenian chess in a speech earlier this year. "It continues to inspire our society with belief in its own strength and self-confidence," he said.

Armenia's love affair with the game is less than half a century old. The country caught the chess bug on May 20, 1963, when 33-year-old Tigran Petrosian, no relation to the current player, dethroned reigning world champion Mikhail Botvinnik, a Soviet, over a grinding 24-game match.

Nicknamed "Iron Tigran" because of his impenetrable defense, Mr. Petrosian's victory made him a national hero. Thousands of families named their children Tigran in his honor.

"In the U.S., everyone can remember where they were when President Kennedy was killed. In Armenia, everyone can remember where they were when Petrosian won that championship," said Aram Hajian, board member of the Chess Academy of Armenia.

Nowadays, chess fever starts young in the country.

At the Patriarch Vasgen elementary school in Yerevan's northern suburbs, aspiring grandmasters daily squeeze into the chess room: a makeshift shrine adorned with the sober faces of former champions and half a dozen huge magnetic boards showcasing the game's most celebrated offensive and defensive plays.

All boards, pieces and textbooks are provided by the government. The children switch between theory and practice and sit through a written test every two months. The teacher, Marina Kamalyan, a frizzy-haired chess evangelist who plays online late most nights, insists on total dedication from the pupils.

"Chess is a real passion that is a metaphor for life. Education is a very important part of our mentality in Armenia, and I want to pass on this passion to the children," Mrs. Kamalyan said as she moved white pieces into an unassailable position on one of the class's wall-mounted magnetic boards.

Many of these children are already veterans, but they are determined to join Armenia's top players as world beaters.

"I want to be world champion. Grandmaster is not good enough," says 9-year-old Yervan Davtyan, after thrashing a reporter in a game lasting less than 15 minutes.

I taught my mother how to play better, but I didn't show her all the secrets because I want to be the best," adds 8-year-old Julia Hakobyan.

Karabakh War Comes to Hollywood, Courtesy of Azerbaijan



By Harut Sassounian

The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Karabakh (Artsakh) should not give free license to anyone to make racist and insulting statements about people on the other side of the border. Even under war conditions, there are civilized norms of behavior.

Since these two neighboring countries are in the midst of delicate negotiations to resolve their thorny conflict, it is highly irresponsible to pour oil on the fire by inciting inter-ethnic and inter-religious hatred, and inflaming pent up emotions! While some Armenians may engage in periodic emotional outbursts, Azerbaijan's leaders have elevated the making of racist statements and anti-Armenian threats into state policy!

Such despicable behavior has caused the Artsakh conflict to spill over into Hungary (by using an axe), Mexico (by offering a \$5 million bounty for Aliyev's statue with an anti-Armenian plaque in a park), and many other countries around the world, thousands of miles away from the actual theater of conflict!

The Azeris have now decided to fight the Artsakh war in Hollywood, after Armenia officially submitted for an Oscar an innocuous film titled "If Only Everyone," for the category of Best Foreign Film. The movie's American premiere was held last Saturday at the ARPA International Film Festival in Hollywood.

The Armenian movie depicts the story of a young Russian girl whose father was killed during the Artsakh war. Twenty years later, she comes to Armenia hoping that the Commander of her father's military unit would help locate his unmarked grave. After a lengthy search, the young girl discovers that her father's grave lies on the other side of the border, inside Azerbaijan. She and the Armenian Commander cross the frontline surreptitiously in the cover of darkness, and while planting a birch tree by her father's grave, are confronted by an armed Azeri shepherd who threatens to shoot them. Upon learning that the girl's father is buried there, the Azeri lets them go safely after telling them with a heavy heart, that his 10-year-old son had also died during the war after stepping on a landmine. The Azeri shepherd tells that he is

unable to visit his son's grave because it is located inside Artsakh. The movie ends on a high note with a wonderful gesture, when the Russian girl and her Armenian companions plant another tree, this time next to the young Azeri boy's grave.

Even though the movie neither contains anti-Azeri rhetoric nor depicts any scenes of the Karabakh war, Azerbaijani journalists have harshly attacked it without having seen a single clip. Apparently, the fact that it was an Armenian film was enough reason for them to try and undermine its submission for the Academy Awards! The Azeri media falsely labeled the movie as a "propaganda film" and an example of "the information war unleashed by Armenia against Azerbaijan."

To make matters worse, Ali Hajizade, an Azeri journalist, attacked TeniMelidonian, the publicist for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for simply being of Armenian heritage! As part of her official duties, she had issued a press release that named all 71 foreign countries that had submitted movies for the Foreign Language Film category, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey!

It is important for Azeris to understand that such racist remarks have no place in civilized society. The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan needs to be resolved through peaceful negotiations, not by hurling xenophobic insults.

Someday, when peace returns to the region, Armenians and Azeris will have to live side by side, not as enemies, but as neighbors and friends. Azeris who are engaged in sowing seeds of hatred and racism are not only besmirching their own reputation, but unnecessarily aggravating and prolonging the antagonism between the two peoples.

Fortunately, Armenians have refrained from retaliating against the film submitted by Azerbaijan to the Oscars. Political feuds should not be converted into cultural wars or personal vendettas. May the best movie win regardless of whether it is produced by an Armenian, an Azeri or a Turk! The Academy will announce the short list of nine films in the Foreign Language Film category on December 20, 2012, the five finalists on January 10, 2013, and the Oscar winner on February 24, 2013.

"If Only Everyone" is co-produced by TerezaVarzhapetyan and award winning actor and director Michael Poghosyan, who plays the role of the retired Armenian Commander. Natalia Belyauskene is the director and Ekaterina Shitova plays the role of the young Russian girl. The movie was screened in Yerevan, Moscow, Paris, Bucharest, and Hollywood, and has won several awards at international film festivals.

Armenia Embraces Syrians, Warily

Joe Parkinson, the Wall Street Journal's Turkey Bureau Chief, has been reporting from Yerevan this week. His first article, *Winning Move: Chess Reigns as Kingly Pursuit in Armenia*, deals with the government's 2011 decision to make chess compulsory in schools.

Armenia Embraces Syrians, Warily, is Parkinson's most recent article and covers the plight of Armenians who have fled Syria for safe haven in Armenia.

It would appear that the Wall Street Journal still believes that when it comes to describing the events of 1915 there are two sides to the story.

Syria's war, which has already sparked refugee crises just across its border in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, is also bringing strains to Armenia, a Christian country hundreds of miles away. Ethnic Armenians fleeing primarily from Aleppo, Syria's commercial hub and a major battleground in its civil war, have found an unlikely meeting point in Armenia's capital, on a dusty side street bracketed by Soviet-era apartment blocks. Buzzing with machinery, and heavy with the smell of motor oil, Glinkai Street houses more than a dozen metal and auto workshops where groups of Syrian-Armenian men gather to seek jobs, drink tea and trade the latest grim news from home. "I'm lucky, since there's not much work here," said a 27-year-old who gave his name as Tigran. He said he arrived from Aleppo with his mother in September and now makes \$200 a month replacing pistons in car engines. "People who can't work have no way to block out what they've left behind."

Syrian Refugees Head for Armenia

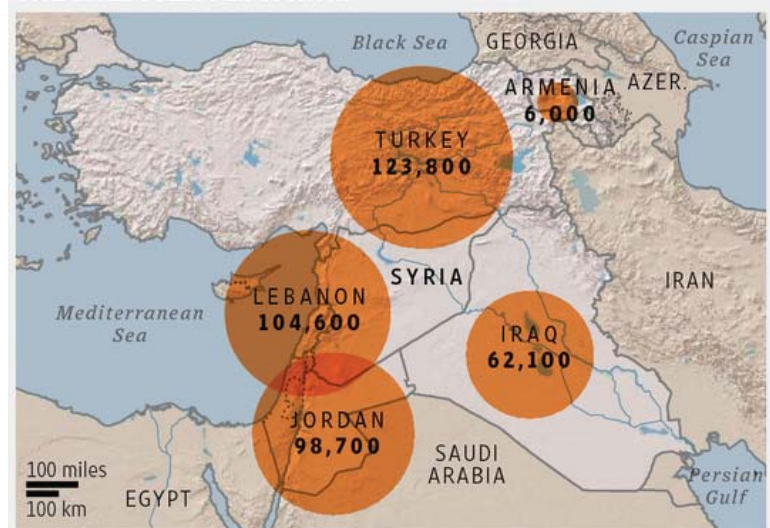
So far in Syria's 20-month uprising, about 6,000 members of Syria's Armenian community have fled to the country—a journey that in many cases marks a new displacement for families who fled killings a century earlier in the Ottoman Empire. Many have arrived in just the past few months, Armenia's Diaspora Ministry says, raising fears that the country may be bracing for a much larger wave.

Roughly 100,000 Armenians call Syria home, part of a larger population of Christians there who fear reprisals from opposition sympathizers because many of their communities have backed President Bashar al-Assad's regime. Many Armenians fear a repeat of the past decade in Iraq, where sectarian violence after the 2003 overthrow of Saddam Hussein forced half of the Christian population to flee.

"The government has looked overwhelmed," said Richard Giragosian, director of the independent Regional Studies Center in Yerevan. "No one [in the government] is talking about it, but everyone is thinking about the prospect of a surge in refugee numbers if Christians get persecuted as they did in Iraq."

The refugee influx, though minor relative to the 400,000-plus people that the United Nations says have taken refuge in countries bordering Syria, poses an outside problem for this small, landlocked and impoverished former Soviet republic of three million people. The government is already battling unemployment of over 20%, according to the International Monetary Fund, and a decline in remittances from diaspora communities ahead of national elections due in February.

SYRIAN REFUGEES PER COUNTRY



"We have said all Armenians are welcome, but our country is not in the best economic situation," said Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan. "These people need jobs and they need income."

Armenia has offered returning Armenians visas upon arrival, recognized Syrian driver's licenses and expedited applications for Armenian passports as part of a dual-citizenship law. Two state elementary schools in the capital, Yerevan, are offering classes where Syrian-Armenian children follow the Syrian curriculum. Many new arrivals are staying with relatives in Yerevan. Others have sought shelter in state accommodation. The congregation of Yerevan's 17th-century St. Sarkis Church has swollen with refugees.

The influx began in earnest in late summer, when Aleppo-home to more than 80% of Syria's Armenian community, the Diaspora Ministry estimates—became the focus of an offensive by rebels opposing President Assad. Since then, Syria's largest city has been engulfed in street-by-street fighting between government forces and opposition militias, including some that residents and rebel fighters have said are al Qaeda-allied extremist bands.

Some Armenians fled quickly with few belongings, catching a direct flight from Aleppo on former state airliner Armavia. Others, laden with bags packed for a longer stay, boarded buses set for a dangerous two-day journey through rebel-held territory before heading north through Turkey and the former Soviet Republic of Georgia.

Predominantly middle-class merchants, members of the community paint a picture of Syria's descent into violence that is at odds with the one presented by opposition activists. The opposition narrative describes one-sided aggression by Syria's regime, an account bolstered by an October estimate by the United Nations that more than 20,000 civilians have been killed by government forces since the uprising began in February 2011.

But many displaced Armenians here echo Mr. Assad's portrayal of rebel fighters, almost exclusively Sunnis from Syria's countryside, as terrorists. They voice support for Damascus's efforts to crush the uprising.

One 22-year-old former shop manager in Aleppo's Armenian-dominated Midan district, who gave his name as HakobJackian, said he fled in September with his mother and 20-year-old brother. A series of rebel-instigated gun battles and car bombs made it impossible to remain in the city, he said. "You wouldn't know when it would start. It would be quiet then terrorists with machine guns would come and

explosions would send shrapnel flying toward us," he said, as he played YouTube clips of violent clashes in his neighborhood in which Sunni militias paraded in pickups and appeared to be looting residents' houses. "I still love my president. Even now 80% of people are still happy with him."

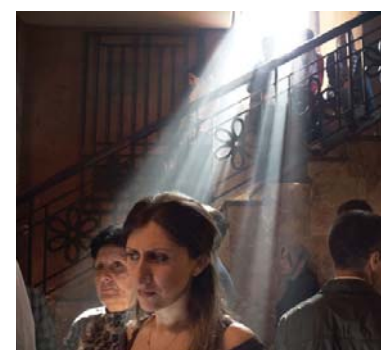
Syria's Assad regime, dominated by the Shiite-linked Alawite sect, actively courted the country's 2.5 million Christians as a bulwark against the country's majority population of some 17 million Sunni Muslims. The patronage translated into relative prosperity, meaning many refugees here have left behind properties, gold holdings and bank savings. International sanctions and a government cap on withdrawals have made it difficult to transfer money out of the country.

"We all smuggled the family gold, including in my son's Pampers," said HovigAsmeryan, a 34-year-old trader, who fled Aleppo in late September with family and friends in a nine-car convoy and said he plans to stay. "The violence isn't going to stop anytime soon and our president won't be able to hold power," he said.

Mr. Asmeryan was one of the few refugees who agreed to be identified by his full name. Syrian intelligence services are still active in Armenia, according to refugees and Armenia's government, and refugees say they fear that revealing their identity could hurt their chances of returning home or leave family members in Syria vulnerable to retribution.

For some here, the shock of being uprooted from their homes is magnified by the ghosts of previous sectarian slaughter. The majority of Syrian Armenians are descended from communities who fled what Armenians say was the mass killings of up to 1.5 million Armenians by Turks during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1915. Turkey rejects the accusation, saying there were heavy losses of life on both sides.

"My grandfather lost all three brothers when the family fled from Turkey," said Samvel, a 62-year-old houseware manufacturer who said he expected to return to Aleppo, and his family's gold, after a month. Now he doesn't know if he'll be able to return. "We are again refugees."



Moscow steps up pressure on Azerbaijan

From page 1

Russia remains the biggest seller of arms to Azerbaijan.

We believe that despite the sharp contradictions over the prolongation of the lease of the Gabala Radar Station, the sides will sign a new agreement by December 24. The agreement will be either the result of a compromise, or it will be a short-term agreement (for a period of 14-18 months), with the sides continuing the talks on an early agreement.

In order to put pressure on Baku concerning the Gabala Radar Station, gas deliveries to Western markets, and some other issues, Russia for the time being uses the following arsenal:

- i) Azerbaijan's mass media is deeply concerned that in September the "Sadval" Lezgin organization became active again in the city of Makhachkala (Dagestan). Nazim Gajiyev, one of Sadval's activists in the 1990s, has become the organization's new chairman. In his words, the objective of Sadval is the unification of the Lezgins. Gajiyev speaks about the oppression of Lezgins in Azerbaijan and the absence of schools, radio and television in the native language there. These are demands for virtual cultural autonomy, which coincide with the obligations that Baku has assumed within the framework of a number of international organizations, first of all European ones. The head of the Federal National-Cultural Autonomy of Lezgins Arif Kerimov, too, welcomed the revival of Sadval. In the opinion of Baku, Sadval was set up by Russia's special service, is directed against Azerbaijan and aims to change its foreign policy orientation.

- ii) the Union of Azerbaijani Organizations in Russia, composed of wealthiest Azerbaijanis who are also Russian citizens, was founded in Moscow. This theme continues to be one of the main subjects in the social and political life of Azerbaijan. Let us remind you that among the founders of the Union are President of LUKOIL Company Vagit Alekperov, President of Crocus Holding Araz Agalarov (a relative of President Ilham Aliyev, whose daughter is married to Agalarov's son. Sources in Russian society columns claim that their marriage is on the brink of breakup.), the owner of AST Group of companies Telman Ismailov, and others. The above-mentioned event attracted the attention of Azerbaijan's traditional opposition as well, which has always taken a skeptical view of any political initiative related to Russia. Those in Baku do not rule out that the Union of Azerbaijani Organizations in Russia was initiated by the Kremlin in view of the upcoming presidential election due in Azerbaijan in 2013 and is directed against President Ilham Aliyev personally. The Azerbaijani press also pays attention to the circumstance that Moscow shows a keen



interest in all the potential alternative candidates for Azerbaijani President - something that Moscow did not do in previous years.

- iii) next year, markets which employ Azerbaijanis, too, may be closed in Russia. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin announced that the process will be completed by June 1, 2013.

Considering that 2013 is a year of a presidential election in Azerbaijan, the return of tens of thousands of citizens to the country will create serious problems for the authorities. A sizable proportion of the population, especially residents of Azerbaijani provinces, lives thanks to remittances sent by Azerbaijani migrants working in Russia. Some three million Azerbaijanis work in Russia, sending money to their families in the homeland. The amount of their remittances is comparable to state budget allocations for the social sphere: salaries, pensions, and benefits. Thus, about \$3 billion a year is allocated from the state budget of Azerbaijan to the indicated sphere. Assuming each of the three million Azerbaijanis in Russia annually sends remittances of a thousand dollars to his/her family, the total amount is the same - \$3 billion. This total includes the money transferred through banks. In reality, there are also cash remittances sent to the homeland through friends and not shown by official statistics. Experts believe that the restrictions imposed by Russia will affect first of all the population of Azerbaijani regions and the social conditions of residents of the provinces will worsen. On the other hand, the return of migrants will result in problems related to employment of the population as people will have no jobs.

All this will become an additional problem for Baku in the year of the presidential election and will increase both social and socio-political tension.

In an effort to ease the tension in its relations with Russia, Baku is trying to make some concessions to Moscow. For example, the State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan has made a decision to invest some of its shares (in the form of ruble deposits) in Russian banks, although experts consider investments in Russian currency, which

is likely to depreciate, as risky. According to independent Azerbaijani experts, it would have been more expedient for Baku, which decided to make a political gesture, to invest money in securities of Russian companies.

Besides, Azerbaijan believes that the pressure exerted by Moscow has to do with the Russian plans to re-create the USSR in a new form and, for achieving this purpose, to put pressure on those countries of the CIS, which are opposed to such projects. The matter concerns the project of the Customs Union and the Eurasian Union.

In the opinion of the leader of the extra-parliamentary Azerbaijan Democratic Party (ADP) Sardar Jalalov, in any state the poor strata of society may be oriented towards various foreign forces, setting hopes for their lives' improvement on such forces. Taking into account the economic conditions of Azerbaijan's population, the emergence of such groups in the country is likely, the more so because (according to Jalalov) there are quite a few pro-Russian forces in Azerbaijan. "We have strong 200-year-long links with Russia. Many are overcome with nostalgia for the former relations with it. In addition, some three million Azerbaijanis currently work in Russia and thousands of Azerbaijani families manage to live thanks to remittances sent to them. In this connection, an activation of pro-Russian forces in Azerbaijan is not ruled out," Jalalov said.

The aforesaid shows that one cannot rule out processes, during which Moscow may step up its pressure on Azerbaijan to make it return to the fairway of Russian politics or at least to prevent it from going over any "red lines". In particular, the matter concerns the fact that Moscow is not interested at all in Azerbaijani deliveries of 8-10 billion cubic meters of gas annually to Western consumers

It is noteworthy that all this is taking place against such a backdrop when the Europeans will evidently have to give up the Nabucco project since there is a strong probability that Nabucco's main designer - Germany's energy company RWE will leave the project.

Armenian Churches in Tbilisi, Yesterday and Today" Exhibition Opens in Georgia

An exhibition entitled "Armenian Churches in Tbilisi, Yesterday and Today" opened on December 1, 2012 at the "Hayartun" Cultural Center of the Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church in Georgia.

The exhibition is dedicated to the founders of the Armenian Church Apostles Bartholomew and Thaddeus.

The idea of the exhibition belongs to Varujan Khachaturov (Jean Khach), a well known Armenian painter from Tbilisi, who died too young.

"Hayartun" Cultural Center at the Georgian-Armenian Diocese, the Union of Armenian Painters of Georgia and the National Archives of Armenia with the support of Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Diaspora

churches in Tbilisi; some of them are partially or completely destroyed, confiscated and not returned to rightful owner. He recalled Church of the Red Gospel and Saint Gevorg of Mughni Church being in ruins, and Church of the Holy Seal the belfry of which had collapsed.

The historian Yenok Tadevosyan represented the history of the Armenian community and Armenian churches in Tbilisi.

Director of the National Archives of Armenia Amatuni Virabyan spoke about the scientific work that archivists had to spend in order to restore the history of Armenian churches in Tbilisi. He also introduced a delegation from Yerevan that included Samvel Muradian, head of Cultural Relations of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, Sonya



of the Republic of Armenia are the organizers of the event.

There were 26 Armenian churches in Tbilisi until 1930, one part of them was destroyed by the Soviet authorities and the other part in the 1990s' became Georgian. The ideological basis of the exhibition is to represent Armenian churches in Tbilisi working until 1990s', but nowadays destroyed, not working or made Georgian. The paintings of Armenian and Georgian artists from Tbilisi and other regions participated in the exhibition.

Sergo Vardosanidze, professor and rector of the St. Andrew University at the Georgian Patriarchate, and sheikh Vagif Akperov, the leader of Muslims Department in Georgia, were the guests of honor at the exhibition. The event was attended by poet and translator Givi Shakhnazar, Van Baiburtian, Advisor to the President of Georgia and the editor of "Vrastan" ("Georgia"), Henry Muradyan, Chairman of the Union of Armenians in Georgia, representatives of Embassy of the Republic of Armenia to Georgia, intellectuals, artists and ordinary citizens.

At the beginning of the event Levon Chidilyan, Coordinator of the "Hayartun" Cultural Center, noted that the exhibition presented works of 15 artists that showed all of the 26 previously existing historic Armenian churches in Tbilisi.

Merujan Shaumyan, Chairman of the Union of Armenian Painters of Georgia, presented a detailed account about the history of the Armenian

Mirzoyan, deputy director of the National Archives of Armenia, and researcher, Ph.D. in History Gohar Avakyan.

After that Beka Mindiashvili, the head of Georgian Public Defender's Office, famous artist Giovanni Vepkhvadze, and an archaeologist Sarkis Darchinyan said in their speech that respect for the protection of religious monuments is the responsibility of the government of every civilized and democratic state.

The leader of the Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church in Georgia, His Grace Bishop Vazgen Mirzakhanyan praised and blessed everyone who helped to materialize the idea of organizing the exhibition. According to the head of the Diocese, Armenians living in Georgia always praised the government and the people of Georgia. But we Armenians also have the right to demand from the Georgian authorities to provide a solution for the issue of six Armenian churches, confiscated during the Soviet period and inactive today. (Five of these temples are located in Tbilisi and one in Akhaltsikhe.)

The head of the Diocese thanked monuments specialist Samvel Karapetyan for publishing a series of booklets in three languages about Armenian churches in Tbilisi. At the end of the exhibition 150 slides about Church of the Holy Seal were shown and leaflets were distributed to the public.

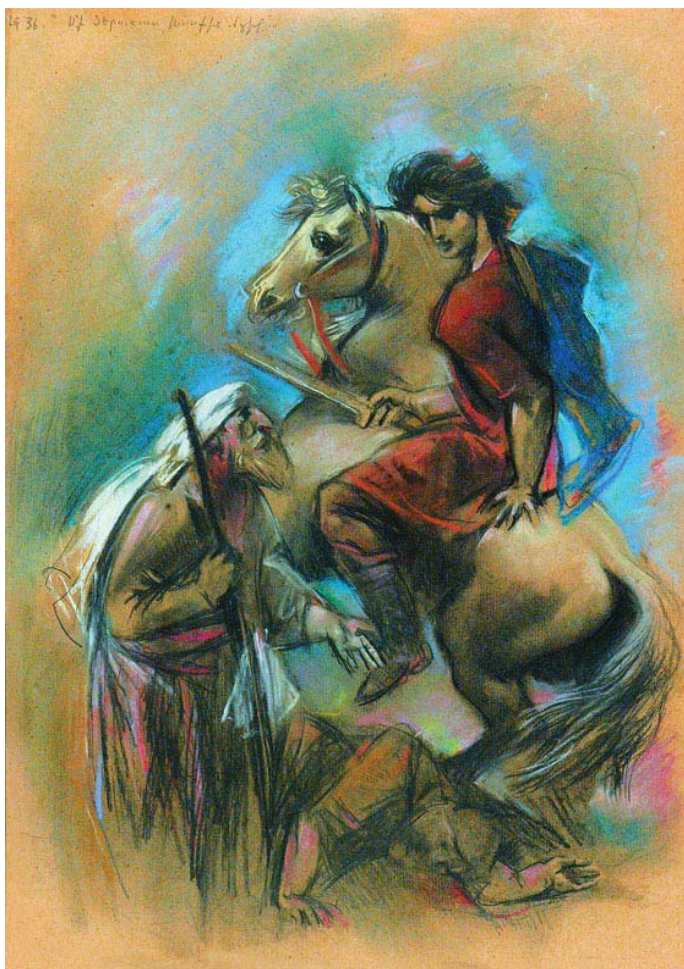
The exhibition will run until December 10, 2012.

UNESCO includes Armenian epic poem in intangible cultural heritage list

Armenian epic poem "David of Sassoun" was included in the list of Intangible cultural heritage (ICH). Our epos was recognized as universal cultural value. Artur Poghosyan, Armenian Deputy Minister of Culture stated in the briefing with Armenpress. The issue was envisaged in UNESCO Commission's Intergovernmental Committee dealing with Intangible cultural heritage protection issues on December 4 session. The inclusion of the epos is of great importance regarding political and cultural point of view. Earlier deputy minister stated UNESCO Intangible cultural heritage convention has already paved away for a political platform. The possible inclusion of epos is of great importance regarding political and cultural point of view. Morning session discussion will further show what developments will be performed then.

Over 60 applications are included in Commission's Intergovernmental Committee's session dealing with Intangible cultural heritage protection issues.

Last year Armenian khachkar - "Armenian cross-stones art. Symbolism and craftsmanship of Khachkars"- was included in the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.



ARMENIAN POETRY

Sona Van

ASAKA

Nietzsche convinced me
not to trust God
and Kafka-
the regular official
and I move fearfully
in a pointless bout
from one country to another
like a frenzied soldier
green and yellow branches on my head

now . . . years later
I have completely turned
into a tree
(my name is Asaka now)
and I too like
when some other tree grows
on my body
in my sleep

I too
like rhymed texts
plants and sex
like Darwin
and I like the whim
of the Japanese dwarf tree
to stick out impatiently
its last leaf as a woman's palm

like an interrupted slap
against time

I am a tree
with full hips
heavy metal
gold and folklore
and
the reason
of my sadness here
is the same

as the reason
of your sadness over there
in Yerevan



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

Your attitude about yourself is not altogether accurate right now. You may think way too much of your ideas, or alternately, you may see yourself as lower than scum. Neither one is accurate and you should probably not make decisions of any importance this week. Spiritual pursuits are given a "go" signal.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

Issues of commitment in one or more relationships become prominent. You may be struggling over whether to commit to what is in front of you versus looking for a better possibility. If this is so, you probably aren't really ready to find the one who will tempt you into commitment. Someone enters your life as a spiritual "teacher" near the 11th.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

Pay attention to "messages" that people offer to you over the next two weeks. A piece of information or a discussion is likely to be exactly the thing you need/want to hear at this time. Accept education from wherever it comes. The message may even come through your body.

Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

Your mind and heart are clearly in sync at this time. You are likely at peace with yourself. There is a solid and practical solution at hand and you do not have to quarrel with yourself over it. Activities involving your children and/or other creative products of your being are favored. Love life flows smoothly.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

You have enough energy to spare. Apply heavy muscle to exercise or a chore that needs to be done. Otherwise you may become snappy and are liable to pick a fight. Work with those who share your rhythm this week, or you may say things that you'll wish you had not.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

You are in a reasonably good place with yourself at this time. Your heart and mind are flowing together. You have no conflict between your feelings and your thoughts about those feelings. This is a time for reflection on important subjects. You can make good decisions now.

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

One or more relationships in your life seem weird right now. It's possible that someone will be eccentric, irascible, or shift from one foot to the other. It is also possible that you are being manipulated by someone who is not necessarily being a friend. If you feel wary, heed that internal voice and use caution.

Scorpio (Oct. 23--Nov. 21)

Sometimes we are pressed to see the flaws, even in those things and people we love the most. You are not at fault in this situation, though you may be looking for what you "could-a/ would-a/, should-a/" done. You did the best you could at the time.

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

You have more energy than you know how to manage this week. Use caution when driving because your accelerator foot is probably a bit heavy. Pour that muscle into making the work you need to do to take yourself to the next level. Your fire is high and may overwhelm others.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

Your leadership ability may be tapped in order to serve a greater whole over the next two weeks. In the beginning you may feel that you "can't" do it, but by the weekend you will have a much stronger sense of confidence. You must relax and go with the flow.

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

This is a really good time to sniff out the weak spots in your plans and make reparations before it is too late. Do some research. Talk to people in the background. It may be that the Powers That Be might back you. Follow the ground rules strictly. There is not much wiggle room here.

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

Take every precaution not to abuse your body during this period. Drugs or alcohol could have peculiar side effects. You are in a low physical cycle and will be unable to push yourself as hard as normal on any physical task. If you are affected emotionally, try not to worry about it. Your body/feelings will right themselves after the 15th.

HUMOR

Horse or chicken?

A retiring farmer in preparation for selling his land, needed to rid his farm of animals. So he went to every house in his town.

To the houses where the man is the boss, he gave a horse. To the houses where the woman is the boss, a chicken was given.

He got toward the end of the street and saw a couple outside gardening. "Who's the boss around here?" he asked.

"I am," said the man.

"I have a black horse and a brown horse," the farmer said, "which one would you like?"

The man thought for a minute and said, "The black one."

"No, no, no, get the brown one." the man's wife said.

"Here's your chicken." said the farmer.

Quote of the week



"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

Mahatma Gandhi

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

MEZZO

classic house club

CLUBS

MEZZO CLASSIC HOUSE CLUB

28 Isahakyan Street

December 10 and 11 at 21:00

Soso Pavliashvili
Concert and presentation of new CD

December 12 at 21:30
Suren Arustamyan and Jazzel

December 13 at 21:30
"Imagine" Band

December 14 at 21:30
Lupe y la Banda

CAFESJIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Cascade Complex

December 14 at 20:00

Suren Arustamyan Blues Band

December 15 at 20:00
Chico and Friends

NAREGATSI ART INSTITUTE

Vardanants 16/1

December 10 at 19:00

From the "Geniuses" series
/ Igor Stravinsky
Third meeting

Film screening:
Geniuses (Part 3`
Stravinsky)

Documentary/ Russia/ 2006/
51 min.

Director: Andrei
Konchalovskii

Screening in Russian

December 11 at 15:00

Within the frames of children
film series

Interactive workshops on
human rights

The event will be held by
teacher-psychologist Anahit
Mkrtchyan

Dedicated to the Human
Rights International Day

December 11 at 18:00

Vocal music concert

Program: Armenian,
Russian and western

European composers' works

December 12 at 19:00

La Haine

France/ drama/ 1995/ 98
min.

Screening in Russian

December 13 at 15:00

The Mighty

USA/drama/ 1998/ 100 min.

CONCERTS

ARAM KHACHATURIAN CONCERT HALL

Mashtots avenue 16

December 11 at 7:30

Chukhajyan Fest

Program: Armenian

Composers

December 14 at 7 p.m.

APO & Joao Kouyoumdjian
The APO Orchestra pre-
sents a concert in com-
memoration of the 20th

anniversary of the
establishment of diplo-
matic relations between
the Federal Republic of
Brazil and the Republic
of Armenia.

Program: Aram Satian:

"Hamlet" symphonic poem

Antonio Carlos Gomes:

Hino a Campinas (pre-
miere); Notturmo (pre-
miere)

Villa-Lobos: Concerto
for Guitar and Orchestra

(premiere)Prokofiev: Three
excerpts from "Romeo &
Juliet" suite Bernstein:

Symphonic Dances from

"West Side Story" Soloist:

Joao Kouyoumdjian, classi-
cal guitar (Brazil)

Conductor: Ruben Asatryan

December 15 at 7 p.m.

Barekamutyun Troupe. 25
years

Art Director: People's Artist
of Armenia Norayr
Mehrabyan.

KOMITAS CHAMBER MUISC HALL

I A. Isahakyan Str.

December 12 at 19:00

State Ensemble of Soloists

Artistic Director and

Conductor: Zaven

Vardanyan

Program: C. Saint-Saens:

Septet in E-flat major, op. 65
(Premiere in Armenia) S.

Shakaryan: French Quintet

("Retro") S. Sukiasyan:

Chamber Symphony

(Premiere) L. van Beethoven:

Duets for clarinet and bas-
soon

December 13 at 19:00

Tagharan Ensemble of

Ancient Music Art director

and conductor: Sedrak

Yerkanyan

Program: Bach, Handel,

Vivaldi, Caldara, Mercello

NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATER OF OPERA AND BALLET AFTER A. SPENDIARIAN

Tumanyan Str., 54 Building

December 14 at 19:00

Foyer Concert. Chamber
Music

Music Director: Karen

Durgaryan Project Author:

Shmavon Grigoryan

THEATRES

YEREVAN STATE PANTOMIME THEATRE

December 13 at 19:00

Demon

H. TUMANIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

Sayat-Nova av., house 4

December 14 at 19:30

C'est la vie

Comedy

December 15 at 19:30

Aunt from Paris

Comedy

December 16 at 19:00

Cherchez la femme

STATE MUSICAL CHAMBER THEATER

Proshyan I, Blind Alley I

December 14 at 19:00

Sexual Chaos in the Hotel

Author: Ray Cooney

YEREVAN STATE CHAMBER THEATER

Mashtots avenue 58



December 11 at 19:00

Royal Concert

Musical-amusing show

Author and director of the
play: Ara Yernjakyanyan.

December 12 and 15 at 19:00

Albania+

Pessimistic comedy

Author and director of the
play: Ara Yernjakyanyan

December 16 at 19:00

Scotch & Whisky

Optimistic comedy

December 13 at 19:00

Obstacle

Sergei Danielyan's mono-
performance on the Small

stage of Chamber Theater

December 14 at 19:00

It Doesn't Matter With

Whom

Original "Butterflies Are
Free" by Leonard

Gershe. Director: Lusine

Yernjakyanyan.

GALA AR GALLERY

December 10-31 at 19:00

You and the Color

a festive collection of art



work by more than 70
renowned Armenian artists.
Fine art, sculpture, ceramics
and silver jewelry...

The gallery is open every
day, except Monday, from
11:00 - 20:00

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production



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