

Police clear Yerevan streets of protesters



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Armenian Foreign Minister starts visit to London

Within the framework of an official visit to the United Kingdom, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian had a meeting with Philip Hammond, UK Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs. The avenues for the expansion of cooperation in different spheres were discussed.



The Ministers referred to Armenia-EU relations, the steps toward creating new legal framework for cooperation.

The interlocutors exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East, the Syrian crisis and the ways of its resolution, the international community's fight against terrorism and the agreements on Iran's nuclear program.

Minister Nalbandian briefed his British counterpart on the events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. In this context the Armenian FM expressed gratitude to for co-authoring the Resolution on the Prevention of Genocide submitted to the UN Human Rights Council in March.

Minister Nalbandian had a working dinner with UK's Minister for Europe David Lidington. The parties referred to Armenian-British relations, Armenia-EU cooperation, the Ukrainian crisis and the ways of its settlement, and a number of other issues on international agenda.

The interlocutors discussed the ways of solving the regional conflicts. Minister Nalbandian presented the joint efforts of Armenia and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs toward the peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict. David Lidington assured of his country's commitment to the activity of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

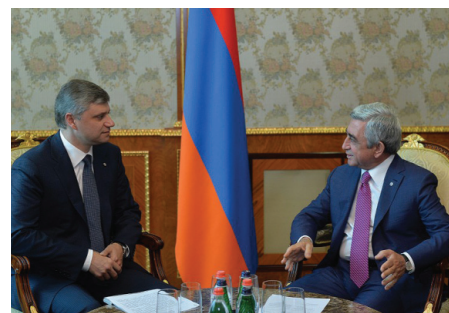
Minister Nalbandian also gave an extended interview to the BBC.

Armenian President receives President of JSC Russian Railways Oleg Belozеров

President Serzh Sargsyan received on September 10 Oleg Belozеров, the newly-appointed president of JSC Russian Railways which has assumed the trust management of the Armenian railway. Armenia's president congratulated him on his appointment, wished him success and expressed the hope that Mr. Belozеров will use his professional experience and organizational skills to strengthen allied partnership between Armenia and Russia.

The president attached importance to promoting close multi-sectoral cooperation, e.g. transport, to develop and reinforce inter-state relations, and expressed his confidence that under the leadership of new President Sergey Valko, South Caucasus Railway CJSC will continue to consistently implement the works outlined in the concession agreement, thereby maintaining close cooperation on the implementation of promising and mutually beneficial projects.

President Serzh Sargsyan thanked the General Director of South Caucasus Railway CJSC, Victor Rebets, on the end of his tenure and for his constructive and effective work during his time in office



aimed at the development of the railway infrastructure in Armenia and the increase of its security level.

Oleg Belozеров assured the Armenian president that he will continue the good traditions of effective joint working and will maintain and develop the positive dynamics of improving Armenia's railway infrastructure, in which his company, according to him, is greatly interested and has clearly-defined projects.

At the meeting, the interlocutors touched upon the works carried out hitherto aimed at the modernization of the Armenian railway, its technical re-equipment and at the increase of its security level, as well as discussed the current programs, the existing problems and development prospects.

Issues of border security to be discussed at CSTO summit: Armenian Deputy FM

"The Eurasian Economic Union is a purely economic structure and has nothing to do with security. Therefore, no issue of border security can be discussed," Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan told reporters on September 10. He added that the issue will be raised at the forthcoming CSTO summit on September 15.

Does Armenia expect concrete actions from the CSTO? Shavarsh Kocharyan said that we "first and foremost rely upon ourselves on issue of our security and defense."

"We should understand that if a country relies upon others, the outcome may be sad," he said. He added, however, that "the role of any country is important to us, and this first of all refers to countries

we have agreements with."

The Deputy Foreign Minister stressed that the settlement of the Karabakh conflict proceeds within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group. He said progress is absent because Azerbaijan puts the emphasis on issues favorable to itself. "There will be no progress unless Azerbaijan changes its behavior, while speaking about unilateral concessions is simply strange."

Referring to reports on the expected visit of Crimean leader Sergey Aksenev to Armenia, Shavarsh Kocharyan declared that "the Armenian Foreign Ministry has not sent any official invitation to the leadership of Crimea, but added that "any person with a Russian passport is free to visit Armenia."

Police clear Yerevan streets of protesters



Hundreds of mostly young people re-occupied a central Yerevan avenue and faced off with riot police late on Friday in renewed protests against the recent increase in electricity prices in Armenia.

The protesters blocked a section of the Marshal Bagramyan Avenue leading to the presidential palace after their leaders accused the Armenian government of reneging on its pledge to fully subsidize the tariffs.

No To Plunder, a youth group that organized the protest, argued that the temporary subsidy does not cover the vast majority of businesses and other corporate consumers. It also claimed that even households in some Armenian regions are being forced to pay more for electricity.

"This is obvious fraud. All government statements suggest that electricity will very soon become more expensive for all of us," one of the group's leaders, Maxim Sargsyan, said at a rally held in Yerevan's Liberty Square earlier in the evening.

Sargsyan said No To Plunder is therefore demanding that the Armenian authorities formally and fully scrap the more than 17 percent tariff increase that was approved by state regulators in June. "We will go to the end this time around," he declared before the protesters marched to Marshal Bagramyan Avenue, chanting "Serzhik liar!" and "Join us!"

The protesters were stopped by lines

of riot police at an avenue section that was the scene of a two-week standoff between youth activists and security forces in late June and early July. They sat on the ground after failing to break through the police cordon. Some of them danced and sang songs in scenes reminiscent of the summer protests dubbed "Electric Yerevan."

Senior police officers urged the crowd to unblock the street, saying that the demonstration was not sanctioned by municipal authorities and can be forcibly broken up. But the police did not immediately act on those threats.

The protesters, for their part, remained defiant, with Sargsyan saying that they will not disperse until their demands are met by the Sargsyan administration. The youth leader acknowledged that No To Plunder has attracted fewer demonstrators this time around. He said he hopes that more Armenians will join the protest later in the evening.

In a quick pre-dawn operation, riot police dispersed on Saturday youth activists blocking a major street in central Yerevan to demand that the Armenian authorities formally annul a recent rise in

electricity prices.

Police units cleared Marshal Bagramyan Avenue 30 minutes after the expiry of a police ultimatum that was issued to the protesters late on Friday. The national police service said the protest is illegal and can therefore be broken up.

Colonel Valery Osipyan, a deputy chief of Yerevan's police department, reiterated this warning before security forces swept aside several dozen activists who remained at the blocked section of the avenue early in the morning. They did not use batons, water cannons or other riot gear.

"Policemen, stay calm," Osipyan repeatedly shouted through a megaphone as his officers dragged away activists.

Most of the protesters appeared to be detained on the spot. Those included leaders of the No To Plunder movement that resumed this month its vocal campaign against the more than 17 percent electricity price rise.

Rima Sargsyan was apparently the only No To Plunder leader to avoid arrest. She condemned the police actions.

Several protesters suffered minor injuries during the crackdown. Ambulance cars were on hand to provide them with first medical assistance.

Traffic through the avenue resumed moments later, after a police water cannon washed the site of the overnight protest.

The same street section was the scene of bigger nonstop protests against the price hike in late June. They forced President Serzh Sargsyan to promise that his government will subsidize the tariffs pending an international audit of Armenia's loss-making power distribution network.

No To Plunder decided to resume protests after the government made clear last month that the subsidy will apply only to households and some small businesses.

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U.S. 'deeply troubled' by Armenian-Azeri escalation

The United States has criticized Armenia and Azerbaijan for the latest upsurge of fighting in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, saying that they both have used heavier weapons to shell each other's villages along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

"We have received credible reports that Armenian and Azerbaijani forces have used mortars and other heavy weapons along the international border, resulting in civilian casualties and damage to villages," John Kirby, the U.S. State Department spokesman, said in a statement released on September 10.

"We are deeply troubled by the escalation and condemn any military action that targets civilians," he said. "We call for an immediate end to such violence, for the de-escalation of tensions, and, in the strongest possible terms, for the avoidance of civilian casualties."

The statement referred to last week's intensification of ceasefire violations that were mainly reported from the western section of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. Villages on both sides of the frontier were directly hit in mostly overnight skir-

mishes between Armenian and Azerbaijani troops stationed in the area.

Several civilians were wounded as a result. The truce violations, which appear to have decreased since last Saturday, also caused serious damage to dozens of village houses.

The fighting also left several Armenian and Azerbaijani soldiers dead and wounded. Azerbaijani new websites reported on Friday that another Azerbaijani soldier has been killed at the tense border section. The 18-year-old conscript, Balaahmed Rustamov, was reportedly shot dead in the Gazakh district in western Azerbaijan bordering Armenia's northern Tavush province.

Each conflicting party has blamed the other for the escalation, which followed a relative calm that was observed on the border and the more militarized Armenian-Azerbaijani "line of contact" around Karabakh from April through the end of June. Like many Armenian observers, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian on Thursday linked that lull with last June's European Games in Baku, saying that the Azerbaijani leadership did not want to put

them at risk. "The situation changed drastically immediately after the games, when Azerbaijan opted for a sharp rise in ceasefire violations," he said, speaking at the British think-tank Chatham House during a visit to London.

Nalbandian also reaffirmed Armenia's support for the idea of international inquiries into truce violations advanced by the U.S., Russian and French mediators co-heading the OSCE Minsk Group. The Azerbaijani government has previously rejected the idea. The renewed tensions on the frontlines come ahead of Nalbandian's talks with his Azerbaijani counterpart Elmar Mammadyarov expected on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York later this month. The mediators hope that the talks will pave the way for a fresh meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents.

"We also remind the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan of their commitment to reach a negotiated settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict working closely with the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group," the State Department's Kirby said on Thursday.

Artsakh responds to Azerbaijan's criticism of municipal elections in NKR

"Along with aggravating the situation on the line of contact and making repeated attempts of reconnaissance and sabotage, as well as continuously shooting with large caliber mortars and artillery, Azerbaijani authorities have launched a hysterical campaign against the ongoing democratic processes in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic," NKR Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

"On August 31, Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning the forthcoming September 13 elections to local self-government in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. This statement contains the traditional set of baseless accusations against the NKR and Armenia is actively disseminated in international organizations and structures. In its turn, the state-controlled Azerbaijani media have started a race in their attempts of attaining similar accusations from the representatives of various countries and international organizations," the Ministry said.

"Condemnation of the municipal elec-

tions in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic by Azerbaijan is a manifestation of panic phobia of Azerbaijani leadership towards the democratic processes taking place in the NKR. This is especially evident against the background of the deteriorating situation with human rights and freedom of speech in Azerbaijan, where elections are an open ended process of inheritance, human rights activists and journalists are persecuted for dissent, and the population deprived of the opportunity to fully realize their fundamental rights and freedoms. Bringing to the end any illusion of democracy in its country, the leadership of Azerbaijan does not fall short of attempts to impose its own "standards" of human rights throughout the international community including its neighboring countries," the statement reads.

The Ministry notes that in line with its commitment to democratic values and principles, the organization of public life and the formation of the NKR authorities are carried out solely by means of free, fair,

transparent and competitive elections, which have become an integral part of the political culture of the NKR.

Forthcoming September 13 elections are the sixth elections to the local government in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. The first municipal elections, including the elections of the mayor of Stepanakert, were held on September 27, 1998.

Implementation of the local self-government in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, safeguarding the citizens to participate directly in the conduct of public affairs is regulated by the Constitution of the NKR in full compliance with international law and, particularly, the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

"Attaching special importance to the institution of local self-government as a form of direct and representative governance by the people as well as the foundations of any democratic regime, the NKR authorities will spare no efforts to enhance its further development and strengthening," the Ministry concluded.

Villagers up In arms against new mining project



The mayor and other residents of a village in the northern Lori province vehemently objected on September 10 to plans by a leading Armenian mining company to explore and possibly develop metal deposits close to their community.

The company, Vallex Group, needs a government permission to determine, through geological drilling, whether there are commercially viable volumes of copper, molybdenum and other non-ferrous metals in the mountainous area covered by forests. The licensing process also mandates the conduct of public discussions involving residents of the nearest local community, Tsaghkashat, local government officials and environment protection groups.

"It would be naïve to think that our objective is only to collect information," a senior Vallex Group executive, Sahak Karapetyan, said during one such discussion held in the nearby town of Lori. "If, God willing, we manage to discover a big deposit, Armenia

should only be happy with that.

The Tsaghkashat mayor, Hrach Paranyan, members of the village council and other villagers attending the heated discussion strongly disagreed. They said open-pit mining would only destroy their livelihoods.

"We have a stable source of income," said Paranyan. "We raise cattle, grow fruits, collect berries and mushrooms and make use of the forest all year round. We have no problem with jobs."

Some Tsaghkashat farmers claimed that Vallex Group wants to look for uranium. They said that geologists found uranium deposits near the village in Soviet times.

Vallex representatives denied any interest in the radioactive metal, however. One of them, Artem Sargsyan, said the company will abandon its plans if most Tsaghkashat residents remain adamant in opposing any mining in the area.

Vallex Group began late last year large-scale mining operations in Lori's Teghut forest, just a few dozen kilometers from Tsaghkashat, after years of resistance from some residents of nearby villages and especially environment protection groups based in Yerevan. The \$380 million project is expected to lead to the destruction of 357 hectares of rich forest containing 128,000 trees.

The company is supposed to offset this damage by planting twice as many trees in adjacent areas. It has denied environmentalists' claims that ore crushing and enrichment will pollute a local river and underground waters.

Vallex also claims to have created about 1,300 new jobs at Teghut and has pledged to build new schools and upgrade local infrastructure.

Azerbaijan angered by European Parliament resolution



Head of the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan Malena Mard was summoned to Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry Sept.11, over the resolution adopted by the European Parliament, Trend reports.

Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Mammadgulyev informed Mard about the country's position on this document.

"Azerbaijan strongly condemns the resolution adopted by the European Parliament," he said.

Noting that this document is 'biased and destructive,' Mammadgulyev said that it is a blow to Azerbaijani-EU relations.

Azerbaijan's Milli Mejlis will hold an extraordinary session

September 14 to consider the attitude toward the resolution of the European Parliament. MPs have been hastily recalled from their vacations on this occasion.

Remind that in a resolution adopted on September 10 the MEPs call for the release of all political prisoners in Azerbaijan.

The European Parliament calls for the immediate and unconditional release from jail of all political prisoners, human rights defenders, journalists and other civil society activists, including Khadija Ismayilova, Leyla Yunus and Arif Yunus, in line with the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights and/or a prompt investigation into the death of the journalist Rasim Aliyev.

It demands that the Azerbaijan government immediately end its crackdown on civil society and human rights work and says that "the negotiations for a Strategic Partnership Agreement with Azerbaijan should be immediately put on hold as long the government fails to take concrete steps in advancing respect for universal human rights".

The resolution calls on the Commission "to review and suspend temporarily, if needed, all funding not related to human rights, civil society and grassroots level people-to-people cooperation granted to Azerbaijan through the European Neighbourhood Instrument, and recalls Parliament's decision to send a delegation to Azerbaijan.

The non-legislative resolution was adopted by 365 votes to 202, with 72 abstentions.

Armenia in favor of expanding the use of national currencies within EEU: PM

Armenia also in favor of de-dollarization in the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, Armenia's Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan said at a meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Grodno, BelTA reports.

According to the Prime Minister, Armenia endorses the draft documents that cover different areas of cooperation in the EEU. "We fully support the steps to strengthen and expand the industrial cooperation. Our countries have potential for efficient collaboration," he said.

Hovik Abrahamyan also backed the earlier reached agreements on the regulation of the financial market. "The EEU needs measures to expand the use of national currencies in mutual transactions and reduce dollarization. Sharing the experience in the implementation of the coordinated macroeconomic policy is of utmost importance as well. In this respect the Russian ruble should be made an anchor currency in the mutual strategic trade in the EEU," the Armenian Premier believes.

Close cooperation with the European Union is equally important, he added. "Keeping in mind our rich experience of negotiations in the trade and economic cooperation with the European Union, we are ready to assist the Eurasian Economic Commission in establishing such a dialogue and, if necessary, take the corresponding commitments of a negotiator in certain issues," the Prime Minister said. Such cooperation should be



based on the principle of mutually beneficial development of integration processes aimed at securing free movement of goods, workforce, services and capital.

The Prime Minister also informed the meeting participants that Armenia is ready for the fulfillment of all the commitments it has undertaken and for the active cooperation with partners in the EEU. "The Armenian side will soon present its candidate for the post of the Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission," the Premier said.

Hovik Abrahamyan suggested holding the next meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Yerevan.

Armenia ranks 43rd in 2015 Global AgeWatch Index

Armenia ranks 43rd among 96 countries in the 2015 Global AgeWatch Index developed and constructed by HelpAge International. The aim of the Index is both to capture the multidimensional nature of the quality of life and wellbeing of older people, and to provide a means by which to measure performance and promote improvements. The HelpAge International has chosen 13 different indicators for the four key domains of Income security, Health status, Capability, and Enabling environment. The best 10 countries to grow old are Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, Iceland, Japan, United States, and United Kingdom. The worst countries are Mozambique, Malawi and Afghanistan. Armenia's neighbors Georgia and Turkey are ranked 29th and 75th respectively. Armenia's partners in the Eurasian Economic union are placed as follows: Russia - 65th, Kyrgyzstan - 51st, Belarus - 64th. Armenia ranks moderately on the Index, at 43 overall. It ranks highest in the capability domain (9). It also ranks high in the income security domain (32) with 100% pension income coverage. It ranks low in the enabling environment domain (73) with the lowest value in its region for the civic freedom indicator (42%). It ranks lowest in the health domain (74), with below average life expectancy at 60 compared to other countries in this region.

Armenian PM wants more tourists from Russia

Citing the need to boost the domestic tourism industry, Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan has instructed the Armenian government to make it even easier for Russians to travel to Armenia.

Abrahamyan said on September 10 that Russian tourists should be allowed to enter the country with their internal passports that are usually valid only within Russia.

"Let's work with [with Russian government bodies] and try to find a solution so that they can visit Armenia, a Eurasian Economic Union member state, with their internal passports. That will contribute to tourism," he told Gagik Yeganyan, the head of the State Migration Service, during a cabinet meeting in Yerevan.

The Russian internal passports, a leftover from the Soviet Union, serve as registration documents which tie their holders to a particular city and are required for formalizing various transactions and receiving public services. Russians have been able to enter only a handful of foreign states, notably Belarus and, until last March, Ukraine, with such identity documents. They need international passports to travel to the rest of the world.

Abrahamyan said that only 10 percent



of Russia's citizens hold international passports, implying that many more of them would visit Armenia if the authorities in Yerevan ease their travel regulations for them. The State Migration Service should therefore start negotiating with relevant Russian bodies on the matter as soon as possible, he said.

The number of Russian tourists visiting Armenia has already increased significantly in the last several years. According to local travel agencies, they are attracted by a visa-free regime between the two countries, relatively inexpensive food and accommodation, Armenians' traditionally friendly attitudes towards Russians, and the fact that the Russian language is still widely understood in Armenia.

Total FDI into Armenia's real sector in H1 increase



Yerevan, (Arka).

Total foreign investments into the real sector of the Armenian economy (net flows resulting from the difference between the net inflows and outflows of foreign investment) in the first six months of 2015 amounted to 81.9 billion drams (about \$171.5 million), an increase of 6% or 4.7 billion drams compared to the same period last year, according to a study conducted by the economy ministry titled "Dynamics of Direct Foreign Investments in Armenia, the Region and the World."

However, net foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first half amounted to 30.7 billion drams (about \$64.3 million), a decline of 58% or 42.7 billion drams from the year before, according to the study. The reduction of FDI in the reporting period was due

to the sale of its 20% share by the government in ArmRosGazprom (now Gazprom Armenia) national gas distribution company.

"If we consider that the total flow of foreign investments is calculated as the difference between the net inflows and outflows, then, for example, the repayment of previously obtained loans by the company can lead to a reduction in total investment," the study says.

The largest investors in Armenia during the reporting period were as follows: Germany - 11.1 billion drams (\$ 23.2 million), Cyprus - 11 billion drams (\$22.9 million), UAE- 9.3 billion drams (\$19.6 mln.), Virgin Islands - 8.4 bln drams (\$17.7 mln.), Argentina - 7.8 billion drams (\$16.3 mln.) and Canada 6 million drams (\$12.7 million).

German investments were channeled into production of basic metals; Cyprus investments went to the mining sector, production of metals and wholesale trade; investments from the UAE were used for wholesale trade and manufacturing of electronics; the money from Argentina went to agriculture and air transport and Canadian investments went to the food sector and production of cigarettes.

During the reporting period, foreign investments were mainly directed to the manufacturing industry - 35.3 billion drams, wholesale and retail trade - 13.1 bln drams, the mining industry - 11.8 billion drams and information and communication sector - 11.5 billion drams.

According to research, made on the basis of the World Bank data, in 2014 net FDI in the balance of payments of Armenia rose 3.4% to \$382.8 million, while in 2013 they declined by 24.26%.

Apart from Armenia the growth of FDI was also showed by Georgia -33.18%; Azerbaijan - by 69.14% and Turkey - by 0.75%. Russia's FDI slashed by 69.7%, in Belarus they fell by 18, 41%, Ukraine saw an 81.2% drop and Kazakhstan - a 1.81% fall.

The share of FDI in Armenia's GDP in 2014 was 3.5%. In Georgia it was 7.7%, in Azerbaijan -5.9%, in Kazakhstan - 4.5%, in Belarus - 2.4%, in Turkey - 1.6%, in Russia - 1.1% and in Ukraine - 0.6%.

"FDI dynamic's trend in Armenia is consonant with international and regional changes, as Armenia is a small and open country, and thus more sensitive to the effects of the external environment", the study says. (\$ 1 - 485.61 Drams).

U.S. firm to say whether recent rise in electricity prices in Armenia economically justified



Deloitte & Touche, a leading U.S. financial services firm, hired by the government of Armenia to determine whether a recent rise in electricity prices in Armenia is economically justified, will present the first findings in late September, international economic integration minister Vache Gabrielyan told a Cabinet session on September 10. He said Deloitte & Touche experts had already spoken with officials from the Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC) and separate companies. He said the study will be held in three

stages, the first of which will be completed by the end of September, the second phase in late October, and the third in late November. The US firm is expected to look into financial operations of the Armenian energy sector from 2010-2015 and assess its tariffs set by the Public Services Regulatory Commission.

Energy and natural resources minister Yervand Zakaryan added that the agency is updating the lists of households and SMEs, which consume up to 500 kWh of electricity a month, because they are subject to partial government compensation.

"We expect the lists to be updated later this week and before the 20th of September compensations will reach beneficiaries," Zakaryan said. Headquartered in New York, Deloitte is the world's largest company providing audit, tax, consulting and other financial services. It has a small subsidiary in Armenia. The accord to commission the audit of the company was

reached on June 26 during Armenian president Serzh Sargsyan's meeting in Yerevan with Russian transport minister Maxim Sokolov, the Russian co-chairman of the joint Armenian-Russian intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation. The next day Sargsyan said the government will keep electricity prices unchanged for consumers by subsidizing their increased cost at least until the release of findings of the audit. Earlier Serzh Sargsyan said the audit will find out whether the price hike approved by state regulators was economically justified or resulted from alleged corruption and mismanagement in the Electricity Networks of Armenia. The Public Services Regulatory Commission's decision on June 17 to increase the electricity price for consumers by 6.93 drams (16.7%) sparked a vigorous public backlash forcing Armenian citizens to take to streets in a protest against the increase.



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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 floorof the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, 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, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD.
- 2099. **Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600 USD.
- 1972. **Northern ave.**, 8/4, 80sq.m., 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, climate control. Price: 1200 USD
- 2171. **Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sq.m., 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capitolly repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2367. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9th floor, 98 sq.m., capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2353 **V. Sargsyan str.** 8/5, Newly built, 98sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitolly renovated, furnished, Price 1500 USD
- 2347 **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable

- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyun str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2286. **Sose str.**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, central heating, AC, cellar. 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitolly repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

- 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, 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, capitolly repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- 1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitolly repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitolly repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitolly repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitolly repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitolly repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitolly repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- 2033. **Abovyan str**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD
- 2031. **Vardanants str**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m., Price: 8000 USD
- 2027. **Sayat Nova str**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capitolly repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

PREMISES

Ambassador Edson Monteiro: "...Both Sides Have Good Possibilities to Strengthen Brazilian-Armenian Friendly Ties"

In the Eve of 2016 Rio Olympic Games Federative Republic's Independence 193rd Anniversary Marked in Yerevan



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

**Chief
Correspondent**

On 8 September at the open air terrace of the newly opened Yerevan Double Tree by Hilton Hotel the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Republic of Armenia H.E. Mr **Edson Marinho Duarte Monteiro** and Mrs **Grace Socorro Dacuma Duarte Monteiro** held a reception on the occasion of the 193rd Anniversary of the Independence of Brazil. As usual, among the guests were members of the Armenian Government, National

in Portuguese)

I am deeply honored and grateful for your presence tonight in the celebration of the Independence of Brazil.

This is the third time that, jointly with my wife Grace and my fellow workers at the Embassy of Brazil I have the honor of celebrating Brazil's National Day as the Brazilian Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia. As Grace and I never tired of repeating, we are grateful for the privilege of living and working in this great country, so rich in history, traditions and culture.

We are also privileged for living among warm and friendly Armenian people. We have been welcomed everywhere in Armenia with open arms and really feel at home.

And I must also praise, Mr. Vice-

Brazil new opportunities for the strengthening of our bilateral relations. With the support of institutions and the people of both countries it was possible to promote actions of mutual interest in areas such as culture, science, trade, education, health and sports. In particular, in cultural field we, together with the Hovhannes Tumanyan House Museum, implemented a joint project – publishing of a colorful book containing three poems by Tumanyan translated into Portuguese and three Brazilian folk legends translated into Armenian ("Tumanyan's Fairy Tales and Brazilian Folk Legends", see The Highlights issue #19(1059), 11 May 2015 - G.Kh.). That was an important project as, first, we'd like Brazilians to know the great Armenian poet's art, and, second, - vice versa - we were happy to bring some of



Assembly, Ambassadors and high ranking diplomats, in particular, of Russia, India, China, US, France, Germany, Argentina, Switzerland, Czech Republic, EU, Iran, Belarus, UN, other states/intl organizations, representatives of the Armenian business, intellectual and artistic elite, clergy.

After performance of the two countries' National Anthems Ambassador Monteiro extended speech to the guests that The Highlights readers can find below:

"Your Excellency, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Ashot Hovakimian, Members of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia,

Your Excellency, Minister of Diaspora, Madame Hranush Hakobyan, other distinguished members of the Government and members of the Judiciary, Armenian Apostolic and Catholic Church representatives,

Dear Ambassadors and other members of the Diplomatic Corps as well as representatives and officers of International Organizations,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Hargeli Hyurer (Dear guests - in Armenian)

Meus compatriotas ! (My compatriots –

Minister, the support that the Brazilian Embassy has received from officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other institutions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the activities of the Embassy of Brazil in Yerevan. We are grateful for your friendly support to our Mission.

In the United Nations and their specialized agencies Armenia and Brazil have supported each other in many important questions. As examples, the Brazilian Government is grateful for the support of Armenia for the reelection of Dr. José Graziano da Silva to the position of Director General of the Food and Agricultural Organization in the elections held in June 2015, for the 2015-2019 mandate. And Brazil, as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO was able to support the last November the nomination submitted by Armenia that the traditional and very appreciated Lavash would be added to the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Year 2015 brought to Armenia and

the rich Brazilian folklore to the attention of our friends in Armenia, - we distributed this book among those who want to learn the Portuguese language and the Brazilian culture, in particular, among students of Universities. And, definitely, there was another very important thing that made all of us happy: involvement of schoolchildren both Armenian, - specifically, of Gyumri and the Brazilian ones in São Paulo, Brasilia and Pernambuco - in the book preparation works; they made drawings that illustrated the stories inside.

As to the trade between our two countries, we are keen to promote interest of the both sides' business circles to each other; you know, I've been repeating always that Brazil is the growing economy. We want the Armenian businessmen to go to Brazil and to see what kind of the Armenian products could be demanded in the Brazilian market, and here we attach importance to the role of the Armenian community of our country; - they are mostly in São Paulo, the richest market where they have their successful businesses.

By now Brazil exports to Armenia food-stuff, in particular, meat, - we are very com-

petitive in that area, and I was happy to see 10% increase of the Brazilian export to Armenia for 2014.

As to the Armenian export to Brazil, it also has grown the last year. In particular, we import Armenian molybdenum used for our steel industry, metalurgy etc. As the Prime Minister of Armenia Mr **Hovik Abrahamyan** said, they expect growth of the country's economy for 2015, so we have several months yet that hopefully would affect also bilateral trade between Armenia and Brazil.

As to bilateral scientific cooperation, I have to say that it is well-known in Brazil that Armenia has long and strong scientific traditions – excellent universities, research institutions. And I continue to see Armenian professors coming to Brazil to teach – for term up to 2-3 years - in math, chemistry, physics, biology, in particular, there is a possibility of cooperating in the area of vaccines against poisons, in astronomy and, very recently – in nuclear physics; this very specialized area in which Armenia has bigger experience than Brazil. So I hope that such visits will promote strongly further development of ties between our two countries' scientists.

And also I want to outline the information technology sector in which Armenia registered the great success. Here we should take into account that Brazil is a huge market for applications for smartphones – Brazil is a country having so many young people who want to be connected...

So both sides should make efforts for getting to know each other better, and I see good prospects to deepen and enlarge our bilateral cooperation.

As Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr **Edward Nalbandyan** mentioned in his interview with a leading Brazilian newspaper "O Estado do São Paulo", some work needs to be done, but there is a lot of possibilities for even closer relations between the two countries.

Advances were also made towards the



goal of increasing mutual awareness between our people. In this regard, I am happy to mention that a beautiful one hour program on Armenia broadcasted by Rede Globo on August 22nd 2014 was followed in the current year by two other initiatives: the TV Group SBT (second only to Globo in terms of audience) and "O Estado de São



Paulo" (the most important newspaper in the biggest Brazilian city), produced an extensive and a very informative material on the country. I am confident that such opportunities for Brazilians to get acquainted with the cultural heritage and the beautiful sites of the country - Tatev, Garni, Lake Sevan, others – were a major contribution to promote tourism and stimulate other forms of exchange.

As for the promotion of Brazil in Armenia, I believe that the organization of

the FIFA World Football Cup in 2014 was a major success, bearing in mind that Armenians are so interested in all kinds of sports. And for the same reason I am very happy to refer the coming Olympic and Paralympic Games, to be held in the Marvelous City, Rio de Janeiro, starting on August 5th, 2016.

Brazilian President, H.E. Dilma Rousseff made a statement about the Olympic and Paralympic Games which was published in newspapers in many parts of the world, including Armenia, exactly one year to the opening of the Games in Rio de Janeiro. Let me quote from the given statement:

"It is not by chance that Brazil was given the honor of being the first South American country to host the Olympic Games.

Brazil is worldwide known for its impressive and diversified landscape. We are also a country with a history of tolerance and respect for diversity which has become an international symbol of sociability.

Indeed, we have welcomed different peoples and cultures with hospitality and happiness. Our people - our workers, businesspeople, students, scientists and artists - managed to build one of the most open nations in the world, thanks to their creative capacity, friendliness and solidarity.

We have built a vigorous culture of peace and work. That set of values guides our hard work to turn these coming Olympics into the best ever world sports festivity.

We have achieved it during the FIFA World Cup and we have everything it takes to repeat it at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Brazil is fully prepared for the upcoming Games..."

Here we're begging for pardon of His Excellency and our readers for interrupting Ambassador's circumstantial speech, - to comment the last statement by Ambassador Monteiro by the following, very recent facts and figures about the events of the Rio-2016 Olympic Games (by August 2015):

- World championships in 42 sports;
- 19 competition days;
- 10.903 athletes representing 205 National Olympic Committees;

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Ambassador Edson Monteiro: "...Both Sides Have Good Possibilities to Strengthen Brazilian-Armenian Friendly Ties"

In the Eve of 2016 Rio Olympic Games Federative Republic's Independence 193rd Anniversary Marked in Yerevan

From page 11

- 7.000 additional members of the delegations;
- 45.000 volunteers;
- 25.100 media professionals accredited;
- 3.200 referees and assistants;
- Paralympic Games (September 7-18):
- World championships in 23 sports;
- 11 competition days;
- 4.350 athletes representing 178 National Olympic Committees;
- 3.000 additional members of the delegations;
- 25.000 volunteers;
- 7.200 media professionals accredited;
- 1.300 referees and assistants;
- Global audience over 5 billion people;
- Over 5.600 hours of live broadcast;
- Clusters: Barra, Deodoro, Maracanã, Copacabana;
- Sports venues Infrastructure: Main update
- Barra Olympic Park: 86% ready;
- Carioca Arena 1: 75%;
- Carioca Arena 2: 85%;
- Carioca Arena 3: 88%;
- Olympic Tennis Centre: 62%;
- Velodrome: 52%;
- Olympic Golf Course: 100% grassed; Club House 33%;
- Future Arena: 66%;
- Olympic Aquatics Stadium: 76%;
- Press Centre (MPC): 79%;
- International Broadcasting Centre (IBC): 93%;
- Olympic Village: 84%;
- Deodoro:
- Whitewater stadium: 69%;
- Olympic Hockey Centre: 51%;
- Youth Arena: 41%;
- Aquatics Centre: 32%

The Maracanã Stadium and Olympic Stadium ("Engenhão"), at the Maracanã cluster, were finished for previous events and are ready, undergoing minor adjustments for the Games; Competition in Copacabana, in sports like beach volley and triathlon, will take place in temporary structures.

Test events: from July 2015 until May 2016, 44 test events will take place in Rio, involving 8.000 athletes.

"... In cooperation with the event's organizers, we will proudly show the world the recent accomplishments of a strong and well-functioning democracy which is committed to reducing social inequalities through economic development and investment. This is the collective effort of an entire country. Our energy to overcome challenges will be demonstrated to all the 15,000 Olympic and Paralympic athletes, the thousands of spectators and the billions of view-

ers. Athletes and tourists will be warmly welcomed by the Brazilian society, as it happened in the 2014 World Cup when the country charmed the world with its festive atmosphere and overall safety and efficiency.

At that time, all those watching our festivities on TV certainly wanted to be in Brazil.

In 2016, do not just long to be in Brazil - go enjoy all the good that the Olympic Games can give you during this one-time event - and all that a country like Brazil can offer you at any time: peace, love, joy, and lots of happiness!

We are waiting for you with open arms and hearts.



Please note that for Brazil, sports are an ally in the fight against racial, ethnical and gender discrimination as well as instruments for the promotion of peace, dialog and cooperation for development and social inclusion.

Sports mega events such as the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the coming 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, are an opportunity to strengthen Brazilian links with other countries and to promote the image of an inclusive society, one which acknowledges and values cultural diversity and sports activities.

This will be an important part of the legacy of the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games, together with a significant development of sports in Brazil, as well as of the infrastructure that is being built to host the Games.

May I now invite you to join me in raising our glasses in a toast to His Excellency President Serzh Sargsyan, for his personal health and happiness, for the happiness and wellbeing of the Armenian people, as well as for the excellent relations that exist between our two countries and people.

To the President!

To Brazil and to Armenia.

Kenats! Cheers! Saúde!"

As Deputy FM of Armenia **Ashot Hovakimian** said in his reciprocal speech, after congratulating the staff of the Embassy of Brazil in Armenia and the Brazilians on behalf of the MFA and the Government of Armenia for the Brazil Independence Day, "we just acknowledge the fact that very extensive cooperation between our two countries has been formed within the last two decades, with lot of examples of very successful cooperation both bilateral as well as that within international organizations". As Mr Hovakimian continued: "... We value very much and extend our thanks to Brazilian people and the Senate for the recent recognition of the 1915 Armenian Genocide, and we really appreciate the solidarity of the Brazilian people in this case.

We value such a step by Brazil especially when taking into account that all of the founders of the Brazil's Armenian community are descendants of the Genocide survivors. Notably, Armenians of Brazil have been contributing essentially to the country's political, economic, scientific and cultural life, at the same time promoting actively further strengthening of relations between Brazil and Armenia".

Deputy FM Hovakimian also congratulated the people and the Government of Brazil for the 2016 Olympic Games and wished all the success, expressing hope that the Games will become a new good occasion for the Armenian-Brazilian dialog.

Ashot Hovakimian also raised a toast for the Brazilian President H.E.Mrs. Dilma Rousseff, for the Brazilian people's wellbeing and prosperity, for the Ambassador Edson Monteiro and Mrs Monteiro and the Embassy staff heaping praise to them for strengthening ties between the two countries and peoples, especially in the humanitarian area and the citizen diplomacy.

As usual, there were breathtaking Brazilian Capoeira, fiery music/dances, and the delicious Brazilian food indeed.

Yes, everything was usual – USUALLY NICE, and what was new that night?

UNPRECEDENTED warm and informal atmosphere.

Photos by Emin Aristakesyan, Jr.

Acknowledgement:

**Mrs Nara Melikjanyan
of the Brazilian Embassy**

Canada's Conservative government to open trade and consular office in Yerevan

A re-elected Conservative government would strengthen ties with Armenia by opening trade and consular office in Yerevan, announced Minister of National Defense and Multiculturalism Hon. Jason Kenney at the Armenian Community Centre. Some 150 Armenians in attendance welcomed the minister's announcement with rousing applause.

"The pledge to open a trade and consular office demonstrates the Conservative government's ongoing commitment to strengthen commercial and social ties with Armenia," said Mr. Kenney and added: "Canada-Armenia trade is increasing rapidly and this new office will help spur even more growth. That's good news for the economies of both of our countries."

The minister pointed: "This past year, under the Harper Conservative Government, trade between Canada and Armenia totaled nearly \$120 million, a 1,700 percent increase compared to 2005. Canadian imports from Armenia have

tripled and Canadian exports to Armenia have increased 6,000 percent since 2005. A new trade office would further Canada's growing trade ties with Armenia by supporting Canadian companies doing business in Armenia, supporting export development, providing and enhancing economic relations between both countries."

Mr. Kenney also touched upon the plight of Syrian Armenian and other religious minorities who are being persecuted and face ethnic cleansing at the hands of ISIS terrorists. He mentioned that in the last five years the Canadian Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Harper, resettled over 25,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees. He said that Canada is not trying to empty Christians from the Middle East and Mesopotamia but would try to help people who have fled the region by providing a safe haven for them in Canada.

At the end of the gathering Mr. Kenney met 50 newly-arrived Syrian- and Iraqi- Armenian refugees. The refugees

were settled in Canada through the Government's generous private refugee sponsorship program.

Vatche Demirdjian, president of Armenian Canadian Conservative Association, said he highly valued and appreciated the Conservative Party initiative in establishing a trade and consular office in Yerevan. "This is a dream come true for the Canadian-Armenian community. We have waited for a long time for this positive decision. The Conservative Party, Prime Minister Harper, Minister Kenney and the Canadian Armenian community should be proud of this announcement," he said. He congratulated the Canadian-Armenian community for "this great success." Demirdjian added: "So many of our community organizations, including the ACCA, have worked diligently to make this day become a reality." He then appealed to Canadian-Armenians to return the favor to the Conservative Party and its candidates by voting and helping party candidates.

OSCE organizes discussion on access to justice on environmental matters in Yerevan

Guarantees of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention related to the access to justice in environmental matters in the context of modern international developments were discussed at the OSCE-supported workshop on 11 September 2015 in Yerevan. The workshop was organized by the OSCE Office in Yerevan together with the Centre of Economic-Legal Analyses in co-operation with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. The event aimed at bringing together high-level professionals in the field to share experiences, identify challenges and explore possible ways to

enhance the implementation of the "Access to Justice" pillar of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention). Participants were introduced to the experts' view on the protection of environmental rights and the basic directions of its improvement.

The OSCE Office in Yerevan has been promoting implementation of the Aarhus Convention through the establishment of a network of 15 regional Aarhus Centres in Armenia, which provide information and advice, organize discussions on environmental issues.

Armenian FM: Azerbaijan continues to jeopardize conflict resolution process

Continuous ceasefire violations by Baku along the border with Armenia and on the line of contact with Nagorno-Karabakh once again prove that Azerbaijan continues to jeopardize the conflict resolution process, the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs aimed at the peaceful settlement of the issue and undermine the upcoming meetings initiated by the mediators, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said during his speech at the London-based Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, on September 10.

"During the Baku European Games this June Azerbaijan exercised restraint on the ground, since they needed a calm period. The situation drastically changed immediately after the Games when Azerbaijan intensified the ceasefire violations. In fact by its actions Azerbaijan once again clearly identified, which side is responsible for the escalation of the situation. Baku didn't even bother to conceal its militaristic attitude," Nalbandian charged.

The top Armenian diplomat once

again criticized Azerbaijan for continuing its heavy military buildup and pointed out that the neighboring state has increased its military budget nearly 30 times in a decade.

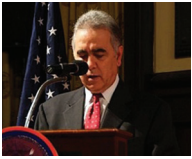
"As long as Azerbaijan's bellicose aspirations are not curtailed, there will be no real progress in the peace talks," Nalbandian said.

During his official visit to the United Kingdom that began on September 9 the Armenian foreign minister also gave an extensive interview to the BBC.

In the interview Nalbandian was, in particular, asked about Russia's arm deliveries to Azerbaijan. He said that Armenia did not particularly like that its ally Russia sells weapons to Azerbaijan, but, at the same time, he said that it is natural that Russia, as a country producing weapons, should be selling them to other countries, including Azerbaijan.

"We cooperate with Russia in the military sphere and correspondingly purchase weapons from Russia," he said, stressing that "calling it allied relations also has a great significance."

To Get Rid of ISIS, Turks Must First Get Rid of Erdogan



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

Turkey has not only refused to join its NATO allies in fighting against ISIS, but has trained, armed, and facilitated the infiltration of thousands of terrorists into Syria and Iraq.

The British Guardian reported that in May, when U.S. Special Forces raided the compound of ISIS leader Abu Sayyaf in Eastern Syria and killed him, documents seized during the raid revealed Ankara's close collaboration with ISIS. Hundreds of articles have been published around the world describing various aspects of Turkish assistance to ISIS. Daniel Pipes in his Washington Times article, "Turkish Support for ISIS," reported that "Turks offered far more than an easy border crossing: they provided the bulk of ISIS' funds, logistics, training, and arms." Pipes also revealed that wounded ISIS fighters are treated in Turkish hospitals, and Turkey has paid \$800 million to ISIS for illicit oil shipments.

Vice President Joe Biden confirmed Turkey's sinister role in helping Islamist terrorists at a Harvard University speech last October: Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the Emirates "poured hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of tons of weapons into anyone who would fight against Assad-except that the people who were being supplied were all Nusra and al-Qaeda and the extremist elements of jihadis coming from other parts of the world." The Vice President also revealed that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had told him privately: "You were right. We let too many people through." Biden later apologized for

his public remarks to soothe Erdogan's wrath.

In an astounding revelation, Mitchell Prothero of McClatchyDC.com reported on Aug. 24 that Turkish intelligence had alerted Islamist terrorists that a group of U.S.-trained fighters was about to cross from Turkey into Syria. Upon arrival, many of the 54 graduates of the \$500 million U.S. training program were promptly intercepted and kidnapped by al-Qaida's Nusra Front!

Last month, when Turkey finally agreed to join the war against terror and "allowed" the United States to launch airstrikes on ISIS targets from Incirlik Air Base, U.S. officials' initial delight turned into dismay when they realized that the Turkish military's priority was attacking the Kurds in Iraq and Syria, not ISIS. By going after Kurdish militants, Turkey was in fact helping ISIS because the Kurds were the only reliable U.S. military partners on the ground.

Beyond wishing to undermine long-held Kurdish aspirations for an independent Kurdistan, by unleashing large scale bloody attacks against Kurds in Iraq, Syria, and Turkey, Erdogan is hoping that on Nov. 1, Turkish voters would help his party regain the parliamentary majority it lost in the June elections. Unfortunately for Erdogan, the attacks on Kurds have created a widespread backlash among many Turkish citizens who lost their loved ones serving in the military, simply to boost the President's political rating!

In desperation, Erdogan may well resort to one more trick in the coming weeks. Seeing that bombing Kurds is not generating the expected public support in the upcoming elections, he could order massive attacks on Kurds

throughout Eastern Turkey. He would then use the excuse of an all-out civil war to declare a state of emergency, suspend Parliament, and rule with the iron fist of a theocratic Ottoman Sultan!

The United States and its NATO allies have an obligation to do everything possible to stop the monster they have created before he destroys everything on his path. Erdogan is a serious menace to his own citizens-Turks, Kurds, and others-as well as a destabilizing force to the entire region! The vicious attacks on the Kurdish population in Eastern Turkey makes the best case why Kurds deserve independent statehood and can no longer tolerate the brutal Turkish regime!

The Obama administration should follow the wise counsel of Eric S. Edelman, former U.S. ambassador to Turkey and undersecretary of defense from 2005-2009. In a commentary published in The New York Times on Aug. 27, Edelman suggests that the United States "restrict Turkey's access to senior-level meetings; reduce intelligence cooperation; and withhold American support for Turkey in international financial institutions." These steps and many others must be taken in the next few weeks before November's parliamentary elections.

In an Aug. 31 editorial, The New York Times Editorial Board described Erdogan's political shenanigans as an attempt to "salvage his ambitions for continued authoritarian rule and greatly expanded powers."

To bring the problem of terrorism in Syria and Iraq under control, restore stability in these countries, and stop the escalating bloodshed inside Turkey, the Turkish people must ensure that Erdogan's party does not regain its lost parliamentary majority!

Armenian Numismatic and Antiquities Society launched in Chicago to spotlight ancient artifacts



Asbarez

A new organization, the Armenian Numismatics and Antiquities Society (ANAS) was launched in August on the sidelines of the American Numismatics Association's World's Fair of Money in Chicago.

This first gathering of the society included a public talk by renowned numismatic experts Dr. Levon Saryan and Frank Kovacs.

The fledgling organization has a website and plans to publish a quarterly journal. Dr. Saryan is vice president and journal editor and Dr. Chuck Hajinian is president of the group.

The goal of ANAS is to unite Armenians worldwide in their quest for knowledge about Armenian coins and related items, and to provide a forum for them to share their collections, post items for sale, and exchange ideas. The website is intended to be a place where anyone can find interesting items relating to Armenian history. In short, a "virtual museum" available to anyone in the world.

The website is a work in progress with pages set up for books, carpets, coins, embroidery, manuscripts, medals, and other forms of art. The initial focus has been on coins and numismatics, with plans to grow in the near future. The Los Angeles-based Armenian Numismatic Society operated successfully for more than 40 years but for various reasons its activity has diminished, which has created a void.

"We hope to keep the voice of Armenian numismatics alive and well," says Hajinian. "We have a great love of everything Armenian, especially antique items. The reason is simple: for 1,000 years many of our families lived in western

Armenia. All of their belongings-coins, ceramics, manuscripts, jewelry-were lost and stolen during the Genocide. This is our way of recapturing and honoring the lives they lived and preserving these items for future generations. We want to shine the brightest spotlight we can for all Armenians to see their history and to appreciate the artistic work that their ancestors created."

"We have coins and artifacts all the way from prehistoric times to the present-these need to be presented to the world and to our own people. Despite the efforts of many people, most Armenians have only the vaguest notion of the heritage embodied in these items," adds Hajinian.

"You can explore 3,000 years of Armenian culture in coinage alone. We want to bring this from the back rooms of museums, closets, drawers, and put it on the web for everyone."

The organization is open to collaboration and ideas, and has already joined forces with Aram Manasaryan who set up the Armenian Numismatic Research Organization (ANRO) almost coincidentally. There is a prominent link to the ANRO website, which focuses on Armenian coinage with articles, a discussion board, historical data on auctions and sales, and a shop to purchase rare coins.

The launch event was significant since the World's Fair of Money is one of the most prominent coin conventions in the US. Hajinian and Saryan discussed the new organization, as well as several specific coins and artifacts with experts and enthusiasts in the room. "The announcements in Chicago were this: We are here! This is our first meeting: join us, help us, have fun with us," explains Hajinian.

ANAS hosted two of the finest and most knowledgeable speakers on

Armenian numismatics in the world-Frank Kovacs and Levon Saryan. Mr. Kovacs reviewed highlights from his forthcoming book on the coinage of ancient Armenia. His book recasts some of the figures of ancient history, dating even earlier than the better known Artaxiad Dynasty of Tigranes the Great. One of the objects discussed is believed to be the oldest Armenian gold coin in existence, dating to the period of 401 BC.

While the topic is fairly obscure and little studied even among Armenians, the findings in this new volume are expected to cause controversy among researchers and collectors using long-established attributions for ancient artifacts and lineages of Armenian kings. "Some of our discussions are controversial," notes Hajinian, "but this research deserves an honest and open minded review as there has been very little written in the field of ancient Armenian coins in the past 20 years, despite many new coins coming on the market around the world."

Dr. Saryan presented several items for discussion, one of which was a rare medal issued by Russia in the 1830's to commemorate the defeat of the Ottoman Turks in the eastern front. He also displayed extremely rare canceled checks from the early 20th century that were sent by Armenian immigrants from the St. Louis area to their families in the Ottoman Empire as a way of transferring their earnings.

In the area of ancient rugs, Chicago area dealer Oscar Tatosian shared information about the organization of antique Armenian rug collectors. The ANAS leadership confirmed that one of its goals is to unite these organizations under the ANAS banner, in order to reinvigorate the topics and attract the interest of new generations to collect Armenian artifacts and understand their cultural, historical, and political relevance.

Many questions were answered during the inaugural ANAS meeting, and it could easily have gone on for two more hours. The organization plans to hold events in other cities, with the hope of attracting dealers, collectors, and others with a curiosity or a family collection that has been passed down. For more information about ANAS, visit the website www.anasociety.org

Pope Francis Remembers Armenian 'Christian Martyrs'

Pope Francis has drawn parallels between the ongoing persecution of ancient Christian communities of the Middle East and the suffering of Armenians in the region, which culminated in the 1915 genocide in Ottoman Turkey.

Francis paid tribute to Armenians massacred "just for being Christians" after presiding on Monday over a morning mass at the Vatican's St. Martha chapel attended by the top Armenian Catholic clergymen, including the recently elected Patriarch Gregory Peter XX.

"One of many great persecutions: that of the Armenian people," Francis said in remarks reported by Radio Vatican. "The first nation to convert to Christianity: the first. They were persecuted just for being Christians."

"The Armenian people were persecuted, chased away from their homeland, [left] helpless, in the desert," he added in a clear reference to the 1915 slaughter of some 1.5 million Armenian subjects of the Ottoman Empire.

Francis referred to those massacres as "the first genocide of the 20th century" in April while holding a special mass at the Vatican's St. Peter's basilica dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the tragedy. Turkey reacted angrily to that characterization, accusing the pontiff of distorting history and recalling its ambassador to the Vatican in protest.

Armenia, whose president Serzh Sargsyan was present at the landmark Vatican liturgy, rejected the Turkish criticism. Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian praised Francis for delivering the "important message of solidarity with and support to the Armenian people."

Francis on Monday put the Armenian suffering in the context of historical Christian martyrdom epitomized by Jesus Christ. "Dear brothers and sisters, there is no Christianity without persecution," he declared, according to Radio Vatican. "Today too, this happens before the whole world, with the complicit silence of many powerful leaders who could stop it. We are facing this Christian fate: go on



the same path of Jesus."

"We now, in the newspapers, hear the horror of what some terrorist groups do, who slit the throats of people just because [their victims] are Christians. We think of the Egyptian martyrs, recently, on the Libyan coast, who were slaughtered while pronouncing the name of Jesus," he said.

"We do not know what will happen here. Only let the Lord give us the grace, should this persecution happen here one day, of the courage and the witness that all Christian martyrs have shown, and especially the Christians of the Armenian people," concluded the pontiff.

Syria's Armenians look to ancient homeland for safety: BBC

BBC - As Europe's refugee crisis unfolds, Armenia says it has hosted thousands of Syrians, particularly those from the Christian-Armenian community.

Since the start of the conflict, at least 15,000 Syrians have found refuge in Armenia, according to UNHCR figures.

The majority of these are descendants of Armenians who escaped the mass killings and deportations by the Ottoman Turks in 1915, and were given refuge in Syria.

At the time, Syria's Deir Ezzor region became a major destination for Armenians subjected to death marches through the desert. But a century later, increasing numbers of Syrian Armenians are now driving to Beirut, where they board flights to Yerevan.

Before the conflict, the estimated number of ethnic Armenians in Syria was about 100,000. More than 60,000 of them settled in Aleppo, with smaller communi-

ties in Kessab, Qamishli, Yacubiyah, Kobane and Damascus.

Many in the Armenian diaspora consider Syrian-Armenians as their "mother community".

The influx of Syrian refugees into Armenia started in 2012, when over 6,500 people fled. In 2013, the number of Syrian Armenians fleeing reached 11,000 and by August 2015, over 15,000 Armenians had been reported to be seeking asylum in Armenia.

For Syria's ethnic Armenians, Armenia represents a safe choice - not only as an ancient homeland and predominantly Christian country - but also one with migration policies and repatriation programme that make it easy for them to settle.

The Armenian government has adopted "special measures" to help Syrian Armenians. It authorised consular offices in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon to issue citizen-

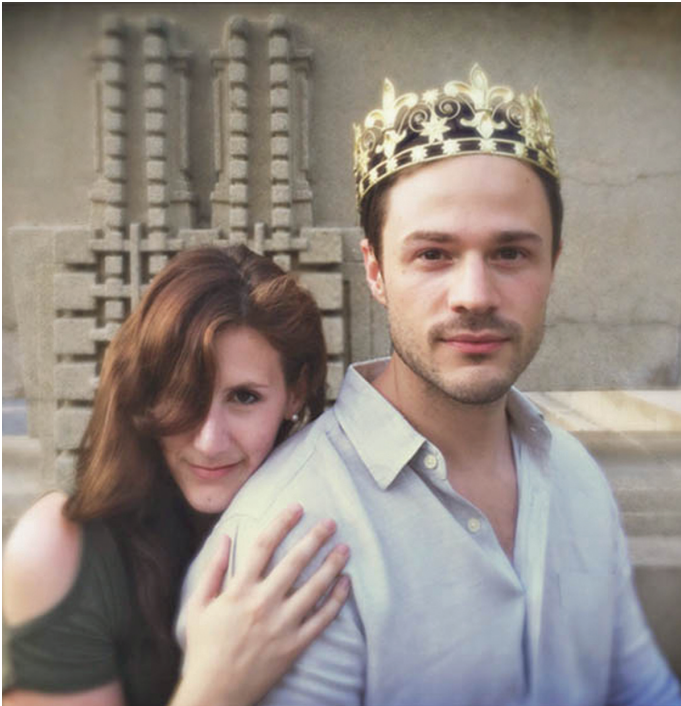
ship and passports to Syrian Armenians free of charge.

But Armenia's own economic woes mean that it struggles to provide accommodation and jobs for the newly-arrived Syrians. State assistance for Syrian Armenians covers mainly education, medical care and the provision of documents.

"We are concerned about the rental of accommodation; this is already a challenge to us. We have to turn to international and benevolent organisations for help because we will face a problem. The flow is too big, we cannot cope," Firdus Zakaryan, an official from Armenia's Ministry of Diaspora, said recently.

Armenian state officials insist that the plight of even the most impoverished refugees in Armenia pales in comparison with the four million displaced Syrians, many of whom struggle for life in camps and rundown urban areas of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

World premiere of 'Happy Armenians' staged by award-winning Vista Players



Asbarez - Vista Players, the acclaimed theater ensemble that "set the standard by which others were judged" (Sacramento News & Review), will stage the world premiere of "Happy Armenians," the latest work by Elly Award-winning playwright and director Aram Kouyoumdjian. "Happy Armenians" will open on October 2, 2015 at the NoHo Arts Center, where it will enjoy a 12-performance run over four weekends through October 25.

"Happy Armenians," a dramedy, tells a "parallel world" version of history in which Armenia has become a global empire, upending the world order as we know it. Its king, however, has only 30 more days to live, and Levon, a blood relative, is the unexpected - and unwilling - heir to the throne, who must manage a war against Switzerland, the geopolitics of African and South American colonization of Europe, and his budding love for

a brilliant scientist named Siran.

A humorous, imaginative, and poignant rumination on love, war, and the burdens of history, "Happy Armenians" boasts a stellar cast, led by Daniel Hubbard as Levon and featuring the talents of Heather Lynn Smith, Tavis L. Baker, Jade Hykush, and Mark Eric Howell.

Maro Parian is designing the production's towering set and constructing its unique costumes. Henrik Mansourian is the show's lighting designer and Armineh Hovanesian its stage manager. Ara Dabandjian is composing the play's original music score.

Performances are on Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00 pm (except on Saturday, October 3, when the curtain rises at 7:00 pm), and on Sundays at 3:00 pm. Due to the intimate nature of the performances, no late seating will be allowed.

Kouyoumdjian is the winner of Elly Awards for playwriting ("The Farewells") and directing ("Three Hotels"), and has been hailed for having "an adventurous artistic sensibility for intelligent productions" (Sacramento Bee). His directing credits include "Arcadia," "Far Away," "Marvin's Room," "The Play About the Baby," and "Six Degrees of Separation." His feature plays and solo pieces have been performed in half a dozen cities, from Los Angeles (Fountain Theatre) to London (Finborough Theatre). His most recent productions include "Ancient Gods" (Garni Theatre Ensemble at the NoHo Arts Center, 2014) and, earlier this year, the open-air, site-specific performance "i Go On" at DTLA's Grand Park.

Vista Players is an award-winning theater ensemble devoted to staging contemporary plays of social relevance. It was founded in Northern California, where its premier outing was "Six Degrees of Separation." Over the course of six seasons, the "acclaimed" troupe (Sacramento Bee) staged esteemed productions of nine plays by such leading playwrights as Tom Stoppard, Caryl Churchill, and Edward Albee. Vista Players is now L.A.-based, and "Happy Armenians" marks its relaunch in Southern California.

Armenian physicist wins ICO Galileo Galilei Award



Aram Papoyan, Director of the Institute for Physical Research of National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, has

won an ICO Galileo Galilei Award for his "considerable achievements in the field of spectroscopic study of high solubility of alkali atoms and his contribution to the development of experimental atomic physics in Armenia," Press Service of the National Academy of Sciences reports.

The ICO Galileo Galilei Award recognizes the promotion of Optics under difficult circumstances. The award was established by the 1993 General Assembly of ICO and has been awarded annually since 1994.

Aram Papoyan was born in Yerevan in 1959. The scope of his study includes laser and atomic physics, as well as quantum and nonlinear optics. In 2004 he received RA President's Award in Physics for the series of papers on "New possibilities for the study of laser radiation interaction with atomic vapor opened by new optical cells."

He is a member of the Alfred Kastler Foundation of the French Academy of Sciences and a member of the Armenian Optical Society.

Armenian Dr. Vaughan Turekian named new Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State



On September 8, Dr. Vaughan Turekian, formerly the Chief International Officer at The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), was named the 5th Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State, according to the State Department's official website.

In this capacity, Dr. Turekian will advise the Secretary of State and the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment on international environment, science, technology, and health matters affecting the foreign policy of the United States. Dr. Turekian will draw upon his background in atmospheric chemistry and extensive policy experience to promote science,

technology, and engineering as integral components of U.S. diplomacy.

A grandson of Armenian Genocide survivors, Turekian is the son of Karl K. Turekian, a pioneering Yale geochemist. Vaughan Turekian was also visiting professor at the American University of Armenia in 2000, Asbarez reports.

Dr. Turekian brings both technical expertise and 14 years of policy experience to the position. As former Chief International Officer for The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and Director of AAAS's Center for Science Diplomacy, Dr. Turekian worked to build bridges between nations based on shared scientific goals, placing special emphasis on regions where traditional political relationships are strained or do not exist. As Editor-in-Chief of *Science & Diplomacy*, an online quarterly publication, Dr. Turekian published original policy pieces that have served to inform international science policy recommendations.

Prior to his work at AAAS, Turekian worked at the State Department as Special Assistant and Adviser to the Under Secretary for Global Affairs on issues related to sustainable development, climate change, environment, energy, science, technology, and health and as a Program Director for the Committee on Global Change Research at the National Academy of Sciences where he was study director for a White House report on climate change science.

World Bank finances five-year education improvement project to launch in Armenia

A World Bank financed \$37.5 million worth five-year Education Improvement Project is to launch soon, Hasmik Ghazaryan, head of Educational Projects Center, said on September 11.

Speaking at a conference on education projects implemented with World Bank assistance, she said the project will support the improvement of school readiness for children entering primary education and the physical conditions in upper-secondary schools. It will also promote greater links between higher education institutions and labor market in Armenia.

The new project will support improving the school readiness among those entering first grade by expanding pre-school coverage in impoverished rural areas benefiting approximately 2,400 children per year. 17 high schools will be rehabilitated with enhanced construction and safety standards to benefit approximately 10,200 high school students in all regions.

The rehabilitated high schools, would provide more appropriate teaching and learning environments to the students,



including safer infrastructure, adequate ICT equipment and digital teaching and learning materials. The project activities will specifically cover vulnerable population including ethnic groups and disabled children. Total financing of the project is US\$37.5 million, of which US\$7.5 million will be the government's contribution. The

World Bank will provide a US\$15 million credit on standard blend IDA terms at a fixed interest rate of 1.25% per annum with a maturity of 25 years and a 5 year grace period, as well as a US\$15 million IBRD loan of variable spread, with a 10 year grace period and the total repayment term of 25 years.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries

(March 20-April 19)

The eclipses of this series will draw your attention to partnerships. Patterns from your childhood history need to be excavated, repaired or removed in order to allow your growth into a more mature relationship. Psychotherapy may be truly helpful.

Taurus

(April 20-May 19)

This eclipse pressures you to concentrate on improvement of work related relationships and health maintenance. Diet, exercise and improvement of physical regimen will become imperative. Honing your management systems in personal and work arenas is necessary to create order in your daily work routine.

Gemini

(May 20-June 20)

This eclipse pattern emphasizes your progeny or other personally creative births. Romantic ventures will be intensely emotional and self-revealing. You will be learning a few lessons in discernment concerning friendships and associations that no longer serve you well.

Cancer

(June 21-July 21)

Matters concerning your family and property will be accented. Old problems in relationships, even with the deceased, will surface for cleansing and healing. A new family member may enter the scene, or you may begin to spend more time with family in general.

Leo

(July 22-August 21)

The accent of this eclipse cycle will be on travel, education, care of vehicles and relationships to siblings, roommates, neighbors, or others who daily traverse your life. Habit patterns of thought will be brought to consciousness so negative thinking can be corrected. You will be introduced to new practical life skills.

Virgo

(August 22-September 22)

During these eclipses you will be learning to value yourself in new ways. Alongside of that comes education in the management of money and other resources, such as time and energy. There will be less assistance from others in these arenas, but you are creating these resources for yourself.

Libra

(Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

Your sense of personal identity will be the subject under consideration. Who are you becoming and who do you need to be? How do you wish to define yourself before the world? You will be learning what is required for you to hold onto your identity while simultaneously maintaining a personally rewarding relationship.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 21)

The Sept. eclipses emphasize your need to create order, both internally and externally. The development of your projects will call upon you to develop faith in your deepest self. Bringing order out of chaos is done on both the inner and outer levels simultaneously, so while you organized files you will be also organizing your mind.

Sagittarius

(November 22-December 20)

The new eclipse season will be opening your mind and heart to include a larger circle of friends. You may become a leader or a strong supporter of a community network which has shared ideals. Certainly you will continue to have the friendships you have built in the past. Your attention may be focused on goals greater than your own.

Capricorn

(December 21-January 19)

This series of eclipses will bring a certain amount of intensity in the arenas of career (work in the world) and also home, hearth and family. You will be stretching your worldly boundaries to serve a new group of people. Family relationships will include one loss and one gain.

Aquarius

(January 20-February 17)

Legal, ethical or educational issues will be emphasized by this series of eclipses. Travel will be punctuated, whether that is of body, mind, or spirit. Exposure to those of different backgrounds or cultures opens your heart and expands your philosophy. A challenge concerning siblings, roommates, or neighbors may press you to seek a Higher Road.

Pisces

(February 18-March 19)

This eclipse pattern will emphasize issues of sexuality, intimacy, and material accumulation. Reorganization of debt, investments and your estate may be in progress. You may become more conscious than usual about existential matters related to life, death, and what is on "the other side" of normal, waking consciousness.

Belarus to host Armenian cultural days in 2016

The "Days of Armenian Culture" festival is to be held in Belarus in 2016 as part of a cooperation agreement between the Belarusian and Armenian culture ministries, the Calvert Journal reports.

The festival took place in Armenia in 2014 under the same agreement, which will be in effect until the end of 2017.

According to a statement published on the national Belarusian legal portal, the countries will also work together to facilitate exchanges between theatre, music and dance groups in Belarus and Armenia, and an exchange of artists in opera and ballet productions. In addition, the agreement incorporates film festivals celebrating the cinema of the partner country.

"Each party will promote direct contact between museums in their countries, and also take steps towards organizing exhibitions from the collections of the two countries in Belarus and Armenia," the statement reads.

There are plans to exhibit the works of Armenian artist Arevik Petrosyan in Belarus later this year, while the Armenian Culture Ministry will organize an exhibition of the work of Belarusian folk



artist Mikhail Savitsky and Belarusian artists from the School of Paris.

Wrestler Arthur Aleksanyan becomes two-time world champion

Armenian wrestler Arthur Aleksanyan has won the gold for the 98 kg Greco-Roman World Championships held in Las Vegas, thus becoming two-time world champion.

Artur Aleksanyan, who has returned along with the Armenian Greco-Roman wrestling team to Yerevan from Los Angeles on September 11 said it wasn't an easy task to become a World Champion for the second time, as reported by Armenian News correspondent.



"I'm very glad I managed to win the gold medal. It was difficult to become a world Champion the second year in a row. Defending the title of the World Champion isn't actually an easy thing to do.

The most difficult task was the fight with Iranian Ghasem Rezaei. He was my main serious adversary. To win the Olympic Champion two years in a row is twice as pleasant. These are unspeakable feelings. Now I'll start preparing for the Olympic Games," Arthur Aleksanyan said.



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