

# Armenian Constitutional Referendum Set For December 6



Armenia - President Serzh Sargsyan (L) meets with Gianni Buquicchio, head of the Venice Commission, Yerevan, 8Oct2015.

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## Cooperation between Armenia, Canada effective despite distance

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian met with Canada's Minister of International Development and La Francophonie Christian Paradis on October 9.

Welcoming the guest, Minister Nalbandian mentioned that despite the distance between Armenia and Canada, the two states effectively cooperate both on bilateral and multilateral formats and the recently intensive high-level contacts create a firm basis for the development of the relations.

Expressing gratitude for the reception, hosting of Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) and high-level of the organization of the event, Minister Paradis thanked for the support of Michaëlle Jean candidature for OIF Secretary General, announced by Canada at the Dakar Summit.

During the meeting, pending issues on the agenda of OIF member-states and



steps to resolve them were touched upon.

The Ministers discussed steps, undertaken for the activation of political dialogue, facilitation of visa regime, expansion of trade and economic cooperation between states.

Minister Paradis stressed significant role that the Armenian community in Canada plays in the public, political and economic life.

Edward Nalbandian and Christian Paradis exchanged views on a range of

pressing international and regional issues.

In this context, Minister Nalbandian underscored, that nearly 1,7000 refugees from Syria received asylum in Armenia. Minister Paradis, in his turn, presented Canada's assistance to the refugees and displaced persons from the Middle East.

The Foreign Minister presented to the guest efforts exerted by Armenia and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs on peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

## Iran's new Ambassador hands credentials to Armenian President

Seyyed Kazem Sajjad, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) to the Republic of Armenia, handed over his credentials to President Serzh Sargsyan, President's Press Office reported.

Armenia's president congratulated the ambassador on starting his diplomatic duties in our country and wished him success. Serzh Sargsyan spoke highly of the activities carried out by the IRI embassy in Armenia for the last 20 years and expressed the hope that Ambassador Sajjad will continue to pay close attention to Armenian-Iranian relations, following the example of his predecessors who completed their diplomatic tenure in Armenia and filled the ranks of the Armenian people's friends, by making every effort to further strengthen relations and broaden cooperation between the two countries.

Noting that Ambassador Sajjad has taken office in an important period of time, when a senior-level visit from the friendly country of Iran is expected to be paid by IRI First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri, the president stressed that it is a great start and opportunity for the newly-appointed ambassador to engage in productive activities.

At the meeting, the RA president and the IRI ambassador touched upon the implementation of Armenian-Iranian large multi-sectoral projects adopted as a result of the high-level bilateral agreements, which, they were certain, will elevate bilateral relations to a qualitatively new level.



The interlocutors agreed that the new integration processes open up broader opportunities to promote collaboration between Armenia and Iran in both bilateral and multilateral formats.

The ambassador highly praised the Iranian-Armenian community, stressing the community's major role in strengthening bilateral interstate relations. Considering it a great honor to assume the office of the ambassador to Armenia, Seyyed Kazem Sajjad assured the president that he will continue his predecessors' work with the same devotion and vigor and building on that solid foundation, he will try his best to develop and further enhance Armenian-Iranian ties.



## Should the negotiations fail, Armenia will recognize the Nagorno Karabakh Republic: Foreign Minister



Should the negotiation fail, Armenia will recognize the Nagorno Karabakh and take all other steps to ensure Artsakh's security, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said at the National Assembly on October 7.

Asked about Armenia's steps in case of

Azerbaijan's accession to the Eurasian Economic Union, Minister Nalbandian said the issue is not on the agenda. "All members of the EEU have the right for their opinion, and such decisions should be made by a consensus," he added.

Speaking about the recent escalation at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and the line of contact between Karabakh and Azerbaijani forces, Edward Nalbandian said: "The Co-Chairs have issued targeted statements, clearly indicating who's responsible for the ceasefire violations. They offer to create mechanisms for investigation of border incidents, and declare that Armenia has accepted the proposal, while Azerbaijan refuses to do so."

"Thus, the Co-Chairs make it clear that Azerbaijan bears full responsibility for the ceasefire violations and border incidents," the Minister said.

He reminded that Chairman Ed Royce

(R-CA) and Ranking Democrat Eliot Engel (D-NY) of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee recently sent a letter to US Co-Chair James Warlick, proposing three concrete pro-peace steps that would, "in the short-term, save lives and help to avert war."

"This means the initiative of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs finds support not only among different international structures, but also national parliaments, including the US Congress. Moreover, James Warlick has reacted to the letter, saying he fully agrees with the Royce-Engel proposals for Karabakh peace," Minister Nalbandian stated.

"We also welcome, because that's what we have always been saying. It's about withdrawal of snipers, reinforcement of the ceasefire regime and creation of mechanisms for investigation of border incidents," the Minister concluded.

## Armenian Constitutional Referendum Set For December 6

The constitutional referendum on Armenia's switch to the parliamentary system of government sought by President Serzh Sargsyan will take place on December 6, it was announced on October 8.

Serzh Sargsyan formally called the referendum and set a date for it three days after the Armenian parliament dominated by his loyalists approved a package of sweeping constitutional amendments drafted by a presidential commission.

To pass, the amendments will have to be approved by the majority of referendum participants making up at least one-quarter of Armenia's 2.5 million or so eligible voters. Serzh Sargsyan and his political allies will thus need to garner at least 620,000 votes.

The Armenian president got, according to official results, more than 860,000 votes when he secured his reelection in a February 2013 ballot denounced as fraudulent by his main challenger, Raffi Hovannisian, and other opposition forces.

Hovannisian's Zharangutyun (Heritage) party, former President Levon Ter-

Petrosian's Armenian National Congress (HAK) as well as two dozen smaller anti-government groups last month joined forces in an effort to scuttle the constitutional reform. They pledged to turn the upcoming referendum into a popular vote of no confidence in Sargsyan and the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK).

The reform opponents maintain that the proposed amendments to the Armenian constitution are aimed at enabling Sargsyan to indefinitely stay in power in a different capacity after the end of his second and final presidential term in 2018.

Serzh Sargsyan has denied this, saying that he will not become prime minister or parliament speaker in case of Armenia's transformation into a parliamentary republic. The president, his HHK and other polit-

ical allies say that such a radical change would on the contrary decentralize power and facilitate the country's democratization.

Legal experts from the Council of Europe's Venice Commission largely endorsed the draft amendments last month after most of the changes in the text recommended by them were accepted by the Sargsyan administration. In a September 11 report, they said that the amendments are now "in line with international standards."

Incidentally, the head of the Venice Commission, Gianni Buquicchio, visited Yerevan and met with Serzh Sargsyan on October 8. According to a statement by the Armenian presidential press office, Buquicchio expressed hope that the constitutional referendum will be "free, fair and transparent."

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## Kocharyan calls constitutional reforms "a big mistake"



Former Armenian President Robert Kocharyan has stated that the constitutional reform "is a big mistake which will entail extremely dangerous ramifications for the future of Armenia," Mediamax reports.

"My point of view hasn't changed: there is no need for constitutional reforms, especially such radical ones. All the challenges and problems that the country faces are quite solvable under the current Constitution which functionality is not questioned by anyone. The published draft has exceeded my worst expectations. The document doesn't already stipulate the choice between semi-presidential and parliamentary systems of gover-

nance: the draft Constitution contains considerable risks of shifting to a de-facto single-party system which will lead to political monopoly and stagnation. The Soviet Constitution had a beautiful wording, but Article 6 on the ruling role of the CPSU legalized the communists' political monopoly. Everyone knows what consequently became of the USSR. The draft Constitution is saturated with beautiful phrases on human rights and social goals of the state which, however, serve to disguise an absolutely unacceptable way of National Assembly formation emasculating the very gist of the parliamentary governance.

The draft's Article 89 is called for ensuring dominance in the parliament and accordingly, in the power, a single party, as well. In our realities, this will be the party possessing the administrative and financial resources irrespective of its popularity.

Taking into account the absolute lack of even an implication of inner-party democracy in Armenia, the patronage governance will become a source of evil for many years to come, a source of stagnation and tool for the reproduction of the vicious system.

In fact, the proposed draft turns the political monopoly into a constitutional norm.

I don't wish such a future for my country, which is why I am definitely against the reforms. A big mistake is made which may entail extremely dangerous ramifications for the future of Armenia", stated Robert Kocharyan.

## Dashnaks disagree with Kocharyan on Constitution



The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun) disagrees with former President Robert Kocharyan's strong objections to Armenia's transformation into a parliamentary republic, a leader of the opposition party previously allied to him said on October 7.

Artsvik Minasyan dismissed Kocharyan's claims that the constitutional changes put forward by President Serzh Sargsyan would prolong the ruling Republican Party's hold on power and have other "extremely dangerous" consequences

for the country. He said the parliamentary system of government envisaged by them would on the contrary bode well for democratization.

"Since President Kocharyan is known for his fairly effective political initiatives, I think that if he once again reads the latest version of the constitutional changes he will reconsider many of his approaches," claimed Minasyan.

The ex-president, who governed Armenia from 1998-2008, harshly criticized Sargsyan's constitutional package in

comments made to his unofficial website on Tuesday. He singled out a draft amendment stipulating that Armenia's parliamentary elections must always produce a clear winner controlling the majority of parliament seats. Kocharyan claimed that this clause, if enacted, would lead to permanent one-party rule reminiscent of Soviet times.

Minasyan rejected this comparison. Dashnaktsutyun, he said, believes that the parliamentary system coupled with general elections held only on a party-list basis would bring more pluralism to the Armenian political arena.

Dashnaktsutyun, which is particularly influential in the worldwide Armenian Diaspora, supported Kocharyan throughout his decade-long rule, controlling several ministerial and other senior government posts. It remained represented in the government after Kocharyan handed over power to Sargsyan in 2008.

Dashnaktsutyun moved into opposition in 2009 in protest against Sargsyan's policy of rapprochement with Turkey. Some observers think that its strong endorsement of the constitutional reform is paving the way for its return to the government.



## Obama Administration supports Royce-Engel proposals for Karabakh peace

Ambassador James Warlick, the lead U.S. negotiator in the Nagorno Karabakh peace process, has voiced the Obama Administration's support for common-sense measures, advanced by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY) and a growing number of their Congressional colleagues, to stop increased cease-fire violations along the Karabakh line of contact.

In a statement issued to H1 Television's Haykaram Nahapetyan, Ambassador Warlick explained, "We fully support the initiatives proposed by Congressman Royce and Congressman Engel. Confidence building measures and people-to-people programs reduce tensions and lay the basis for a lasting peace. We have raised each of these initiatives with the parties and will continue to pursue all steps that can lead to a negotiated settlement," concluded Warlick.

"We are pleased to see the Obama Administration joining with key Congressional leaders from both parties in supporting common-sense peace-keeping proposals for Nagorno Karabakh," said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. "These U.S.-backed life-saving initiatives have long been endorsed by both Artsakh and



Armenia, but - at the cost of lives on both sides - rejected by the increasingly aggressive and isolated Azerbaijani regime of Ilham Aliyev."

Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel are currently collecting Congressional signatures on a letter addressed to Ambassador Warlick - the U.S. representative to the OSCE's Minsk Group tasked with reaching a resolution of Nagorno Karabakh-related security and status issues - specifically calling for the U.S. and OSCE to abandon their failed policy of false parity in responding to acts of aggression, noting that: "The longstanding U.S. and OSCE practice of responding to each new attack with generic calls upon all parties to refrain from violence has failed to de-escalate the situation. Instead, this policy of artificial evenhandedness has dangerously increased tensions. There will be no peace absent responsibility."

The letter outlines three concrete pro-peace steps that would, "in the short-term, save lives and help to avert war. Over the longer term," the letter notes, "these steps could contribute to a comprehensive and enduring peace for all the citizens of the region:"

- An agreement from all sides not to deploy snipers along the line of contact.
- The placement of OSCE-monitored, advanced gunfire-locator systems and sound-ranging equipment to determine the source of attacks along the line of contact.

- The deployment of additional OSCE observers along the line of contact to better monitor cease-fire violations.

Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh have both expressed support for these life-saving initiatives; Azerbaijan has not.

ANCA Chairman Ken Hachikian, Executive Director Aram Hamparian, Government Affairs Director Kate Nahapetian and the ANCA Eastern Region's Armen Sahakyan met with Ambassador Warlick last week, in the immediate aftermath of the latest fatal Azerbaijani attacks against Armenia and Artsakh, expressing concern about the OSCE negotiators' reluctance to clearly and unequivocally condemn Azerbaijan's fatal ceasefire violations.

## Armenian FM meets senior Pentagon official

On October 6, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian had a meeting with Anne Witkowsky, the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Welcoming the guest, Minister Nalbandian expressed satisfaction with the development of the Armenian-US partnership in different fields, including defense and security. The Foreign Minister of Armenia praised the continuous support of the United States to the development of Armenia's peacekeeping capacities.

Expressing gratitude for the reception, Anne Witkowsky mentioned that the United States highly appreciates the partnership with Armenia, the cooperation in the field of defense, and Armenia's significant contribution in peacekeeping operations. The US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense expressed gratitude that upon the invitation of the US President Barack Obama, Serzh Sargsyan, the President of Armenia, participated in the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping held in New York.

Anne Witkowsky attached importance to the organization of



the "Challenges Annual Forum 2015", which became a good platform for the discussion of various issues. The interlocutors exchanged views on the Armenia-NATO cooperation.

The Foreign Minister of Armenia introduced the efforts of Armenia and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs aimed at the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

## Abrahamyan berates skeptical government members

Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan lambasted some members of his cabinet on October 8 after they apparently greeted with skepticism an upbeat statement on the economic situation in Armenia made by Economy Minister Karen Chshmarityan.

Chshmarityan addressed fellow ministers before they approved the government's "new investment policy concept" envisaging more economic reforms and further government efforts to improve the country's business environment. It contains a set of legislative and administrative measures meant to serve that purpose.

Presenting the document, Chshmarityan insisted that overall foreign investments in the Armenian economy will grow in 2015 despite official statistics for the first half of the year indicating an opposite trend. The claim appeared to have prompted ironic smiles or other expressions of skepticism from some government members present at the meeting.

Abrahamyan immediately berated them. "Why are you so excited?" he said. "Because he is saying good things or his statement is not trustworthy? What is the reason?"

"I believe that Mr. Chshmarityan's statements are absolutely founded, and if some people don't like it that's their internal and external problem," added Abrahamyan.

Journalists watched the cabinet meeting from monitors placed in an adjacent room, and it was not clear which officials annoyed



the premier. The extraordinary incident may stoke media speculation that Abrahamian does not trust some of his ministers or lacks their full backing.

Chshmarityan, meanwhile, claimed after the meeting that he did not see or hear any negative reactions from his colleagues. He also insisted that the policy framework approved by the cabinet will help Armenia to attract more badly needed investments.

"If we hadn't hoped that this document will help to boost investments then we would not have adopted the concept and asked international organizations to ensure its conformity with international standards in the first place," Chshmarityan told reporters.

## Russia to cooperate with Armenia on nuclear energy: Rosatom

Russian nuclear specialists will partner with Armenian nuclear experts on various projects, including in third-party countries, the head of state nuclear energy corporation Rosatom, Sergei Kirienko, said on October 7.

On Wednesday in Yerevan Kirienko gave the leading Armenian nuclear specialists medals linked to the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Russian nuclear industry, Sputnik News reports.

"It is our common anniversary - not only Russian, but anniversary of the nuclear industry of the whole Soviet Union," Kirienko said at the ceremony.

Kirienko noted that the strategic partnership between Russia and Armenia consists of joint work on the extension of the exploitation times of the second unit of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant (Metsamor NPP), supply of nuclear fuel, nuclear and radiation safety issues.

In March 2014, the Armenian government extended the service life of its second power plant. Russia's nuclear energy corporation Rosatom agreed to work jointly with Armenia on the project to extend the power unit's service life until 2026.

Russia and Armenia signed a deal in 2014 to extend the service life of the second reactor.

Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan has expressed confidence that a Russian-Armenian billionaire set to buy Armenia's electricity distribution network will manage to quickly end its huge losses weighing heavily on the national energy sector.

"I am sure that the losses will be reduced to a minimum and financial irregularities alleged by you will be eliminated," Abrahamian told reporters on October 7.

Due to those losses mainly incurred since 2010, the Electric Networks of Armenia (ENA) national power utility owes over \$220 million to Armenian power plants and commercial banks. Electricity price rises repeatedly sanctioned by state regulators in the last few years have not been enough to sort out the ENA's financial troubles. Many in Armenia believe that they primarily result from mismanagement and corruption among many ENA executives.

Abrahamian said that he personally asked the Armenian-born tycoon Samvel Karapetian to acquire the

troubled power grids from their current owner, the state-controlled Russian energy group Inter RAO.

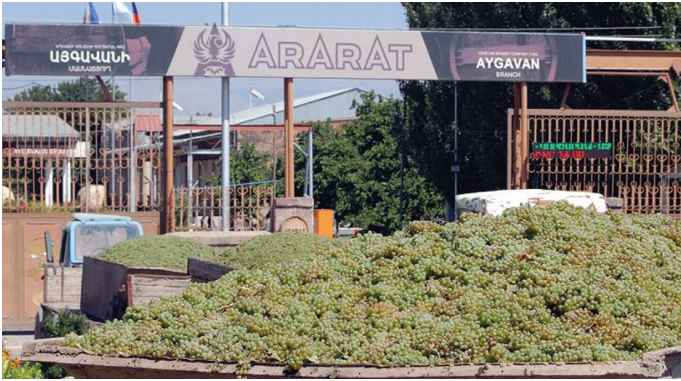
Inter RAO and Russia's Tashir Group owned by Karapetian finalized a takeover agreement late last month. Armenia's Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC) approved the deal last week. It is still now clear how much a Cyprus-registered firm reputedly controlled by Karapetian will pay for the ENA.

Abrahamian emphasized the fact that Karapetian has also agreed to subsidize power supplies to Armenian households jointly with the Armenian government at least until August 2016. He estimated that the year-long subsidy will cost the two sides around 8 billion drams (\$17 million).

The vast majority of individual consumers will thus remain unaffected by a more than 17 percent surge in electricity prices approved by the PSRC in June. The move triggered nonstop street protests in Yerevan. They ended only after the government decided to bear the burden of the price hike, effective from August 1.



## Armenian government reassures grape farmers



Agriculture Minister Sergo Karapetyan sought to reassure anxious grape growers across Armenia on Wednesday, insisting that they will be able to sell the bulk of their produce to domestic wine and brandy distilleries.

"I repeat that every kilogram [of grapes] will be purchased," Karapetyan said during the Armenian government's question-and-answer session in the parliament. He rejected as "populism" a parliament deputy's claim that the government is not making good on such promises that were given to those farmers earlier this year.

"There is widespread panic among villagers and they are now hastily collecting their harvest," Karapetyan said. "But the purchasing process will continue until October 15, and they should draw up [supply] schedules together with village mayors and stop panicking."

Scores of Armenian wine growers have blocked highways and staged other protests since the start of this year's grape harvest in

mid-September, complaining of serious problems with their sales. In recent days, trucks laden with grapes have formed long lines outside some of the country's largest wineries mostly located in the southern Ararat and Armavir provinces.

Many farmers have to spend several nights there. Not all of them succeed in having wholesale buyers accept their grapes.

Andranik Movsisyan, a farmer from the village of Kaghtsrashen, on Tuesday dumped 8 metric tons of grapes grown by him on a village roadside after a nearby brandy company, Vinar, refused to buy them, saying that they have perished and cannot be used for fermentation. "They refused to pay even 30 drams (6 U.S. cents) per kilogram," he complained to RFE/RL's Armenian service.

"The grapes were not rotten when I harvested them," said Movsisyan. "They perished in the truck because the [brandy] plant made me wait for four days."

The Vinar director, Avet Galstyan, denied that. "At the prime minister's urging, we promised to buy more grapes than we did last year, but we did not promise to buy low-quality ones," he said.

Russia has long been the main market for brandy and wine distilled in Armenia. This is why Armenian liquor firms, including Vinar, have been hit hard by a sharp depreciation of the Russian ruble, which began in June 2014. Many of them have cut back on their deliveries to the Russian market since the end of last year.

According to Karapetyan, Armenia's wine and brandy producers have purchased between them around 180,000 tons of grapes so far this year, a figure close to last year's volumes. He said they will buy at least 30,000 more tons in the coming days.

## India a priority emerging market for Armenia

India and Armenia have cultural and historic ties that go a long time back, but in terms of tourism for Indian visitors Armenia is still a little known destination. "India is a priority emerging market for us. We have a lot of things in common. The people of our country feel comfortable in India and vice versa," Sergey Avetisyan, deputy minister, Republic of Armenia Ministry of Economy, told the Financial Express.

In Armenia the Ministry of Economy includes tourism as segment of the economy. There is a department of tourism within the ministry which deals with policies of tourism, laws, regulations. The Armenian Development Foundation is the implementing arm of the policies.

Pointing out that Armenia is obviously interested in attracting tourists from India, Avetisyan stated, "You have a huge population and we are obviously interested in Indian tourists in terms of the numbers. But besides the numbers our historic and other linkages connects us. And that is why we have good potential for developing tourism."

Avetisyan however acknowledged that Armenia will never be a mass tourism destination. "Our country is primarily a cultural tourism destination. We have our phenomenal history, deep roots into pagan culture, and into Christianity, being the first Christian nation. In terms of tourism our first position is cultural and historic tourism. Following which is nature based experiences like hiking, eco tourism, etc. People normally come here because of culture and heritage. The Armenian diaspora is huge, we have Armenians



spread all across the world, who are our natural ambassadors telling about our country to their friends. There are Armenian societies, churches in many countries," he mentioned.

The ministry is in talks with the travel trade community in Armenia to understand their interests and channel the resources through them. "Next year we will give the money from our budget to the travel trade industry. We will help them. Tourism is about the private sector," stated Avetisyan.

It is not just India, Avetisyan remarked that other Asian countries like Philippines are interested in Armenia. "The whole tourism sector is about history, stories and fairy tales, and people need that kind of thing. You always welcome someone who is packing that and giving it to you," he said.



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### 1 ROOM

- 1696.**Tumanyan str.**, 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 160.000 USD.
- 1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m,euro repaired, heating system, furnished,parking,. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1715- **Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- 1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

### 2 ROOMS

- 3003.**Sayat-Nova str**, 5/3, 105sq.m, 2bedrooms, stone building, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1560.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built,10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired,climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- 2818.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, Ac, furnished . Price:400.000USD
- 1156.**Komitas Ave.**, Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system, AC,parking. Price: 400.000 USD.



### 3 ROOMS

- 3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m.,with-out divisions. Price:Negotiable.
- 3012.**Aram str**, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price:300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998.**North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built,13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capially 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,capially repaired,heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,capially repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built,8/4, 166sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,capially repaired, central heating,AC,security system. Price:320.000 USD.
- 1104.**Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m,stone bld, h-2.75m.,3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- 2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4,5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.

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

### PREMISES

- 1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m,5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m.,basement, capially repaired, parkings. Price:4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant,1st line, capially 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.,capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- 2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m.,1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- 2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m.,window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- 2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses,parking. Price:3.600.000 USD
- 2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m,1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m.,each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m,with-out divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price:1.400.000 USD negotiable
- 1986.**Cascade.** Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price:1.000.000 USD.
- 2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capially repaired. Price: 200.000 USD

- 2175.**Tumanyan str**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

### LANDS

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

### PRIVATE HOUSES

- 3739.**Nork Marash** Land- 2000sq.m, two separate houses, total bld-600sq.m,capially repaired, swimming pool, sauna, guard house. 2 car parking, garden. Price: 950.000 USD
- 3348.**Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially 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, capially repaired, hjeating system,elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- 3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m,2 storied bld-520sq.m,6 bedrooms,5 bathrooms, capially 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, capially repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price:1.000.000 USD
- 3576.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially 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, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system,sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD
- 3590 **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m.,4 storied building-470sq.m.,3bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD
- 3651.**Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m.,5 storied building-800sq.m.,4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price:1.700.000 USD.
- 3401.**Antarayan str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capially repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD
- 3712 **Cascade** Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 storied bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 USD

### NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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





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## 1 ROOM

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

## 2 ROOMS

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

## 3 ROOMS AND MORE

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

- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2286. **Sose str.**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

## PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally 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, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- 1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m,

- 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- 1142. **Dirvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basement, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitally repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

## Ralph Yirikian: Corporate Responsibility is a Value System

Armenia's leading telecom operator, as usual, continues supporting rural development, education and subscribers indeed...

### VivaCell-MTS and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia Build a Home in Darbas Village of Syunik Region

VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**, employees of the Company and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia team participated in the construction of the half-built house of **Karapetyan** family from Darbas community in Syunik.

The Karapetyans are a small family of three brothers. Brothers were orphaned, when the elder brother, Vrezh, was 14 and the youngest one was 10 years old. Two years after the tragic death of the parents the grandparents, under whose guardianship the boys were, passed away.

Despite the difficulties of life, Vrezh, the elder brother, could take care of the younger brothers. He has become like a parent for his brothers taking care of them despite being a child himself, and in that age he started the construction of their half-built house.

*"The motto of our family is the saying of the ancient Roman poet Virgil 'Fortune favors the brave (fortes fortuna (ad) iuvat)'. We are trying to be brave. My biggest dream is to build a home for me and my brothers where we can live like a real family. Now my dream is coming true,"* said **Vrezh**, the eldest of the Karapetyan brothers, who has written those words on the wall of the half-built house for his brothers and for himself.

*"Life has really put a heavy burden on the shoulders of these boys. Misfortunes followed by misfortunes... But they were not discouraged, and now they build a home, they build the future. I hope that soon the family will grow, and these three young men will become the pillars of the family and a new and a strong like a rock family will be built,"* Fuller Center for Housing Armenia President **Ashot Yeghiazaryan** said.

Through the housing project financed by VivaCell-MTS and implemented by Fuller Center for Housing Armenia 40 houses have been built and/or renovated for 40 families this year.

*"Our worst enemy is inside us. The name of that enemy is indifference. Our organizational and personal effort in helping the Karapetyans to build their house stems from an inner belief: we have to extend a hand to families living in borderland villages which, despite unfavorable social conditions, have made a decision to stay and build a house on their native land. Every house symbolizes the beginning of a new life. Our homeland is too*

*small to differentiate between capital and village,"* VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** commented.

To remind, during the current year VivaCell-MTS invested AMD100 million (AMD55 million in 2014) for the realization of the project, and Fuller Center for Housing

of values based on the guidance by the principle of Corporate Responsibility has become a lifestyle for the Company's employees, too. The willingness to be useful to the country and the society regularly finds expression in various initiatives conveyed and financed by the employees of various departments of the Company. The initiatives are encouraged and joined by the Company's management. In the frames of the program, a local network was created in the Child and Youth Education and Creativity Center and Internet access was provided through a 3G/Wi-Fi router. Access to the unlimited opportunities of the Internet will help children in enriching their knowledge and raise the level of computer literacy.

*"For already ten years we have been setting a model through our social initiatives. We strive to be the first not only in terms of service quality, but also in practicing a responsible attitude of administration. And I think we have succeeded in doing that. The willingness of the employees to benefit to the well-being of the country and the society is a particularly valuable achievement. This project has a twofold significance: it helps to foster computer literacy among the school-children and, more importantly, translates the message of not staying indifferent,"* VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** said.



Armenia has undertaken its implementation. Through this partnership, from 2007 up to now, 53 families from different communities of the republic already have decent homes. Till the end of the year the number of the families having their houses renovated or the construction of the half-built houses completed will reach 93.

### Corporate responsibility as a value system

#### Just another surprise from VivaCell-MTS employees

Children from Sisian and 36 other neighboring communities attend the Child and Youth Education and Creativity Center after Aghvan Minasyan. According to the principal of the center, **Henrik Martirosyan**, the yearly number of students attending the classes offered by the center is about 160. There are 13 groups, of which the computer class is of particularly high demand. The lack of equipment, though, stands in the way of using the center to maximum advantage.

Owing to the personal investment by employees of human resources and administration services departments, the computer class has been refurbished with 10 computers and computer tables. VivaCell-MTS system

### VivaCell-MTS invested more than AMD 6.9 billion in community development projects in the regions of Armenia

Throughout the 10 years of operation, in the frames of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs, VivaCell-MTS has allocated around AMD 6.9 billion for community development projects in the regions of Armenia.

This is a glimpse on some of the projects realized in the regions:

- \* Provision of apartments to earthquake struck 40 needy families in Gyumri and Vanadzor
- \* Building drinking water supply system in regions
- \* Setting up drinking water access to a number of villages, who were previously poorly provided by it
- \* Creation of alternative energy infrastructure (for street lights and heating systems)
- \* Construction of heating system in kindergartens and schools
- \* Protective wall construction in borderland villages



\* Electric fence for protection of domestic animals and animal shelters from wildlife predators

\* Support to the children of the day care and rehabilitation center in Kosh community

\* Provision of neonatal care equipment to the regional maternity houses

\* Provision of ambulance cars equipped with state-of-the-art devices and a navigation system to regional medical institutions, as well as modernization of the administrative system

\* Provision of vehicles adapted for people with special needs in the frames of the inclusive education program

\* Support with the localization of the emergency number 911

\* Construction and renovation of houses in villages, including borderland communities

\* Renovation of educational and cultural institutions in the regions

\* Provision of tuition fees for university students

\* Creation of computer labs in regional educational institutions

\* Provision of internet to regional educational institutions

\* Lectures and courses for university students in the regions within the Company's Career Development Program

\* Provision of modern equipment to the Urtsadzor Eco Training Center

\* Installation of a base station in Caucasus Wildlife Refuge near the Urtsadzor Eco Training Center and many more projects

VivaCell-MTS has created more than 204 stable workplaces for people from different regions working in 54 service centers and 10 mobile service centers of the Company.

*"The development of rural communities is about closing the inequality gap between village and town, between regions and the capital. This is especially the case with the borderland villages torn by the war and natural disasters. As a Company and just a collectivity of people, we do our best to ensure that our compatriots in the regions do not feel abandoned, hopeless and seeing no future for their children. The fact that we were born in the capital and not on the border is a circumstance of life independent of our will. However, acting as conscious human beings is a matter of our free choice. We, the Armenians of today, exposed to many challenges are to shape our collective self, and no one will be doing it for us. We are either to live limited to multiplying the happiness of our individual ego, without caring for others, or we seek our happiness in creating and being part of public good. At VivaCell-MTS we make every effort in our daily lives not to deviate from the part we have adopted ten years ago – the Corporate Social Responsibility," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.*

Institutionalized within the Company from the first day of inception as a key strategic approach, the CSR is always taken into account in the design and implementation of



the short- and long-term activities of the Company. In total, more than AMD 23,8 billion were invested by VivaCell-MTS in CSR projects in regions and in Yerevan.

### "Super BIT" – unlimited Internet, including a high-speed package, for postpaid subscribers

Now VivaCell-MTS postpaid subscribers as well can activate the "Super BIT" service and enjoy the opportunities of unlimited Internet, including 150 MB high-speed Internet package every day, for a fixed fee.

Service provisioning terms

	High-speed Internet package	Maximum speed after consuming the high-speed package	Price (AMD)	Activation code
Super BIT1	150 MB	256 Kbps	150	*778*1#

High-speed Internet package Maximum speed after consuming the high-speed package Price (AMD) Activation code

For more information one can visit [www.mts.am](http://www.mts.am) or [pda.mts.am](http://pda.mts.am) mobile site, contact 111 free of charge hotline, chat with the Company through "111 Online", or approach one of VivaCell-MTS service centers across Armenia.

### VivaCell-MTS has allocated AMD 92 million for establishing the first two fablabs in Armenia

The official opening of the first two fablabs in Armenia took place at "Ayb" School. Fablabs have been established at the school "Ayb" in Yerevan and the Central School of Dilijan.

The event was attended by the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan. The President was informed about the state of affairs in the process of introducing innovative labs in Armenia which started in 2013 in frames of cooperation between Ayb School and the MIT, supported by VivaCell-MTS and the Central Bank of Armenia. The program is widely known across the world because of its capacity to encourage applied learning.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of "Ayb" Foundation Father Mesrop Aramyan and VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian spoke at the official opening.

Fablab is an exclusive program with

large-scale impact for the introduction of "smart" laboratories in Armenia, which is aimed at helping education become more applicable. Fablab is a workshop-laboratory, equipped with special devices and materials that allow the use of innovative technologies in various fields of science and produce samples of "basically everything".

Fablabs will give an opportunity to foster the research in the production of prototypes in the spheres of physics, robotics, technologies, mechanics, etc., in "Ayb" School and Central School of Dilijan, and also will serve as research platforms for young Armenian scientists.

2013 through 2015 VivaCell-MTS allocated AMD 92 million for the implementation of the project.

*"I'm delighted that VivaCell-MTS is part of a project of national scale – opening of the first FabLab in Armenia based on the model of the worldly known MIT. There is a rule in business – do not do replicate whatever is being done by others. Differentiate from others, find your competitive advantage, develop your capability to make it distinctive, and reach the point where your capability is unique, and not easy to replicate. This is how one can create a valuable asset. The words of Archimedes are fully applicable in the Armenian context – give a young Armenian a lever and he will turn upside down the world. As Armenians we can do nothing but to invest in the education of our youth for giving them the lever – to turn the world upside down through finding our unique Armenian distinct capability based on cutting edge technology. This is how we can generate the bases of unique Armenian productivity culture!"* VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian said.

Fablabs were created by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and now get actively spread worldwide. The projects implemented in fablabs are related not only to innovative technological solutions, but also to novel business approaches and research in the spheres of manufacturing, robotics, design, architecture, agriculture, etc.

In 2013 "Ayb" educational foundation initiated the project of establishing the first two fablabs in Armenia in cooperation with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT, USA), the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia, and VivaCell-MTS.

For introducing the concept of fablabs in Armenia "Ayb" has held lengthy negotiations with the MIT Center for Bits and Atoms. In the course of negotiations "Ayb" and MIT specialists have studied the list of fablab tools and discussed the expediency of their usage in the context of Armenia; only then "Ayb" has acquired the full package of fablab equipment, which comprises:

- \* a computer aided laser cutter
- \* a computer aided milling machine for large prototypes
- \* antennae, printing blocks
- \* 3D printers
- \* other tools and projects

## Anna Vinnitskaya: "I'm Happy To Be A Part Of The Festival Named After Khachaturian..."

The world and Armenia premieres: an American band director's Sharakan and Bartok's Piano Concerto No.3

By Gourgen James Khazhakian  
Chief Correspondent

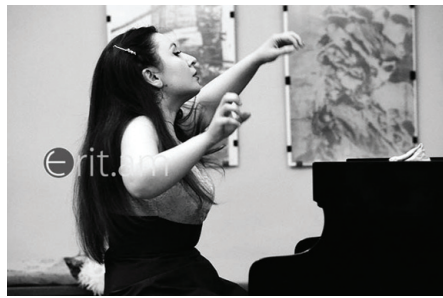
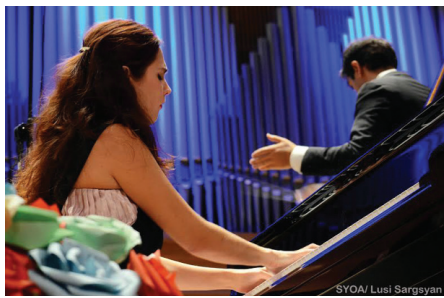
The world and Armenia premieres - at the same concert...

So that was a concert held on 10 October within the 3rd Aram Khachaturian International Festival. For the first time the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia performed Sharakan (Hymn) by **Anthony LaBounty**, symphony version of which was written specially for the SYOA.

(Anthony LaBounty is an Associate Professor of Music at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Sharakan is lovingly written to honor Dr. **Harry Begian**, esteemed musician, conductor, mentor, friend, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois Bands, Past-President and Honorary Life Member of the American Bandmasters Association, and was commissioned by Thomas Leslie for the UNLV Wind Orchestra. The composition was completed in June 2010.)

The Armenian premiere of this work was attended by the author, Anthony La Bounti who arrived in Yerevan specifically to attend it. The Youth Orchestra conducted by its Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor **Sergey Smbatyan** and the world renowned pianist **Anna Vinnitskaya** for the first time in Armenia performed Bela Bartok's Piano Concerto No. 3. In the second part of the concert the Youth Orchestra performed Dmitry Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2 as well (with Anna Vinnitskaya as the soloist) and Alexander Scriabin's The Ecstasy Poem. One must note that pianist Anna Vinnitskaya is the laureate of a number of several international competitions including Queen Elisabeth International Competition, and so on. As a soloist she has been playing with the best world orchestras and renowned conductors. Mrs Vinnitskaya also involved in teaching. Since 2009, she is a Professor at the Hamburg University of Music and Theater. The pianist said she was very happy to be a part of the Khachaturian International Festival. "I heard much about the Aram Khachaturian Festival.

*When I was looking through the Festival booklet, I saw a lot of famous musicians familiar to me. And I am happy for my participation in the Festival,"* shared her impressions Anna Vinnitskaya. Speaking about her cooperation with the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, world famous pianist said: *"An excellent team that very quickly responds to the conductor. Obviously, they work hard..."* To



remind, the Khachaturian International Festival is held under the patronage of RA President **Serzh Sargsyan**. This musical fiesta came true thanks to the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (with its General Partner VivaCell-MTS, Armenia's leading telecom operator company), with support from the the Armenian Ministry of Culture. Among the festival supporters are "Pyuniq" ("Phoenix") Foundation, "Luding" and "Jermuk Group" companies and "Ani Plaza". State Youth Orchestra of Armenia created an opportunity to watch Aram Khachaturian International Music Festival online, - via SYOA TV. The October 10th glorious concert night could be watched by the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5lBeQhmGE>

And...

**Martin Vardazaryan:**  
**"Arus Performed Better Than I Had Composed It"**

On 7 October, within the Khachaturian Fest, the Honored Artist of the Republic of Armenia pianist **Arus Ajemyan** gave a solo concert at the Aram Khachaturian Home-Museum

This time the holder of the RA Presidential Prize and the Honored Artist of Armenia **Arus Ajemyan** gave a concert that was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of musicologist **Anna Barsamyan**. As the soloist mentioned in an interview with Eritasard.am, her program included all the compositions that were close to her heart. She provided the audience with the opportunity to listen the works of Frederic Chopin, Claude Debussi, Sergey Rachmaninoff and Martin Vardazaryan once again. In an interview with Eritasard.am, Armenian prominent jazzman, People's Artist of the Republic of Armenia and the Honored Art Worker of Armenia Professor **Martin Vardazaryan** mentioned that Arus Ajemyan always surprised and entertained

the audience. *"I'm very grateful to Arus for playing my Sonata. She revealed new things not only for me, but for the audience as well. I'm very happy that we the Armenians have a pianist like Arus who can present the works for the piano to the world by preserving the traditions. Arus is indescribably well prepared. To put it shortly, Arus performed my Sonata better than I had composed it,"* Maestro Vardazaryan mentioned. Right after the concert, Eritasard.am's correspondent had a conversation with the pianist. Arus Ajemyan said this concert was a distinctive one from her other concerts in that she had tried to perform in different genres. Ajemyan added that she performs a work of a modern Armenian composer during each concert. This time Vardazaryan's Sonata for the Piano was a discovery for her. *"Vardazaryan's Sonata for the Piano became very close to my heart. I must say that I truly performed with my heart and soul and hope to perform this Sonata for several times more,"* Arus Ajemyan said.



## Speech by H.E. Ambassador Tian Erlong At the Reception Marking the 66th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China



Your Excellency Mr. Prime Minister,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Dear Ambassadors,  
Ladies, Gentlemen and Friends:

Good evening! We are gathered here today to celebrate the 66th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. On behalf of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Armenia, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all the distinguished guests and friends.

The founding of the People's Republic of China was officially proclaimed on October 1, 1949. Over the past 66 years, especially during the past over 30 years since China's undertaking reform and opening-up, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, Chinese people have worked hard and made impressive achievements in economic development and social progress. China has emerged as the world's second largest economy, the largest merchandise trading nation, the third largest investor as foreign direct investment, and largest trade partner of more than 120 countries and regions. China has got rid of poverty and backwardness to enable 1.3 billion Chinese people to live a fairly comfortable life as a whole. It is no exaggeration to say that this shall be called a development miracle in human history. The CPC collective leadership with Xi Jinping as general secretary is leading the Chinese people to make unremitting efforts to achieve the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation in accordance with the "four-pronged comprehensive strategy", which includes such objectives as: to comprehensively build a moderately prosperous society, to comprehensively deepen reforms, to comprehensively implement the rule of law, and to comprehensively strengthen Party discipline.

The world also benefits from China's rapid development. China's economy maintained a healthy development and the optimization and upgrading of economic structure is accelerating, against the background that the world economy lacks the impetus for the growth. The growth rate of China's GDP was 7% in the first half of this year, which ranked the forefront of the world's major economies and contributed about 30% of global GDP growth.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression as well as the World Anti-Fascist War. China was the main battlefield in the east in the World Anti-Fascist War. Chinese people made tremendous sacrifice in this war during which China suffered over 35 million casualties both of the military and civilian in the life-and-death war between justice and evil, light and darkness. We'll never forget that thousands of Armenian soldiers, as part of Soviet Red Army troops, fight against the Japanese invaders in northeast China and made a contribution to the victory of the

Chinese people. The Chinese Government held a grand gathering and military parade to commemorate the victory of this war on September 3, 2015, with the main aim to remind people to keep in mind the painful history, learn from history, look forward to the future, and cherish the hard-won peace in the world. China will unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development and continue to be fully committed to maintaining world peace and stability.

2015 is an important year for the in-depth development of bilateral relationship between China and Armenia. President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan paid a historical state visit to China in this March and signed the "Joint Declaration on Friendly Cooperation and Further Development and Enhancement of Relations between the Republic of Armenia and People's Republic of China" with President of China Xi Jinping. A few days ago, Prime Minister of Armenia Mr. Hovik Abrahamyan paid a working visit to China and attended the Eurasian Economic Forum, which will further promote the bilateral practical cooperation. We are delighted to see the level of bilateral cooperation between our two countries has been upgrading. According to the statistics provided by Armenian side, the volume of bilateral trade between our two countries reached 270 million USD from January to July of this year. China has been the second largest trade partner of Armenia, and the export of Armenia to China has increased by nearly 30%. Both sides are committed to implement the cooperation consensus reached between our leaders to consolidate political mutual trust, deepen practical cooperation, expand cultural exchanges, and push forward the bilateral friendly cooperation up to a new level. The Chinese government is promoting the implementation of the initiative of jointly building "the Silk Road Economic Belt". We believe this significant initiative will provide new historical opportunities for all-round friendly cooperation between China and Armenia.

The friends from all cycles of life who attend tonight's reception are the witnesses to the development and progress of bilateral relationship between China and Armenia. You have actively promoted the bilateral friendly cooperation and rendered assistance to the work of the Embassy of China to Armenia for the past many years. Here, I would kindly take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude.

Now, I would like to propose a toast,

To the 66th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China,

To national prosperity and people's happiness of China and Armenia,

To the deep friendship between the people of China and Armenia,

To the health of all honored guests,

Cheers!



## Robert M. Morgenthau: Centennial has brought an unprecedented level of awareness of Armenian Genocide

"This year, the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide, has brought an unprecedented level of awareness of the slaughter and deportation of the Armenians, and of my grandfather's humanitarian efforts to stop the killings," Robert M. Morgenthau, grandson of U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau said at on Capitol Hill hosted by the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation (IRWF) and the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues in honor of visiting Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan. Robert M. Morgenthau's full speech is provided below:

"President Sargsyan, Members of Congress, Reverend Clergy, Foundation Board Members, and Friends

I am honored in more ways than I can recount to be asked to accept the Wallenberg Medal on behalf of my grandfather. The legacy of Raoul Wallenberg holds a very personal significance for my family. My father, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., was Secretary of the Treasury during the Holocaust. At a time when as many as 12,000 Hungarian Jews were being deported to certain death every day, he established the War Refugee Board to resettle the refugees and save their lives. It was Raoul Wallenberg who ultimately would run the Board, and it was his courage and tireless effort that saved 200,000 lives - and provided a model for the kind of humanitarian sacrifice that the world so needs today.

I am honored as well to be in the presence of President Serge Sargsyan. I can assure you that my grandfather would be especially pleased to know that one day his grandson would share the podium with the President of an independent and free Armenia.

This year, the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide, has brought an unprecedented level of awareness of the slaughter and deportation of the Armenians, and of my grandfather's humanitarian efforts to stop the killings. What is less well known, but what consumed my grandfather equally, is the sad history of the betrayal of the Armenian people in the quest for self-determination.

Throughout their history, the Armenians showed great courage in resisting dominance by invading armies. The rebellion in Zeitun, the defense of Van, and of course the historic resistance of the Armenians of Musa Dagh, each displayed the determination of a proud people, indomitable in spirit, and unwilling to surrender their faith or their identity. Yet each time, Ottoman leaders responded with overwhelming force, force that escalated to all-out genocide.

In response, President Woodrow Wilson firmly committed the policy of the United States to the establishment of an Armenian homeland. This flowed from his Fourteen Points, one of which was the principle of the self-determination of the peoples in the former Ottoman Empire. The President appointed a commission, the King-Crane Commission, to set forth specific proposals to manifest this basic principle.

In August of 1919, the Commission concluded that the Armenians should inhabit a homeland that restored losses from the atrocities suffered periodically at the hands of the Ottoman Turks from 1894 through 1916. The homeland would comprise the Armenian highlands in Turkey and Russia, with an outlet on the Black Sea.

In August of 1920, Western powers and the Ottoman Empire signed the Treaty of Sevres. It too affirmed the principle of an Armenian homeland, although a homeland reduced in size from



what Woodrow Wilson had envisioned.

But the ink had hardly dried on the treaty when the new Turkish state attacked the Democratic Republic of Armenia and occupied parts of its territory. Soon, the Soviet Union absorbed the remaining portion. This land grab, so soon after the Genocide of the Armenians, presented a challenge to the conscience of the world, particularly when a German periodical published the comment of the notorious Enver Pasha: "What do you think...Did we slaughter them just for fun?"

The response of the world community to this crisis was nothing short of shameful: the League of Nations capitulated. Soon there was a new treaty, the Treaty of Lausanne, which made no mention of an Armenian homeland.

This explains why, for eighty years, Armenians suffered under Soviet oppression. It is why, for eighty years, the Armenian people, who prided themselves on being the world's first Christian nation, were ruled by an atheist dictatorship.

Today, of course, the Soviet Union is no more, and Armenia is an independent republic. And yet, as Armenians and their supporters all around the world marched this year for Genocide recognition, they did so under a two-fold phrase: "I remember...and I demand."

I leave it to others to untangle the fiercely complicated question of how to make right the injustices of history. But let us begin by squarely confronting that history.

During the Genocide, my Grandfather witnessed first-hand what happens when the world's conscience gives way to caution. He was personally devastated by what he famously termed a campaign of race extermination. And in the aftermath of that tragedy, even after he returned to the United States, even as he devoted himself to the resettlement of Armenian refugees, his greatest lingering disappointment was that he did not live to see the reestablishment of an independent Armenia.

I have said on other occasions that the principles that have largely animated my own life in public office are those that my grandfather brought back from his service in Anatolia. I commend them to one and all. Among those values are all of the freedoms that would later be included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But there is yet one more value that he taught us, one that gives life to all the rest: a commitment that, on issues of justice, we shall never give up.

On behalf of my grandfather, I thank you for this great honor.



## MoU signed to strengthen effectiveness and transparency of Armenia's external audit system



Regional Program "Public Financial Management in the South Caucasus" of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has signed a co-financing agreement with the EU Delegation to Armenia for the "Strengthening the Independence, Effectiveness and Transparency of the Armenian External Audit system". The contribution of the Program from EU is 880 thousands Euro which was equal to 458.576.800 AMD on date of concluding the contract. The overall objective of the above-mentioned cooperation between the Chamber of Control, the European Union and GIZ is strengthening the independence, effectiveness and transparency of the Armenian External Audit System. The specific objectives target at to align the processes of Performance Audit and Audit

of the Government's Annual Budget Execution Report as well as the related follow-up mechanisms with INTOSAI Standards and European good practice.

The cooperation to achieve these ambitious results is ongoing and necessary introductory steps have been carried out. The Chamber of Control, the EU Delegation and GIZ have agreed to create a structure for the joint steering and monitoring of the cooperation and hence to raise its effectiveness. The basis for the steering structure will be a Memorandum of Understanding assuring the close cooperation of all parties in all relevant areas of responsibility to achieve the following three accumulated results:

1. A standardized assessment that provides detailed information for future evidence-based reform planning as an output of the standard analysis and assessment of the external audit environment (legislative framework, key Public Financial Management actors, communication between Executive, Parliament and Civil Society) and the Chamber of Control itself (capacities, procedures, regulations, etc.);
2. Capacity and methodology development to conduct INTOSAI Standards compliant audits;
3. Regulatory framework and practices of the external control system reviewed and aligned with INTOSAI Standards and European good experience.

The realization of the planned objectives is envisaged for the time period till March 2017 and regular steering meetings are preliminary scheduled on December 2015 and March, June, September and December 2016.

## Newly appointed UK Ambassador presents credentials to Armenian President

Judith Farnworth, the newly-appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom (UK) to the Republic of Armenia, handed over on October 7 her credentials to President Serzh Sargsyan.

The president congratulated the ambassador on her appointment and wished her success, stressing that there are all the prerequisites to strengthen interstate ties and broaden cooperation with the United Kingdom, as well as to elevate bilateral relations to a qualitatively new level.

Serzh Sargsyan expressed the hope that the newly-appointed ambassador will make every effort to push forward the Armenian-British interstate agenda and enrich it with new initiatives.

During the meeting, the parties attached importance to inter-parliamentary cooperation in which, they were certain, the two countries' parliamentary friendship groups have played a major role. President Serzh Sargsyan expressed the hope that the parliamentarians will continue their close contacts and the dynamics of holding regular consultations on issues of mutual concern after the establishment of a new friendship group in the UK parliament. Armenia's president stressed the key role of Baroness Caroline Cox in the development of inter-parliamentary and Armenian-British ties on the whole, adding that she has also created a good

tradition of Nagorno Karabakh visits.

The RA president and the UK ambassador also spoke highly of the level of Armenian-British cooperation in the defense sphere and in that regard, emphasized the discussions held in Yerevan in September 2014 and the conclusion of the Defense Cooperation Plan.

Serzh Sargsyan and Ambassador Farnworth placed great importance on cooperation in the trade and economic sphere and within the frames of international organizations, e.g. the UN, OSCE etc.

Judith Farnworth underscored that Great Britain closely follows the OSCE Minsk Group's activities and seeks to support the given peace process format by all possible means.

The president thanked Great Britain for its impartial position on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as on other issues which are of vital importance to Armenia.

The UK ambassador noted that her country is ready to take a leading role in the issue pertaining to the development of a new legal framework regulating the cooperation between Armenia and the European Union which, she was sure, could become a driving force to promote and enhance cooperation between Armenia and Great Britain both in bilateral and multilateral formats.

## World renowned experts to discuss the occupied ancestral Armenian homeland at ANCA-WR Grassroots

Asbarez

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA-WR) has confirmed the attendance of three highly-respected international experts on free speech, human rights, and minority rights, Aris Nalci, Baris Alen, and George Aghjayan, at the 2015 ANCA-WR Grassroots Conference. The guest speakers will join hundreds of attendees from around the world to participate in the "Western Armenia and Hidden Armenians" panel, which will take place on October 24 at 9 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza. Matthew Karanian, Esq. author of the best-selling English language books *Armenia and Karabakh: The Stone Guardian Travel Guide* and *Historic Armenia: 100 Years Later*, will moderate the panel.

With more than 7 million Armenians living outside of Armenia and Artsakh, in addition to the estimated 2 million forcibly Islamized or "Hidden Armenians" living in present-day Eastern Turkey as a result of the 1915 Armenian Genocide, the dynamic panel will engage audiences in identity politics and issues interfering with cultural preservation for Armenians everywhere. There will be a question and answer session at the end of the panel.

Aris Nalci, an author and filmmaker noted for his coverage of Armenian and minority issues, as well as freedom of speech, will join geographical and demographic researcher of Western Armenia (present-day Eastern Turkey), George Aghjayan, and Kurdish human rights activist Baris Alen.

Aris Nalci graduated from Feriköy Merametçian Primary Armenian School, Getronagan Armenian High School in Istanbul and the Yildiz Technical University, where he served on the Mechanical Engineering Faculty. Between 1997 and 2011, Nalci worked as a writer and editor for the Istanbul-Armenian newspaper, *Agos*. He has also written for the daily newspaper *Birgun* and *Radikal*, the weekly newspaper *Beyoğlu*, and several Armenian and Turkish journals. He is currently a producer and editor at IMC TV in Turkey.

In 2011, Nalci created the first TV show about minorities in Turkey called *Gamurç* (Bridge), which is still on air. He

has also filmed documentaries on Armenian issues, minority rights, and free speech, including *Avtobus* (2012), *23-and-a-Half* (2013), *January Nineteen* (2013), *Grandma's Receipt* (2013), and *Turkish Presidents' Exam with Armenians* (2014). In 2014, he co-wrote "1965-50 years after Armenian Genocide, 50 years before 100? with Serdar Korucu. Nalci also contributes weekly blogs to T24.com.tr.

Baris Alen, born in Diyarbakir, Turkey, studied International Relations at Istanbul Dogus University. He received an M.A. of Global Studies at Lund University in Sweden and launched his professional career in the NGO sector, working for the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey in Ankara and the Federation of Southeast Anatolian Businessman Association in Diyarbakir. More recently, Alen worked for the Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality as the Mayor's Foreign Relations advisor until the 2014 elections. Since then, he has been working for the International Humanitarian organization on the Syrian border to provide basic hygiene, food, and other essentials to refugees out of official camps.

George Aghjayan graduated from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute with honors in 1988, acquiring his bachelor's of science degree in Actuarial Mathematics. He achieved his Fellowship in the Society of Actuaries in 1996. After a career in both insurance and structured finance, Aghjayan retired in 2014 to focus his efforts on Armenian related research and projects. His primary area of interest is the demographic and geography of Western Armenia, but he also researches hidden Armenians living there today.

Aghjayan has also written and lectured on a wide array of topics, including Armenian genealogy and genocide denial. He has served on the Central Committee of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, Eastern United States and the National Board of the Armenian National Committee of America.

"Our featured panelists provide invaluable insight into the occupied ancestral homeland of Armenians. The panel will serve as a mini-course in issues faced by Armenians and non-Armenians living in modern Western Armenia," said



ANCA-WR Grassroots committee co-chairman Ayk Dikijian, Esq.

The moderator of the panel, Matthew Karanian, Esq. is a second-generation Armenian American lawyer who wrote the first self-published guidebook on Armenia. Karanian served as the Associate Dean of the American University of Armenia's law program and as the Director of the University's Legal Research Center. Karanian also founded the *Armenian Law Review* in 2003 with his students.

Since 1995, Karanian has embarked on journeys to Eastern and Western Armenia, Artsakh, Javakhk, Ani, and Cilicia. His book, *"Armenia and Karabakh"* is based on over a dozen visits to Armenia. His writings about Armenia have been published in numerous periodicals in the United States and Canada, and his recent book *"Historic Armenia: 100 Years Later"* is an impressive encyclopedia and pictorial record of the present-day status of Western Armenia, its monuments, churches, villages, and people.

"We are so proud to present this esteemed panel to our community and the hundreds of Grassroots participants who are sure to gain a new and unique knowledge about how past and current events in Turkey directly affect the pursuit of our Cause," remarked ANCA-WR Chair Nora Hovsepian, Esq.

The ANCA-WR Grassroots conference will take place on October 23 and 24 at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel. General admission to the conference is \$85 and \$50 for students. Visit [www.ANCAGRassroots.org](http://www.ANCAGRassroots.org) to register online or to learn about sponsorship and booth display opportunities.



## Zabel Joshi, the last surviving Armenian in Mumbai



"Bombay has been very kind to me. I have a wonderful family and great friends who are Indian Hindus."

Zabel Joshi nee Haykian,  
the Last Armenian  
in Mumbai

The Indian iDiva.com portal presents the story of Zabel Joshi, the last surviving Armenian of Mumbai

By Vasundara R

The famous Dalal Street, home to the Bombay Stock Exchange always looks like a place that's in a hurry to go somewhere. Tall and old buildings mark that street and the area surrounding it. Regardless of the age, there is one thing common amongst all of them - flourishing commerce. Amidst this hustle and bustle lies a far quieter and very old edifice, which stands still, almost forgotten.

St. Peter's Armenian Church was built three centuries ago in 1796 for a thriving community of Armenians in the Bombay of old. Today, the number of Armenians in Mumbai has dwindled to exactly one woman, and the church has no Armenian priest to conduct their services.

"There are no services for Armenians, though we use the church to do our prayers," says Zabel Joshi, the last surviving registered Armenian in the city. Mother to model-cum-actress Tulip Joshi, Zabel once had all her three daughters baptized in this church.

The Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Government in Turkey in 1915 may seem like another world away and in a different time zone to most of us Indians, but for Zabel Haykian, it has played a big part in establishing her roots.

"Due to the genocide, our ancestors were forced to leave and settle in different parts of the world," she narrates. "I was raised in Beirut, blessed to have had wonderful parents, along with two brothers and a sister. Beirut, which was considered the Paris of Middle East, was home for me then."

Zabel had whirlwind romance in Beirut with Gujarati cloth merchant Kishore Joshi, who made frequent trips to the city for his business. At the age of 23, Zabel married Joshi and moved to India and the romance continued, this time also with India and with Bombay, its melting pot of languages and cultures.

"Bombay has been very kind to me," says Zabel. "I have a wonderful family and great friends who are Indian Hindus. In fact, today I feel like one. I speak Hindi fluently, I also speak Gujarati."

Armenians first came to India via Kerala and established solid roots in Kolkata. They then expanded to Mumbai, Chennai, Agra,

Gwalior and Lucknow. Over the centuries, the community has had significant economic and cultural association with the local Indians. Today, they are as much a part of India's melange of cultures as anybody else, speaking the local language, absorbing some customs and feeling perfectly at home.

Kolkata still has a visible Armenian community of over 150 people, but Chennai's Armenian population is long gone and over the years, Mumbai's Armenian population or what was left of it migrated to the US and Canada, while the older generation joined their ancestors in the cemetery at Antop Hill. Zabel now remains the sole registered Armenian in Mumbai and the trustee for the Church.

With no community to conduct services for and no priest to conduct the services either, St. Peter's stayed shut for a long time. But the ivory coloured walls of the cathedral speak of cheerful tales, of a happy community that once got together for festivals, for Easter and for a Christmas, that was celebrated twice.

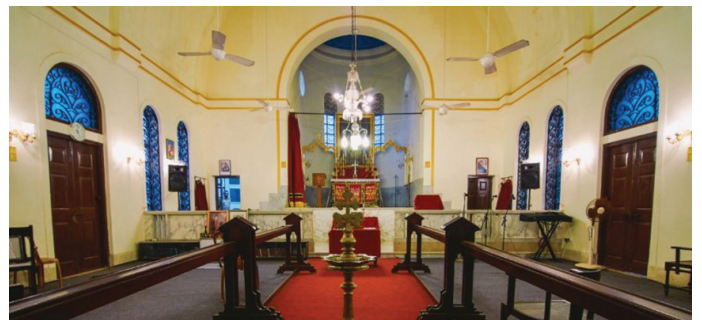
"That's my favourite part about Christmas-having two Christmases!" gushes her daughter Tulip Joshi. "Armenian Christmas is on January 6, so we celebrate both Christmases - the regular one in December and the Armenian one. We decorate the tree and have traditional sweets and Christmas pudding (anooshabour)."

Tulip and her sisters, all of whom speak Armenian fluently, are particularly fond of Armenian food. "It's so healthy - it's very Mediterranean in flavour and composition. And I just love the dolmas and sarmas that my mum makes - that's grape leaves rolled and stuffed with either vegetables or minced meat and steamed until soft."

Zabel's memories with the Armenians in Mumbai go beyond just festivals, though. "Every Sunday morning my family would attend Sunday mass along with many Armenians who were alive back then," she says. "In fact we used to wait for Sundays. Easter was our favourite one. After the mass, we would go for lunch and play Easter games."

"Things are very different now," she continues. "I am the only Armenian living in this city. Of course, my children have Armenian blood and I am proud to say that they speak the language, which is really the first step towards preserving anything that might not be around forever."

Recently, St. Peter's Church, after lying forlorn and silent for years, has opened its doors to the Syrian Christians of its sister church - the Malankara Orthodox Syrian church for use during Sunday services. Feet once again troop through the doors of the church, the pews now sigh under the weight of the faithful, but they are not the people the church was built for.



## Justifying Genocide: Germany and the Armenians from Bismarck to Hitler

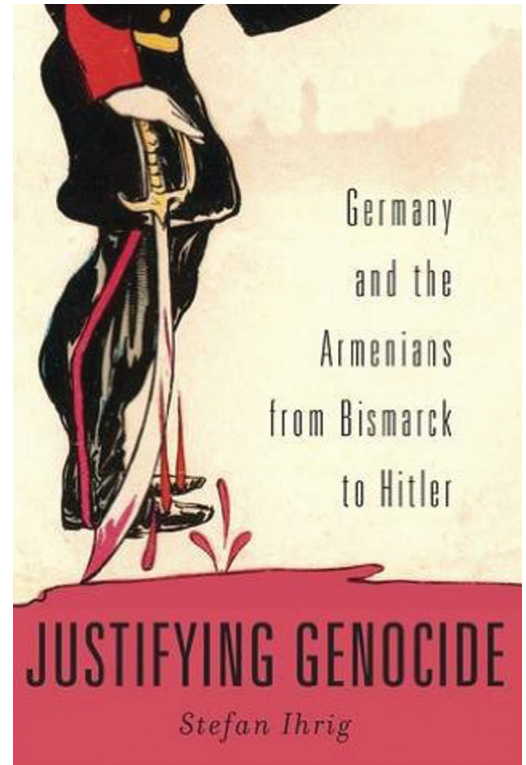
"Justifying Genocide: Germany and the Armenians from Bismarck to Hitler," a book by Stefan Ihrig to be released in January 2016, shows that the Armenian Genocide and the Nazi Holocaust are much more connected than previously thought.

Bismarck and then Wilhelm II staked their foreign policy on close relations with a stable Ottoman Empire. To the extent that the Armenians were restless under Ottoman rule, they were a problem for Germany too. From the 1890s onward Germany became accustomed to excusing violence against Armenians, even accepting it as a foreign policy necessity. For many Germans, the Armenians represented an explicitly racial problem and despite the Armenians' Christianity, Germans portrayed them as the "Jews of the Orient."

As Stefan Ihrig reveals in this first

comprehensive study of the subject, many Germans before World War I sympathized with the Ottomans' long-standing repression of the Armenians and would go on to defend vigorously the Turks' wartime program of extermination. After the war, in what Ihrig terms the "great genocide debate," German nationalists first denied and then justified genocide in sweeping terms. The Nazis too came to see genocide as justifiable: in their version of history, the Armenian Genocide had made possible the astonishing rise of the New Turkey.

Ihrig is careful to note that this connection does not imply the Armenian Genocide somehow caused the Holocaust, nor does it make Germans any less culpable. But no history of the twentieth century should ignore the deep, direct, and disturbing connections between these two crimes.



## Armenian group brings 'Edith Piaf-Marcel' play to Istanbul on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday

On her 100th birthday, legendary French singer Edith Piaf will be on an Istanbul stage with the play 'Edith Piaf-Marcel,' performed by the Yerevan State Youth Theater, as the first Armenian play to be staged in Turkey, the Hurriyet Daily News reports.

The Yerevan State Youth Theater, invited by the Theater Boyal? Ku? (Painted Bird), will be performing in Istanbul for its first time in a play that focuses on Edith Piaf's love and longing for Marcel Cerdan on Oct. 15 and 16 at the ?i?li Municipality City Cultural Center.

Feminist theater company Boyal? Ku? celebrates its 15th birthday in 2015 with "Edith Piaf-Marcel" on Piaf's 100th birthday. The play is directed by Hagob Ghazanchyan, while acclaimed, young actress Mariam Ghazanchyan plays the role of legendary French singer Edith Piaf.

The diva of France, Piaf, also known as the Little Sparrow, was born in 1915. She started singing on the streets of Paris when she was a child. After Louis-Leplée, who ran a nightclub on the Champs-Élysées, discovered her talent, Piaf started her music career in Paris circles. She then became the most loved and sought after singer in Paris, in Europe, in the U.S. and the entire world. She was famous for her husky, mournful voice and her songs of loneliness and despair. She breathed life to more than a hundred songs from 1933 until her death in 1963. Her song "La Vie en Rose" is one of her best known songs.

The musical "Edith Piaf-Marcel" is based on Piaf's great love



for world boxing champion Marcel Cerdan and what she went through after Cerdan's death. In the play, Piaf creates a spiritual and imaginary world in order to communicate with Cerdan after his death in a plane crash in 1949. She reaches him in this spiritual and imaginary world through her songs, each of which turns into a prayer. Ghazanchyan utters solely one word throughout the entire length of the play: M-A-R-C-E-L!

"Edith Piaf-Marcel" will celebrate both the 100th birthday of legendary singer and the first play originating from Armenia to be staged in Turkey. The solo musical performance of Mariam Ghazanchyan will tell the story of Piaf's love and longing through songs in French.



## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

### Aries

**(March 20-April 19)**

New experiences are brought to you by others in your world. Even if a change was not in your conscious awareness, it is needed for your personal growth, or it would not be happening. Do not play the blame game here. It is possible that you overstepped your boundaries and now someone is pushing back.

### Taurus

**(April 20-May 19)**

The next two weeks will be challenging to your relationships and maybe your investments. You may be perceiving yourself as selfless or the Other as "too good to be true". Add a touch of realism here, and you will be more accurate and better balanced.

### Gemini

**(May 20-June 20)**

Mercury, your ruling planet, has graced your 5th house of children, personal creativity, and romances since Aug. 27. It is possible that one or more of these areas has been "on hold" for the past month. Your attention will be focused in these areas through October and the slowed motion will begin to move forward.

### Cancer

**(June 21-July 21)**

Give special attention to unusual messages or to new people who enter your life during this time. A "teacher" crosses your path in the form of a person, a book, or the right message that will steer you in the next favorable direction. (You may have heard this message before, but this time you are listening.)

### Leo

**(July 22-August 21)**

It is probable that others in your life may be erratic. Partner(s), clientele, good friends, and even professionals may be far less reliable than you would like. If this has already started, then do your best to choose activities that depend only upon yourself for a short while.

### Virgo

**(August 22-September 22)**

Financial matters will be clearing up soon as Mercury goes direct in the house of resources and money. In another arena, you need closeness and as you reach out, the "other" just seems to evaporate or evade you. This is truly disappointing. You have necessary repairs on your home or family that become apparent. It is time.

### Libra

**(Sep. 23-Oct. 22)**

Mercury has been traveling in your sign since Aug. 27. It has caused you to reflect deeply on your next direction. Now that it is turning direct, you feel more capable of making decisions and moving forward. You'll be cautious at first, but your moves will pick up steam soon.

### Scorpio

**(October 23-November 21)**

At last! The Sun shines through and there is a breakthrough of the clouds in your life. You may become the leader in a project that will be good for many. This is a time in which you may realize that your struggles have been worth the effort. Positive experiences and increased resource supply comes to you via friends and associates, including the community at large.

### Sagittarius

**(November 22-December 20)**

Necessary expenses (those not of the "fun" type) may develop this week. If not that, you could be just having a little blue mood. It is one of those times when we operate better in solitude. This is an existential dilemma that everyone encounters now and then. It will pass quickly.

### Capricorn

**(December 21-January 19)**

You may be applauded for your ethical and moral behavior patterns. Others will let you know your efforts have been noticed. Don't slip-slide around the ethics line. If you do, then a person of minor authority may fine the error and bring it to the attention of others. One gets what is deserved on this aspect.

### Aquarius

**(January 20-February 17)**

You may have financial concerns related to investments. Contacting friends and associates in distant places will open new doors. Meanwhile your ability to concentrate upon projects that require management of details is strong. Organizing files, closets and cabinets will clear the clutter from your mind.

### Pisces

**(February 18-March 19)**

Beware of any martyr like thoughts in relation to your partner(s). You could be seeing yourself as all-giving, all-loving. No one is really like that. Give what you are willing to give because you love the Other. Don't do it so that someone will see your actions and think you are wonderful. Then whatever the outcome, you won't resent it.

# Armenia's holy city of Etchmiadzin celebrates 2700<sup>th</sup> anniversary

President Serzh Sargsyan took part on October 8 in the festive events to celebrate the 2700th anniversary of Etchmiadzin. First, Armenia's president visited Vazgen Sargsyan Square located next to Saint Hripsime Church where he attended the opening of the Monument to Vazgen Sargsyan and placed flowers at the monument to Sparapet, President's Press Office reported.



Afterwards, the president visited the building site of the town's sports complex, participated in its groundbreaking ceremony and then familiarized himself with the sports school construction and territory improvement projects.

As part of the events to mark the 2700th anniversary of Etchmiadzin, Serzh Sargsyan also visited newly-renovated Art School after Yeghishe Tadevosyan. The president familiarized himself with the works done at the educational institution to provide 300 pupils with necessary learning conditions. Armenia's president then paid tribute to the memory of the heroes of the Artsakh Liberation War and placed flowers at the monument to the heroes.

In company of town dwellers, numerous guests, and Honorary Citizens of Etchmiadzin, President Serzh Sargsyan took part in the solemn gathering at the municipality's conference hall devoted to the 2700th anniversary of Etchmiadzin.



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