

## President repeats concerns over Russian arms sales to Azerbaijan



President Serzh Sargsyan on March 18 voiced fresh concerns about large-scale deliveries of Russian weapons to Azerbaijan, saying that they could dam-

age the traditionally close Russian-Armenian relations.

"The fact that Russia sells weapons to Azerbaijan for various reasons worries

us," Serzh Sargsyan told an international media forum held in Yerevan.

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## EU values the current dialogue and cooperation with Armenia

President Serzh Sargsyan received on March 18 Johannes Hahn, EU Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations.

The Armenian President said that continued dialogue with European partners and senior-level visits provides a good opportunity to discuss the prospects for development of relations between Armenia and the European Union (EU) and to exchange views on issues of mutual concern. In this context, Serzh Sargsyan welcomed Commissioner Johannes Hahn's visit to our country.

Commissioner Johannes Hahn underscored that he highly values the current dialogue and cooperation between Armenia and its European partners. He noted that at present the Strategy Paper on the European Neighborhood Policy is

being reviewed and an active exchange of its principles is being conducted. According to Commissioner Hahn, among those important principles is that the EU should adopt an individual approach to each of its Neighborhood Policy partners through taking into account and respecting the given country's understanding and viewpoints on cooperation.

President Serzh Sargsyan said that the cooperation within the framework of the European Neighborhood Policy is helpful in terms of fostering reforms in Armenia and thanked all the European organizations for the assistance rendered hitherto to our country.

Johannes Hahn mentioned that the previous phase of negotiations within the framework of the EU Eastern Partnership should not be deemed wasteful, and



regardless of further developments, they were useful in terms of identifying the expectations and the defined standards, as well as some potential competitive advantages in the European market.

At the meeting, President Serzh Sargsyan and Commissioner Johannes Hahn also exchanged views on regional issues and challenges, as well as on the recent developments around the Nagorno Karabakh peace process.

## 3 Armenian Soldiers Killed In Karabakh

Three Armenian soldiers were killed and four others wounded in Nagorno-Karabakh early on Thursday in a fierce fire-fight which military authorities in Stepanakert said also left at least two Azerbaijani servicemen dead.

According to Karabakh's Defense Army, the soldiers -- Hakob Khachatryan, Eduard Hayrapetyan and Arshak Harutiunyan -- died while fighting back an Azerbaijani commando attack on their positions in northern Karabakh. An army statement said their unit, backed up by reinforcements rushed to the outpost, repelled, pursued and "destroyed" the attackers during the 2-hour gun battle.

The Karabakh Armenian army also released photographs of four rocket-propelled grenade launchers, an assault rifle with a night-vision scope and commando ammunition which it said were left on the battlefield by the retreating enemy. A follow-up statement issued by it identified two Azerbaijani soldiers allegedly killed by its forces. Armenian media reports citing military sources in Stepanakert spoke of between 7 and 14 Azerbaijani servicemen killed in what was the most serious instance of truce violation in the Karabakh conflict zone reported since August.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry was

quick to deny attacking Karabakh Armenian positions in the area. It also claimed that its troops killed and wounded about 20 Armenian soldiers as they thwarted armed "provocations" organized by the Armenian side. A ministry statement cited by Azerbaijani news agencies said nothing about casualties suffered by Azerbaijani troops.

Later in the day, Azerbaijani Defense Minister Zakir Hasanov visited a military hospital in Baku and talked to wounded soldiers undergoing treatment there. Hasanov's press office said the visit was connected with a public holiday.

In Yerevan, meanwhile, Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman Tigran Balayan accused Azerbaijan of again heightening tensions along "the line of contact" around Karabakh in defiance of international mediators' efforts to bolster the shaky ceasefire regime there. Balayan said that Baku will bear responsibility for all consequences of the renewed escalation.

"The Armenian side is prepared for any development of the situation," Armenia's Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan said in written comments on the incident. "But I see no danger of large-scale hostilities."

Ohanyan said that Azerbaijani incursions regularly reported by the Armenian



military are "reckless in the military sense." He also accused Baku of hiding its combat casualties to avoid a domestic backlash against what Yerevan claims is a deliberate policy of escalation.

Deadly fighting along "the line of contact" and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border intensified sharply in January, leading President Serzh Sargsyan to threaten "asymmetric" retaliatory strikes against Azerbaijani military targets. The U.S., Russian and French co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group seemed to hold Baku primarily responsible for that upsurge in a joint statement issued later in January.

The mediators urged the conflicting parties to "strictly adhere to the ceasefire" after visiting Baku, Stepanakert and Yerevan on February 16-19. A February 20 statement by them said Serzh Sargsyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev "agreed to consider proposals from the Co-Chairs that could strengthen the ceasefire."



## President repeats concerns...

*From page 1*

"The problem here is not the quality of the sold weapons," he said during a question-and-answer session that followed his speech at the gathering. "The problem is that the young Armenian man deployed on our border [with Azerbaijan] or the [Nagorno-Karabakh] Line of Contact realizes that they are trying to kill him with Russian weapons. This is the gravest thing."

Russia appears to have supplied more heavy weapons to Azerbaijan than Armenia, its main regional ally, in the past several years. Those include hundreds of tanks, artillery systems and combat helicopters. Russian and Azerbaijani officials have estimated the total volume of bilateral defense contracts signed since 2010 at more than \$4 billion.

Serzh Sargsyan already voiced dismay at the Russian-Azerbaijani arms deals in a newspaper interview in July 2014. "Our people are worried that our strategic ally sells weapons to Azerbaijan," Sargsyan told Argentina's "Clarín" daily.

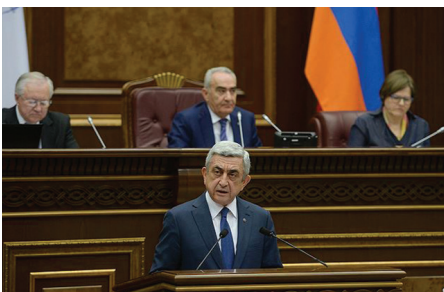
Official Yerevan was until then careful not to publicly criticize the Russian arms supplies to its arch-foe. Some Armenian officials claimed that they are offset by Russian military assistance to Armenia. Serzh Sargsyan similarly praised this and other forms of Russian aid provided to his country since independence. He went on to assert that Azerbaijan remains unable



to "solve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by military means."

Answering another question, Sargsyan strongly defended his controversial 2013 decision to opt for Armenia's membership in the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) at the expense of a far-reaching accord with the European Union. He attributed the move to "pragmatic" economic considerations, singling out the fact Armenia imports Russian natural gas at a discounted price and has unfettered access to the vast Russian market.

## Yerevan Keen To 'Combine' Eurasian, European Integrations



Armenia remains committed to forging closer links with the European Union despite joining a Russian-led alliance of ex-Soviet states earlier this year, President Serzh Sargsyan reiterated on Tuesday.

Serzh Sargsyan spoke of a continuing "dynamic development" of EU-Armenia relations as he addressed a session in Yerevan of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly of lawmakers from the EU member states and ex-Soviet republics involved in the Eastern Partnership program.

"We act on the premise that it is possible to combine Armenia's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), along with all obligations stemming from that, with a deep and extensive [common]

agenda with the European Union," he said. "Furthermore, we will try to find points of convergence and foster cooperation and dialogue through forging close ties with various integration processes."

Serzh Sargsyan specified that Armenia is seeking closer partnership with the EU in the areas of democracy, human rights, judicial independence, fight against corruption and economic reforms that would improve the country's flawed business environment. He said Yerevan also expects to embark soon on a "dialogue" with the EU on the eventual abolition of the 28-nation union's visa requirements for Armenian nationals.

The EU has already eased those requirements as part of the Eastern Partnership. The program was due to lead to a wide-ranging Association Agreement

between the EU and Armenia. Sargsyan precluded the signing of the agreement, including a free-trade component, when he decided in 2013 to make his country part of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

The Armenian government has since been trying to negotiate a less far-reaching deal with the EU that would not contradict its membership commitments to the Russian-led bloc. Sarkisian did not mention it in his speech delivered after a separate meeting with the Euronest leadership.

According to Sargsyan's office, the senior European parliamentarians asked the Armenian leader, among other things, to elaborate on the "factors" behind his decision to join the EEU. The office did not disclose his explanations.

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## Ter-Petrosian Party Reaffirms Opposition To Constitutional Reform

The opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK) on March 16 pledged to "do everything" to scuttle a sweeping constitutional reform planned by President Serzh Sargsyan, insisting that it is aimed at extending his rule beyond 2018.

In a statement, the party led by former President Levon Ter-Petrosian urged Armenians to turn an anticipated referendum on constitutional amendments into a vote of no confidence in Sargsyan and launch a "nationwide process" of regime change.

"Our task will be to explain to the people that a yes vote would mean supporting the establishment of a dictatorship and extension of Serzh Sargsyan's rule," Levon Zurabyan, the HAK's parliamentary leader, told a news conference. He stood by HAK claims that Sargsyan wants to transform Armenia into a parliamentary republic in order to stay in power after completing his second and final presidential term in 2018.

It was not clear Ter-Petrosian's party plans to launch a campaign of anti-government street protests during or after the constitutional referendum expected in early 2016. The HAK statement only called for a consolidation of "the entire public" aimed at "ousting the current regime from power."

The HAK hoped to make such a push for regime change together with the bigger and more influential Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK) of Gagik Tsarukyan as well as Raffi Hovannisian's Zharangutyun party. However, the three-party alliance effectively collapsed last month after Tsarukyan retired



from politics under strong pressure from the Sargsyan administration. The BHK leader triggered a government crackdown on himself and his party after warning Sargsyan to drop the plans for constitutional reform or face opposition protests.

Zurabyan said that the HAK is ready to continue to cooperate with the BHK and Zharangutyun if the latter remain opposed to the controversial reform.

Both the BHK and Zharangutyun were among several opposition parties whose leaders met with Sargsyan last week to discuss the reform process. Their representatives seemed to have softened their objections to a switch to the parliamentary system of governance.

## Tsarukyan Retains Parliament Seat



Businessman Gagik Tsarukyan will not lose his parliament seat after all, despite having rarely attended sessions of the National Assembly, speaker Galust Sahakian said on March 19.

The announcement came two weeks after Tsarukyan resigned as leader of the Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK), the second largest parliamentary force, and said he is retiring from politics. The move followed his defeat in a standoff with President Serzh Sargsyan.

Sargsyan told the parliament leadership on February 12 to consider stripping the tycoon of his seat because of chronic absenteeism. He also ordered law-enforcement authorities to investigate tax evasion and other "crimes" possibly committed

by Tsarukyan. The BHK leader capitulated in the following days, saying that he will stop challenging the government to avoid bloodshed in Armenia.

Sahakyan told reporters that he has received written explanations from Tsarukyan and concluded that his absences from the parliament were "justified." He said he consulted with National Assembly lawyers before making the decision.

Tsarukyan's spokeswoman, Iveta Tonoyan, told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) that the tycoon's retirement also means that he has also pulled out of the BHK's faction in the 131-member parliament.

The faction has shrunk from 36 to 24 members since the launch of the government crackdown on the influential party. The BHK spokesman, Vahan Babayan, expressed confidence that there will be no more defections from its ranks.

Meanwhile, the new BHK leadership underscored the dramatic change of its fortunes on Thursday when it declared that the party, which threatened to topple Sargsyan as recently as last month, will now be in "constructive opposition" to the government. "We will continue to not only decry things that are bad but also name good things," said Stepan Markaryan, a senior BHK figure.

Mikael Melkumian, another member of the party's governing body, said the BHK will not push for regime change or demand the resignation of top government officials. It will prepare instead for the next parliamentary elections due in 2017, he said.



## 'Serious Obstacles' Alleged In Gyumri Massacre Probe



A lawyer representing relatives of the seven members of an Armenia family murdered in Gyumri alleged on March 17 "very serious obstacles" in an ongoing criminal investigation into the massacre blamed on a Russian soldier.

Lusine Sahakyan said Armenian investigators will have serious trouble solving the crime as long as the suspect, Valery Permyakov, remains in Russian custody. She said Russian authorities are also withholding important evidence that could shed more light on the January 12 killing spree that sparked anti-Russian protests in Gyumri.

"There are very serious obstacles in

terms of an effective investigation into the case," Sahakyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). She claimed that Armenia's Investigative Committee, a law-enforcement body handling the case, is finding it extremely difficult to conduct a "comprehensive inquiry."

Citing the findings of its forensic experts, the Investigative Committee said on Monday that all 32 bullets found in the Avetisyan family's Gyumri house were fired from a single assault rifle belonging to Permyakov.

Permyakov allegedly left the Kalashnikov rifle and his military uniform at the scene of the gruesome crime. According to Armenian and Russian authorities, he was arrested by Russian border guards deployed along Armenia's border with Turkey and handed over to a Russian military base headquartered in Gyumri later on January 12. Although Permyakov is said to have confessed to the slaughter, little is known about his motives.

The Russian military has allowed Armenian investigators to interrogate him at the base's detention center. However, the Russian custody of the suspect appears to be limiting their ability to conduct all necessary forensic tests and take other investigative actions.

Russian law-enforcement authorities have been conducting a separate inquiry which is supposedly coordinated with their Armenian colleagues. But few of its details have been made public.

The Russians have so far refused to hand over the accused soldier to the Armenian side, citing a clause in the Russian constitution. Their stance, coupled with Yerevan's reluctance to press harder for Permyakov's extradition, sparked angry street protests in Gyumri on January 14-15.

Non-partisan organizers of those protests have pledged to stage more rallies if Moscow remains adamant about keeping custody of Permyakov and prosecuting him under Russian law.

## Armenia Sells More Eurobonds



In its most expensive ever borrowing operation reflecting the fallout from an economic crisis in Russia, the Armenian government has issued its second Eurobond worth \$500 million at a yield of 7.5 percent.

The 10-year dollar bonds were sold in international financial markets through Deutsche Bank, HSBC and JP Morgan on March 19.

Neither Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan's office nor the Armenian Finance Ministry issued any statements on the development on Friday. The ministry promised to comment on Monday.

Abrahamyan's cabinet approved and announced the upcoming Eurobond issue on January 30. It cited the need to finance Armenia's budget deficit and "neutralize" the Russian recession's spillover effects

on the Armenian economy. Deputy Prime Minister Vache Gabrielyan said it is now "extremely important to ensure inflows of hard currency" into the country.

The Armenian budget for this year projects a deficit of roughly \$250 million. "It's not clear what the rest of the [proceeds from the latest Eurobond sale] will be spent on," Ara Galoyan, an independent economic analyst, told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am).

Other analysts have suggested that the money could also be used for shoring up the national currency, the dram, and offsetting a possible shortfall in tax revenue resulting from slowing economic growth in Armenia.

In its 2015 budget, the government forecast a growth rate of just over 4 percent. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank consider this projection overly optimistic given Armenia's economic dependence on Russia.

"The Wall Street Journal" reported last week that the authorities in Yerevan will use the Eurobond proceeds to buy back up to \$200 million of their previous dollar bond issue carried out in

September 2013. The authorities raised \$700 million at a yield of 6.25 percent at the time.

The higher cost of the latest borrowing reflects recent downward revisions by the Moody's and Fitch agencies of Armenia's credit ratings. Both agencies singled out a sharp drop in the dollar value of remittances from Armenians working in Russia. Those cash inflows account for more than 10 percent of Armenia's Gross Domestic Product.

Moody's said on January 15 that the economic situation in Russia is also the reason why it changed Armenia's economic outlook to "negative" from "stable." It cited "the risk that the impact of Russia's economic downturn on Armenia's economy will be more significant than currently expected."

"Armenia is highly exposed to the severe economic downturn in Russia, which will weigh heavily on Armenia's balance of payment and growth prospects," Fitch said for its part on January 30. Even so, it said the outlook for the South Caucasus country remains "stable" for now.

## EU, Armenia to Open Talks On New Deal

The European Union and Armenia are poised to start official negotiations on a new agreement to deepen their relations, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said on March 18 after talks with a senior EU official visiting Yerevan.

The EU's European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn met with Nalbandian and President Serzh Sargsyan to discuss the future of those ties in the light of Armenia's recent accession to the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

"We noted with satisfaction the consultations that have been held between the EU and Armenia with the aim of identifying a future legal basis [of their relations] through negotiations," Nalbandian told a joint news conference with Hahn.

He said the executive European Commission needs a formal green light from the EU's member governments in order to open such talks. "I think that there are prerequisites for the issuance of such a mandate soon. So we will start the negotiations to work out a legal document that will serve as a basis for Armenia's relations and cooperation with the EU," added the chief Armenian diplomat.

Hahn essentially confirmed this, saying that the two sides are aiming for an "ambitious agreement." "I am confident that we will receive a mandate to start very substantive negotiations in the near future," he said.

Hahn also said that Armenian and EU officials have all but defined the scope of closer ties to be regulated by the future accord. "We are forward-looking and determined to shape a positive agenda for further cooperation in areas that are compatible with Armenia's other obligations," he stressed.



The deal mentioned by the two men would serve as an alternative to an Association Agreement which Yerevan and Brussels were close to finalizing in 2013. President Serzh Sargsyan scuttled that agreement with his unexpected decision to seek Armenia's membership in the EEU. His foreign policy U-turn was widely blamed on strong Russian pressure.

According to Sargsyan's press office, Hahn told the Armenian leader that the three-year negotiations on the Association Agreement were "not a waste of time." They allowed Armenia get a better idea of EU practices and standards, he said.

Hahn already discussed the issue with Nalbandian in Brussels in January. He said after those talks that the two sides could use political elements of the cancelled agreement in their future cooperation framework.

## Armenia's geographical location does not allow to stay apart from regional developments

What's happening in the Middle East is a war involving all neighboring countries. Vardan Khachatryan, lecturer at the Faculty of Theology at the Yerevan State University, says the developments are dangerous for the small, indigenous peoples. "This is not new in our region," he said, pointing to the Armenian Genocide as an example.

"What's happening today is a more large-scale phenomenon; the possible developments are even harder to predict," Khachatryan said. He stressed the need for correct steps, adding that "any mistake could be fatal."

According to publicist Karine Hakobyan, Armenia's geographical position does not allow the country to stay neutral, which is fraught with negative consequences.

"We should have our own active policy in this geopolitical situation," she said.

Karine Hakobyan considers that the current events are a war against ancient civilizations. In this regard, she believes Armenia can well be helpful for small nations targeted by ISIS.

Diaspora Armenian Garnik Sarkisian says "being a small nation, we should be alert under the conditions of the current developments in the region."

"The geopolitical situation around Armenia is extremely



strained today. We may become the unwitting victim. This is how indigenous peoples having no role in decision-making become victims."

According to Garnik Sarkisian, to be influential, one should be strong economically and militarily and enjoy strong people-government relations.



## EBRD, Armenia sign contribution agreement on Armenia's participation in E5P



### European Bank

#### for Reconstruction and Development

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MoENR) of Armenia have signed an agreement on Armenia's participation in the Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership (E5P). Armenia will contribute €1 million to E5P which will enable Armenia to access grant funds of €20 million for priority energy efficiency investments in the municipal sector.

The agreement was signed on Monday 16 March by Armenia's Energy and Natural Resources Minister, Yervand Zakharyan, EBRD Managing Director, Environment and Sustainability, Alistair Clark, and EBRD Manager of the E5P Fund, Anders Lund.

The E5P is a multi-donor fund provid-

ing grants to support energy efficiency projects that aim to improve energy efficiency and the environment in the Eastern Partnership countries. The main objective of the initiative is to use grants to leverage loans dedicated to municipal energy efficiency and environmental projects, for example the rehabilitation of water and wastewater systems, solid waste management, street lighting and the insulation of public buildings.

E5P is part of the strategic response to energy issues, allowing municipal authorities to invest in projects that make the most of opportunities for energy savings. As a partnership, E5P also includes a strong commitment to policy dialogue, allowing partners to address policy issues in their efforts to find practical solutions to problems municipalities face when investing in energy efficiency measures.

The European Union (EU) is the largest contributor to the Armenian window of the E5P fund with €10 million. The Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Latvia and Norway have already committed or pledged funds to

help Armenia improve energy efficiency, contributing to energy security and economic competitiveness while having a positive impact on the environment. The Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Traian Hristea, commented that "energy efficiency and renewable energy is at the core of EU development in Armenia, and the EU contribution to this programme also shows the EU's willingness to help Armenians ensure their energy independence."

The government of Sweden has financed a project identification study with the main aim of approving new projects for implementation this year.

"The signing of the contribution agreement is an important milestone for the country and for the Fund as well. We look forward to seeing new projects implemented in Armenia soon with the support of E5P grants. Potential investments can include: energy efficiency in public buildings, renewable energy (for example, biomass), street lighting, water and wastewater treatment, solid waste management and public transport," said Anders Lund, EBRD Manager of the E5P Fund.

## EU supports the creation of cross-border tourist packages in the Black Sea Basin countries



The EU Delegation to Armenia and Heifer Project International Armenian Branch Office officially launched the "Single Cross-border Visitor package" (SCBV package) developed within the framework of the "Promoting Innovative Rural Tourism" (PIRT) programme.

The product was developed in the framework of Promoting Innovative Rural Tourism (PIRT) project funded by the European Union and is implemented by Heifer Armenia as a Lead organisation with partners from Bulgaria (Varna Economic Development Agency), Georgia (Heifer Georgia) and Turkey

(Gumushane National Educational Directorate).

PIRT is a regional project directed at supporting regional cooperation and cross-border partnerships for economic and social development in four Black Sea Basin countries via promotion of rural tourism.

In the framework of the project a unique touristic package has been developed with up to ten rural tourism related itineraries. The touristic agencies of Armenia, Georgia, Turkey and Bulgaria will have the opportunity of selling this new product. The tourist buying the package will be able to travel through all four countries with one and the same package. The SCBV package will increase the inter-flows of visitors on the regional level and contribute to unprecedented cooperation between national authorities in the region and intra-country, aimed ultimately to sustaining the cross-border impacts of rural tourism.

The programme called "Promoting Innovative Rural Tourism" is co-financed by the European Union with assistance of € 473,000 by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. The programme started in November 2013 with duration of 18 months. It is directed to the establishment of cooperation among the Black Sea Basin region countries (Armenia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia). Rural tourism systems are being created in the framework of this programme with the joint efforts from all the parties to promote the initiatives of common, traditional and innovative tourisms.

Regional cooperation is expected to be enhanced with the help of the integrated usage of physical and human resources and by exchanging experiences that will improve the overall quality of tourism services. This will support the development of the social and economic development of the Black Sea Basin region countries.



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- 1726.**Khorenatsi str.**, 4/4, 35sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 55.000 USD.
- 1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m, euro repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1715-**Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- 1680-**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- 1674.**Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor, 70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- 1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

## 2 ROOMS

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

## 3 ROOMS

- 3012.**Aram str.**, Newly built, 7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price: 300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3 bedrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built, 13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally repaired, heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- 2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building, 4 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, security system. Price: 320.000 USD.
- 1104.**Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m., stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- 2950.**Aram str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 176 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, office, zero state, Price: 310.000 USD
- 2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4, 5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- 2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

## PREMISES

- 1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598.**Komitas, Nairi Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capitally repaired. Price: negotiable.
- 1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- 2035.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- 2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- 2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- 2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking. Price: 3.600.000 USD
- 2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m, without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable
- 1986.**Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.
- 2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- 2175.**Tumanyan str.** Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor 300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m., - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m.
- 2172.**Isahakyan str.**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

## LANDS

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

## PRIVATE HOUSES

- 3348.**Blur, Barbys str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- 3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.

- 3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.

- 3432.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD

- 3576.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 USD

- 3606.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD

- 3574.**Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD

- 3590 **Blur**,

- Barbys str.**,

- Land - 450

- sq.m., 4 storied

- building -

- 470sq.m., 3bed-

- rooms, 3 bath-

- rooms, capitally

- repaired, heating

- system, AC, garden.

- Price:

- 680.000 USD

- 3651 **Blur**,

- Barbys str.**,

- Land-900sq.m., 5

- storied building-

- 800sq.m., 4 bed-

- rooms, 3 bath-

- rooms, capitally

- repaired, heating

- system, AC, garden.

- Price: 1.700.000 USD.

- 3401.**Antarayin str.**, Newly built, land-

- 700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms,

- capitally repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD

- 3712 **Cascade** Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 sto-

- ried bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 USD

## NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

- 74.**Cascade**, Verin Antarayin. 136-315 sq m., walls plastered, electricity, water, gas, euro windows, no exploitation fees. Price: 1200 USD per sq.m, parking -15.000 USD.

- 107.**Monument**, Verin Antarayin. inhabited, 8 floors, gas, windows, street view -1000 USD per sq.m., city looking -1500 USD per sq.m., parking - 4 million USD preliminary.

- 87.**Sayat-Nova str.**, 21 floors, 3 bedrooms - 188 sq.m., 199 sq.m., Price 1900 USD per sq.m., 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight - 117 sq.m., 120 sq.m., 124 sq.m., Price: 1700 USD per sq.m., climate control, gas.

- 93.**Kievyan str.**, Given to the operation in October 2011, 16 floors, walls plastered, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas, parking. Price: 1500-1600USD per sq.m, parking-12 000 USD. Possible with mortgage, for 13 years term.

- 94.**Masiv**. 3floors, 8 flats, each flat has 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking. Price: negotiable.

- 130 **Antarayin str.**, 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m, available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable

- 131.**Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable







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## 1 ROOM

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

## 2 ROOMS

- 2302 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2295 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 16/15, 173sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, furnished. Price: 5000 USD
- 2290 **Bayron str.**, Newly built, /5th floor, 220sq.m, 2 bedrooms, study, open kitchen, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, climate control, furnished, parking. Price: 4000 USD
- 1780.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942.**Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capably repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950.**Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535.**Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 2089.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- 1738.**Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951.**Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406.**Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2187.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9/5, 120 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capably repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2.200 USD
- 2109.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 2243.**Buzand str.**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

## 3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capably repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, guest toilet, capably repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD

- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capably repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2286.**Sose str.**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD
- 2257.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021.**Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.



- 1723.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capably repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981.**Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793.**Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capably repaired, climate control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking. Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capably repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261.**Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084.**Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252.**Northern ave.**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capably repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

## PRIVATE HOUSES

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

- swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- 1142.**Djirvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capably repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- 1293.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capably repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capably repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capably repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-880sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323.**Monument, Babayan str.** Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

## PREMISES

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

## Ralph Yirikian: “We Believe in Better Future of Armenia – This Slogan Reflects Our Commitment to Society and the Environment...VivaCell-MTS Focuses on Long-Term Challenges by Implementing and Engaging Programs of Vital Importance to the People of Armenia”

### Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator Announces Results for the Year 2014 and Plans for 2015

In 2014, another challenging year for VivaCell-MTS, the Company has both managed to retain market leadership and to exceed previous achievements in different key directions. With further increase in the number of subscribers - **2.14 million** as of December 31, 2014, the Company's telecom market share has become **60.5%**.

By the end of the 2014, the number of the users of Internet over mobile device has reached over **1 million**, thus giving the company a clear edge in the market share. The number of subscribers using broadband Internet (including access to Internet through wireless devices such as USB modems and routers) is **82.7 thousand**. In 2014, the Company accomplished its targets set for retail sales by offering to the market a wide range of cutting-edge mobile devices from different manufacturers, at competitive prices. Revenues from mobile retail totaled over AMD 1 billion, by achieving a solid margin of **38.7%** compared to the 2013.

Throughout 2014, VivaCell-MTS succeeded in meeting its key financial and operational targets, with the Company's consolidated revenues totaling AMD **77.6 billion** (over **61.6% market share**), and with OIBDA of more than AMD **38 billion** compared to AMD **36.8 billion** in 2013, representing an OIBDA margin of **3%**.

Last year VivaCell-MTS scaled up significant investment in its networks - AMD **12.6 billion**. The Company will continue expanding its infrastructure and

will make further investment into it in 2015. In 2014, VivaCell-MTS has further strengthened its capacity to provide its subscribers with access to new and innovative products and services. Thus, network upgrade works have been implemented all over the country in order to deliver the best network powered by state-of-the-art technology and increased capacity, a reliable platform for future new innovative applications and services, able to support the expected growth of data volume and quality in the years to come.

VivaCell-MTS is Armenia's unsurpassed leader in terms of 2G base stations



(**1091**), 3G (**1091**) and 4G (**250**) stations and respectively, mobile coverage: 2G network reaches **99.8%**; in 2014 the Company's modern 3G/3.5G network reached from **97%** to **98%**, and the 4G/LTE network reached from **36.6%** to **45.7%**, and in addition to Yerevan, Tsakhadzor, Dilijan, Vanadzor and Gyumri it also included Echmiadzin and Armavir. Only in 2014, **39** 2G, **39** 3G and **50** 4G new base stations were installed.

In 2015 also, VivaCell-MTS activities will center on upgrading its 2G and 3.5G networks' capacity and rolling out 4G/LTE to other towns of Armenia.

Throughout operation period, VivaCell-MTS has developed and shaped its own value system, formalized into core values. Innovation, leadership, best

quality of network and customer service, affordability, and respect for the society as well as sustainability, are top priorities for VivaCell-MTS. “Core values unite us and make us faster, more efficient, more focused, more responsible, more transparent and closer to our customers,” VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** told.

VivaCell-MTS is closely aligning its business performance with its commitment to society. In 2014 the Company directed its social investment activities towards different areas such as helping children, with particular focus on long-term health programs, preservation of culture and national identity, higher education, environmental awareness, and rehabilitation of rural infrastructure. For 2015 as well, VivaCell-MTS has adopted very rigorous, highly focused social investment programs in the above-mentioned areas, which are the core yet not the whole broad range of activities implemented by VivaCell-MTS. From 2005 through 2014 AMD 22 billion were spent for social investment in the frames of Corporate Social Responsibility programs. For 2015, the Company has allocated AMD 1.9 billion. VivaCell-MTS is Armenia's pioneer in the volume and scope of CSR.

“We believe in better future of Armenia – this slogan reflects our commitment to society and the environment. VivaCell-MTS focuses on long-term challenges by implementing and engaging programs of vital importance to the people of Armenia,” Mr Yirikian added.

VivaCell-MTS ranks the **SECOND** in the top taxpayers list of 2014, with AMD **28,891,812,140** (about AMD **28.9 billion**). Overall, starting from 2005 when VivaCell-MTS entered the market, the Company has paid AMD **185,937,423,240** (about AMD **186 billion**) to the state budget.



## State Youth Orchestra of Armenia: The Most Important Message for Armenians for 2015 has Reached Lebanon Thanks to the SYOA Musicians...

By George Chakhalyan

As The Highlights has informed its readers in previous issues, on 26 February - 10 March the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, for the second year in row, participated in the Al Bustan Intl Festival of Music and Performing Art being traditionally held in Lebanon as the Fest's official orchestra.

On March 17 **Arthur Poghosyan**, Deputy Minister of Culture of Armenia and **Sergey Smbatyan**, the SYOA Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor gave a press conference on the Al Bustan International Festival. To remind, concerts in Lebanon which were dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, were supported by the State Commission on Coordination of the events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and Armenia's leading telecom operator company VivaCell-MTS (with Founding GM **Ralph C. Yirikian**), the General Partner of the Orchestra for several years already. Mr Poghosyan stressed that the Youth Orchestra has been "one of the best bearers of the Armenian cultural diplomacy abroad for several years already".

"We have received numerous positive comments from the management of the Al Bustan Festival. Despite the fact that these musicians are young enough and they are presenting our culture with an energy inherent only to young people, their performing skills have far long passed the period of formation: it's a highly professional level, which is our pride indeed," said RA Deputy Culture Minister.



The huge crowd of the mass media was also informed that during the 2015 the SYOA was going to present several other concerts dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Armenia and, importantly, in a number of foreign countries as well. Sergey Smbatyan, in turn, said that the Al Bustan International Festival was one of the most important and prestigious festivals in the region, adding that the SYOA has already been invited to perform in Lebanon also in 2016. This fact could be considered as an evidence of the Armenian orchestra's professionalism meeting the high international standards. Maestro Smbatyan mentioned that the most important message for Armenians for 2015 was reached to the audience through their music.

To remind, during the festival not only the musicians from Armenia, but also **Gianluca Marciano**, the Artistic Director of the Festival as well as the soloists wore the Forget-me-not pin recog-

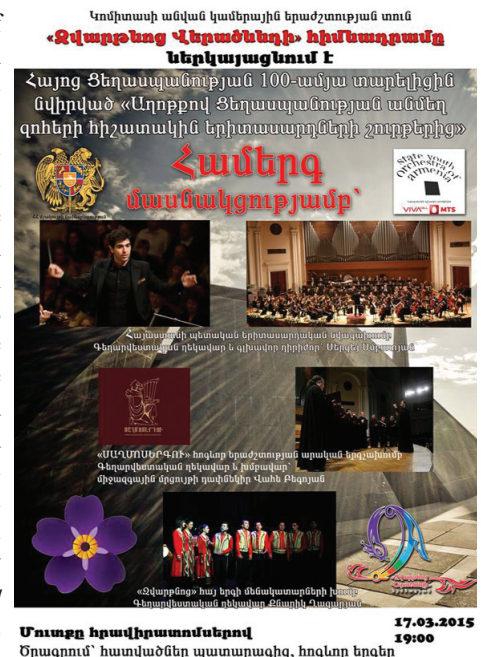
nized as a symbol of the 1915 Armenian Genocide Centennial.

Sergey Smbatyan informed the journalists that the concert held on March 10, the final one of five concerts performed by the SYOA with the world-renowned soloists was started with Gianluca Marciano's opening speech on the Armenian Genocide: "1.5 million people died during the Genocide. It was one of the largest and most horrific genocides of the modern world. The men were killed, the women, children and elders were forced to make that "marches of death", they were left hungry, deported to the camps through the Syrian desert... Many times with my friend Sergey Smbatyan I have been talking about the fact that wherever I travel around the world I always find at least one Armenian. It may seem funny, but when you think about the word "Diaspora", you understand that it is not funny at all, it is sad. Such Diaspora indicates that something has gone wrong. This flower says Forget-me-not, but it means even more, it says I remember and demand. History can teach us how not to make the same mistakes, how to improve the life, and I am sure that the music is the best universal language which will be able to speak directly to the souls of people... Today with this wonderful orchestra we will try to stretch to all of you just that idea: it is not only important not to forget but more significant to remember and demand..."

And...

### Prayer for the Souls of the Innocent Victims of the Armenian Genocide

On March 17 the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia headed by its Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Sergey Smbatyan performed at the Yerevan Komitas Chamber Music Hall within the framework of the concert dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and entitled "The Musician's Prayer for the Souls of the Innocent Victims of the Armenian Genocide". During the evening the SYOA performed jointly with the "Sahmosergu" male chorus of spiritual music and the soloists of the "Zvartnots" Foundation. The concert program included pieces from the liturgies and spiritual songs. The concert was organized by the "Zvartnots Renaissance" Foundation.



## The 1915 hero Norway forgot: Bodil Katharine Biørn

Agos - Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg's announcement that she would not be taking part in the commemoration ceremony in Armenia on the Centennial of the Genocide sparked debate. Yet there were citizens of Norway among the witnesses of 1915. Norwegian missionary Bodil Katharine Biørn stood out amongst them.

Biørn was born on 27 January 1871 in the city of Kragerø in Norway, and in 1905 was sent to the Ottoman Empire as a nurse by the "Women Missionaries Organisations." Bodil Katharine Biørn first worked in Mezre, a district of Harput, and later in Muş. Biørn struggled to help widows and orphans by collaborating with the German Hilfsbund missionaries, and in 1915, she witnessed the murder of religious clergy, lecturers and children during the massacres in Muş. Although some Westerners merely 'observed' the events in the region during the Genocide, Bodil Katharine Biørn saved the lives of hundreds of Armenian women and children who were

left homeless. In 1917, Biørn adopted a two-year old orphan named Rafael who had survived the Genocide, and had her adopted child baptised with the name Fridof Nansen upon her return to Norway.

The notes Bodil Katharine Biørn kept in her notebooks, and the photographs she took hold an important place in the history of the Genocide. One of her most renowned photographs is that of former Ottoman Member of Parliament Papazyan, looking at bones belonging to Armenians in the deserts of Deir ez-Zor, taken in the 1920s.

Biørn also worked in orphanages in Lebanon and Istanbul, and in 1922, when Fridof was 7, left him at the French School in Beirut to travel to Soviet Armenia and found an orphanage named "Lusaghbyur" in Alexandropol. Although 33 orphans knew her as "Mother Katharine", the Soviet government halted her work in 1924, upon which she travelled to Syria and helped Genocide victims there until 1935. Biørn passed away in 1960 in Norway.



While Bodil Katharine Biørn was among the most important witnesses of the Genocide, Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg stated that Norway would not be represented either at Prime Minister- or Foreign Minister-level; and that the ambassador to Armenia would be taking part in the ceremonies; and she also underlined the fact that relationships with Turkey were more important for her in making such a decision. Baard Glad Pedersen, the Undersecretary of the Prime Minister, had then added that decisions on historical issues should be left to historians.

## Euronest PA adopts Resolution on Armenian Genocide centennial

Resolution by the Armenian and the European Parliament on the Centennial of the Armenian was adopted today at the 4th Ordinary Session of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly in Yerevan. The measure was adopted with a vote of 33 to 4.

### Joint text for an Urgent Motion for Resolution by the Armenian and the European Parliament on the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide

#### The EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly:

- Having regard to Article 9(3) of its Rules of Procedure;
- Having regard to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948;
- Having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966;
- Having regard to the UN Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity of 26 November 1968;
- Having regard to the European Parliament Resolution of 20 July 1987 on a Political

Solution to the Armenian question;

- Having regard to the European Parliament Resolution of 15 November 2000 on Turkey's progress towards accession;
- Having regard to the European Parliament Resolution of 28 September 2005 on the opening of negotiations with Turkey;
- Having regard to the resolutions and statements of the legislative bodies of number of the EU members states.
- Whereas the year of 2015 marks the centennial of the Armenian Genocide perpetrated in the Ottoman Empire;
- Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world;
- Whereas the denial of genocide is widely recognized as the final stage of genocide, enshrining impunity for the perpetrators of genocide, and demonstrably paving the way for future genocides; whereas the absence of unequivocal and timely condemnation of the Armenian Genocide largely contributed to the failure to prevent future crimes against humanity;
- Whereas early prevention of such crimes can surely stop escalation of conflicts,

tragedies and humanitarian catastrophes.

#### The Assembly:

- Condemns all forms of crimes against humanity and genocide and deeply deplore attempts of their denial;
- Pay tribute to the memory of innocent victims of all genocides and crimes, committed against humanity;
- Stresses that prevention of genocides and crimes against humanity should be amongst the priorities of international community; Finds that further development of the international capacities in this regard is instrumental;
- Supports the international struggle for the prevention of genocides, the restoration of the rights of people subjected to genocide and the establishment of historical justice;
- Invites Turkey to come to term with its past;
- Considers that setting up grounds for future reconciliation between peoples is of utmost importance;
- Invites Armenia and Turkey to use examples of successful reconciliation between European Nations and focus on an agenda putting cooperation between the peoples first.



## New York Turned into an Armenian City for a Few Days Last Week



**By Harut  
Sassounian**

**Publisher, The  
California Courier**

New York City, the unofficial Capital of the World, became the hub of major Armenian events last week, on the eve of the Armenian Genocide Centennial.

On Tuesday, March 10, the 100 LIVES initiative was launched by Vartan Gregorian, President of Carnegie Corporation of New York, jointly with entrepreneurs Ruben Vardanyan of Moscow and Noubar Afeyan of Boston.

The organizers plan to collect the remarkable stories of Armenian Genocide survivors and their rescuers, including some Turks. The 100 LIVES project is establishing a \$1 million annual prize to be given to those who risk their lives to save others in any part of the world. Prominent actor and activist George Clooney will award the inaugural 'Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity' in Yerevan on April 24, 2016. The winners of the prize named after Genocide survivor Aurora Mardigianian, who starred in a 1919 film called "Ravished Armenia," are expected to transfer the \$1 million gift to an organization that has inspired them in their humanitarian endeavor.

The selection committee of this special award is co-chaired by George Clooney and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel. The committee also includes former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, UN Secretary-

General's Advisor on Genocide Prevention Gareth Evans, human rights activist Hina Jilani, and Dr. Gregorian.

The initiators of 100 LIVES also plan to take on the monumental task of digitizing millions of Armenian Genocide-related documents stored in the archives of numerous countries.

Present at the launch were Hollywood celebrities, prominent journalists from CNN, CBS 60 Minutes, Time magazine, and PBS, and Who's Who of New York. George Clooney and Ruben Vardanyan participated in a panel discussion moderated by Gwen Ifill, managing editor of Washington Week and co-anchor and co-managing editor of PBS NewsHour.

Here are brief excerpts from George Clooney's comments:

"I got to learn about Armenia through a friend of mine named Bob Manoukian, who probably picking on my innocence at the time, said 'you know some Senators, maybe you can talk to them to see if they can talk about the Armenian Genocide on the floor of the Senate.' So I tried. That did not play so well, as you can imagine. We have some military bases apparently in Turkey, I did not know about. Incirlik - who knew? I was shocked. So you become sort of informed about Armenia through friendships. I was slow to the game on this one. Genocide - just because the word wasn't invented for 30 more years, doesn't mean that it did not happen! ... My wife had no idea that I had been meeting with Ruben. She was in the middle of going to Strasbourg to the European Court to fight a real interesting Armenian battle. I went to park my

car in L.A., and the valet guys are all Armenian, and they come over and say, 'I want to kiss your wife ... you don't have to pay for parking.'"

The launch of 100 LIVES was covered by the global media, including the New York Times. I was surprised to find my picture shaking hands with George Clooney on the front page of The Hill newspaper, a major Washington publication. During my conversation with Amal Clooney, I thanked her for representing the Republic of Armenia, along with prominent international lawyer Geoffrey Robertson, at the recent European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

During the last weekend, the 'Responsibility 2015' Armenian Genocide Centennial Conference was held in New York City, lasting three days with the participation of over 50 renowned scholars, lawyers, authors, artists, journalists and activists from around the world, covering a wide range of issues related to various genocides. Among the prominent speakers were: David Balabanian, David Barsamian, Eric Bogosian, Chris Bohjalian, Israel Charny, David Gaunt, Aram Hamparian, Richard Hovannisian, Raymond Kevorkian, Charlie Mahtesian, Marc Mamigonian, Khatchig Mouradian, Mary Papazian, Geoffrey Robertson, Roger W. Smith, and Henry Theriault. I was honored to be included in such distinguished company, to speak on "Individual and Group Reparations."

Among the presenters at the conference were several Turkish scholars who delivered highly informative papers on the Armenian Genocide.

## The Armenian Genocide: 100 years of denial

*"Is an Armenian life no more valuable than a Jewish or Rwandan or Cambodian? As we approach the 100th anniversary this April, the United States still has time to set the record straight,"* **Stephan Pechdimaldji, a grandson to survivors of the Armenian Genocide and first generation Armenian-American, writes in an article published by the Huffington Post.**

Just one week before he prepared to attack Poland in the summer of 1939 and

embark on his quixotic campaign to take over the world, Adolf Hitler addressed his military commanders in Obersalzberg and referred to the Armenian Genocide by concluding his speech by saying, "Who, after all, speaks of the annihilation of the Armenians?" Hitler saw what happened nearly twenty-five years earlier and thought he could emulate what the Ottoman Turks did to ethnic Armenians living in Asia Minor and use it as a blueprint for his own sadistic ambitions without

anyone noticing. Today we remember this dark period with somber and reverence, and honor those who suffered during the Nazi's reign of terror. Since then the world has tried to bleach out this stain in history by learning from the past and vowing that this type of crime must never happen again. The healing process began with Germany taking responsibility for the actions of their predecessors and trying to make amends with the victims of the

*continued on page 14*

## The Armenian Genocide...

### From page 13

Holocaust and their families. Laws have even been codified that make it illegal to deny that the Holocaust ever happened. Watchdog organizations like the Anti-Defamation League were created to monitor anti-Semitism. But what if none of this happened? Imagine a world where governments didn't recognize the Holocaust and called for an historical commission to study the facts surrounding the event to determine whether or not a crime had been committed? This type of world does in fact exist today for Armenian-Americans who continue to grapple with the United State's refusal to recognize the Armenian Genocide and side with Turkey's ongoing contention that genocide never took place.

The Armenian Genocide is an historical fact. To say otherwise is a lie. As the first genocide of the 20th century, more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically killed through wholesale massacres and deportations carried out by the Turks during World War I and the last days of the Ottoman Empire. Eye-witness accounts including dispatches from Henry Morgenthau, American ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, photographs taken from German military media Armin T. Wegner and articles from the New York Times all chronicle the mass slaughter of Armenians during this period. Eerily similar to the Holocaust, Armenians were uprooted from their homes as part of a "relocation" effort to control the minority population. Instead, thousands were sent to their deaths by mass burnings, death marches in the Syrian Desert and primitive gas chambers where victims were forced into caves and asphyxiated in one fell swoop by the toxic airs lit from fires in front of the passage ways. Years later, Raphael Lemkin, a law professor responsible for coining the word genocide in 1943 did so with the fate of the Armenians in mind. Given this body of historical evidence, Turkey continues to deny any responsibility in orchestrating genocide. Turkey claims that the killings were not calculated and were an unfortunate result of war and that the deportations were justified because Armenians posed a threat due to their sympathetic feelings towards the Russians.

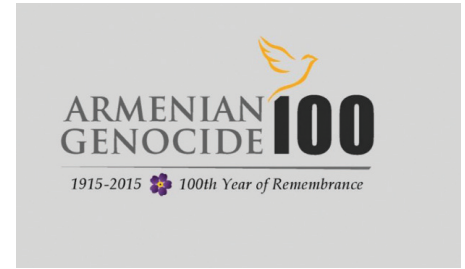
This issue is further complicated by Turkey's ongoing campaign to pressure and influence U.S. foreign policy. Sensitive to not offend Turkey for geopolit-

ical purposes, the U.S. has yet to hold Turkey responsible for these atrocities. For years, the U.S. claimed that it was not in our foreign interests to do so because Turkey was a NATO ally and strategically valuable due to its close proximity to the Soviet Union. When the Cold War ended, the argument turned to Turkey's importance as a free and democratic society in a sea of Islamic fundamentalists. Countries like Yemen, Iraq and Iran could learn from Turkey's example, the line of reasoning would go. This flies in the face of our core values. How can the leader of the free world, a champion of equality and universal civil liberties be complicit in such an egregious violation of basic human rights?

Sadly, this issue has become a political football in our country where politicians like President George W. Bush and Barack Obama looking for votes and money promise to recognize the Armenian Genocide and then bow to pressure once in office. Political expediency should play no role in this debate when the facts overwhelmingly support what many scholars and students of history recognize as the 20th century's first genocide.

I grew up hearing stories of how my grandparents survived the Armenian Genocide. Of how my grandfather hid in a haystack for more than forty days while his father and brother were taken away, never to be seen or heard from again. Of his harrowing escape from the tiny village of Yozgat to Aleppo, Syria, where many survivors gathered and of how he worked as a welder to make enough money to eventually settle in Egypt. These stories had a profound impact on me and I could never fully comprehend what it must have been like to go through such a tumultuous ordeal. And as a child I remember going to Times Square every April 24th - the official day of remembrance - to commemorate the Armenian Genocide and listen to civic leaders and politicians excoriate Turkey and pledge recognition.

Since then, I've written countless letters to news publications on this topic and have urged friends, colleagues and even strangers to take up this cause. Some say why does this matter? How is the relevant to their daily lives or something that the government should get involved with? This is significant because denial is often the last phase of genocide. What's more, the U.S. can send a message to despotic



states like The Sudan that genocide on any grounds is unacceptable and any attempt to obfuscate responsibility will be met with staunch opposition. Much like the Holocaust, we owe recognition of the Armenian Genocide to the victims and their families as well as to the intrepid guardians of human rights both here and abroad.

While Turkey continues to uphold this policy of denial, there have been folks like Orhan Pamuk, a Turkish novelist and Nobel-prize winning author, who made statements regarding the Armenian Genocide who subsequently was charged with violating Article 301 of the Turkish penal code that prohibits and bans insulting Turkey. And then there's Hrant Dink, an editor of a Turkish-Armenian newspaper whose life was cut short by an assassin's bullet for his views on Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide. These actions do not reflect a government that supports free speech and divergent points of view - all vital components of a democratic society. Distorting historical facts surrounding the Armenian Genocide is just another example of Turkish subterfuge in trying to burnish its image with the West.

Admitting past mistakes is not uncommon for the United States. In fact it's in our blood. Apologizing for the mistreatment of African Americans for slavery and the internment of Japanese Americans into camps during World War II are just some examples. President Clinton even went so far to make amends for not doing enough to stop genocide in Rwanda in the mid 1990s. And time and again we see the U.S. condemn countries like Iran for denying the Holocaust, yet continue to turn a blind eye to the Armenian Genocide. Why are Armenians any different? Is an Armenian life no more valuable than a Jewish or Rwandan or Cambodian? As we approach the 100th anniversary this April, the United States still has time to set the record straight. Time will tell if they decide to be on the right or wrong side of history.



## Petition urges Obama to recognize the Armenian Genocide



The Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of America has launched a petition on Change.org, which calls on US President Barack Obama, the House of Representatives and the Senate to recognize the Armenian Genocide. The petition has been signed by over 3,000 people by now.

The text of the petition is provided below:

"This upcoming April 24, 2015 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Join us as we call on President Obama and Congress to remember the Armenian Genocide by reaffirming past U.S. policy of labeling this event a "genocide." Between 1915 and 1923, two million Christian Armenians were forcibly uprooted from their homeland with 1.5 million of that number systematically slaughtered by the Ottoman Turkish government under the cover of World War I, effectively eliminating the 5,000-year presence of Armenians

in their historic homeland. This campaign of ethnic mass murder - which also targeted Christian Greeks and Assyrians living in Turkey - is considered the first documented genocide of modern times and included crucifixions, torture of women and children, sexual slavery, deportations, mass executions, forced labor, enslavement of children and purposeful starvation. Similar to the pattern seen in the Holocaust, this genocidal campaign also consisted of the confiscation of the personal and real property of the genocide victims, as well as that of the Armenian Church.

The Armenian Genocide is settled history. The International Association of Genocide Scholars has repeatedly and unanimously declared these events to be a genocide. In 1918, Theodore Roosevelt referred to the Armenian Genocide as "the greatest crime of the war." In 1939, Adolf Hitler referenced the Armenian Genocide as justification for the Holocaust saying, "Who, after all, today speaks of the annihilation of the Armenians?" The creator of the word "genocide," Holocaust survivor and lawyer Raphael Lemkin, said he conceived the word to describe the pattern of ethnic cleansing seen in WWI with the Armenians and WWII with the Jewish people.

Despite this overwhelming evidence, the Turkish government denies its past. It has criminalized discussion of the

Armenian Genocide by its own citizens and built a powerful coalition of lobbyists in the United States who use political influence to deny the truth about the genocide and prevent international recognition of this crime, including former Congressional leaders like Dick Gephardt and Dennis Hastert and the law firm of Greenberg Traurig.

**We call on President Obama and Congress to rise above Turkey's threats and political pressure to take a stand for historical justice.** Join the 22 other countries - including 11 NATO allies, the Holy See, 43 U.S. states, and numerous past Presidents including Ronald Reagan - in recognizing that the events of 1915 were, in fact, a genocide.

**In the case of President Obama, we simply ask him to keep his promise: As a Senator and candidate for President, President Obama strongly endorsed recognition of the genocide, promised he would recognize the genocide as President, and said America "deserves a leader who speaks truthfully about the Armenian Genocide." We couldn't agree more, Mr. President.**

The surest way to prevent atrocities in the future is to acknowledge and learn from those in the past. Sign on to our petition today to add your voice to the growing chorus who demand recognition and justice."

## Erdogan decries Armenian Genocide recognition drive

Turks have suffered far more than Armenians over the past century, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan claimed on March 19, angrily denouncing long-running efforts at greater international recognition of the 1915 Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire.

In a speech in Istanbul reported by "Today's Zaman" daily, Erdogan challenged Armenia and its worldwide Diaspora to come up with more documentary evidence of the slaughter of 1.5 million Armenians. He charged that their efforts to have more countries recognize the mass killings as genocide are aimed at discrediting Turkey, rather than uncovering the truth.

"If we examine what our nation had to go through over the past 100-150 years, we would find far more [suffering] than the Armenians allegedly went through," he said, according to "Today's Zaman."

Erdogan claimed that Ankara has "over a million documents" showing that the

Ottoman Empire never sought to exterminate the Armenian population of the crumbling empire during the First World War. "How many documents do you have?" he asked the Armenians. "Bring your documents, and we will task the historians, political scientists, even archeologists and lawyers [with studying them.]"

Armenian officials and scholars have repeatedly dismissed Erdogan's assurances that the Turkish state archives relating to the Ottoman period are open to foreign researchers. Some of them have suggested that important documents shedding light on the events of 1915 have long been destroyed by Ankara.

More importantly, the Armenian side insists that there is sufficient evidence to assert that the mass killings and deportations ordered by the Ottoman regime of "the Young Turks" constituted genocide. This position is backed by many Western historians specializing in research of crimes against humanity.

"The historical record on the Armenian Genocide is unambiguous and documented by overwhelming evidence," the U.S.-based International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) said in a 2007 letter to members of the U.S. Congress. "It is proven by foreign office records of the United States, France, Great Britain, Russia, and perhaps most importantly, of Turkey's World War I allies, Germany and Austria-Hungary, as well as by the records of the Ottoman Courts-Martial of 1918-1920, and by decades of scholarship."

"We urge you to reject the Turkish campaign of denial, as you may be meeting with groups and individuals who are ardent deniers," read the letter. "We would underscore that the Armenian Genocide is not controversial, but rather is denied only by the Turkish government and its apologists."

Incidentally, the IAGS is scheduled to hold the next annual meeting of its members in Yerevan in July.

## Reversing the global obesity

By José Graziano da Silva,  
FAO Director-General

The worldwide surge in obesity rivals war and smoking in terms of the global economic burden it imposes.

Obesity is no longer a concern solely of higher income, developed countries. The prevalence of obesity and overweight has risen in all regions, including in low-income countries. Today, nearly half of all countries are struggling with both undernutrition and overweight/obesity. Indeed, undernutrition and obesity often co-exist in the same communities - even in the same household.

Economic and social transformations, including higher incomes, in many poor and middle-income nations and the availability, at relatively attractive prices, of over processed foods have led to changes in lifestyles, including dietary habits and reduced physical activity across the globe.

Not a single country - not one - saw declining obesity between 2000 and 2013. WHO estimates 1.9 billion overweight people, of whom a third are obese.

This involves social and economic costs that, piled on top of those resulting from malnutrition, society can ill afford to bear.

The 2013 edition of FAO's State of Food and Agriculture noted that the social burden due to overweight and obesity has doubled over the past two decades. According to the report, the cumulative cost of all non-communicable diseases, for which overweight and obesity are leading risk factors, were estimated to be about US\$1.4 trillion in 2010.

More recently, the McKinsey Global Institute estimated the global price tag of obesity - including the increasing the risk of heart disease, hypertension, strokes, diabetes, and some cancers affecting the overall quality of life - could run as high as \$2 trillion a year, third only to smoking (\$2.1 trillion) and armed conflicts (\$2.1 trillion)!

While the numbers are not comparable and the global estimates of the economic costs of obesity and overweight vary, they coincide in their scale.

Now, think of what could be done to tackle malnutrition - hunger, undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity - if we threw that amount of money behind the effort. Increasing funding is necessary to scale up efforts, but it should be a part of a bigger effort to re-strategize our approach to tackling malnutrition in all of its forms, deepening our focus beyond the immediate causes to include the broader socio-cultural, economic and political dimensions of nutrition.

This was a challenge that was taken up at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in Rome in November 2014. At ICN2, governments endorsed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the accompanying Framework for Action, committing themselves to address the broad spectrum of malnutrition - including undernourishment, stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies, obesity and related non-communicable diseases.

Making progress on these pledges will require major shifts in the manner in which we address malnutrition. It entails shifting from treating the adverse effects of malnutrition to prevention by ensuring healthy balanced diets, to better address the root causes of malnutrition, and we'll need to develop new poli-



cies, strategies and programs to help us do that.

Here are some guiding ideas.

First, let's reform our food systems to ensure better nutrition for all. FAO's State of Food and Agriculture 2013 showed how food systems influence the quantity, quality, diversity and nutritional content of foods, and determine the availability, affordability and acceptability of foods needed for good nutrition. Reforming our food systems to improve nutrition will require growing nutrient-rich foods and ensuring healthy processing to minimize the loss of nutrients.

Second, we must make it easier for consumers to make food choices that promote healthy diets. This requires political commitment besides effective and coherent policies and strategies. It will require increased investment in nutrition promotion and education programs. It will require creating schools, work places and communities that make healthy diets easily accessible and encourage people to exercise more. It will require empowering consumers with information through formal and informal popular nutrition education and giving more information on the food being sold to them, including through appropriate labelling.

Third, by creating a common vision and multisectoral approach involving governments, farming, health, retail and other relevant public and private sectors, as well as civil society. The multiple causes of malnutrition, including obesity, call for effective collaboration: no sector or entity can effectively address the problem on its own.

Fourth, trade and investment agreements must be designed to influence food systems positively. By improving the availability of, and access to, food, efficient and effective trade can play a key role in achieving nutrition objectives. But such agreements should not "crowd out" the possibility of developing local agriculture. Thriving national and local agriculture systems not only reduce countries' dependency on food imports but promote greater diversity in diets, can act as a buffer against price spikes in international markets, and generate jobs to help reduce rural poverty.

ICN2 has set the stage for all actors to come on board to reverse the fast rising global obesity. Malnutrition, from undernutrition to obesity, is preventable at a relatively low cost if we work well. Let us move quickly to reverse obesity trends and to make hunger and all forms of malnutrition history.

José Graziano da Silva is Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).



# "KAAR-MED"

## PRIVATE CLINIC CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

The Private Clinic "KAAR-MED" has been functioning on the market for medical services for more than 15 years. The Clinic is located in Warsaw (10 Bitwy Warszawskiej street) close to the centre of the city within easy reach of Dworzec Zachodni railway station and other city communications networks.

Our Patients can use a private parking located directly at the entrance to the Clinic with special places for ambulance and disabled people. Clinic is fully adapted and friendly for wheelchair users.

The Clinic specialisation is gynaecology and obstetrics including full pregnancy care, "one day surgery" and aesthetic medicine procedures as well as plastic and cosmetic gynaecology. "KAAR-MED" employs gynaecologists and physicians of all specialisations who have clinical experience gained in leading Warsaw hospitals.

We offer a wide range of laboratory, microbiological and genetic tests, diagnostic imaging techniques (USG) including prenatal tests such as pregnancy ultrasound, prenatal imaging findings, Harmony Prenatal Test, Doppler ultrasonography tests and many others.

The "KAAR-MED" Clinic is fully outfitted with the latest medical equipment used for diagnosis and treatment of the entire range of gynaecology and obstetrics diseases:

- Voluson ultrasound imaging system (pictures)
- Toshiba ultrasound imaging system
- Colposcope
- Cryosurgery machine
- Electrocoagulation apparatus
- ELLMAN Pelleve Unit (radio frequency surgery and wrinkle reduction system)
- Other equipment by "Aesculap" and "Stainless" companies

Our clinic fulfils all the official norms (stated by the Direction of the Health Minister of Poland of 02.02.2011) concerning professional, technical and sanitary conditions for health care organizations.

We are looking forward to see You in "KAAR-MED" Clinic and shall do out best to make You feel comfortable, safe and professionally treated here.

**10 Bitwy Warszawskiej,  
02-362 Warsaw, Poland**

### Information and registration:

**+48 22 823 04 52  
+48 22 201 90 95  
+ 48 50 910 74 05**



## WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

## Enjoy your leisure

## 16 March

**19:00.** Don Juans in Amrseille. Based on the play by the 20th century French playwright Marc Camoletti. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

## 17 March

**12:00.** The Dog and the Cat. By Hovhannes Tumanyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan  
**19:00.** Traviata. Opera in 4 acts. G. Verdi. Opera | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian  
**19:00.** Glamorous Chobans. Transparent comedy. Author: Armen Vardanyan. Director: Karo Balyan. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan  
**20:00.** Stop Band + Friends. Jam session!. Concert | Stop Club

## 18 March

**19:00.** Don Juans in Amrseille. Based on the play by the 20th century French playwright Marc Camoletti. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski  
**19:00.** Eastern Dentist. Operette in 2 acts. Authors: Artemi Ayvazyan, Hakob. Paronyan. Stage Director: Yervand Ghazanchyan. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan  
**19:00.** The Sick. Comedy. Author: Hermine Mons. Music Design: Tigran Atayan. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan  
**19:00.** From Here and There. Premiere. Sergey Danielyan's mono-play. Author and Staging Director: Sergey Danielyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater  
**20:00.** Sukhishvili. Georgian National Ballet. Dance | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian  
**20:00.** The Stop Band & Garo Daghdvirenian. Concert | Stop Club

## 19 March

**18:00.** Ak. Ak. Based on N. Gogol's "The Overcoat". Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan  
**19:00.** Blaise.C.Magnier. Staging: Hrachya Gasparyan. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater  
**19:00.** Il Trovatore. Opera in 3 acts. G. Verdi. Staging Director: Honoured Worker of Art, Norayr Sargsyan. Opera | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian  
**19:00.** Flowers of Evil. Mimodrama in 1 act. Director: Zhirayr Dadasyan. Play | Yerevan State Pantomime Theater

**19:00.** Mister Babik and Others. Comedy in 2 acts. Author: Zhora Harutyunyan. Staging: Yervand Ghazanchyan. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

**19:00.** Abanamat (Once We Lived in the Mountains). S. Dovlatov. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski  
**19:00.** Royal Concert. Musical-amusing show. Author and director of the play - Ara Yernjakyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

## 20 March

**16:00.** The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Mark Twain. Stage Director: Hranush Chichakyan. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater  
**16:00.** David of Sasun. Author: Hovh. Tumanyan. Staged by David Hakobyan. Play | State Musical Chamber Theater  
**19:00.** The Sick. Comedy. Author: Hermine Mons. Music Design: Tigran Atayan. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan  
**19:00.** Royal Concert. Musical-amusing show. Author and director of the play - Ara Yernjakyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater  
**19:00.** Twelfth Night. Comedy in 2 acts. Author: William Shakespeare. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan  
**19:00.** Woe from Wit. A. Griboyedov. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski  
**19:00.** Jesus of Nazareth and His Second Disciple. Drama in 2 acts. P. Zeytuntsyan. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan  
**19:00.** The Caucasian Chalk Circle. Play in 2 acts. Author: Bertolt Brecht. Translation, staging and design: Tigran Gasparyan. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan  
**19:00.** 44 degree. Author: Astghik Simonyan. Stage director: Zohrap Bek-Gasparyants. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater  
**19:00.** Philharmonic Orchestra - 90. Program: Mozart: Symphony No. 39. Bruckner. Symphony No. 4. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

## 21 March

**12:00, 14:00, 16:00.** Adventures of the Wolf and the Little Goats. Author: Petros Martirosyan. Staging: Tigran Zahalyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan  
**12:30, 14:00, 15:30.** The Tailless Fox. Hovhannes Tumanian. Stage Director: Lily Elbakyan. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

**14:00.** Tom & Jerry. Premiere. Children's Musical Fun Show. Staging: Artur Saribekyan. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater

**18:00.** Du-Dum the Wise Man and the Ignorant. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan  
**19:00.** Sale. Author: A. Galin. Staging: V. Stepanyan. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater  
**19:00.** Twelfth Night or I am Dying of Love. Premiere. W. Shakespeare. Comedy without intermission. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan  
**19:00.** Lorkiana - Carmen-Suite. Ballet | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian  
**19:00.** Amnesia. Drama. Staging: Gor Margaryan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater  
**19:00.** Rich Girl Can't Be Ugly. Comedy, 2 acts. Author: Alexander Ostrovski. Director: Yervand Ghazanchyan. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

## 15 March

**12:00, 14:00, 16:00.** The Tailless Fox. Author: Hovhannes Tumanyan. Staging: Ruben Marukhyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan  
**12:00, 14:00.** Lazy Huri. A. Aghasaryan. Play for kids | Hamazgayin State Theater  
**12:30, 14:00, 15:30.** Little Red Riding Hood. Charles Perrault. Version and Staging: Armen Elbakyan. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater  
**14:00.** Cinderella. Author: Charles Perrault. Staged by: A. Miridjanyan. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater  
**16:00.** Magic Ball. Author: Ara Yernjakyan. Director of the play: Lusine Yernjakyan. Play for kids | Yerevan State Chamber Theater  
**17:00.** The New Adventures of The Three Piglets. Directed by Samson Stepanyan. Choreographer: Sevag Avakian. Musical | State Musical Chamber Theater  
**18:00.** Golden Chicken. Author: Vladimir Orlov. Director/Producer: Karen Khachatryan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan  
**19:00.** Jackpot. Premiere. Ray Cooney. Comedy in 1 act. Director: Samson Stepanyan. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater  
**19:00.** Nazar, Nazar, Till the End. Staging director: Ara Yernjakyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater  
**19:00.** Romeo and Juliet. W. Shakespeare. Tragedy in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan  
**19:00.** You Can't Get Rid Of Me. Comedy in 2 acts. Author: Gurgen Khanjyan. Staging: Yervand Ghazanchyan. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan



## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

Please note the lead paragraphs because both the eclipse and the Spring Equinox pertain to you. They occur at the front cusp of your sign. Forward motion in the areas of travel, higher education, legal interests, and publication are blocked or stymied in some way. Clear your decks now and begin again later.

### Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

Venus has entered your sign on the 17th and will be traveling "with you" through Apr. 29th. Her presence gives you an air of poise and people will simply like how you look. You may become interested in your personal appearance and make improvements in how you are seen. Your interest increases in things of beauty.

### Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

There is an old saying: "Don't believe everything you think." Take this one to heart this week. Your feelings and thoughts may be only projections of what you want to think. You might identify a piece of information as a truth, when indeed, it is merely your opinion

### Cancer (June 21--July 21) :

It is likely that you are making a shift in life direction. That could be career or it might have more to do with following your nose into a new adventure. On the whole, water people don't make shifts easily, so it is likely you have been considering this for a long time. It is possible that one of your parents is ready for a new adventure, too.

### Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

Areas that must be brought to conclusion at this time are those involving money that you share with others. That could be alimony, debt, investments, insurance or inheritance. The new beginning has to do with travel, higher education, publishing, the internet, or activities involving the law.

### Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

Your attitude about you and your relationship is not altogether accurate right now. You may be involved in romantic bliss, which is wonderful. This may be a good week to work through some of the issues in the relationship so you can heal each other. Spiritual pursuits are given a "go" signal.

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

Your attitude about you and your relationship is not altogether accurate right now. You may be involved in romantic bliss, which is wonderful. This may be a good week to work through some of the issues in the relationship so you can heal each other. Spiritual pursuits are given a "go" signal.

### Scorpio (Oct. 23--Nov. 21) :

Events of recent weeks have brought one relationship to a crisis point. You will have to make a serious commitment if you want to hold onto it. The truth is that your financial situation and your will just may not be strong enough to maintain things on your own. Maybe this situation is better left behind.

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

You are working very hard to give birth to a child or a creative enterprise. The timing feels crucial. Only long term persistence will yield results, so it is best to assess whether you have the will and the support to accomplish your goal. (Gamblers beware: Pay off your debts or things will go poorly for you.)

### Capricorn ( Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

You may be grieving a recent loss. Your desire is to go into your cave and sit in your stew until ready to emerge. Unfortunately the world of family and career keep moving forward and are dragging you along. Make room to curl up and nurse your soul every day, in spite of the routine of demands.

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

This may be a time in which you are forced to pay things off and clean up whatever you owe. Avoid using the credit card if you possibly can. Your nerves are on edge. Make it a point to drive and handle tools carefully. If you pay close attention you can prevent an accident before it happens.

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

This time represents a change in your sense of identity or image. Perhaps you are setting aside an old title and replacing it with a new one. Maybe you suddenly realize you have let go of your self-care and need a massive makeover in diet and exercise. (The winters are hard on Pisces because of the cold weather.)

## ARMENIAN POETRY

### Alicia Ghiragossian MOTHERHOOD

You do not have life yet  
and you bring me life.  
You are in the passage  
of the beginning  
illuminating me  
from your shadows.  
And although  
you do not have a name  
you are not anonymous for me.  
You are my child  
and that is enough.

\*\*\*\*

Without knowing you  
I recognize you  
without touching you  
I embrace you.  
You are the voice  
announced  
in my life chart.  
People think  
I give you life  
but we both know  
we give birth  
to each other.

I  
the child  
you  
the mother.  
You are  
the incarnated miracle  
that will transform me  
into a mother....  
My child.  
Coming from impossible dreams  
you are in me  
and yet  
I am waiting for you.

\*\*\*\*

...Maybe others  
will not remember me  
but your cells  
will never forget  
they were part of mine  
a bonded substance  
of matter and love.  
The day I depart  
do not believe in my absence.  
I will be in the dreams  
that will nourish  
your sleep....  
I wanted to offer you  
the kind of childhood  
and happiness  
that was stolen from me.  
If I failed  
try to forgive me.  
The last word is yours.  
But remember always  
that my love for you  
will be your shelter forever.  
Beyond words.  
Beyond life.  
Beyond death.

## Swiss company to invest \$0.5 million in pharmaceutical manufacturing in Armenia

A Swiss pharmaceutical company is going to invest \$0.5 million to experimental manufacturing of drugs in Armenia.

Azad Pharmaceutical Ingredients, Armenian Ministry of Economy and the Armenian Development Agency signed a cooperation memorandum in Yerevan.

"We are going to open a raw materials lab and then pilot production. In few years, we will probably open a full-fledged pharmaceutical plant," said Mike Baronian,



Mike Baronian, CEO of AZAD Pharma



Tigran Hakhverdyan (l), Area Director, AZAD Pharma, Vigen Topuzyan (r), Corresponding Member NAS RA

chairman of Swiss company's board of directors.

The company is going to focus on trainings of pharmaceutical chemists first.

"Armenia has a considerable potential of human resources," he said.

The company's investments will make \$10-15 million, while the pilot production may open in 3-4 years.

The Swiss company chose Armenia mainly due to an opportunity of facilitated

exports to the markets of Customs Union states.

"The procedures inside the Customs Union will be more simplified," Baronian added.

Since 1960s Mike Baronian has been working for Johnson&Johnson corporation, then was appointed a vice president of Cilag AG. In 2003 he set up his own company focusing on ophthalmology and oncology drugs.



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