

Armenia Condemns Paris Terror Attack



Armenia added its voice on January 7 to the chorus of strong international condemnation of an armed attack on the Paris offices of a French satirical magazine which left at least 12 people dead.

President Serzh Sargsyan was quick to send a letter to his French counterpart Francois Hollande strongly condemning the shootings, offerings his condolences to the victims' families and expressing solidarity with France.

"At this difficult moment of grief and loss, Armenia and the Armenian people stand alongside you and the friendly French people," wrote Serzh Sargsyan.

"We express our condolences and sup-

port to the people and authorities of friendly France, the editorial staff of the 'Charlie Hebdo' magazine and the relatives of the victims," Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said in a separate statement.

"Such appalling acts by extremists can

have no justification and once again highlight the need for a greater consolidation of international efforts to fight against terrorism," he added.

In his letter, Serzh Sargsyan reaffirmed Yerevan's commitment to "consistently continue the struggle against international terrorism."

The deadly attack was widely blamed on Islamist extremists apparently enraged by "Charlie Hebdo" cartoons ridiculing Prophet Muhammad and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the notorious leader of the militant Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. Ten of the attack victims were reportedly members of the weekly magazine's staff.

Tragedy in Gyumri

Russian soldier confesses to killing six in Gyumri

6 dead bodies with gunshot wounds have been found in Gyumri's Myasnikyan 188 address. According to the preliminary information, the gunman is a Russian serviceman Valery Premyakov.

All the victims of assassination in Armenia's Gyumri have been identified (Seryozha K. Avetisyan (father of the family), Hasmik R. Avetisyan (mother of the family), Armen S. Avetisyan (their son), Araks A. Avetisyan (family's bride), Aida S. Avetisyan (daughter) and Hasmik A. Avetisyan (2-year old child). The seventh member of the family, 6-8 month old child Seryozha A. Avetisyan has been hospitalized and operated on in Gyumri's Austrian Hospital.

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President Serzh Sargsyan's New Year message

I congratulate you on the occasion of New Year and Christmas.

Throughout the past year, we have continued our progress, have continued to build, reconstruct and develop as a society and as a state. Let us confess that it all has been done in a complex geopolitical situation.

2014 was marked by turbulent events happening in various corners of the world. Unfortunately, those storms have not calmed down yet. Just one year ago perhaps few people could imagine such a rapid escalation of events and their negative outcomes.

The primary task of Armenian authorities has been to keep our people and our country away from those storms, maintain peace in Armenia and Artsakh and ensure their security and stability. Rarely have we managed to fully guard ourselves against aggravation of various negative trends because we constitute one part of the world. No matter how small we consider our country to be, we are a part of the world.

Dear compatriots,

The last year was characterized by an unprecedented exacerbation of tensions on our borders. This is the reality we live in. Our army carries out all its tasks creditably and with a high level of professionalism. I have no doubt that today, upon gathering around the New Year table, we will definitely raise our glasses in a toast to our soldiers and officers, wishing them "Good service."

We are entering the year 2015. The year, of course, is symbolic. We are going to properly organize the events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Mets Eghern. Together we will do



it with dignity. We will mark the victory of life over death, emphasizing the heroic and glorious path of our people. We will emphasize our people's will and effort to survive, revive and to be liberated. We will also stress the rich harvest Armenian genius has yielded for the world throughout the past centenary.

Dear compatriots,

External circumstances may turn out differently; really important and decisive is what we are going to do for our families and our country. We can do better and we do it step by step. We will develop our economy under new conditions, by making use of the opportunities that will open up in the near future. We will continue along the path toward a free, safe and prosperous Armenia. With God's blessing, we will continue to triumph through living and creating.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Uruguay's Foreign Ministry calls for recognition of Nagorno Karabakh

The Uruguayan Foreign Ministry asked for the international recognition of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh and the right of its people to self-determination on Sunday January 4, after a meeting with Armenian representatives, Prensa Armenia agency reports.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay Luis Almagro met with members of the Armenian National Committee of Uruguay and Mario Nalpatian, member of the International Armenian National Committee, to discuss the situation in the South Caucasus and the continuing violations of the ceasefire by Azerbaijan, which merited a strong condemnation from the Minister.

Almagro stressed the "need for a peaceful settlement of Nagorno Karabakh taking particular account of the right to self-determination of the Armenian people and the principle of territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia under its borders as an independent country between May 1918 and December 1920.

"In September 2011 the Minister of Foreign Affairs made public that Uruguay had begun to analyze the case of Nagorno Karabakh in order to take a State decision about it," said the representatives of Armenian National Committee of Uruguay. "Since then there have been meetings of the Chancellor and senior offi-



cials of the Uruguayan government with the Foreign Ministers of the Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan and with the respective ambassadors in Uruguay".

"On the legislative front, dozens of legislators had the opportunity to meet the President of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh

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Armenian Top Brass Discusses Karabakh Escalation



Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian and Armenia's top army generals met on January 7 to discuss, among other things, skirmishes with Azerbaijani forces that appear to have intensified since the start of the new year.

The Armenian Defense Ministry said the meeting touched upon ongoing efforts to boost the combat readiness of Armenian frontline troops. It said Ohanian, the chief of the Armenian army's General Staff, Colonel-General Yuri Khachaturov, their deputies and the heads of ministry departments also mapped out further training activities for military personnel.

A ministry statement added that Khachaturov presented a report

on Azerbaijani armed "provocations" of the past week and Armenian "steps taken in response to them." It gave no details.

The Armenian and Azerbaijani militaries, meanwhile, reported fresh truce violations on "the line of contact" around Karabakh and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. The Karabakh Armenian army said Azerbaijani troops fired more than 5,000 gunshots and seven mortar rounds on its frontline positions late on Wednesday and early Thursday. It also strongly denied opening fire on Azerbaijani villages east of Karabakh earlier this week.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, for its part, alleged 74 instances of Armenian gunfire registered over the past 24 hours.

Artsrun Hovannisyan, the Armenian Defense Ministry spokesman, described the situation on the frontlines as "very tense." "But you can't compare it to the incidents of July-August," he told RFE/RL's Armenian service, referring to last year's upsurge in deadly fighting in the Karabakh conflict zone.

In a related development, the United States continued to express concern over the renewed escalation of tensions which the conflicting parties blame on each other. "The benefits of a negotiated settlement far outweigh the costs of war," James Warlick, Washington's chief Karabakh negotiator, wrote on his Twitter page. "[Karabakh peace] can bring greater prosperity to the region."

The US troubled by ceasefire violations at the line of contact



The United States has expressed concern at the latest upsurge in ceasefire violations in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone and called for the resumption of Armenian-Azerbaijani peace talks.

"We are troubled by reports of ceasefire violations as well as casualties in recent days," Jen Psaki, the U.S. State Department spokeswoman, said on Monday. "These incidents do not correspond to the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents' commitments to reach a peaceful resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

"As an OSCE Minsk Group co-chair country, we do continue to urge ... both sides at the highest levels to engage in negotiations that could lead to a peace agreement and adopt measures to reduce the likelihood of such events along the line of contact and along the border. That continues to be our focus," Psaki told a daily news briefing in

Washington.

James Warlick, a U.S. diplomat co-chairing the Minsk Group together with colleagues from Russia and France, also deplored the fresh truce violations. "2015 should be a year for [Karabakh peace] and a lasting settlement. Renewed violence is not the answer," he tweeted on Sunday.

The latest escalation of tensions began on January 3 with the fatal shooting of two Armenian soldiers on "the line of contact" east of Karabakh in what the Armenian military called an Azerbaijani incursion. Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry denied attacking Karabakh Armenian frontline positions.

Both warring sides reported increased exchanges of gunfire in the following days, accusing each other of using not only small arms but also grenade launchers and light mortars. The Karabakh Armenian army on Tuesday claimed to have killed three

Azerbaijani soldiers in an overnight fire-fight.

The Defense Ministry in Baku denied that. It reported later in the day that an Azerbaijani warrant officer was seriously wounded after hitting a landmine on the Karabakh frontline.

The parties have also accused each other of firing in recent days on villages located close to "the line of contact" and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. The mayors of two villages in Armenia's northern Tavush province said their communities came under Azerbaijani fire ahead of Armenian Christmas celebrated on Tuesday.

The Azerbaijani side, meanwhile, said that Karabakh Armenian forces opened fire on Azerbaijani villages in the Aghdam district east of Karabakh. According to the APA news agency, school classes in one of those villages were cancelled because of the gunfire on Wednesday.

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Armenia Joins Eurasian Union

Armenia officially became a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) on January 2 one day after the Russian-led trade alliance of ex-Soviet states started functioning amid Russia's deteriorating economic outlook.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov congratulated his Armenian counterpart Edward Nalbandian on the occasion in a phone call. The Russian Foreign Ministry said the two men discussed "integration cooperation and bilateral relations." Nalbandian's press office issued no statements on the conversation.

Announcing the completion of Armenia's accession process at a summit in Moscow late last month, Russian President Vladimir Putin said membership in the EEU "corresponds to the fundamental national interests" of the South Caucasus country. Putin, who has increasingly sought to reassert Russian influence in the former Soviet Union over the past decade,



cited "broad horizons" opening up for the Armenian economy.

Serzh Sargsyan and his political allies have given similar assurances ever since the Armenian president unexpectedly decided in 2013 to make his country part of the Russian-led bloc at the expense of an Association Agreement with the European Union. The foreign policy U-turn is widely thought to have been the result of strong Russian pressure. Some Armenian leaders have implied that failure to join the EEU would have endangered continued Armenian control over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Surprisingly, Serzh Sargsyan did not mention Armenia's accession to the EEU in his New Year's address to the nation. He spoke instead of unspecified "turbulent developments in the world" that are having negative effects on the domestic economy. "We will be developing our economy in the new conditions by making use of opportunities that will open up in the foreseeable future," he said vaguely.

A senior government official in Yerevan said last month that EEU membership will translate into an extra growth rate of between 1.2 percent and 2.5 percent annually for the Armenian economy. Economic growth in the country actually slowed down in 2014 because of knock-on effects of an unfolding recession in Russia.

The Armenian government expects growth to pick up to just over 4 percent this year. The International Monetary Fund has come up with a more cautious forecast: 3.3 percent. Some analysts say that even this projection may be overly optimistic given the possibility of a further drop in international oil prices, which would spell more trouble for the Russian economy.

In a December 30 statement, the IMF said that the Armenian authorities "should also pursue deeper integration beyond the EEU to enhance growth prospects and reduce vulnerabilities." A senior official from the World Bank similarly cautioned in October that entry into the EEU alone will not speed up Armenia's economic development. She said it needs to be complemented by closer commercial ties with Europe.

Armenia is now replacing its traditionally liberal trade regime with more protectionist policies pursued by the EEU's three member states. As a result, Yerevan will have to renegotiate terms of its membership in the World Trade Organization.

Armenia's accession treaty with the EEU signed in October allows it to temporarily exempt around 800 types of goods imported from beyond the EEU, including key foodstuffs and fuel, from higher customs duties set by Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. But they will have to be gradually raised to the EEU levels by 2020.

Many other imported products, notably clothing, are expected to become more expensive already this year. Armenian officials say that this will be offset by Armenian manufacturers' improved access to the vast common market of Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. Critics counter that the three states account for less than one-quarter of Armenia's foreign trade.

Also, import duties collected by the Armenian customs service will now have to be transferred to the EEU budget. Armenia will then be entitled to receiving 1.13 percent of the union's total customs revenue. Some officials estimate that this will bring more than \$100 million in extra budgetary revenue to its cash-strapped government already in 2015.

Uruguay's Foreign Ministry calls for recognition of NK

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during his visit to the Uruguayan Parliament in December 2011. In turn, a parliamentary delegation led by President of the Chamber of representatives Jorge Orrico and legislators of all parliamentary parties visited the Republic in November 2012, where they met with officials of the executive and legislative branches, as well as with civil society of Nagorno Karabakh. The subject has also been present on the visits by legislators and political leaders of all parties to Azerbaijan from 2011 to date. More recently, the issue was addressed in a joint declaration signed by Presidents Jose Mujica and Serzh Sargsyan in July 2014, on the occasion of the official visit of the president of the Republic of Armenia to Uruguay. Both presidents stressed the need for a peaceful solution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and supported the mediation of the Minsk Group of the OSCE," added the Armenian National Committee of Uruguay in a statement.

The official text is posted on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay.

Mathieu Madénian, the French Armenian columnist, who escaped the Charlie Hebdo attack



French Armenian comedian and columnist Mathieu Madénian escaped the Wednesday attack on the French Charlie Hebdo magazine. Mathieu Madénian, comedian and columnist at Charlie Hebdo since September, attended "The new edition of Canal +" Wednesday afternoon. Very moved after the attack that hit the magazine that morning, he shared his impressions, the Huffington Post reports.

"Every Wednesday, we met at 10 am for brainstorming; it's a way to drink. But this morning I sent a message to Charb (Charlie Hebdo editor killed in the attack) at 9 am to tell him that I would not

come because I take kings' cake next week, but do not worry, there is a restaurant this weekend," said Madénian, one who narrowly escaped the attack.

This prompted the interviewer to declare: "You were saved by the epiphany cake-you were saved by the Maggi."

"It is incredible," said Madénian. "I received several messages from my mother who was in tears and was asking where I was that morning. I was only thinking about the people who died."

Of Armenian descent, Madénian grew up in Saleilles, a town in the suburbs of Perpignan, southern France, where he earned his scientific baccalaureate with honours, then a university degree in criminology, then became a lawyer. When he was 25 he left the law profession to follow a career in comedy.

He landed his first role in *Un gars, une fille* where he performed various voiceovers alongside Jean Dujardin and his wife Alexandra Lamy. He then wrote several one-man shows staged by Kader Aoun, many of which were performed at the théâtre du Point-Virgule.

From September 2010 has been a part of the French television show *Vivement dimanche prochain*, presented by Michel Drucker. Since September he has been doing a column at Charlie Hebdo every week.

Chemical magnate Jon Huntsman says honored to have worked in Armenia



"Most men lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them." That is what Jon Huntsman Senior, the self-made billionaire who has given away over 80 per cent of his wealth, told City A.M.

"One of the greatest advantages of wealth is to bring joy to other people," he says. "Humans must seek to lift one another up." The 77 year-old businessman is worth an estimated \$1.1bn (£700m), but he's been giving away his money for 35 years, and is one of just 19 billionaires worldwide (out of 1,200) to have given away over a billion - in fact, about \$1.6bn. "At one stage, I did manage to get off Forbes, but they found a way to put me back on there," he laughs. He was one of 40 billionaires who signed up to

the Giving Pledge in 2009, agreeing to give away half of their wealth. "Warren [Buffett] wanted to get commitments of 50 per cent first, but I said, 'why not pledge 80 per cent?'" After all, he tells me, no-one needs half of \$10bn to live on.

Huntsman didn't come into the world rich - far from it. Born in 1937, he grew up in rural Idaho, with a school teacher father and a stay-at-home mother. His dad went back to studying when Huntsman was 13, meaning he frequently held down three jobs to support the family. "When you come from nothing, giving is emotional and inspiring," he says. "I've been on both sides of the track. I have a very difficult time understanding why people with a lot of money don't give to their fellow human beings." In his latest book, *Barefoot to Billionaire*, Huntsman says: "I desire to leave this world as I entered it - barefoot and broke."

Philanthropy has always been a big part of Huntsman's life. Over the years, he and his wife Karen have donated hundreds of millions to the homeless, abused women and the sick.

Aside from their contributions to the war on cancer, the Huntsmans have a strong monetary - and emotional - connection to Armenia. Jon watched footage of the Armenian earthquake on 7 December 1988, which killed 45,000 and left 50,000 homeless. Something in him, he says, told him he had to help. The next day, he got on a plane, heading for a country he'd never been to before. To date, he has given Armenia \$53m. He funds 26 four-year university scholarships a year. The only proviso for recipients is that they return to the country after their studies to work on rebuilding. Armenia has made Huntsman a citizen, and he and his family have visited 46 times. "It has been an honour to work there," he says.

Economy in 2014: Slower growth, currency market upheavals, Eurasian integration

In 2014, despite the change of the so-called 'economic unit' ministers in the government, the economic state of the country did not change much, while the end of the year was marked by a currency market turmoil when the dram lost its grounds to major international currencies and price hikes were observed in the country.

In October, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) decreased Armenia's economic growth forecast from 4.3 to 2.6 because of the economic challenges Armenia is facing.

In December, the dram began to quickly devalue against the dollar, and the greenback, for a moment, was king again at exchange offices. Taking advantage of the dramatic currency exchange rate fluctuations some Armenian retailers raised prices for basic foodstuffs and other essentials that fueled concerns and even created some panic among citizens. Within a week prices for some goods increased by up to 40 percent. They started to lower shortly as the dram rebounded but still remained relatively high.

In early December the Armenian National Assembly voted 71 to 46, without abstentions, to approve the 2015 state budget; all factions, except the ruling Republican Party of Armenia, voted against the bill. Remarkably, the budget is based on the assumption that the average exchange rate of the dram in 2015 will be at the level of 413 drams per U.S. dollar. By the end of the year, however, the dram already traded at 440-460 per US\$.

And despite numerous criticism and negative predictions of experts that the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) is not a profitable structure for Armenia, in 2015 Armenia will already be a member of the trade bloc.

In 2014 Negotiations on Armenia's joining the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) reached the final stage and the list of goods exempt from duties was agreed upon, however the most conflicting point - a possible customs check-point at the border between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh still remains unclear to many.

The controversial compulsory element in the funded pension law was one of the most controversial issues during the pension reform enforced in 2014. Civil activists' protests and a Constitutional Court ruling partly sustaining the claims of several opposition parties that the pension reform law is unconstitutional made Armenia's recently appointed Prime Minister



Hovik Abrahamyan agree to a compromise option for the reform to continue.

The PM's compromised formula "compulsory but not forced" for the reform, however, remained vague for many, though the wave of discontent calmed down gradually as the norm became applicable only for public sector workers.

Despite public protests against the rise in electricity tariffs the Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC) approved a 10-percent raise from August 1.

Another protest by small and medium-sized entrepreneurs led to the postponement of the application of some of the new provisions of a law on sales tax. While under the provisions for small and medium-sized enterprises sales

taxes are reduced from 3.5 to 1 percent, most businessmen did not want the current norm to change fearing increased paper work and pressure from tax bodies.

Armenia has slipped by six points to 85th place among 144 countries in the Global Competitiveness Report 2014, but moved four positions up in the latest Doing Business index released by the World Bank. On the list of 189 nations Armenia occupies 45th place as opposed to its 49th "Ease of Doing Business" rank in the previous edition of the report.

The government of Armenia and the U.S. Company ContourGlobal signed an agreement regarding the purchase of the Vorotan Hydro Cascade.

The long-awaited tablet of Armenian make became a reality in early 2014.

High-tech guru and author of a number of innovations in microelectronics, Chief Development Officer of Sysco Systems, Inc., Mario Mazzola received the Armenian President's 2014 Global IT (GIT) Award.

All three mobile operators in Armenia launched the Mobile Number Portability (MNP) service beginning on April 1.



Armenian IT Industry Keeps Up Rapid Growth



Information technology (IT) companies remain the fastest-growing sector of Armenia's economy that has expanded by 25 percent in 2014, according to official statistics.

Preliminary data from the Armenian Ministry of Economy shows the combined output of the nearly 400 IT firms operating in the country reaching almost \$475 million. The figure is equivalent to about 5 percent of Gross Domestic Product and almost one-third of Armenian exports in 2013.

The Armenian IT industry, which is dominated by local subsidiaries of U.S. software giants, generated only 1.7 percent of GDP in 2010. The total number of skilled personnel working there has since more than doubled to around 11,600, the ministry figures show.

The export-oriented sector had already expanded by an average of 22 percent annually from 2008-2013. The Armenian government expects this growth to continue unabated in the years to come. Some government officials have forecast that the sector's annual operating revenue will pass the \$1 billion mark by 2019.

Much of this rapid growth has been driven by U.S. hi-tech firms such as Synopsys, National Instruments, Mentor Graphics and VMware. Synopsys, a global microchip design leader, employs about 700 engineers in Armenia, making its local branch the country's largest IT enterprise.

VMware, which posted a net profit of \$1 billion in 2013, plans to double the size of its Armenian subsidiary currently numbering over 60 specialists. "The business results that we are getting here give us confidence to expand. We are going to invest around \$100 million here in the next four or five years," Raghu Raghuram, a vice-president of the California-based software giant, told the Mediamax news agency during a November 2013 visit to Yerevan.

In another significant development, Oracle, the world's second largest software developer, set up shop in Armenia just over a month ago. The Silicon Valley heavyweight reportedly plans to expand its research and development office in Yerevan.

The IT industry has been further boosted in recent years by a growing number of startups partly or fully owned by Armenians. According to the Ministry of Economy, more than 200 such firms have been set up since 2007. Those include PicsArt, the manufacturer of one of the world's most popular mobile photo-editing applications. The Yerevan-based company has reported more than 100 million software downloads since launching its key product three years ago.

Another Armenian startup specializing in mobile apps, Inlight, attracted strong interest from a Los Angeles-based com-

pany, Science Inc., and was acquired by the latter in July.

The Armenian government hopes to facilitate the emergence of more such home-grown firms with forthcoming tax breaks and a \$6 million venture capital fund that started functioning in February 2014. Over the past few years, the government has also helped to set up about a dozen centers providing logistical, technical and even financial assistance to promising IT entrepreneurs. Two of those hi-tech "accelerators" are sponsored by the world-famous Microsoft and Nokia corporations.

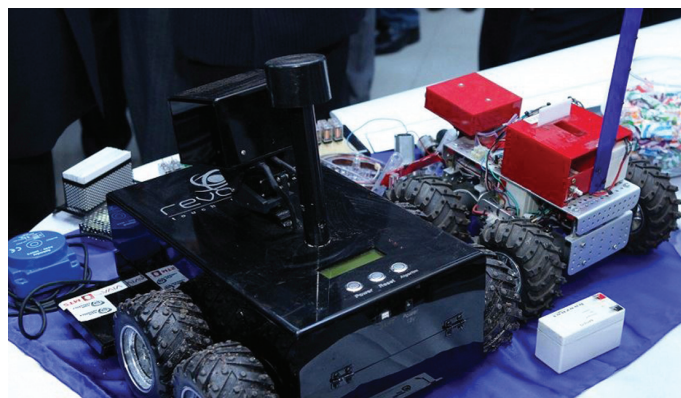
Another U.S. computer giant, IBM, announced earlier this month the establishment of an Innovative Solutions and Technologies Center at Yerevan State University (YSU). The center is due to modernize the YSU's laboratory equipment and computer science curricula.

The U.S. Agency for International Development and the Texas-headquartered National Instruments inaugurated a similar facility at the State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA) in September 2013. The \$6.2 million Armenian National Engineering Laboratories gave the SEUA's professors and some 2,400 students enrolled in IT programs free access to state-of-the-art equipment.

These facilities are meant to address what IT executives describe as the number one problem facing their burgeoning industry: the still inadequate quality of education at the IT departments of Armenian universities. Most of their graduates are not qualified enough to work for IT companies without undergoing additional training. There are currently an estimated 2,000 job vacancies in the sector, a highly unusual phenomenon for a country that has long suffered from double-digit unemployment.

Armenia's Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE) has also been trying to address this problem with extracurricular robotics classes organized in about 60 public schools across the country. "Our objective is to detect in all schools children with engineering talent and help them find jobs in the future," the UITE chairman, Karen Vardanyan, said in a recent interview. He argued that schoolchildren involved in the classes are learning not only robot design but also broader software development.

The UITE, which launched its Armrobotics program financed by several private firms in 2008, is now lobbying the government to gradually open such "study groups" in all 1,400 or so Armenian schools by 2018. The government supports the ambitious \$25 million project in principle but has yet to make a final decision to finance it.





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1 ROOM

- 1696.**Tumanyan str.**, 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 160.000 USD.
- 1726.**Khorenatsi str.**, 4/4, 35sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 55.000 USD.
- 1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m, euro repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1715-**Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- 1680-**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- 1674.**Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor, 70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- 1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS

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

PREMISES

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

LANDS

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

- 3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.
- 3432.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD
- 3576.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 USD
- 3606.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD
- 3574.**Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, gar-



- den. Price: 2.000.000 USD
- 3590 **Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-450 sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD
- 3651.**Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 1.700.000 USD.
- 3401.**Antarayan str.** Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capitally repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD
- 3712 **Cascade** Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 storied bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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



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1 ROOM

- 2037.**Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, gas, heating system, AC, modern furnished, equipped. Price: negotiable
- 2189.**Vardanants str.**, Newly built, 24/12, 90 sqm, 1 bedroom, 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
- 2187.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9/5, 120 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2.200 USD
- 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, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan 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, heat-



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

PREMISES

- 2049.**Teryan str**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693.**Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526.**Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sq.m., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408.**Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, 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

Russian soldier confesses...

From page 10

The Press Secretary of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia Sona Truzyan informed that "All the necessary investigative measures have been taken in the site of crime, due to which military boots have been found with surname "Permyakov" written on them. Measures are taken to find Permyakov." It is considered that the suspect is Valery Pavlovich Premyakov.

Later the Russian serviceman, suspected of killing six family members in Gyumri, was found. Valery Permyakov, who was reported to be the main suspect in the deadly incident, was found by Russian border guards in the village Bayandur (Shirak region). He reportedly attempted to cross the Armenia-Turkey border but didn't succeed as he was identified on the spot. The suspect is now with the Russian frontier troops. The representatives of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Armenia and the Investigation Committee of Armenia are also in the site. The Russia's Southern Federal District Prosecutor has arrived to the site as well. The further actions are being discussed. The investigation of the criminal case has been transferred to the Investigation Committee, directly supervised by the General Prosecutor of the Republic of Armenia.

A runaway Russian soldier admitted murdering six members of an Armenian family in Gyumri after being detained overnight, a senior Armenian police official said on January 13.

Hunan Poghosyan, a deputy chief of the national police, shed little light on Valery Permyakov's possible motives and gave few other details of his questioning by Armenian and Russian investigators.

Armenian prosecutors announced, meanwhile, that Russia will have custody of Permyakov at least until the end of a criminal investigation into the gruesome crime. It remained unclear, however, whether the pre-trial probe will be conducted by Armenian or Russian security bodies.



Gyumri, 14.01.2015

"In terms of information subject to publication, [Permyakov] deserted his military post with an assault rifle and two loaded magazines," Poghosyan told a news conference in Gyumri. "He claims that he wanted to stroll around the city and entered that house by accident, without knowing whether or not there are people inside it."

Poghosyan, who led a manhunt for the Siberian conscript on Monday, would not say what led him to shoot and kill a Gyumri couple, their son and daughter-in-law, a 2-year-old granddaughter, and an unmarried daughter. The couple's six-month-old grandson was stabbed but survived. The police general said only that Permyakov most probably did not personally know any of the slain members of the Avetisyan family.

Armenia's Office of the Prosecutor-General announced shortly after Poghosyan's news conference that Permyakov will not be handed over to Armenian law-enforcement authorities pending investigation. In a statement, it argued that Russia's constitution prohibits the extradition of Russian citizens to foreign states.

The statement also said that the probe of the killings is being jointly conducted by Russian and Armenian law-enforcement bodies. Poghosyan likewise spoke of a "joint investigative team" leading the probe. He went on to claim that Russian military officials "find it expedient to transfer the case to the Armenian side."

"It's just that Armenian and Russian prosecutors are now figuring out necessary legal procedures," he added.

Poghosyan dismissed Armenian government critics' suggestions that the Russian side is keen to keep custody of Permyakov in order to cover up the crime. "They have come here to conduct an objective investigation and punish all those who bear responsibility for the crime," he said, referring to an ad hoc Russian Defense Ministry commission that flew to Gyumri on Monday night.

Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan met with the commission members led by Russian Deputy Defense Minister Arkady Bakhin on Tuesday. He made no statements afterwards.

"Everything depends on what the suspect will say and how he will explain what he did," Ohanian told reporters before the meeting. "We will see to it that ... the guilty individual or individuals are punished."

"I think that it's not appropriate to politicize this or look for any deterioration of our relations because we have a fairly high-level relationship and dialogue with the Russian Federation. Our military cooperation is at a particularly high level," he added in reference to a domestic uproar caused by the Gyumri massacre.

Armenian civic activists say the fact that Permyakov was taken into Russian military custody also amounts to a breach of Armenia's sovereignty. Some of them point to a clause in a 1997 bilateral treaty regulating Russian military presence in Armenia. It stipulates that Russian military personnel committing crimes outside the base in Gyumri shall be dealt with by Armenian law-enforcement bodies and courts.

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Two police officers arrested in Dink murder case

Two police officers for whom arrest warrants were issued on Monday on charges of negligence and misconduct in the murder of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, were placed under arrest by the court on Tuesday, Zaman reports.

Dink, editor-in-chief of the Agos newspaper, was assassinated in broad daylight outside his office on Jan. 19, 2007.

A criminal judge of peace in Istanbul issued arrest warrants for Trabzon Police Department Assistant Commissioner Özkan Mumcu and another police officer, Mühittin Zenit, on Monday.

Zenit and Mumcu, who were detained on Monday following the arrest warrants, were then arrested on Tuesday and they were sent to prison.

Mumcu and Zenit had earlier testified to Prosecutor Gökalp Kökçü as part of the investigation of Dink's murder. The prosecu-



tor referred them to the court for arrest; however, they were later released by the Istanbul 5th Criminal Judge of Peace.

After Kökçü filed an appeal protesting the court decision to release the two police officers, the Istanbul 6th Criminal Judge of

Peace decided to issue arrest warrants for the two officers.

The officers are being accused of negligence and engaging in misconduct in relation to the Dink murder. Tape recordings of a phone conversation between Zenit and Erhan Tuncel, who worked as an informant for the Trabzon Police Department at the time and was accused of initiating the effort to have Dink murdered, were leaked to the media. The conversation suggests that Zenit knew about the plot to murder Dink.

Dink was shot and killed by an ultranationalist teenager. The hit man, Ogün Samast, and 18 others were brought to trial. Since then, the lawyers for the Dink family and the co-plaintiffs in the case have presented evidence indicating that Samast did not act alone. Another suspect, Yasin Hayal, was given life in prison for inciting Samast to commit murder.

Greece blocks Talat Pasha Committee's Genocide denialist stunt in Athens

By Harut Sassounian
Publisher, *The California Courier*

Dogu Perincek, leader of the Turkish Workers' Party, failed last week to repeat in Greece the denialist show he orchestrated in Switzerland 10 years ago. Along with members of his blasphemous Talat Pasha Committee, Perincek had planned to travel to Athens to challenge the recent Greek law banning denial of the Armenian Genocide. He dreamed of becoming 'a hero' by filing a lawsuit against Greece in the European Court of Human Rights after his anticipated arrest for violating that law.

Back in 2005, after his detention by Swiss police, Perincek was found guilty of denying the Armenian Genocide. When Switzerland's Federal Court (Supreme Court) confirmed his sentence, Perincek appealed the verdict in 2008 to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). On December 17, 2013, five out of seven ECHR judges ruled in Perincek's favor, claiming that the Swiss courts had violated his freedom of speech. Three months later, Switzerland appealed ECHR's flawed ruling to the court's 17-member Grand Chamber which is scheduled to review the earlier verdict on January 28, 2015.

Fortunately, Perincek's planned prank in Greece ran into multiple walls! To begin with, he could not leave Turkey due to a travel ban after his conditional release from jail as participant in a coup plot. In his absence, when his Party's 13-member delegation arrived at Athens airport, the Greek authorities wisely decided to deport the group back to Turkey rather than create a spectacle by arresting them.

The Greek police used the excuse that the Turkish visitors' travel documents were not in order.

Upon returning to Istanbul, the expelled Turks were hailed as 'heroes' by fellow Party members. Perincek promptly blamed Pres. Erdogan and Prime Minister Davutoglu for their "extremely shameful decision," preventing him from going to Greece to deny the Armenian Genocide. Perincek's followers also accused Turkey's Ambassador to Greece of colluding with the Greek government to undermine their mission. In response, Turkish Ambassador Kerim Uras blamed the Talat Pasha Committee members for damaging their own plans by announcing them in advance, despite the Ambassador's admonition to arrive in Athens quietly and go public after getting there! Uras added that due to the Turkish delegation's premature public statements, the Armenian community in Athens was prepared to hold a counter protest.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu defended the court's ban on Perincek's travel to Greece. During a press conference, Cavusoglu refuted Perincek's accusation that Ankara had tried to undermine his committee's trip to Greece. However, a much more important trip awaits Perincek on January 28, when he expects to attend the hearing of Switzerland's appeal of his case at ECHR in Strasbourg. Even though Cavusoglu had told Perincek in a phone conversation that the Turkish government did not object to his going to Strasbourg, the Foreign Minister warned that the final decision to lift Perincek's travel ban rested with Turkey's Supreme Court.

Ankara now needs to balance the disadvantage of boosting the standing of an ultranationalist critic of the ruling Party against the advantage of backing an overzealous denialist during the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. The Turkish and international media widely disseminated the breaking news I had first reported in a previous column, disclosing that Amal Clooney along with Geoffrey Robertson and other distinguished attorneys would represent Armenia at the ECHR hearing on January 28. The news of Mrs. Clooney's involvement in this legal case prompted a bizarre reaction from Perincek who told the Turkish press: "The woman can attend the court hearing, but even if the wife of Jesus comes, she has no chance of success!"

Since my last column, several readers have pointed out the little-known family link between Mrs. Clooney (Amal Ramzi Alamuddin) and 'Papa' Jakob Kuenzler, a Swiss missionary known as "the father of Armenian orphans." Kuenzler and his wife had diligently aided the Armenian community in Ourfa for 25 years until the Genocide. Then in the 1920's, the Kuenzlers began working for Near East Relief, evacuating thousands of Armenian orphans from Turkey to Ghazir, Lebanon, where Armenian girls wove the famous 'White House rug' which was donated to U.S. Pres. Calvin Coolidge in 1925. The Kuenzlers' daughter Ida married Najib Alamuddin, the cousin of Amal's grandfather, Khalil Alamuddin. In 1970, Ida Kuenzler published a remarkable book about her father's devoted humanitarian work: "Papa Kuenzler and the Armenians."

Polish Defense Firm Eyes Exports From Armenia

A Polish defense company, Lubawa SA, hopes to expand its recently established joint venture in Armenia and export protective equipment for armed forces manufactured there to other former Soviet states.

The venture was set up by Lubawa and the Armenian Defense Ministry in the central Armenian town of Charentsavan in early 2013. Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian and his former Polish counterpart Bogdan Klich inaugurated it in October 2014.

Using Lubawa's technology and expertise, the Charentsavan plant produces a range of protective gear such as army helmets, flak jackets, big and inflatable tents, camouflage netting and decoys. Ohanian said at the inauguration ceremony that these items will be supplied to the armed forces of not only Armenia but also other nations.

Lubawa's chief executive, Marcin Kubica, discussed the matter with Ohanian and other senior Armenian mili-

tary officials when he visited Yerevan in mid-December. In a subsequent statement on those talks, the Polish company said the two sides agreed on a "development strategy" that identifies potential export markets for their joint enterprise called Lubawa Armenia.

"The export markets which Lubawa Armenia will attempt to win in the first place will be Georgia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan," read the statement. It said the Armenian Defense Ministry will assist in that endeavor.

"The parties unanimously confirmed the possibility of smoothly increasing the production capabilities of Lubawa Armenia SA in case it wins major contracts," added the statement.

The Armenian side was also reported to have committed itself to purchasing camouflage nets, tents and individual protective gear from Lubawa Armenia in the course of this year. The Defense Ministry in Yerevan already commis-



sioned in late 2013 the first batch of such nets worth \$1 million.

Lubawa further announced that the Charentsavan plant, in which it holds a 51 percent stake, is ready to manufacture inflatable boats, protective suits and other individual equipment for rescuers. It said that the Armenian Ministry of Local Government and Emergency Situations is "interested" in purchasing such equipment for its rescue service.

Russian soldier confesses...

From page 10

Another article in the treaty upholds Russian jurisdiction over offenses registered inside Russian military facilities in Armenia. With Permyakov set to be charged with not only killing the six Armenians but also deserting his unit, Russian officials might invoke this clause.

Six-month old Seryozha Avetisyan, who was transferred to the children's reanimation department of "Surp Astvatsamayr" Medical Center of Yerevan following the incident that took place in Gyumri, is getting better. After the second counseling with doctors, Armenia's Minister of Health Armen Muradyan mentioned that all the medical studies and interventions have led to a positive outcome.

The bodies of the Avetisyan, who were brutally murdered in Gyumri on January 12, have been moved from the morgue to the St. Nshan Church of Gyumri.



UK wants to support close relationship between EU and Armenia



UK really wants to support a close and productive relationship between the EU and Armenia, Ambassador to Armenia Katherine Leach told Armenian News-NEWS.am, commenting on the future of relations between Yerevan and Brussels.

"We have had a year of waiting and preparing, and now that Armenia will finally join the Eurasian Economic Union from 2 January, I hope we can move much more quickly to clarify those areas of cooperation with the EU which are still possible and compatible. I know this work is going on intensively right now," the diplomat said.

Katherine Leach underscored UK's willingness to support a close and productive relationship between the EU and Armenia, particularly in areas like economic reform, promoting business, building the capacities of civil servants, fighting corruption, and further promoting judicial and human rights reforms.

First-Ever Armenian Float in Rose Parade showcases heritage to billion viewers



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

Over a year ago, a handful of young Armenians formed the American Armenian Rose Float Association and embarked on an ambitious project that many Armenians had contemplated for a long time, but no one had tried. They decided to enter the first Armenian float in 126 years in the world famous Rose Parade in Pasadena, California.

Around one billion people in over 100 countries watch this spectacular Parade on television on the first day of each year. In addition, an estimated crowd of 700,000 spectators line up along the 5.5-mile Parade route, braving the record-breaking cold temperatures, as my family did on January 1. Some even sleep on sidewalks overnight to have a front row view!

Soon-after the start of the Parade, viewers in Pasadena and around the world heard the unmistakable sound of blaring Duduks and witnessed a beautifully decorated Armenian float with thousands of flowers, accompanied by a dozen elegant dancers in traditional costumes. The overall theme of this year's Rose Parade was "Inspiring Stories," and the Armenian float was certainly inspiring with its fitting title, "Cradle of Civilization." The official catalog of the Parade published the following glowing description along with a picture of the float:

"Welcome to the 'Cradle of Civilization,' a float presented by the Armenian community to share their centuries-old rich cultural heritage with the United States and the world. The American Armenian Rose Parade float is a showcase of the contributions Armenians have made to this great nation and around the globe. Every item on this float, from the carpet, the tree of life and the birds and fruits, to the eternity sign and the Duduk (flute), symbolizes a specific aspect of the Armenian culture, including religion, education, industry, music, dance and beyond. The prevailing color is a specific red that is extracted from a worm found only on the moun-

tains of Armenia." More specifically, the float featured storks, peacocks, pomegranates, apricots, grapes, the Armenian alphabet, figure of an Armenian woman with traditional headdress and costume symbolizing "Mother Armenia," and a partial church frame representing Armenian architecture. The float was awarded the prestigious "President's Trophy."

Riding on the 55 ft. long, 28 ft. high, and 18 ft. wide float were several celebrities, including Samuel Der Yeghiayan (first immigrant Armenian US Federal Judge), Gabriel Injeikian (founder of first Armenian day school in the U.S.), Flora Dunaian (noted humanitarian and philanthropist from Pasadena), prominent attorney Mark Geragos, television host Jill Simonian, former Pasadena Police Chief Bernard Melekian, and actress Angela Sarafyan. Amazingly, exactly 100 years ago, an Armenian businessman, Movses Pashgian, was the Grand Marshal of the Rose Parade in 1915!

Even though the float cost \$300,000 to build, it was well worth the money, as Armenian culture, for the first time in history, was showcased to over one billion people around the world, at the bargain price of less than a penny per person! Just days before the Parade, the Armenian float organizers were still \$110,000 short of their goal. Fortunately, they received a few more donations in recent days, leaving a current balance of \$90,000. Those

wishing to help cover this deficit can make a tax-deductible contribution by visiting www.aarfa.org.

Given the extensive TV coverage on American and international channels, the Armenian float received numerous positive comments in the social media and websites around the world. Some TV networks even commented that 2015 coincided with the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide.

Since Armenians regularly bring up the genocide issue in their interaction with 'odar' circles, most non-Armenians know that Armenian are a victimized nation, but are unaware of their rich cultural heritage and ancient civilization. The world should know that despite the Young Turks' sinister efforts to eliminate the Armenian people, they have succeeded not only to survive, but to thrive!

This is particularly important for young Armenians who need to grow up with positive role models to look up to and take pride in their heritage rather than feeling like downtrodden victims who seek pity. The Rose Parade float did a magnificent job in celebrating Armenian culture and promoting its image worldwide.

Energized by the tremendous popular reaction to their participation in this year's Tournament of Roses, the organizers pledged to have an Armenian float in the Pasadena Parade every year from now on!



The truth behind Turkey's 'open archives'

When the “Armenian Question” is discussed, Turkish state officials immediately talk about archives. The fact that the archives are open to everyone, and that all documents are accessible, is shown as adequate reason to leave the interpretation of the events of 1915 to historians. However, Mehmet Uluisik’s story completely disproves the official version regarding the archives.

Uluisik is one of many citizens who were forced to migrate to Germany following the September 12, 1980, military coup d’état. Since he did not return to Turkey, he was stripped of citizenship in 1991 on the grounds that he had not carried out his military service. After becoming a German citizen in 1997, he comfortably travelled to Turkey at least once a year – that is, until November 2007.

Uluisik states that he had encountered no problems until, in 2005, he began to collect documents from the Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives (BOA) both for Prof. Taner Akçam’s and his own research. Having asked for documents related to the 1915 Armenian Genocide, Uluisik was questioned by archive workers on his third visit, and was effectively interrogated. Subjected to strange questions like, “Are you Armenian?” and “Do you frequently meet with Taner Akçam?” Uluisik also received death threats from different sources.

When Uluisik wanted to return to Turkey only a week after he had left in November 2007, he was sent back to Germany on the grounds that there was an entry ban to the country in his name. The legal process initiated by Uluisik revealed the source of the ban. At the first hearing of the case he filed at the Administrative Court against the Ministry of Interior, the petition signed by Osman Karakus from the Ministry as revealed at the court, showed that Uluisik had been considered, in accordance with the Passport Law, “among those who are coming to Turkey with the intention of harming the security and general order of the Republic of Turkey, or with the aim of collaborating with or aiding such persons”. At the second hearing, a petition from the Ministry made things even clearer. According to this petition, the Ministry had received an intelligence



memorandum about Uluisik from the Police General Directorate. The views included in this memorandum clearly reveal that his research in the archive caused discomfort to the state: “Information has been received that the said person is carrying out work in the Ottoman archives in order to find support for theses such as; that late period Ottoman administrations, in the Union and Progress Party period and the National Struggle period, provoked Caucasian communities, and particularly Circassians, against Armenians, had Armenians and Circassians massacre each other, and in this manner carried out not only the Armenian but also the Circassian Genocide; and that he carries out his work with financial support he has received from the funds of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Goethe Institute based in Germany.

Uluisik’s appeal to the ban was accepted first by the Administrative Court, and then by the Council of State. So Uluisik thought that his ban from entering the country had been lifted, but met with another surprise when he tried to enter Turkey on 15 May 2013: A new ban had been issued in April 2011. But the real shock was the news he received from his elder sister. Confident that he would enter Turkey, Uluisik had asked

his elder sister to go to the archive to request documents on his behalf, so that they were ready for him to examine the next day. However, archive workers, upon hearing the name Mehmet Uluisik, responded to his sister, “He is prohibited from entering the archives”. And when his sister said, “His ban from entering Turkey has been lifted,” they said, “Even if he can enter Turkey, he cannot enter the archives”. Uluisik tried to find out the reason for his prohibition from the archives by contacting acquaintances in official positions in Ankara and found out that a letter sent by MIT, the National Intelligence Organization, to the institution during the term of Prime Ministry State Archives General Director Yusuf Sarinay prohibited him from entering the archives.

Uluisik says, “Until then, I thought I was being banned from entering Turkey so that I wouldn’t enter the archives, so I was shocked to learn that my entry into the archives was already prohibited in every way”. Uluisik does not know the reason for the ban. “If we start talking about it, we could even blame the blowing wind,” says Uluisik, and adds that he won’t make any legal efforts anymore, since he knows that the state is capable of banning him forever.

Agos

Kessab: Syria rebels 'burned down churches and destroyed Christian graves'

By Ruth Sherlock,
The Telegraph

Rain seeped into the tombs through shattered flagstones. Nearby, marble crosses lay in pieces. Plastic flowers, once lovingly placed on a grave, were torn and stamped into the earth. Beside the desecrated graveyard in the Syrian town of Kessab stood the Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical church. Its library, pews and altar had all been burned by arsonists.

The perpetrators had shown both purpose and glee in their destruction of Christian sites in this ancient Armenian town. Statues were riddled with bullets and Islamist slogans were scrawled across the walls of homes and shops. Once a haven from Syria's civil war, nestled in the hills of Latakia province, Kessab gained international fame when it was captured by rebels last spring in a surprise offensive that forced the town's 2,500 Armenian Christians to flee. Turkey was widely accused of helping the insurgents to capture Kessab, despite the participation in the attack of Jabhat al-Nusra, an affiliate of al-Qaeda. But the Syrian armed forces took back the town in June after it had endured three months of rebel occupation. The Telegraph travelled to the area on a facility trip with the Syrian regime to witness the aftermath of the battle.

The desecration of Kessab's churches contradicts the claims of Syrian rebels that their fighters are non-sectarian protectors of Christian residents and heritage. The evidence also fails to support counter-claims by pro-government groups that Armenian Christians were "massacred" during the rebel offensive. When this assault began last year, Turkey's then prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, was facing a general election and his rebel allies in Syria were losing ground to regime forces. The offensive on Kessab was intended to bolster both the insurgents and their Turkish backers.

During weeks of planning before the assault, rebel fighters were given strict orders to use the offensive to show themselves as "moderate Muslims" and natural allies of the West. Kessab is protected by a mountain range, acting as a natural fortress against invasion, and the Turkish border almost surrounds the town. It was only when Turkish troops allowed free movement across the frontier that the rebels were able to storm and capture Kessab.

In the first hours, all appeared to be going according to plan. Insurgents, including those from the Islamist group Ahrar al-Sham, posed for pictures showing them pro-

tecting churches and talking gently to local people. About 30 Armenians, who had been too elderly or frail to escape the offensive, were placed on minibuses and driven to Turkey, where they were given a warm reception that was covered in minute detail by state television.

Ignoring the participation of Islamist extremists in the offensive - including a large number of foreign jihadists - Ahmed Jarba, the head of the Syrian National Coalition, travelled to Kessab and claimed a victory.

But immediately after the media spotlight fell away, residents of Kessab told the Telegraph that the desecration began. "They took photographs to show they were looking after the churches, and then set them alight," said Father Miron Avedissian, priest of the Armenian Apostolic church that was largely destroyed. "It all still happened in the first day." If Western-backed rebels tried to stop the rampage by their extremist allies, there was little evidence of a struggle.

Doors, walls and shopfronts on the town's narrow streets are covered in scrawled messages declaring "There is no God but Allah". The white paint is still fresh on the walls of Father Avedissian's church as he tries to repair the damage.

Tufts of burned carpet on the staircase, and partly melted air-conditioning units on the walls, show the intensity of the fire that wrecked its interior. The priest flicked through photographs on his iPhone: one image showed himself inside the church, pointing to a vandalised painting of Jesus and the Virgin Mary. Outside, the crosses carved into the stone over the wide arch doors were riddled with bullet holes.

Nearby, the Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical church was little more than a burned shell. Walls were blackened by smoke; wooden pews, tapestries, Bibles and kneeling cushions had all been incinerated in a fire that appeared to have raged until there was nothing left to burn. Writing, ostensibly by the rebels, covered the church's walls. The names of the rebel groups who participated in the attack appeared to be listed. The graveyard was little more than a field of smashed masonry, its headstones individually defaced. The Telegraph cannot independently confirm that all of the damage was inflicted by the rebels.

Zavinar Sargdegian, a 58-year-old resident, said that she witnessed the churches being set alight. "I was at home with my husband when they raided the house," she said. "They broke down the front door. They

pushed us on to the street. We were on our knees and they put a gun to our heads. From the road I saw the Angelic Church burning. Fire was coming out of the doors and windows." The rebels included men from Chechnya, Tunisia and Libya, she said.

Other residents, who said they returned to their homes when Syrian forces recaptured the town, described finding the churches and the graveyard destroyed.

Tweets dating from the days after the rebels stormed the town on 21 March include pictures of jihadists destroying crosses in the churches. Others show them setting fire to shops selling alcohol and smashing glass bottles in the streets. For the past two years, rebel-held areas of Latakia province have been the domain of some of the most hardline extremist groups. Christians have not been their only targets. In 2013, jihadists swept into several villages in Latakia inhabited by the Alawite minority. They murdered dozens of civilians and kidnapped hundreds of women and children, some of whom are still missing. Extremists from the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (Isil) are believed to have joined these attacks.

Across Syria, hardline Islamists have gained dominance over the rebel movement fighting to overthrow Bashar al-Assad's regime. Joshua Landis, an expert on the conflict, estimates that non-Islamist rebels now control less than 5 per cent of Syria, with the rest of the country divided between the regime, Isil or Jabhat al-Nusra.

Most of Kessab's people were able to escape before their town fell to the insurgents. There is no evidence of the "massacre" of civilians claimed by regime loyalists - at one point supposedly "proved" with images that were later identified as shots from a horror film. But the fall of the Armenian town summoned bitter memories of persecution. In 1909, tens of thousands of Armenians were killed during the Adana massacre under the Ottoman empire. Then in 1915, a further 5,000 residents of Kessab were killed by the Ottomans during what some historians consider the "genocide" of the Armenian minority.

Today, Kessab is coming back to life, but the lives of those people who have returned to their homes seem far from secure. Turkish soldiers can be seen on hilltops near the town, manning the border checkpoints through which the rebels crossed to carry out the attack.

The occasional explosion of tank shells served as a reminder that the civil war is still close by.

Genocide and Kim Kardashian: The Bloody History Behind System of a Down's Tour

Between their spasmodic rhythms and jagged melodies, System of a Down have always been committed to a sobering cause: raising recognition for the Armenian genocide of 1915. The group's self-titled debut LP contained a song called "P.L.U.C.K.," in which frontman Serj Tankian sang "A whole race, genocide/Taken away all of our pride," and over the years the band has held several one-off "Souls" concerts to help raise awareness of the tragedy. Now the group, whose members are all children of survivors, is commemorating the 100th anniversary of the genocide - in which Ottoman Turks began arresting and executing some 1.5 million Armenians, something that Turkey and several countries still refuse to recognize officially - with an international tour named "Wake Up the Souls." This will end on April 23rd, the day before Armenia commemorates the anniversary, with the group's very first performance in the country of their ancestors. The band plans on livestreaming the concert so people all over the world can watch. System of a Down have also set up an interactive "heat map" on their website, allowing fans to learn about how different parts of the world have reacted to the genocide, including which countries have officially recognized it. Elsewhere, they host a call to action motivating fans to ask the Turkish president and parliament for recognition. "Part of it is bringing attention to the fact that genocides are still happening, whether you use the word 'genocide,' 'holocaust' or 'humanitarian catastrophe,'" Tankian says. "None of that is changing. We want to be part of that change. We want the recognition of the first genocide of the 20th century to be a renewal of confidence that humanity can stop killing itself." He chuckles. "I say that, laughing, because obviously it's ridiculous."

Why have you decided to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide with a tour?

This is a recommitment and expansion of some of the work that we've been doing with the Armenian genocide for years. The whole "Souls" concept became a tour, and it's something that we all believe in because we're all children of survivors of the genocide. It's important for the recognition of the genocide as an end result, as well as attain-

ing justice.

What are the steps toward attaining justice?

I think for us it's important for Turkey to know its own history in a truthful manner. It's not just about the genocide of the Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians, but what's going on now. There are no executable international agreements that have to do with stopping the genocide. Irrespective of a number of great U.N. bodies and even U.S.-based bodies in terms of genocide prevention, there's no binding resolution on any genocide or holocaust occurring. We still see them happening. I read in today's press that they discovered a mass grave in Deir Ezzor in Syria of ISIS massacres of this one tribe there, and it reminded me of all the bones that are under those sands in Deir Ezzor from the first genocide of the 20th century in the exact same place. If that's not symbolism, I don't know what is.

Your grandparents both lived through the Armenian genocide. What did they tell you about it?

They had these incredible, haunting stories of their survival. They were both toddlers, small children. My grandmother and her grandmother were saved by a Turkish mayor in a small city, as they were being marched through Turkey toward Syria, toward Deir Ezzor, the desert. They were saved in that way. My grandfather lost the majority of his family on the pogrom. He ended up in a number of different orphanages and ended up in Lebanon, in terms of finding a home there and growing up there. Just really heart-wrenching stories.

When my grandfather was still alive, we had them on camera for this film that we were part of called *Screamers*. It was a nice partial telling of his story, which was very fulfilling for me. We got a camera crew to tape 16 hours of these important stories that are disappearing because the survivors are almost all gone.

You've played in Armenia as a solo artist. How was that experience for you?

It was really amazing. The first time was with my band, the F.C.C., on my solo tour throughout Europe. We played a show in a beautiful, large theater. The second time, I played with an Armenian orchestra called



the Opera Orchestra of Armenia. We played at the opening of a non-profit technology center called Tumo. There were about 11,000 people in this beautiful courtyard by a park, on a built stage overlooking this gorgeous gorge. It was truly amazing. A lot of youth, a lot of excitement. It was really very encouraging as to what the future of Armenia has to embrace.

Have you gotten a sense of how people there feel about the band doing this concert?

In Armenia, our status is unparalleled. I don't want to use any monikers like the Beatles or anything, but it's a unique kind of thing. So we want to go there and play for the people, which we've never done as System of a Down. It's quite exciting.

How is it that System of a Down have never played Armenia?

You know, that's a really good question. I don't have a direct answer to that. We've been asked to play, but it's never transpired either due to timing or the challenge of investment in infrastructure. It takes time for any of the large performance infrastructure to take place.

Has the band ever played in Turkey?

No. We were looking into Turkey as one of the dates of this Wake Up the Souls tour. We needed to get permission from the government, based on our outspokenness about the genocide and against the actions of [then-Turkish Prime Minister Recep] Erdoğan's government in particular. At the time, the new prime minister had just stepped in, which was the old foreign minister, and of course Erdoğan became president and left the prime minister's post. We waited a while, but we never got a response, so we planned the rest of the tour.

What is your relationship with Turkish fans like? It must be hard for you not to be able to play for them.

Totally. I personally want to go play there. Our relationship with them has been really cool. Years ago, someone planted things in the Turkish press trying to denounce us, I'm assuming an agent of the government, saying that we've done things that we've never done. So we put up something on our website saying that all of this is misinformation, please don't listen to it. It's all lies. Our fans were the ones that protected us in Turkey. They wrote to the editors of those newspapers who were planting this misinformation, this disinformation, and fought for us. Our jaws dropped. Here we have fans in Turkey that are protecting System of a Down. No society is unipolar.

Do you think Turkey will ever recognize the genocide?

I think it's very possible. I just read that there is a resolution for recognition for all past crimes, including the Armenian genocides - named specifically - that was just introduced to the Turkish parliament by a minority Kurdish MP, Sebahat Tuncel.

Although I'm sure they don't have majority to pass it, that's an amazing sign not just of courage for her to bring that up, but that times could be changing, and that's a positive thing.

Speaking of times changing, there are Armenian celebrities drawing attention to the genocide lately.

Absolutely. For all the flak people give Kim Kardashian, I could say that with her yearly commemorations of the Armenian genocide and spreading that word, she's been valuable. She's been great.

She can raise a lot of awareness.

Absolutely. She's got more Twitter people than I do, that's for sure [laughs].

Shifting topics, it's been 10 years since the last System of a Down album. Are you guys talking about making a new one yet?

There has been talk, and we are going to play this tour, come back and we're going to see where we are. If we have songs that work for System, if I have them and Daron [Malakian, guitar] has them.

The openness is there to work together, but we haven't made any particular plans that we can announce.

Have you personally written songs with System in mind?

I have a few that could apply, but I'm not sure until the time comes where I can actually play them for the guys and see if it's something that vibes off them.

Right now, I'm actually focusing on a film score.

It's actually a really cool score, and it's for a film based on, again, the genocide. That's all I'm dealing with right now. It's called 1915. It's a very interesting drama that's actually shot in Los Angeles at the Los Angeles Theater, a very old and distinguished theater. It's a really, really interesting psychological thriller, modern story. It deals with denial and the psychological impacts of a genocide rather than the physical aspects of it.

Getting back to a new System album, I'm sure your fans are curious where you're at.

They will be the first to know. Fans will know before the press knows, I assure you.

Armenian Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ



Each year, on January 6, the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which is the commemoration of the Birth and Baptism of Jesus Christ. God was incarnated and appeared to the people. During the Baptism of Jesus God the Father said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17) and the Holy Spirit descended on Christ in the form of dove, so God appeared to the people for the second time. So, both Theophanies revealed by means of the Birth and Baptism of Jesus Christ are celebrated in the Armenian

Church jointly on January 6. The feast starts on the eve, in the evening of January 5, and is continued after the midnight. On the eve a solemn Candlelight Divine Liturgy is celebrated and on January 6 a solemn Divine Liturgy is celebrated. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy Blessing of the Waters Service is conducted symbolizing the Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan at the commencement of His ministry. By means of His Baptism Jesus blessed water.

Celebrant priest pours out the Holy Chrism drop by drop into water and blesses the water. According to the tradition people take some blessed water with them to use it as a medicinal remedy for the sick. After Blessing of the Waters Service the priests visit the houses of the faithful to proclaim the Christmastide Good News of the Birth of Jesus Christ and hence the tradition of Blessing of the Houses was formed.

The Birth of Jesus happened in this way. "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be

taken of the entire Roman world. ... And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Lk 2:1-7) The Son of God was born in poverty, in a manger. The witnesses of His Birth were the shepherds living out in the fields nearby, whom the angels had appeared and brought the good news of the Birth of the Savior singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." (Lk 2:18)

Soon afterwards some men who studied the stars came from the East and worshipped Baby Christ, presented him gifts and returned to their countries.

Out of Armenia: BBC Radio 4 broadcasts 5-episode program about Armenian Diaspora

BBC Radio 4 broadcast a 5-episode program on the Armenian Diaspora from December 29, 2014 to January 2, 2015.

Writer and historian Charles Emmerson traces the history of the Armenian diaspora through Europe's Armenian communities today.

From Manchester, home to Britain's oldest Armenian community, Charles travels to Paris, the largest and most dynamic Armenian diaspora community in Europe, still living in the shadow of the memory of the massacres and deportations of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in 1915.

In Venice, he meets the monks charged with the safe-keeping of Armenian traditions of literature and song on the island of San Lazzaro. In Istanbul, we hear the more recent stories of the city's Armenian community - subtle architects building a new relationship between Turks and Armenians from the foundations up.

Finally, at the foot of Mount Ararat, in Yerevan, underground jazz music and Syrian refugees tell a new story - of a new focus for Armenian identity and fresh challenges to its survival.

Armenians have long lived in diaspora, struggling to keep their common identity alive in communities dispersed around the world. They became leading figures in Ottoman Istanbul. In



the 19th century, some moved to the dirt and damp of the booming textile city of Manchester, establishing themselves in the city's middle-class suburbs and building the first Armenian church in north-west Europe.

Over tea and cake in warm family homes, Charles hears the stories of a tiny but close-knit community, now concerned about how to keep alive its identity, language and religion for a new generation of Mancunian Armenians. The church holds services just once a month, when a priest comes up from London. Some ask whether there will be an Armenian community in Manchester at all in 50 years' time.

Chris Bohjalian receives award in Moscow

New York Times best-selling author Chris Bohjalian received a Soglasie (Concord) Award from the World Armenian Congress and Union of Armenians in Russia in December, for his "devotion to the Armenian nation's traditions and memory," the Armenian Weekly reports.

The Soglasie awards ceremony was held at the Grand Kremlin Palace with more than 5,000 community members and guests present.

"I was moved and honored by my visit with the Armenian community in Moscow, and humbled by the award. My hopes for *The Sandcastle Girls* are that it teaches non-Armenians this part of our history and gives Armenians a sense of pride. This award and the new Russian edition will help accomplish both."

The Russian translation of *The Sandcastle Girls*, a novel on the Armenian Genocide, will be published by the Moscow-based Vorak-Media LLC in February 2015. Publisher Vahe Avanesyan said, "I was very moved when Ara Abrahamyan, the head of the Union of Armenians in Russia, handed the Concord



Award to Chris Bohjalian. This award is for the tremendous talent and work Chris has put into the creation of *The Sandcastle Girls*." There is already "a big buzz and a lot of anticipation" for the book in Russia, he added.

The Sandcastle Girls was a New York Times best-seller, and more than a dozen editions and translations of the book have appeared around the world, including

Canada (in English and French), Brazil, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Romania, Poland, Norway, Israel, and Armenia.

During his trip, Bohjalian also visited the Spiritual and Educational Center of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Moscow and met with archbishop Ezras Nersisyan, the head of the Russian and New-Nakhichevan Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

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

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

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Aries:

Uranus is in the middle of your sign during 2015. This is a strong symbol of the restlessness and yearning to break free that has plagued you over the recent years. If you are using this energy constructively, you will be working toward a greater cause or the good of those who cannot help themselves. The position of Mars as it transits the zodiac represents you and your drive, for good or ill. Between Jan. 12 and Feb. 17 it is best if you take no aggressive measures, lest they become boomerangs. A new relationship or partnership begins in Feb. It might instead be a recommitment to an ongoing relationship. The middle of March is likely to be a time that you will do battle and take no prisoners. This energy continues through the first week of April. In mid-April you will be challenged by property, family and work situations. Stress and the need for change begins again in mid-July and one more time in Dec. Drive with caution and handle tools carefully during these periods. During Aug. there will be an improvement in the conditions related to work. It is possible that travel or education for the sake of career is in the offing, if not 2015, then in 2016. In July through early fall someone from the past may resurface in your life for a time. You may feel drawn by nostalgia to investigate, but this is unlikely to be long-lasting.

Taurus:

This year presents you with an awareness of financial affairs. It is important to focus on your investments and do long term planning. You may be called upon to handle someone else's money, which leads you to realize a need to prepare a will and arrange for your later years. It is time to eliminate debt. In Feb. you will need to focus on your inner work and come to peace with yourself about an old resentment. If you do not do this, then in March you may find yourself suddenly ready for war. The end of March brings expansion via travel or education. Legal matters go in your favor. In July through Sept. you may take a romantic step into the past to revisit unresolved matters. At that time your creativity seems to go underground, but it will reappear in latter Sept. In mid to latter Sept. you begin a fresh relationship. It may be romantic, but it also might be a fresh start on relationship from long ago. Oct. brings surprises, most of which you will consider favorable. That may be a time to travel as well. Take special care of your health in Nov. The month of Dec. is favorable for relationships.

Gemini:

This is the year in which it is time to think seriously about your partner(s) and other very close relationships in your life. Those of you in a bad relationship will be verging upon letting that one go. If you want to remain in your partnership it requires finding a new, fresher reason to remain together. Close friends fit into this category as well. So those who are not good for you need to move on. Those who genuinely care about you will become your teachers for the next couple of years. The year begins with your ruling planet Mercury, in retrograde motion. You likely will be rethinking your next moves. That which seemed favorable in December on pause while you think about the possible fallout if you take this step. You will be less likely to make decisions during this period, yet you are pondering serious matters. In mid-March you will learn the truth about a previously held illusion. In early April you may be provoked to battle the Powers That Be, but the probability is that they won't budge. During May-June, Mercury is in your sign with another retrograde cycle. The probability is high that you will change directions from that which was on your mind in April. It will be a good time to think about yourself and tend to your health. July brings another time of struggling with the Powers in your life. Things around you will lighten up in August. Any time before Aug 27 would be good for a vacation. During Sep-Oct Mercury will be retrograding in the territory related to lovers and children (no matter how old they are). You and/or your children will be rethinking your paths again. Former lovers may return or you may back out

of a current lover relationship. Nov. and the Thanksgiving holiday will be quiet, subdued. In Dec. you will want to take control of those around you. That may not be appreciated, but you can try.

Cancer:

Much of your focus this year is to continue sorting and organizing your property. Follow the instinct to give away or otherwise dispose of whatever you do not need. You want to eliminate whatever feels like clutter, whether it is "stuff" or anything outdated, such as clothing. The eclipse seasons tend to create drama. Watch the months of March and April which may bring drama centered around your partner(s), especially near April 4. Then again in Sept, particularly near the 28th. In July there is likely to be an upset pertaining to your life direction. You and another will have to resolve a dilemma or two. From June 24 through Aug 8 you will be involved in heavy exercise or in a project that requires the use of your large muscles. Mid-May and early July are favorable times for travel. Jan through Aug. is overall favorable in the financial department of life. On or near July 25 it is important to give especially good attention to your body English and drive like a little old lady. Your reflexes are in a low at that time. In early October you may be choosing to move or make significant changes in your home and property. You may have a challenge with authorities in Dec. They have the upper hand.

Leo:

The first half of 2015 you will probably be thinking seriously about love life, children, and creativity. You don't want to be frivolous in love or art. You want something meaningful to develop. Many will take their creativity seriously for the first time. In the first six months, Jupiter will be continuing to travel in your sign. People often experience positive changes with Jupiter in this position. In July and Sept. Venus, the goddess of love goes retrograde in your sign. This transit often represents returning to a former relationship to check it out one more time. People from the past may show up from nowhere and want to reconnect. You may be the one who initiates the search for those in your former history. Watch your behavior in the relationship because you will be tempted to live out old patterns that are not good for you. There are certain times during the year in which you will be caught up in the Uranus/Pluto square. Sometimes you are a victim of the Powers and other times you over-react as a Power. Early Jan. brings a time in which you could be a control freak (unless you watch it). Early April is a time in which you will be on the rebellious side and in support of what seems "just" to you. During July and Oct. you may perceive yourself as a victim of the Powers that Be. It is hard to keep one's balance during these Uranus/Pluto squares.

Virgo:

Over the next 2 to 3 years, you will be pressed to repair and/or replace property. Whatever you own that is aging will begin to show its cracks. You may also need to focus on elderly family members. You are likely to want to downsize and eliminate whatever is excess around your home. As the year begins, your ruling planet, Mercury, will go through a two month retrograde cycle. You will need to realign your health habits. Aside from health, there may be things related to your work that need to be done again. It could seem as though it is hard to get off the ground in the year's beginning, but that will not last forever. The next Mercury retrograde criss-crosses your career house, setting up changes in that area. Ultimately you will probably wind up exactly where you started. The third Mercury retrograde occurs in Sep-Oct in the territory of finances and resources. At that time you may discover previously made errors in business or in your checkbook that must be corrected. Avoid making major purchases at that time because you may not have enough information to make good choices. On Sep. 27 through Nov. 12 Mars will also be in your sign, adding spark and energy to everything. Jupiter moves into your sign in

August for the next 12 months. Jupiter usually brings a favorable attitude change about almost anything. It often comes with increased travel and more experiences of a ceremonial nature. It definitely favors education and teaching. It may bring a happy surprise in Oct. This will be a year for the new and different.

Libra:

During this year you will be pressed to learn efficiency in your communications. Whether written or oral, the need to be concise and organized with your language is emphasized. It is also time to become aware of opinionated attitudes. Learn to recognize them and put on the brakes. What you think is right may not be so. Circumstances related to roommates or siblings may require attention. In Feb-March, whatever difficulties are in your relationships will show themselves. Dialogue is necessary. Whatever is not resolved will resurface again in May and again in Nov. Others may challenge you for reasons of their own. It is easy for others to project their attitudes onto the peaceful Libran and then want to fight you about it. It may seem as though you are going backward, repeating old patterns, or revisiting old relationships between early July through early Oct. This is particularly noticeable in Sept. People from the past will resurface during this period. Or possibly people who remind you of old history will provoke you. Observe the similarity and don't react as before. Let it just go by. Mercury will be retrograde in your sign during Sep. and Oct. This causes you to rethink your plans and perhaps set them aside for a time. You may not have all the information you need, so waiting is favorable. The dramas of those around you take over your time during Nov. Dec. is far more peaceful and playful.

Scorpio:

The long darkness that has cast a background pallor over your life is coming to an end this year. You will feel generally better through June. It is possible the summer will remind you of that pallor, but even that will lift in September. It will be important to focus attention on income now and for the next two years. Eliminate wasteful spending. In mid-Feb., you may start a new job that requires the use of your muscles. At the same time there are signs of a new relationship or partnership beginning in Feb. It might instead be a recommitment to an ongoing relationship. Use special caution physically in March because you are subject to accident. In May and mid-July, you may attract one who wants to harm you in some way. Step aside from the darker types in the world. Scorpio can attract them. Leave those people alone. Take care with your mouth during the summer. You may pop off one too many times or in the wrong places. In August you may develop a new circle of friends, who will be a new joy in your life for many months and maybe longer. During the fall you will be experimenting with the development of a new relationship. Watch your temper in the early part of Dec. Make an effort to deal with relationship situations in a new way.

Sagittarius:

For the first 6 months of 2015 you will have a taste of Saturn as it moves into your sign. In June it will backtrack away and then move back to Sagittarius in Sept for the next two years. Saturn represents the taskmaster, the teacher, the one that promotes self-discipline and search for status in the world. When it first moves into a sign it sometimes suggests isolation or leaving one's comfortable situation. People who have Saturn in their sign often feel "alone", even if that is not exactly true. It is more often a sense of being solitary, although it can manifest in a literal way at times. During this year as Saturn crosses the territory into Sagittarius, Neptune is hanging at the bottom of your chart. This often brings the illusion of being alone, or not belonging anywhere at all. One or more family members may drift off into the ethers, but you are truly grounded with Saturn as your partner, and unlikely to meander into outer space. While Mercury is retrograde in your partner's house during Sep-Oct., your partner may be dilly-dallying and unable to make a

decision. But you, with Saturn in your sign, will be more stable than you have known for a very long time. Between Jan. and July you likely will be setting up the foundation for a career in the future. Perhaps you are going to school or growing your knowledge in other ways. From Aug. forward for the next year, there is emphasis on your career or life direction. You will want to expand this territory and likely will be given opportunities to try.

Capricorn:

Your ruling planet is Saturn which is changing signs this year. You may have noticed that your life tends to make a big shift roughly every 2.5 - 3 years and here we are. Saturn moved into Sagittarius in mid-December and will remain there until June. You are likely fantasizing a sabbatical and you actually need one. You must ease up on your self-expectations or your health may suffer. Make it a point to get extra rest, extra vitamins, and whatever else you know is good for your body. The ongoing Uranus/Pluto squares are taking a toll because Pluto is presently residing in Capricorn. You have challenges from every front and this has gone on since 2010. You have done your best to control the situations around you. There is one more exact square in mid-March. After that the punches are not as hard, but they will keep coming. Prepare your body as best you can. The first half of the year business is slow, particularly so if it depends upon internet resources. There will be challenges in March, mid-July, Nov, and again in December. From August forward Jupiter favors you with positive aspects related to travel, internet, education, and/or publication.

Aquarius:

You will get a preview of the next 3 years during the first 6 months of 2015 and again in the last 4 months and beyond. Your role in life is shifting as Saturn, your ruling planet, moves into Sagittarius. In the big picture you may be asked to lead community projects. You may see yourself taking on the role of teacher, and maybe even as a stepparent. Jan. and Feb. are challenged by a Mercury retrograde in your sign. Drive and handle tools carefully. Don't force yourself to a decision during that period. Avoid contracts, but if you sign, make sure you know exactly what you are promising. Avoid any type of manipulative actions within a relationship. Jupiter, a bountiful planet, remains in your 7th house of marriage and partnerships until Aug. This began last summer and suggests a year of improvement in these relationships. From August forward, Jupiter will be in the territory that includes other people's resources. That might be partner's income, insurance or debt payoffs, inheritance, gifts, public money (SS or disability). If you need a favor, ask between Aug '15 and July '16. The year comes in like a lion but goes out much more like a kitten.

Pisces:

Many Pisceans are experiencing an otherworldly sense in their consciousness. Neptune, your ruling planet who was god of the sea, is in your sign for many years. This year those most affected were born between Feb 23rd and March 1. The energy is surreal, causing you to feel ungrounded at times. Intuitive impressions may occasionally interrupt your concentration. Exercise is the antidote, though that is probably the last thing you want to do during this period. The end of March into June is a favorable time for travel or a vacation. Another time is during the month of Oct. Saturn is crossing the top of your chart, suggesting that you will be given more responsibility. Alternately, if you are tired of your life direction, you may decide to chuck the routine in order to take on another project. Authority figures are likely to be challenging in November. Stay under the radar if possible. You will be focused on work through August. After that you may become interested in a potential partner. More people will be in your life between Aug '15 and July '16. Beware of emotional vampires. That is always a problem for Pisces.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

In late August you were challenged by the financial sector-maybe related to old debts. You probably began to work on this at that time and now the situation is different. Perhaps the contract or agreement has changed. However, you are pressed to pour extra resources into the situation in order to maintain. The question is: Do you want to do this?

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

This period may be difficult for those on a diet or other self-improvement program. You are prone to self-indulgence right now. Perhaps the best thing to do is accept that is so and find a new solution that is satisfying without sabotaging your good intentions of recent weeks. Partnership and social life is favored.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

You need to be aware that Mercury, your ruling planet, turns retrograde next week. The possibility that you will regret comments, plans, or contracts you make right now is high. You could make favorable contacts via the internet or some other source of education. Your mind is quick, but think carefully before acting.

Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

See the lead paragraph on the home page and stay under the radar because you may be caught in the crosshairs of others who are in a dark frame of mind. An old situation may suddenly pop up between you and another that you thought long since over. It looks like it needs more discussion, but judge the moment carefully.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

This is a good week to bring a project to a close and prepare to move forward into new territory next week. Finish loose ends and clean off your desk so you can feel accomplished enough to step into another direction. The topic coming up as of the 20th is to give attention to your closest friends and/or Significant Other.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

You may be thinking about an expenditure for an object of beauty or something else expansive. Let me point out that Mercury, your ruling planet, goes retrograde next week. Save your receipts because it may not work out as you hope. If it is non-returnable, think about this item for a while before you purchase.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

This is not your best week. Be on the alert for troubles with your home, your high tech equipment, partners or crazy people. Do not allow any of these to throw you off balance and you can emerge successfully with no more than a bruise or two. Take good care of your health and don't push your body beyond its limits.

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

Aspects suggest you may be feeling irritable and critical this week. Objects and people are just not cooperating, and you may also be worrying about finances. You took an action in August that put you on a difficult trajectory. It is possible this plan will require way more than you ever thought you would have to produce. Now you ask yourself whether or not it is worth the effort. It's your call.

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

It may be hard to move forward this week, due to challenges concerning property, equipment, health, or family issues. Your reflexes and normal muscle control are out of sync right now, so use special caution and listen to your body. If it says "don't," then pay attention and stop immediately. This will pass.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

There are more demands upon you than you can physically or emotionally manage. This could be the week in which you must raise the white flag and call "Uncle!" The Goats often take on more responsibility than is good for them. Give yourself a break.

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

A project begun under difficult circumstances in May now arrives at a critical point. Do you pour even more effort and energy into it now? It is probable that the timing is off, even if the plan is good. You may do better to start again at another point. You may be feeling irritable and angry this week at someone or some rule that is demanding.

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

The authorities in your world may be thrashing you now, and demanding an explanation for your behavior. Do not allow their guilt-bashing to take you down. You had reasons and did the best you could with the situation at the time. Pay close attention to your wallet and credit cards. You might be subject to ID theft.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Petros Douryan

(1851-1872)

To Love

A galaxy of glances bright,
A sweet bouquet of smiles,
A crucible of melting words
Bewitched me with their wiles!
I wished to live retired, to love
The flowers and bosky glades,
The blue sky's lights, the dew of morn,
The evening's mists and shades;
To scan my destiny's dark page,
In thought my hours employ,
And dwell in meditation deep
And visionary joy.
Then near me stirred a breath that
seemed
A waft of Eden's air,
The rustle of a maiden's robe,
A tress of shining hair.
I sought to make a comrade dear
Of the transparent brook.
It holds no trace of memory;
When in its depths I look,
I find there floating, clear and pale,
My face! Its waters hold
No other secret in their breast
Than wavelets manifold.
I heard a heart's ethereal throb;
It whispered tenderly:
"Dost thou desire a heart?" it said.
"Beloved, come to me!"
I wished to love the zephyr soft
That breathes o'er fields of bloom;
It woundeth none, - a gentle soul
Whose secret is perfume.
So sweet it is, it has the power
To nurse a myriad dreams;
To mournful spirits, like the scent
Of paradise it seems.
Then from a sheaf of glowing flames
To me a whisper stole:
It murmured low, "Dost thou desire
To worship a pure soul?"
I wished to make the lyre alone
My heart's companion still,
To know it as a loving friend,
And guide its chords at will.
But she drew near me, and I heard
A whisper soft and low:
"Thy lyre is a cold heart," she said,
"Thy love is only woe."
My spirit recognised her then;
She beauty was, and fire,
Pure as the stream, kind as the breeze,
And faithful as the lyre.
My soul, that from the path had erred,
Spread wide its wings to soar,
And bade the life of solitude
Farewell forevermore.
A galaxy of glances bright,
A sweet bouquet of smiles,
A crucible of melting words
Bewitched me with their wiles!

by Alice Stone Blackwell

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

16 January

19:00. Royal Concert. Musical-amusing show. Author and director of the play – Ara Yernjakyán. 2010 marked the 30th anniversary of "The Royal Concert". More than a thousand performances, more than half a million spectators from different continents: Asia, Europe and America. Today you also have the chance to watch it. Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19:00. How It Wasn't Staged. For adults. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

17 January

19:00. Royal Concert. Musical-amusing show. Author and director of the play – Ara Yernjakyán. 2010 marked the 30th anniversary of "The Royal Concert". More than a thousand performances, more than half a million spectators from different continents: Asia, Europe and America. Today you also have the chance to watch it. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

19:00. Coma Nostra. New performance dedicated to the author's 55th anniversary. Author: Narek Duryan. Staging and music design by Narek Duryan. Producer: Kristine Hovhannisyán. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

18 January

19:00. Scotch & Whisky. Optimistic comedy. Director of the play: Arshaluis Harutyunyan. Luiza Nersisyan, Rafayel Yeranossyan (Mkhitar Avetisyan), Eva Khachatryan, Andranik Harutyunyan (Senik Barseghyan). Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

20 January

19:00. Dear Pamela. Premiere. Author: J. Patrick. Staging: Narine Malyán. Cast: Christina Hovakimyan, Samvel Topalyán, Astghik Abajyan, Hayk Sargsyan, Karen Khachatryan, Ara Sargsyan, Levon Ghazaryán. H. Malyán Theater of Film Actors.

21 January

19:00. Love Bridge. "Art Team" and "Sharm Holding", with support from the Ministry of Culture, represent: Musical "Love Bridge", a mega-show in Yerevan. Dreams and ambition, personal interests and real friendship, money and intrigue, and of course love - a gravitational force that will build a "Love Bridge"... A musical story with modern rhythms. New songs, live performances, fantastic dance show. High-class staging, monumental decors, impressive visual and sound effects... Director: Vahan Badalyán. Script by: Hakob Rubinyán, Vahram Sahakyan. Composers: Armen Martirosyan, Emma Asatryan, Krist Manaryán, Ara Torossian (Murzo). Lyrics: Anita Hakhverdyan, Emma Asatryan, Grigor Kyokchyan, Krist Manaryán. Arrangements by: Ara Torossian (Murzo), Martin Mirzoyán. Choreographer: Valery Arkhipov. Stage Design by: David Minasyán. Costume Design by: Inessa Sevunts. PR Manager: Izabella Manasaryán. Music Director: Ara Torossian (Murzo). Musical Producer: Arthur Asatryan. Executive Producer: Armen Hambardzumyan. Producer: Karen Ghazaryán. General Producer: Ruben Jaghinyán. The musical is dedicated to the 300th birthday anniversary of Sayat-Nova. State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyán.

22 January

19:00. Dear Pamela. Premiere. Author: J. Patrick. Staging: Narine Malyán. Cast: Christina Hovakimyan, Samvel Topalyán, Astghik Abajyan, Hayk Sargsyan, Karen Khachatryan, Ara Sargsyan, Levon Ghazaryán. H. Malyán Theater of Film Actors.

23 January

19:00. UNDER GROUND. Pessimistic comedy. Author: Ara Yernjakyán. Staging Director: Lusine Yernjakyán. This performance is dedicated to our dear city made of tuff. It is an attempt of analysis of the experience of life, and the analysis is done optimistically and hopefully. Social and political context of the scenes is interrupted by musical performances, dance, parade, fireworks, guests and observers from abroad. "Under Ground" is one of the pages of Yerevan's biography. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

24 January

20:00. Dark SHOCKolate. Premiere. A play with an intermission to think over who is right: the man or the woman? Staging: Suren Shahverdyan. Cast: Aramo Luiza Ghambaryán, Emma Petrossyan. Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyán

29 January

19:00. Royal Concert. Musical-amusing show. Author and director of the play – Ara Yernjakyán. 2010 marked the 30th anniversary of "The Royal Concert". More than a thousand performances, more than half a million spectators from different continents: Asia, Europe and America. Today you also have the chance to watch it. Yerevan State Chamber Theater

30 January

19:00. Royal Concert. Musical-amusing show. Author and director of the play – Ara Yernjakyán. 2010 marked the 30th anniversary of "The Royal Concert". More than a thousand performances, more than half a million spectators from different continents: Asia, Europe and America. Today you also have the chance to watch it. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

31 January

19:00. Gentlemen, Everything is Collapsing but We Can Still Live and Have Fun. Pessimistic comedy. Author and Staging Director: Ara Yernjakyán. "Gentlemen..." is a publicity variety of a performance where through the eccentricity, musical parodies, and showy tricks the question persistently comes out: believe in what? From the stage, it actually sounds like a precaution: indifference, passivity towards the problem of war and peace today are not permissible. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

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