

# Armenia Marks 1915 Genocide Anniversary



*Armenia - People visit the Tsitsernakaberd memorial in Yerevan to mark the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey, 24Apr2017.*

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## Foreign Ministers of Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan meet in Moscow

The Foreign Ministers of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan Edward Nalbandian, Sergey Lavrov and Elmar Mammadyarov held a meeting in Moscow on April 28.

The parties continued discussions on furthering the negotiations on the settlement of the Karabakh issue. They stressed the importance of implementing the agreements reached in Vienna and St. Petersburg in 2016.

The Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan expressed gratitude to the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov for the continuous efforts towards the peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

The Ministers agreed to maintain discussions regarding all issues considered at the meeting.

After the trilateral meeting the Foreign Ministers of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan were joined by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.



The interlocutors exchanged views on the process of settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

## Defense Minister briefs EU Special Rep. on situation at Armenian-Azerbaijani border



Armenian Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan received on April 25 the delegation led by Ambassador Herbert Salber, EU's Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia. Head of the EU Delegation in Armenia Piotr Switalski was present at the meeting. The Armenian Defense Minister briefed the EU official on the recent developments at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan.

Minister Sargsyan emphasized the importance of targeted statements by the international community, including the EU, as well as the implementation of investigation mechanisms as important guarantees of efficiency of negotiations.

Herbert Salber noted, in turn, that the EU accepts the leading role of the OSCE Minsk Group in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict and is ready to contribute to the intensification of negotiations in that format.

## Armenia to keep working towards strengthening of CSTO – Defense Minister

"The CSTO, which is an important component of Armenia's security, has a number of gaps," Armenian Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan told a press conference on April 21.

"The two major problems include the lack mechanisms of soft power (an important security component in today's security system) and inconsistency in positions between CSTO member states on foreign policy issues, especially when it comes to voting in third organizations," Vigen Sargsyan said.

He noted, however, that it's not a problem of CSTO only. "We see that event in well-established military-political blocs with longer history, i.e. NATO, member states often have contradicting positions. Vivid examples include the periodic violations of each other's airspace by Greece and Turkey and discussions of the issue within international organizations," the Defense Minister said.

"We have always said we value the statements of the CSTO as a structure and its stance on the Karabakh issue, including the statement adopted within the framework of the Yerevan summit and the statements by former Secretary General Nikolay Bordyuzha,

whose response has been very adequate and consistent with his position, especially at times of trouble and escalation," Vigen Sargsyan said.

According to him, the appointment of Armenia's representative to the post of the CSTO Secretary General might bring about certain difficulties, because any statement by an Armenian Secretary General will be seen differently from the ones made by Russia's representative.

Minister Sargsyan stressed that Yuri Khachaturov will not serve as Armenia's representative to the structure. "He's an international official, which means that before making any statement he will have to agree it with all member states."

"We'll continue to work towards strengthening of the CSTO, which is a structure capable of solving many important issues, including in the fields of military education, establishment of rapid response forces, capacity development of peacekeeping forces, anti-terror activity. We'll do our best for our chairmanship of the CSTO to be maximally efficient," the Defense Minister stated.



# Sargsyan promises “radical changes “in Armenia



Armenia will undergo sweeping reforms that will improve the lives of its people in the coming years, President Serzh Sargsyan said on April 20.

“The next few years will be decisive along that path,” he said, addressing a conference organized by the Armenian ministries of defense and education.

“The changes will be radical and they will be substantial and tangible for every citizen of the Republic of Armenia,” he added.

Sargsyan gave similar promises late last year. His latest reform pledge comes one year before the end of his second and final presidential term. The president indicated last month that he does not plan to leave the political arena in April 2018.

Immediately after the ruling Republican

Party of Armenia (HHK) won parliamentary elections held on April 2, Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan declared that his government has received a popular “mandate for change.” “I promise that we will spare no effort to create a NEW ARMENIA so that every citizen of our country feels better than they did before,” he said in a statement.

Karapetyan unveiled an ambitious reform agenda shortly after being appointed as prime minister in September. Opposition leaders dismissed it as a publicity stunt aimed at facilitating the HHK’s election victory.

Sargsyan already promised “a new beginning for changes” when he took office nine years ago. Critics say that he has failed to deliver on that. They point to official statistics indicating that poverty in Armenia is still higher than it was before a severe recession in 2009 resulting from a global financial crisis.

Tatul Hakobyan, a veteran political commentator, cited other official data which suggests that over 300,000 Armenians have left the country since 2009. “When people emigrate it means that life is not good,” he said.

Thursday’s conference focused on the concept of “nation-army” which Defense Minister Vigen Sargsian put forward the day after his appointment in early October. He said the Armenian military should become a “locomotive of our state and economy” and stop being a “heavy burden” on state finances.

Vigen Sargsyan, who previously served as chief of the presidential staff, floated more such ideas in his speech at the high-profile gathering. In particular, he suggested military service deferments for those male students of state universities who would agree to undergo military training during their studies and then serve as junior officers in the armed forces for three years.

The 41-year-old minister also proposed a special arrangement for conscripts volunteering to serve in frontline army units. They would be entitled to one week of paid leave every month and would receive 5 million drams (\$10,300) at the end of their three-year military service. They would be allowed to use that money only for payment of tuition fees, state-subsidized housing or agricultural activity.

## Armenia Marks 1915 Genocide Anniversary



Tens of thousands of people marched to the Tsitsernakaberd memorial in Yerevan on April 24 to mark the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey.

The annual daylong procession followed a prayer service led by Catholicos Garegin II, the supreme head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, by the hilltop memorial’s eternal fire. President Serzh Sargsyan, Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan and other senior government officials also attended the ceremony held in memory of some 1.5 million Armenians massacred by the Ottoman Turks during the First World War.

The genocide began with the arrest on April 24, 1915 of hundreds of Armenian

intellectuals and political figures in Constantinople. That was followed by the mass killings and deportations of Armenian subjects of the crumbling Ottoman Empire.

“It is our duty to not only remember and respect [the genocide victims] but also to live, work and fight in their place with redoubled vigor,” Serzh Sargsyan said in a written address to the nation.

“Let us remember that this annual march is a march by a surviving people that has not forgotten what it had left behind but looks to the future with confidence,” he said.

Eduard Sharmazanov, the spokesman for Sargsyan’s Republican Party of Armenia (HHK), made clear that official Yerevan will continue to seek greater international recognition of the genocide. “Sooner or later this genocide will be condemned [by the entire world] because there is no other option,” he told reporters at Tsitsernakaberd.

The genocide has already been officially recognized by 26 foreign states, including France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Russia and the Vatican.

“Sadly, that genocide was the first of the

deplorable series of catastrophes of the past century,” Pope Francis declared at the start of an official visit to Armenia in June last year. He visited and prayed at Tsitsernakaberd during that trip.

Francis marked the 100th anniversary of what he called “the first genocide of the 20th century” with a special mass held at the Vatican’s St. Peter’s Basilica in April 2015. Turkey responded by recalling its ambassador from the Vatican in protest. It reacted just as angrily after the pontiff reaffirmed the genocide recognition in June 2016.

Successive Turkish governments have claimed that Ottoman Armenians died in smaller numbers and as a result of civil strife, rather than a premeditated government policy of extermination.

Most Western historians specializing in research of crimes against humanity dismiss the official Turkish position. “The historical record on the Armenian Genocide is unambiguous and documented by overwhelming evidence,” the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) said in a 2007 statement.

## Mayoral Election Campaign Starts In Yerevan



Campaigning officially began on April 22 for next month's municipal elections in Yerevan which will pit the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) against two opposition groups led by relatively young politicians.

The HHK and its main challenger, the opposition Yelk alliance rallied hundreds of supporters in different parts of the city. The third contender, the newly formed Yerkir Tsirani party, launched its election campaign with a bicycle ride across downtown Yerevan.

Voters in the Armenian capital will go to the polls on May 14 to elect, on a party-list basis, a new municipal council that will in turn pick the city mayor. The HHK leadership has nominated the incumbent Mayor Taron Markaryan for re-election. It has expressed confidence that will retain control over the municipal administration.

Markaryan, in office since 2011, held his first campaign rally in the city's southern Erebuni district, declaring that that he has largely delivered on his campaign promises given four years ago. He said Yerevan now has more green areas, well-lit streets and refurbished neighborhood courtyards.

"Today we can say that we have a better Yerevan," the 38-year-old mayor told several hundred people that gathered in an Erebuni park. "But there are still problems."

Some local residents voiced grievances, however, when they spoke to him after the rally. One woman complained of a lack of 24-hour water supply in her home.

"Five years ago, only a handful of districts had 24-hour water supplies," replied Markaryan. "Today the households in

Yerevan have running water for an average of 17-18 hours a day." The situation will improve further in the coming years, he added.

Meanwhile, Yelk's mayoral candidate, Nikol Pashinyan lambasted Markaryan and the HHK as he addressed supporters in the city center at a rally that followed a rock concert organized by his bloc. He said Yelk's victory in the municipal polls would create a "real and strong counterweight to Serzh Sargsyan's government" and eliminate a key pillar of the "corrupt system existing in Armenia."

Pashinyan insisted that Yelk's ultimate aim is regime change. "We will liberate Armenia from the HHK's arbitrary, illegitimate and corrupt rule," he told the mostly young audience.

Yelk, which was set up by three opposition parties in December finished third in the April 2 parliamentary elections, winning about 8 percent of the votes. Most of them came from Yerevan.

Official vote results gave a landslide victory to the HHK. Opposition and civic groups have attributed the ruling party's victory to vote buying and abuse of government resources.

Speaking to reporters earlier in the day, Pashinyan, 41, indicated that Yelk is ready for post-election cooperation with Yerkir Tsirani. The opposition party was set up in late March and did not run in the parliamentary elections. Its outspoken leader and mayoral candidate, Zaruhi Postanjan, has publicly criticized Yelk.

Postanjan, 45, presented her party's campaign platform at an improvised news conference held in Yerevan's Liberty Square. She said that if she and Yerkir Tsirani win the upcoming vote they will primarily combat what she called widespread corruption in the Yerevan municipality.

Accordingly, Postanjan was highly critical of Markaryan's track record. "During his tenure, green areas in the city have shrunk," she said.

"This is the civilized model," Postanjan declared before she and dozens of her supporters mounted bicycles and rode them through the city center. "People should be able to get around in Yerevan in bicycles, rather than big cars."





## Czech Republic Parliament recognizes the Armenian Genocide



The Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic on April 26 approved a resolution, condemning the genocide of Armenians and other religious and national minorities in the Ottoman Empire during the First World War, Czech media reported. Spokesman for the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tigran Balayan confirmed the news in a Twitter post.

“The Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic condemns the crimes against humanity carried out by the Nazis during the Second World War on the Jewish, Roma and Slavic populations in the controlled territories, the genocide of Armenians and

other national and religious minorities in the Ottoman Empire during World War I,” reads the resolution, which passed with 104 votes.

The resolution was proposed by MEP Robin Bönisch from the CSSD. “I think it was the Czech Republic’s duty to formally recognize the genocide. And because yesterday it was the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian genocide, I think it was very symbolic to recognize the genocide of the Armenians today,” Bönisch said, according to iRozhlas.cz.

“I am glad that we have accepted the resolution because sometimes the truth has to be remembered. Of course, Turkey will react to it, but we have always supported human rights and today it is necessary to remind Turkey of genocide,” former Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg (TOP 09) said, lidovky.cz reports.

President Milos Zeman also commemorated the Armenian genocide. On the occasion of the anniversary, the President sent a letter to Barsegh Pilavchian, the spiritual leader of the Armenian community in the Czech Republic.

“I agree that history is not meant to be interpreted by politicians. At the same time, however, I believe that the events that cost 1.5 million innocent people represent a tragic chapter in the history of not only the Armenian nation but also of the entire civilized world,” Zeman wrote in a letter published on Tuesday.

## Hollande calls for additional efforts to reach penalization of Armenian Genocide denial



French President Francois Hollande commemorated the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian genocide on April 24.

“I wanted to be among you for this commemoration of memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide,” Hollande said at the event.

A few days before the end of his term, Francois Hollande announced the introduction of an annual “week of research on genocide, crimes against humanity and mass crimes” which will symbolically begin on 24 April, the day of commemoration of the Armenian genocide.

The aim is to allow pupils “to reflect on extreme violence, particularly through the example of the Armenian genocide”, declared the President of the Republic on the occasion of the 102nd anniversary of the 1915 genocide.

Francois Hollande also called for continuing the procedures to obtain the “penalization of Holocaust denial”. A previous project sanctioning the negation of the Armenian genocide in 1915, voted by the parliament on 1 July 2016, was then invalidated by the Constitutional

Council.

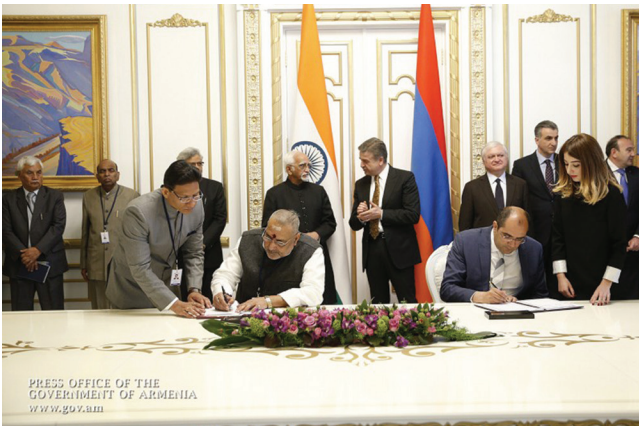
“It is not for me to comment on it since this decision (of the Council) is binding on all of us,” he said, adding that “we must not forget this path of penalizing genocide denial”.

“We will find the ways, there are, we will adapt our texts and we will recognize them if necessary by the European Court of Human Rights.”

“Genocide denial is not an opinion, it is the negation of the truth,” Hollande stated.



## Armenia, India sign agreements on use of outer space, cultural cooperation



Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan received a governmental delegation headed by Indian Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari.

Karen Karapetyan and Hamid Ansari first met in private, after which the talks continued in an extended format.

Welcoming Hamid Ansari's delegation, Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan expressed confidence that their visit would give a new impetus to the development of the Armenian-Indian economic cooperation.

*"The relations between our two peoples boast a long history. The Armenian-Indian relations are characterized by high level of mutual understanding and trust. This year we are marking the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Armenia and India. Despite the high level of political dialogue between our countries, there is still much to be done in the field of economic cooperation, as there is a lot of potential,"* Karen Karapetyan pointed out.

Prime Minister suggested enhancing efficiency in economic cooperation by targeting two areas: exchange of technologies and agriculture. At the same time, the Premier stressed the need for continued cooperation in all other prospective sectors. According to the Prime Minister, cooperation in the aforementioned two areas may cover information technology, pharmaceuticals, healthcare and engineering. The Prime Minister added that the two countries have been boasting successful and exemplary cooperation in the IT sector in the face of the Armenian-Indian Excellence Center in Information and Communication Technologies. As Karen Karapetyan said, it has great potential as a business project, and its subsequent operation and modernization should be approached from that perspective.

The head of the Armenian government highlighted the use of new technologies in the health sector and thanked the Indian side for the assistance provided for the creation of the telemedicine network.

*"We are ready to provide the necessary conditions for Indian companies to do business in Armenia. In this context, I would like to mention the free economic zone on the border with Iran in Syunik, which will be operational this fall. Armenia's joining the Eurasian Economic Union and the European Union's GSP + trade regime will allow unimpeded access to these markets. Also, we suggest considering the involvement of Indian companies in jewelry, watch-making and precious stones processing activities in Meridian free economic zone in Armenia,"* Karen Karapetyan said, adding that agriculture is a sector with great potential and Armenia is interested in developing cooperation in this field.

In this regard, the Prime Minister stressed the need to provide conditions for the import agricultural equipment from India and establish-

ment of agro-machinery centers in Armenia. Priority was given to the development of cooperation in the field of seed production.

Karen Karapetyan highlighted the North-South Road International Transport Corridor project, noting that India is one of its co-founders. The Prime Minister said that in this framework Armenia has initiated a project that will make of Armenia a transit point for implementing swift and cost-effective multimodal shipments of Indian products on the way to Russia and European countries.

Thanking for the warm welcome, Vice President of India Mohammad Hamid Ansari stressed the warm, friendly ties that bind both people and both countries.

Hamid Ansari highlighted the friendly relations between the two countries and nations as a key asset. *"Our countries have always identified goals and ways for cooperation in every stage of relationship. This was the case in the past and will continue in the future. Today's world is a world of technology and we have achieved progressive growth in terms of adapting to the technological world. India has the capacity and is ready to share them out with Armenia in engineering, mechanical engineering, information technology and healthcare, including pharmaceuticals, agriculture and other sectors,"* the Vice President of India said.

According to Mr Ansari, Armenia has gained importance through its associate relationship with the North, West and East, and India attaches great importance to bilateral cooperation in different directions. Convinced that the proposal to attract the Indian capital in Armenia's free economic zones was quite promising, the Vice President assured that he would convey the message to his country's business circles.

*"What matters most is that Indian businesses have the ability and willingness to invest outside of India. We will closely monitor to ensure that our two countries find out new opportunities for interaction,"* Hamid Ansari noted, expressing willingness to closely cooperate in the field of agricultural supplies and other industries.

In Indian Vice President's words, Armenian and India boast long-standing and promising ties of friendship, and India is willing to fully cooperate with Armenia.

The parties took the opportunity to discuss the possibility of establishing direct air communications, which is a good way to develop trade and economic cooperation, facilitate tourism and the visa regime. In this context, the interlocutors touched upon the need to hold an Armenian-Indian business forum, expand and deepen exchanges in education and culture.

Attended by Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan and Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari, the following cooperation instruments were signed between the two governments: a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of youth affairs between the Armenian Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India as signed by RA Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs Hrachya Rustamyan and Indian State Minister for Small and Medium Enterprise Giriraj Singh; practical program of cultural cooperation in 2017-2020 between the Armenian and Indian Ministries of Culture as signed by RA Minister of Culture Armen Amiryan and Indian Ambassador Yogeshvar Sangvan; a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of outer space between the governments of Armenia and India as signed by RA Minister of Education and Science Levon Mkrtchyan and Secretary for East of the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Priti Saran.

Later today, Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan will host an official dinner in honor of Vice President of India M. Hamid Ansari.



## Armenia, EU start negotiations on Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement

The first stage of the negotiations between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union on the Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (Common Aviation Area between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union) has been kicked off.

“The Common Aviation Area Agreement will help to enhance tourism & trade, allow more EU citizens discover beautiful Armenia,” Head of the EU Delegation to Armenian Piotr Switalski said at the opening of the negotiations.

“This is a beautiful day because the relations between Armenia and the European Union are getting a new positive impetus,” he said.

The negotiating group of the Armenian side will be headed by the Head of the General Department of Civil Aviation of the Republic of Armenia Sergey Avetisyan.

Negotiating delegation from the European Union side is headed by the Deputy Head of Unit for Aviation Agreements of the European Commission Klaus Geil.

In the frames of this agreement the Republic of Armenia will join the EU Common Aviation Area, and as a result the parties will liberalize the market, providing the airlines with the opportunity to operate the routes without any limitations and enjoy equal opportunities of servicing a market with a population of 500 million.

The effective European standards will be introduced in the Republic



of Armenia and the Armenian and foreign airlines will be provided with the opportunity to operate air routes based on commercial considerations without any limiting interference by the states.

We should note that on 1 December of 2016 the Council of EU Transport Ministers adopted a mandate that allowed the European Commission to start negotiations with the Republic of Armenia.

## Stamp dedicated to “Anoush” opera put into circulation



ist, tenor Avag Petrossian in the role of Saro and the RA People's Artist, soprano Gohar Gasparian in the role of Anoush against the background of the building of the National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian.

The bottom left corner of the postcard depicts the old posters of “Anoush” opera under the theater curtains.

The participants of the postcard signing ceremony were the RA Deputy Minister of Transport, Communication and Information Technologies Mr. Arman Khachatryan, the RA Minister of Culture Mr. Armen Amiryan, the son of Avag Petrossian, a conductor and pianist Mr. Ara Petrossian, Acting Chief Executive Officer of “HayPost” CJSC Haik Avagyan.

In 2017 on April 21st “HayPost” CJSC cancelled and put into circulation a postcard with one stamp dedicated to the theme “Anoush opera. Avag Petrossian”. The cancellation took place in the National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian.

The postcard has been designed with a print run of 500 pcs. The author of the postcard's design is the designer of “HayPost” CJSC David Dovlatyan.

The postage stamp of the postcard depicts the RA People's Art-



## French Presidential Hopefuls Woo Ethnic Armenian Voters

The four main candidates in France's tight presidential race have lavished praise on the influential French-Armenian community and called for closer ties with Armenia ahead of Sunday's elections.

Two of them, the conservative former Prime Minister Francois Fillon and far-right leader Marine Le Pen, have also made pro-Armenian statements on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in comments to the "Nouvelles d'Armenie" magazine.

The French-Armenian publication asked Fillon, Le Pen, centrist Emmanuel Macron and far-left candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon the same questions and posted their written answers on its website (Armenews.com) this week.

"France and Armenia share a great friendship which I would like to reinforce further," said Macron, the election frontrunner. This "privileged relationship" should be specifically strengthened by greater French investments in the Armenian economy, he added.

Macron spoke of his "admiration" for an estimated 500,000 French people of Armenian descent, most of them descendants of survivors of the 1915 Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey. "Here Armenian culture is an integral part of French and European culture," he said. "There [in Armenia,] on the confines of the West and the East, it is an outpost."

Le Pen, who narrowly trails Macron in opinion polls, also paid tribute to the French Armenians, saying that they "have contributed a lot to our nation." "They are perfect examples of what I often say: French nationality is inherited or deserved," said the candidate campaigning on a tough anti-immigration platform.

Speaking about relations with Armenia, Le Pen said France must restore its historical role as a "protector of the Christians of the East." On the unresolved Karabakh conflict, she said: "I believe it would be desirable for Azerbaijan and Armenia to reach an agreement allowing Nagorno-Karabakh to be reunified with Armenia."

Fillon similarly declared that Karabakh was "arbitrarily detached from Armenia" by Joseph Stalin in 1921. He also blamed Azerbaijan for the April 2016 outbreak of the worst fighting in Karabakh in over two decades.

"Faced with international indifference, Azerbaijan attempted to retake by force Nagorno-Karabakh," said the center-right candidate who served as France's prime minister from 2007-2012. "This deadly offensive ended with a shaky ceasefire."



"The links between France and Armenia have always been strong ... Franco-Armenian friendship has long and beautiful days ahead," Fillon went on.

Melenchon's spokeswoman, Charlotte Girard, also voiced support for "privileged" ties with Armenia, citing the South Caucasus state's "geostrategic importance" and the existence of the French-Armenian community.

Both Girard and Macron took more cautious positions on the Karabakh dispute. The latter said that France should continue seeking a peaceful settlement based on the principles of territorial integrity of states and peoples' right to self-determination.

France has long maintained a warm rapport with Armenia. Its outgoing President Francois Hollande and his predecessors, Nicolas Sarkozy and Jacques Chirac, have paid high-profile official visits to Yerevan. The Armenian government will underline these close ties when it hosts next year a summit of La Francophonie, a grouping of over 70 mainly French-speaking nations.

France also officially recognized the Armenian genocide with a special law enacted in 2001. All four presidential hopefuls referred to the 1915 slaughter of some 1.5 million Armenians as a proven fact that should be recognized by the entire international community. Fillon criticized Turkey for refusing to acknowledge the genocide, while Macron signaled support for further efforts to criminalize its public denials in France.

*Emil Danielyan*

## Trump fails to properly characterize Armenian Genocide

Echoing statements made by his predecessors, U.S. President Donald Trump declined to describe the 1915 mass killings of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey as genocide on Friday, speaking instead of "one of the worst mass atrocities of the 20th century."

Just like former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush, Trump used the Armenian phrase "Meds Yeghern" (Great Crime) in his first-ever statement on the issue.

"Today, we remember and honor the memory of those who suffered during the Meds Yeghern, one of the worst mass atrocities of the 20th century," read the written statement issued on the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

"Beginning in 1915, one and a half million Armenians were deported, massacred, or marched to their deaths in the final years of the Ottoman Empire," it said. "I join the Armenian community in

America and around the world in mourning the loss of innocent lives and the suffering endured by so many."

Trump also paid tribute to Armenian Americans' "indelible contributions" to the United States and said their ancestors had established "one of the great civilizations of antiquity."

Trump avoided using the politically sensitive word "genocide" despite an appeal from more than 80 members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The latter signed a joint letter on April 10 urging him to "properly commemorate" the Armenian genocide anniversary.

The leading Armenian-American advocacy groups were quick to denounce Trump's apparent desire not to alienate Turkey, a longtime U.S. ally. The Armenian Assembly of America branded his statement as "capitulation to Turkish authoritarianism."

"President Trump's statement today demonstrates the need for





the FBI and the Congressional Intelligence Committees to do thorough investigations of all the evidence on surreptitious Turkish influence on the U.S. government,” the Assembly co-chairs, Anthony Barsamian and Van Krikorian, said in a joint statement.

“In failing to properly mark April 24th, President Trump is effectively outsourcing U.S. genocide-prevention policy to [Turkish President] Recep Erdogan, an arrogant and authoritarian dictator who clearly enjoys the public spectacle of arm-twisting American

presidents into silence on Turkey’s mass murder of millions of Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, and other Christians,” charged Aram Hamparian, the executive director of the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

Erdogan is scheduled to visit Washington and meet with Trump in the White House on May 16.

Obama promised to recognize the Armenian genocide when he first ran for president. But he backtracked on that pledge after getting elected in 2008.

In an April 2016 statement, Obama referred to “the first mass atrocity of the 20th century.” Still, he also cited in that context views expressed by Pope Francis. The pontiff declared at an April 2015 mass in the Vatican that the Armenian massacres can be considered “the first genocide of the 20th century.”

Trump did not publicly comment on the Armenian genocide issue or seek to woo the Armenian community in the United States otherwise during the 2016 presidential race.

## **Erdogan issues April 24 message**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan sent a message to a religious ceremony held in the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul on April 24 to commemorate the victims of the “1915 killings of Armenians under Ottoman rule”, addressing Patriarch Aram Ateşyan, general vicar of the Armenian patriarch of Turkey, and citizens of Armenian origin, the Hurriyet Daily News reports.

“This year, I once again pay our respects to the Ottoman Armenians who lost their lives under the harsh conditions of the First World War and convey my condolences to their descendants,” Erdogan said in the message.

“Turks and Armenians, as two ancient nations of this region, have shared a common history and culture in this geography, where they lived side by side for a thousand years,” he said.

The Armenian community made great contributions to the Ottoman Empire, as well as to the modern republic, the president said.

“Armenians, as equal and free citizens, have important roles in the social, political and commercial life of our country today, as they did in the past,” he said.

It is our common objective for these two peoples, who have shared the grief and happiness of centuries, to heal the

wounds of the past and strengthen people to people ties.

Turkey has taken steps “to heal the wounds of the past” and strengthen the ties between the two peoples, Erdogan said.

“We are determined to advance our efforts and preserve the memory of the Ottoman Armenians and the Armenian cultural heritage in the future,” he said.

“On this occasion, I would like to emphasize that the peace, security and happiness of our Armenian community are of special importance to us. We have no tolerance for the alienation and

exclusion of our Armenian citizens and for a single Armenian citizen to feel second-class,” he said.

“I convey my hope for the speedy conclusion of the election of the Armenian Patriarch of Turkey and wish you success in this endeavor,” he said.

“With these thoughts, I once again pay tribute to the memories of the Ottoman Armenians who lost their lives at the beginning of the 20th century. May millions of Ottoman citizens deceased under the difficult conditions of the First World War rest in peace,” Erdogan said.





**City Spa**, one of the founders of Aesthetic medicine in Armenia, that was established 14 years ago, is still following the main principles that were implemented since the launch: to use only clinically and scientifically approved, highly effective and safe with FDA approval products and equipments imported mainly from UK and Europe.

**Depilation:** Last year City Spa launched a very safe, painless and fast acting new machine for permanent hair removal. It is the “Primelase” produced by Cocoon Medical. The machine has an innovative



international leading brands such as ZO Skin health (Beverly Hills US), GLO therapeutics (ColoradoUS). Skin Ceuticals (US) etc.

**And that's not the all: pedicure, manicure and massage will make your day.**

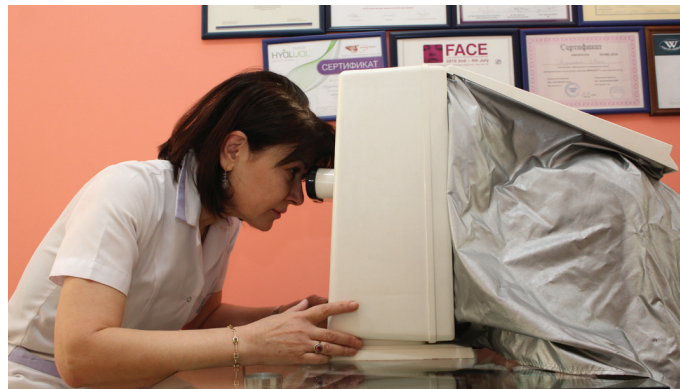
You are welcome to City Spa. The aesthetic doctor's consultations and skin diagnostics with Skin Scanner is fee. The atmosphere in City spa is full of love and peace. The pricing strategy is very flexible and discounts for good long term clients are available during whole year as well as different Gift Cards.

method (dynamic mode) which allows to treat very large areas of the body within few minutes.

**Localized fat removal:** In Armenia the first cryolipolysis method was implemented by City Spa in 2016. Cooltech is an innovative machine that acts as a none surgical liposuction, with a new method of cryolipolysis for permanent localized fat removal and body reconturing. It is safe, painless and very effective. City Spa is equipped also with the Wellashape machine for anti-cellulite treatment.



**Anti aging Facial treatments and Care:** City Spa offers the latest scientifically approved anti aging treatments and products for care. The doctors are regularly improving their qualifications in London and Paris, bringing the new inventions to Armenia. The products used in City Spa are only



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## **Noubar Afeyan: Armenia has spent over a century re-building, and its future looks hopeful**

*By Noubar Afeyan  
The Huffington Post*

Yesterday marks the official commemoration date of the Armenian Genocide, which occurred just over a century ago. A day which offers an opportunity to reflect on the unimaginable violence from which the nation is still recovering.

The Genocide triggered the 20th century's first large-scale refugee population. Between 1915-1923, 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered, and 500,000 survivors were forcibly displaced. The survivors were left to flee as far afield as the United States, France and Argentina, with many settling in neighbouring states including Russia, Syria and Lebanon.

Whilst it is important to reflect on one of the darkest chapters in our recent past, we must also recognise the incredible rejuvenation of Armenia, and the Armenian people, that has occurred over the past 102 years.

In 1917, the total number of Armenians

was estimated to be 284,157. Over the past century, this has risen to a population of 3 million in the country itself, as well as an estimated 10 million in the global diaspora.

Armenia is rebuilding itself into a cosmopolitan and forward-thinking nation. As it recovers from the economic devastation following the fall of the Soviet Union, the country is undergoing gradual economic growth, driven by a number of burgeoning industries. Agriculture, food processing, and information technology are some of the thriving sectors which are attracting both inbound investment, and a growing regional talent pool. Additionally, academic centres of excellence, such as the newly launched international school, UWC Dilijan, are attracting foreign students into the country.

The country has established a productive tourist industry, with major airlines committing regular flights to the capital. Over 1.2 million tourists visited Armenia in 2016, many of whom were from Europe.

Away from the state itself, Armenia's diaspora has grown and thrived in a range of new host countries. Indeed, large Armenian communities now reside in the United States, Russia, France and Argentina. The extended Armenian community includes some of the world's most noted businesspeople, scientists, academics, sportspeople and entertainers. From Alexis Ohanian to David Ignatius, Andre Agassi, Cher or Henrikh Mkhitaryan, the Armenian people have made major contributions toward advancing their adoptive countries. Long ago, we learned to adapt to our host countries, to be loyal citizens, even as we maintain our common historic identity.

As we reflect on a time when a concerted attempt was made to wipe out our entire nation, we Armenians have much to celebrate and be proud of. Armenia continues to rebuild and grow. The future is incredibly exciting as we continue to transform into a vibrant, modern, secure, peaceful and progressive homeland for a global nation.

## **Wyoming becomes 45th US State to recognize the Armenian Genocide**

In a letter dated April 21, 2017 and addressed to the Armenian National Committee of America Western Region (ANCA-WR), Wyoming Governor Matthew H. Mead has recognized the Armenian Genocide and praised the work of Armenian American grassroots.

"The atrocities of both the Armenian and Jewish Holocausts were unimaginable," reads Governor Mead's letter, "but it is important for all to remember – history must not repeat itself." The letter also recalls a meeting with senior ANCA-WR staff earlier this year, when Executive Director Elen Asatryan and Community Development Coordinator Simon Maghakyan visited Cheyenne, adding that "The work of the Armenian National Committee is inspiring." Referencing the upcoming April 23 commemoration in Denver, Governor Mead concludes his letter with, "My thoughts are with you as you gather for the Colorado State Capitol Armenian Genocide Commemoration."

"We thank the Governor of the Great State of Wyoming for standing on the right side of history and adding his voice to the ongoing need to recognize and commemorate the Armenian Genocide," remarked ANCA-WR Chair Nora Hovsepian. "This recognition is a tribute to the memory of our ancestors and a celebration of the brave work of many Wyomingites who supported the national Near East Relief effort of building and operating 400 orphanages for over 132,000 Armenian children who survived the genocide. Last but

not least, this recognition is a testament to the tireless work of our grassroots activists and dedicated staff," continued Hovsepian.

The news of Wyoming's recognition of the Armenian Genocide also received praise by elected officials and activists in the Equality State. "I congratulate the Governor for his courageous stance on this moral issue amid lavish anti-Armenian lobbying in Wyoming, which has included all-inclusive junkets to the dictatorship of Azerbaijan by legislators across our nation, who should know better than hobnobbing with bloody dictators that behead Christian Armenians and destroy ancient Armenian churches and Djulfra cross-stones," remarked Wyoming State Senator Anthony Bouchard. "The Armenian Genocide is an unpunished crime that needs to be recognized and accounted for; Turkey's ongoing denial of this grave crime, illegal blockade of Armenia and support for Azerbaijan's genocidal policies against Armenia and Artsakh must end," continued Sen. Bouchard.

Local ANCA activist Ani Gasparyan, a resident of Larimie, Wyoming, also praised the Governor for recognizing the Armenian Genocide: "As our community recalls the murder of 1.5 million people and the loss of the majority of our homeland, it warms our hearts to know that Governor Mead is recognizing the Armenian Genocide on its 102nd anniversary."

Today's victory comes after the ANCA-Western Region team drove down from

Denver Colorado to the Equality State on the 29th of February and spent the day meeting with senators and representatives to educate them about the Armenian Genocide, Artsakh, the Armenian community, and discuss Armenian-American priorities. During the visit, Senator Bouchard, who during his recent election campaign connected with the ANCA-WR about his opponent's junket to Azerbaijan and spoke forcefully against these dirty tactics on the campaign trail, welcomed the ANCA-WR team by connecting them to the Governor's office and other elected officials. Before the sun rose the next morning, joined by the Chair of the State Revenue Committee Ray Peterson, the ANCA-WR met with the Governor and discussed, among other topics, the heroic efforts of Wyomingites during the Genocide, Turkey's continued denial of the mass murder of 1.5 million Christian Armenians and the need for proper recognition, restitution and reparations against this unpunished crime against humanity.

"We extend our deep gratitude to Governor Mead, Senators Bouchard and Peterson, and the elected leaders for their leadership, taking the time to learn about Armenian American issues and supporting the Armenian community of Wyoming and the entire United States, as well as standing by the world's first Christian nation as it continues to address the ongoing security and economic consequences of the Armenian Genocide," remarked Executive Director Elen Asatryan.

## 'Sherlock Holmes of Armenian Genocide' uncovers lost evidence

By Tim Arango  
The New York Times

For more than a century, Turkey has denied any role in organizing the killing of Armenians in what historians have long accepted as a genocide that started in 1915, as World War I spread across continents. The Turkish narrative of denial has hinged on the argument that the original documents from postwar military tribunals that convicted the genocide's planners were nowhere to be found.

Now, Taner Akcam, a Turkish historian at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., who has studied the genocide for decades by piecing together documents from around the world to establish state complicity in the killings, says he has unearthed an original telegram from the trials, in an archive held by the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

"Until recently, the smoking gun was missing," Mr. Akcam said. "This is the smoking gun." He called his find "an earthquake in our field," and said he hoped it would remove "the last brick in the denialist wall."

The story begins in 1915 in an office in the Turkish city of Erzurum, when a high-level official of the Ottoman Empire punched out a telegram in secret code to a colleague in the field, asking for details about the deportations and killings of Armenians in eastern Anatolia, the easternmost part of contemporary Turkey.

Later, a deciphered copy of the telegram helped convict the official, Behaeddin Shakir, for planning what scholars have long acknowledged and Turkey has long denied: the organized killing of up to 1.5 million Armenians by the leaders of the collapsing Ottoman Empire, an atrocity widely recognized as the 20th century's first genocide.

And then, just like that, most of the original documents and sworn testimony from the trials vanished, leaving researchers to rely mostly on summaries from the official Ottoman newspaper.

Mr. Akcam said he had little hope that his new finding would immediately change things, given Turkey's ossified policy of denial and especially at a time of political turmoil when its president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has turned more nationalist.

But Mr. Akcam's life's work has been to puncture, fact by fact, document by document, the denials of Turkey.

"My firm belief as a Turk is that democracy and human rights in Turkey can only be established by facing history and acknowledging historic wrongdoings," he said.

He broadened his point to argue that much of the chaos gripping the Middle East today was a result of mistrust between communities over historical wrongdoings that no one is willing to confront.

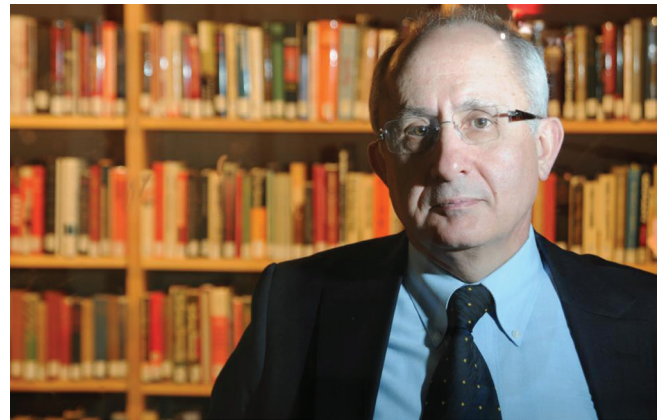
"The past is not the past in the Middle East," he said. "This is the biggest obstacle to peace and stability in the Middle East."

Eric D. Weitz, a history professor at the City College of New York and an expert on the Armenian genocide, called Mr. Akcam "the Sherlock Holmes of Armenian genocide."

"He has piled clue upon clue upon clue," Professor Weitz added.

Exactly where the telegram was all these years, and how Mr. Akcam found it, is a story in itself. With Turkish nationalists about to seize the country in 1922, the Armenian leadership in Istanbul shipped 24 boxes of court records to England for safekeeping.

The records were kept there by a bishop, then taken to France and, later, to Jerusalem. They have remained there since the 1930s, part of a huge archive that has mostly been inaccessible



to scholars, for reasons that are not entirely clear. Mr. Akcam said he had tried for years to gain access to the archive, with no luck.

Instead, he found a photographic record of the Jerusalem archive in New York, held by the nephew of a Armenian monk, now dead, who was a survivor of the genocide.

While researching the genocide in Cairo in the 1940s, the monk, Krikor Guerguerian, met a former Ottoman judge who had presided over the postwar trials. The judge told him that many of the boxes of case files had wound up in Jerusalem, so Mr. Guerguerian went there and took pictures of everything.

The telegram was written under Ottoman letterhead and coded in Arabic lettering; four-digit numbers denoted words. When Mr. Akcam compared it with the known Ottoman Interior Ministry codes from the time, found in an official archive in Istanbul, he found a match, raising the likelihood that many other telegrams used in the postwar trials could one day be verified in the same way.

For historians, the court cases were one piece of a mountain of evidence that emerged over the years — including reports in several languages from diplomats, missionaries and journalists who witnessed the events as they happened — that established the historical fact of the killings and qualified them as a genocide.

Turkey has long resisted the word genocide, saying that the suffering of the Armenians had occurred during the chaos of a world war in which Turkish Muslims faced hardship, too.

Turkey also claimed that the Armenians were traitors, and had been planning to join with Russia, then an enemy of the Ottoman Empire.

That position is deeply entwined in Turkish culture — it is standard in school curriculums — and polling has shown that a majority of Turks share the government's position.

"My approach is that as much proof as you put in front of denialists, denialists will remain denialists," said Bedross Der Matossian, a historian at the University of Nebraska and the author of "Shattered Dreams of Revolution: From Liberty to Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire."

Mr. Shakir, the Ottoman official who wrote the incriminating telegram discovered by Mr. Akcam, had fled the country by the time the military tribunal convicted him and sentenced him to death in absentia.

A few years later, he was gunned down in the streets of Berlin by two Armenian assassins described in an article by The New York Times as "slim, undersized, swarthy men lurking in a doorway."



## News from the Youth Orchestra

### Concert of the “Otri” Trio

Recently the music hall of the Russian scientific and educational center hosted “Otri” Trio – the ensemble of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia. The trio is comprised of the laureates of international and republican competitions **Ruzanna Tovmasyan** (flute), **Anjela Hovhannisyanyan** (violin) and **Arevik Kosyan** (viola).

Classical music lovers enjoyed pieces by Bach, Dvorak, Reger, Shostakovich, Khachaturian, Bagdasaryan and Komitas both written for this ensemble and arranged by the trio musicians. The format

### The All Armenian Orchestra headed by Sergey Smbatyan performed a piece from a symphony by Serj Tankian

The All Armenian Orchestra headed by **Sergey Smbatyan** performed a piece from Orca Symphony No.1 by Serj Tankian, frontman of a world known US rock group System of a Down, during its concert on April 24 at A. Spendiaryan Opera and Ballet National Academic Theatre. This piece has never been performed in Armenia be-

fore. The Orchestra presented Act 4 entitled “Lamentation of the Beached”.

In a video world known musician says: *“It’s an honor for me to have my symphony Orca played and recorded by the Pan Armenian Orchestra on April 24 in Yerevan. This is “Lamentation of the Beached”. Enjoy!”*.

### Sergey Smbatyan conducted the Münchner Symphoniker

On April 23 and April 28 the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia **Sergey Smbatyan** conduct the Münchner Symphoniker



in Germany. The first cooperation-concert of the conductor and the orchestra is entitled “Friendship”.

The concert program included compositions by Johannes Brahms and Robert Schumann. The soloists **Mari Samuelsen** (violin) and **Håkon Samuelsen** (cello) performed with the orchestra.

### An evening dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and France

of the trio is exceptional for Armenia: in contrast to the classical piano trio, this collective includes wind and string instruments.

Violinist **Anjela Hovhannisyanyan** notes that the trio is performing at the Russian scientific and educational center for the first time.

*“The concert became a kind of dialogue with the audience, as along with the musical performances we presented some information on the ensemble, its creative path, development, also we shared our plans for the future”, - Anjela noted.*



An evening dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and France will take place on May 4 at the Embassy of the French Republic in Armenia.

The ensembles of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia will participate in the event.



## Recent News from the Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator

### One more village has a new street lighting system

The borderland village of Nor Aznaberd in Vayots Dzor region has a history of over 70 years, but the community has never had an outdoor illumination system.

A completely new outdoor lighting infrastructure has been installed in the framework of the "Alternative Energy" project implemented owing to the cooperation of the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) and VivaCell-MTS.

60 LED lights have been installed in Nor Aznaberd providing street lighting to the entire village, along a 2 km area.

The launching ceremony of the newly built energy-saving system was attended by VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager Ralph Yirikian, FPWC Founder Ruben Khachatryan, the Head of Zaritap community Simon Babayan and the residents of the community.

*"For 4 years in a row, together with our partner organization, we have been installing energy-efficient outdoor lighting systems in*

*benefit to environmental protection. The bigger the residence where we provide outdoor lighting, the more is the volume of saved energy and money,"* said VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

The installation of the outdoor energy-efficient lighting system is aimed at saving the resources of the community and at making the community life more vibrant. The development of rural infrastructure is important for the residents who are mainly involved in cattle breeding and farming, not only for the comfort and the opportunity to have decent conditions, but also in terms of reducing the financial burden of the community.

The operation of these environmental and energy-saving LED lights is cost-efficient for villages with modest budgetary resources. The use of this system will reduce energy consumption by up to 80 percent, easing the financial burden of the community.

Outdoor lighting will be provided from 21:00 to 00:00 in summer, and from 18:00 to 23:00 in winter. On holidays, street lighting will be provided all night long.



*borderland and distant regional villages. This year alone we have included 12 villages in the program. We have chosen the right path contributing not just to the well-being of villages and communities, but of the country in general. The roughest estimates show that the application of state-of-the-art technologies will have a considerable impact in the growth of the economy. The installation of outdoor lighting systems will result in the reduction of taxes, the saved money will be directed to the solution of other problems; the system will also*

### Decent home after 15 years of waiting

Owing to the housing project financed by VivaCell-MTS and implemented by "Fuller Center for Housing" Armenia the Hasratyans were able to solve the 15-year housing problem in 8 months. The housing problem is a weight off the shoulders of the family father, Vardan who is a military. The housewarming became a pleasant sur-



prise for his son who has been discharged from army.

Not having a job and a home, for years the Hasratyans had to move from place to place and rent houses in the towns of Ijevan, Kapap, and Vayq. Finally, 15 years ago, they managed to buy a half-built house, damaged by shelling, in one of the neighborhoods of Goris, but were unable to complete the construction of the house and live under a safe roof. The cherished dream of 135 families from different regions of Armenia has come true owing to the successful partnership of VivaCell-MTS and "Fuller Center for Housing" Armenia.

*"Since we have formed our family, my wife and I, and later my children, have never felt the happiness of owning a home. In the course of our life we have had to move from place to place, from one house to another. A rented house can never feel like home. Thanks God, we have a decent home now; my family is united, what else does one need for happiness! We are deeply grateful to you," said Vardan, the family father.*

*"By helping families we reject indifference and send a crucial message to the society: time needs to be spent for good deeds. That's the way values are created. That's how an individual, a family and a nation are shaped. We have to set a good aim and strive to reach it. Time never waits. Bending under the burden of problems and losing self-confidence keep us from achieving goals. Whereas by uniting around good goals, we can solve any problem. This is the basis of this project," said VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager Ralph Yirikian.*

*"Each day, working with different communities in Armenia, visiting villages and meeting with people in housing need, I once again get convinced that the improvement of housing conditions helps to reveal the potential of the family: the new lifestyle becomes a new stimulus for new achievements. This project helps to overcome not only the social poverty, but also the poverty of spirit," said "Fuller Center for Housing" Armenia President*

**Ashot Yeghiazaryan.**

In 2016, three families received housing assistance in Syunik region.

### **VivaCell-MTS supports the sixth international NASA Space Apps Challenge**

The sixth international Space Apps Challenge of the NASA - the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the USA – has kicked off in Byurakan Observatory. This is the second time Armenia participates in the challenge. The participants of the international NASA Space Apps Challenge will

The participants of the Space Apps Challenge-Armenia will develop applications on the following themes: "The Earth and Us", "Planetary Blues", "Warning: Danger Ahead", "Ecological Neighborhood", and "Ideate and Create."

Both individual and team participants will present their ideas on the five themes of the NASA Space Apps Challenge. In general, the challenge gives the participants an opportunity to meet important objectives by competing in an open innovative platform and develop a solution that can be put to use in practice, using databases of NASA and other important organizations in the process of product development.

The teams will pitch their innovative solutions and ideas in front of the panel, consisting of local and international specialists. The products submitted to the contest are based on the solutions, innovations and ideas of beginner, student and expert engineers, coding programmers, designers, and analysts.

*"Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory hosts the participants of the local Armenian hackathon, within one of the highly-reputable global contests. I'm proud that the participants will be performing their tasks using our high-speed internet service. One cannot underestimate the achievements of our country in the sphere of Astrophysics. Love of science in these young people and their aspirations help us believe that the traditions will continue and drive further development," VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager Ralph Yirikian commented.*

The organizer of the Armenian stage of the international challenge is "X-TECH" Company; the co-organizer is "Locator".

Appreciating the achievements of Armenia in the sphere of astronomy, VivaCell-MTS has provided the participants of the Challenge with high-speed Internet access.

For more information, please visit [www.spaceapps.am](http://www.spaceapps.am).



have only 24 hours to develop and present innovative solutions and ideas with the help of data virtualization, coding, design and other means.



## California Senate commemorates Armenian Genocide, calls for return of historic church property

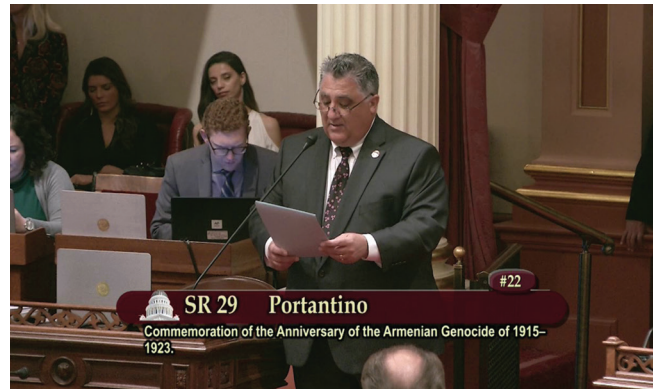
Asbarez – On April 17, the California State Senate passed Senate Resolution 29 declaring April as a month of Armenian Genocide Recognition, commemorating the Armenian Genocide, calling for Turkey to return historic church properties to rightful congregations and requesting that the United States Government formally recognize the Armenian Genocide.

In his floor speech presenting SR 29, State Senator Anthony Portantino outlined the importance of the State Senate's recognition of the Armenian Genocide for California residents and for the United States. He also shared details of the resilience of the Armenian people by reciting passages from William Saroyan in the Armenian language.

"It is an honor to represent the largest Armenian American community in the country and to be entrusted to appropriately commemorate the Genocide in the State Senate. It is our hope that California's loud and clear voice once and for all gives Washington and the President the confidence to do the right thing and help people finally have the chance to heal from the horror perpetrated 102 years ago," commented Portantino.

SR 29 was authored by Portantino and co-authored by the other members of the State Senate California, Armenian & Artsakh Select Committee: Pro Tem Kevin De Leon, Scott Wilk, Tony Mendoza and Josh Newman. Portantino is the Chair of the Select Committee.

In addition, members of the California Legislature on Monday commemorated the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, even as the United States of America continues to turn a blind eye to



the genocide of 1.5 million Armenians.

"We commemorate the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide to remember the 1.5 million souls lost and to celebrate the Armenian's contributions to California," stated Assembly member Adrin Nazarian. "Through vigilance and education we can banish genocide to our history books."

"Armenian-Americans have not only survived, they have thrived and enriched the fabric of our communities. The genocide is about real people and real stories. For me it is about my wife Vanessa and her family, people I love and who are Armenian-Americans," said Wilk. "By remembering the horror of the genocide we are taking steps to ensure it never happens again."

## Armenian Genocide and Holocaust Recognized at R.I. State House

An historic event took place at the Rhode Island State House on April 13, as the Armenian Genocide and the Jewish Holocaust were recognized together in a resolution introduced by State Representative Katherine Kazarian. State Representative J. Aaron Regunberg collaborated with Rep. Kazarian to introduce the joint resolution, the Armenian Weekly reports.

Speaker of the House Nicholas Mattiel-

lo read the names of the representatives in support of the resolution and concluded with the following words, "The resolution passes unanimously." This is the first time a resolution commemorating both devastating crimes against humanity has been introduced and passed in the R.I. State Legislature, and it coincides with the fact that both the Armenian Genocide and Jewish Holocaust are being remembered on the

same date this year, April 24.

Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church opened the session with a prayer, thanking the State of Rhode Island for always doing the right thing in recognizing the horrific crime of genocide. He was joined by Rev. Fr. Kapriel Nazarian of Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church, as well as a large number of Armenians, including Armenian National Committee of R.I. (ANC-R.I.) Chair, Ani Haroian, and the Honorable Aram Garabedian. Many members of the newly formed Holocaust and Genocide Education Committee were also in attendance.

The Providence Homenetmen Scouts served as flag bearers.

It was noted by the Speaker that both the Armenian and Jewish communities have contributed to the betterment of the State of Rhode Island in spite of such tragic histories.

The State recently passed a law requiring that the schools in R.I. teach about the Holocaust and Genocide, including the Armenian Genocide.





## Chris Bohjalian: Naming the Armenian genocide for what it is

By Chris Bohjalian  
The Boston Globe

Adolph Hitler kept a bust of Atatürk in his office. Heinrich Himmler considered moving to Turkey in the early 1920s. And Rudolf Hoess, commandant of Auschwitz, admitted in his memoirs (penned while awaiting his execution) that he first killed while serving in the Ottoman Empire in the First World War. Make no mistake: The Young Nazis were serious fanboys of the Young Turks.

The term “Young Turk” today, of course, has come to mean a hard-charging young executive, a bullish entrepreneur who takes no prisoners. A century ago, however, the Young Turks — Talaat Pasha, Djemal Pasha, and Enver Pasha — were the leaders of the Ottoman Empire and the architects of the Armenian genocide: the systematic annihilation of 1.5 million Armenians during the First World War. Three out of every four Armenians living under Ottoman rule were killed by their own government; the nation, outside of Istanbul, was ethnically cleansed of its Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek minorities.

And the Germans, the Ottoman Empire’s ally, were there. They saw it all. The cables from the German diplomats from Aleppo to Erzurum that chronicled the slaughter are as clear as the photographs that German medic Armin Wegner took of starving children and dying women. And while some of those Germans were aghast at what they were witnessing, others clearly were inspired.

After the war, Mustafa Kemal — Atatürk — finished the work of the Young Turks, turning his armies on the Armenians and



the Greeks, forcing them out and creating what he hoped would be a homogenous Turkic nation. No minorities to muddy the agenda. Then, with Stalin-like fanaticism, his government began to rewrite history, denying the carnage. Armenians went from victims to traitors; the true story was erased. It’s why Turkey today continues to deny the genocide with pathologic obsession. The last thing they want is for Mustafa Kemal and the Young Turks to be saddled with the moniker “war criminal,” or their nation to risk the sort of reparations that accompany the term “genocide.”

Today is April 24, the day when Armenians around the world commemorate the start of the Armenian genocide: It was that night in 1915 when the Ottoman authorities rounded up the Armenian political, intellectual, and religious leaders of Constantinople and executed almost all of them.

To commemorate this devastating anniversary, the president of the United States will likely find yet another euphemism for the word “genocide,” because heaven forbid America should risk antagonizing Turkey by describing accurately what happened and assigning the blame where it belongs. Trust me, some poor White House speechwriter’s

thesaurus is looking pretty dogeared right about now.

Congress has not formally recognized the Armenian genocide either, and I’m not expecting this one to put moral spine before realpolitik.

But, fittingly, Germany has. Last year the German Parliament voted overwhelmingly in favor of calling the massacres a genocide.

Historians often note how the last stage in genocide is denial, and that denial becomes the first stage in the next one. As a character in one of my novels remarks, “There is a line connecting the Armenians and the Jews and the Cambodians and the Bosnians and the Rwandans. There are obviously more, but really, how much genocide can one sentence handle?”

The Holocaust might have occurred even without the precedent of the Armenian genocide. But as historian Stefan Ihrig proves in his book “Justifying Genocide,” the Young Nazis were there when the Young Turks were at work. They saw how easy it was to blame the problems of the nation on one small ethnic minority, and then rationalize their murder. They grew bold. As Hitler said to his Wehrmacht commanders on Aug. 22, 1939, a week and a half before unleashing his Panzers on Poland, “I have placed my death-head formation in readiness with orders to them to send to death mercilessly and without compassion, men, women, and children of Polish derivation and language. Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”

That is precisely why today America must stop mincing words when it comes to the Armenian genocide.

## Garo Paylan calls for research into Armenian Genocide-era deportation law

HDP Istanbul deputy Garo Paylan has presented a research proposal to the Presidency of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for the examination of the results of the Provisional Relocation Act enacted on 27 May 1915, Istanbul-based Agos reports.

The MP proposes to investigate the responsibilities of the government and public officials at that time, as well as the daily effects of the consequences of the deportations.

Garo Paylan’s research proposal for the Presidency of the Turkish Grand National Assembly includes the following statements:

“Following the Temporary Relocation Act, the Armenian population living in the Ottoman Empire was subjected to deportation, leading to devastation in the Syriac, Keldani, Ezidi and Greek peoples.

“Although the results of this law have not been investigated by the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) for more than 102 years, it has been known that a large number of casualties have been experienced due to the Deportation Law.

“A lot of cultural assets and property have been seized or confiscated. The exploitation

of the responsibilities of the government and civil servants of the period, the day-to-day effects of the consequences of the deportation, the benefits of confronting the past and the truth in ensuring social peace as a whole in our country, in accordance with Article 98 of the Constitution, Articles 104 and 105 of the Constitution in order to contribute to the uncovering of “truth” in order to prevent abuse and to provide more opportunities for future generations to live together in Turkey freely and peacefully I would like to offer and propose to open the survey.”

## 2017 Aurora Prize finalists announced

The Selection Committee for the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity has today announced the names of the five 2017 finalists who have been chosen for their exceptional impact, courage and commitment to preserving human life and advancing humanitarian causes. They are:

- Ms. Fartuun Adan and Ms. Ilwad Elman, Founders of the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre, Somalia – Mother and daughter who are unwavering in their mission to protect human rights, women's rights, and facilitate peace building, development and the rehabilitation of child soldiers amidst insecure and dangerous conditions

- Ms. Jamila Afghani, Chairperson of the Noor Educational and Capacity Development Organization, Afghanistan – a polio victim who accidentally received the gift of reading and has dedicated her life to bringing reading and education to girls and women, while enlisting the help of Muslim leaders of faith in her mission.

- Dr. Tom Catena, Surgeon at the Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains, Sudan – A Catholic missionary and doctor who for nearly a decade remains the only permanent doctor to treat the remote and war-torn region's half-million population, performing more than 1,000 operations each year



cludes Nobel Laureates Oscar Arias, Shirin Ebadi and Leymah Gbowee; former president of Ireland Mary Robinson; human rights activist Hina Jilani; former Foreign Minister of Australia and President Emeritus of the International Crisis Group Gareth Evans; and former president of Mexico Ernesto Zedillo. The Committee shortlisted the five finalists from more than 550 nominations for 254 unique candidates submitted by the general public from 66 countries and in 13 languages.

Speaking on behalf of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee, Vartan Gregorian, Committee Member, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and co-founder of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative said, "We are gratified by the enormous response generated by the call for nominations. It is an acknowledgment of our shared humanity and values. While geography and circumstances differ for each nominee, it is the similarities that unite them all. Individual human beings risk their own well-being and safety in order to rescue those in desperate need of help, and it is Aurora's mission to support these saviors. We believe that those who are rescued will themselves continue the cycle of gratitude and giving."

Marguerite Barankitse from Maison Shalom and REMA



- Mr. Muhammad Darwish, Medical Doctor at the Madaya Field Hospital, Syria – A student of dentistry returned to his hometown and took on the full responsibilities of a medical doctor, began to perform medical procedures, offered care and maintained meticulous documentation of the conditions of patients, many of them children, affected by persisting violence, thus bringing international attention to the besieged area

- Dr. Denis Mukwege, Gynecological Surgeon and Founder of the Panzi Hospital, The Democratic Republic of the Congo – An obstetrician turned gynecological surgeon who is providing physical, psychological and legal support to more than 50,000 survivors of sexual violence in the war-torn country while fearlessly seeking to bring to justice those responsible

The finalists will be honored at the Aurora Prize Ceremony in Yerevan, Armenia on May 28, 2017 when one will be chosen as the 2017 Aurora Prize Laureate. The Aurora Prize Laureate will receive a grant of US\$100,000 to support the continuation of their work, as well as a US\$1,000,000 award, which will give them the unique ability to continue the cycle of giving by supporting organizations that have inspired their work.

The Selection Committee, co-chaired by Academy Award-winning actor and humanitarian George Clooney, in-

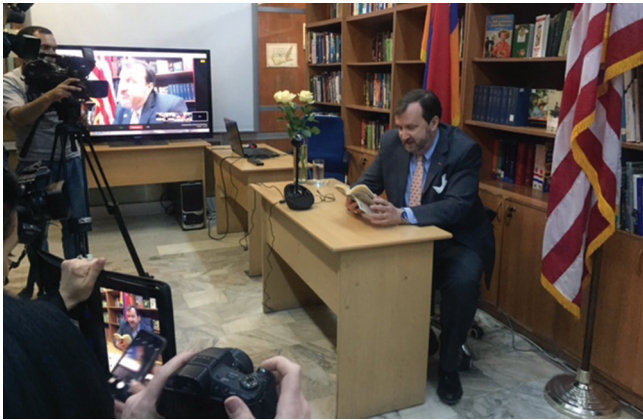
Hospital in Burundi was named the first Aurora Prize Laureate on April 24, 2016 in Yerevan, Armenia. Following the horrifying experience of being forced to witness the execution of 72 Hutu neighbors whom she tried to hide to keep safe from persecution, Ms. Barankitse, a Tutsi, has spent the last 20 years providing safe haven for orphans and refugees escaping violence and abuse during her country's civil war. She has rescued and educated roughly 30,000 children, and the hospital she opened in 2008 has treated more than 80,000 patients to date.

"Children from Brazil to Ethiopia to the many Burundian refugees in Rwanda are thriving today because they now have the love, education and support they need, thanks to the generous backing of the 2016 Aurora Prize," said Barankitse. "The powerful work of the 2017 finalists is truly awe-inspiring. These individuals embody the spirit of gratitude in action by keeping hope alive for so many of our brothers and sisters around the world. Their work is destined to unleash the human potential for love."

The Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity was established in 2015 by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors. The Aurora Prize will honor an Aurora Laureate each year until 2023, in remembrance of the eight years of the Armenian Genocide (1915 -1923).



## American corners in Armenia celebrate National Library Week with reading marathon



On April 18, the five American Corners in Armenia – in Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, Charentsavan, and Kapan – celebrated Armenia's National Library Week by organizing a reading marathon of Mark Twain's classic novel "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" with participants from throughout the country.

Dozens of community leaders, literary figures, library patrons, and students joined U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills, Jr. and his spouse Leigh – a former librarian herself — for the all-day marathon, with guests from all five American Corners connected via videoconference as each participant read a five-minute excerpt of the novel out loud.

"The story of Mark Twain is a story of the American Dream," Ambassador Mills said. "Having started with very little, he became a famous author whose works are read and enjoyed all over the world, and whose characters – Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn – have become symbols of American life and the values Americans treasure – freedom, ques-

tioning authority, and ultimately our belief in every American's personal dignity. And while Twain's success is due to his hard work, talent, and motivation, his local library also played an important role in his career. Twain left school at the age of 12 and thereafter educated himself in public libraries in the evenings, where he said he was able to find wider information than at conventional schools. The example of Twain illustrates the important role that a library can play in a person's life."

National Library Week is celebrated in Armenia April 17-23. This year Armenia's libraries are using the occasion to honor the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Armenian Army. In the United States, which celebrated National Library Week last week, April 9-15, this year's theme was theme "Libraries Transform."

"This theme – that libraries transform – is a fitting way to think about the role of libraries in our communities," Ambassador Mills said. "In many cases, they are being physically transformed, becoming more and more spaces that provide hands-on access to – and instruction in – cutting-edge technology. And by providing free access to a wide range of books, journals, and online resources, they can transform people's lives, helping them build their knowledge and skills to take advantage of greater educational and professional opportunities. This is especially true of our five American Corners."

There are five American Corners in Armenia – in Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, Charentsavan, and Kapan. Last year, a record number of Armenians visited the five Corners for free English lessons, access to English-language books and DVDs, children's activities, college and university advising, and access to technology such as computers, internet, and 3D printers.

## Brain injury attorney Tina Odjaghian named to Armenian Bar Association's Judicial Evaluation Committee



Tina Odjaghian of Odjaghian Law Group, a Los Angeles based law firm that specializes in brain injury litigation, has recently been

named to the Armenian Bar Association's newly established Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC), PRNewswire reports.

Ms. Odjaghian has focused her practice on catastrophic injury litigation and is recognized as an expert in the brain injury community. Since the beginning of 2016, Ms. Odjaghian has obtained 11 seven figure settlements on behalf of catastrophically injured workers.

The JEC's mission is to evaluate applicants and potential appointees to the California judicial bench and to make recommendations to the Governor and the Appointments Secretary for those candidates who are deemed to be well-qualified.

"We believe that the Governor and the State of California will benefit from our recommendations as to the best and brightest candidates that our community has to offer," said Garo B. Ghazarian.

"I have the utmost respect and reverence for the crucial role our judiciary plays in interpreting and upholding the rule of law in our great state," says Ms. Odjaghian. "I am honored to be included and serve among this esteemed group and look forward to vetting some extraordinary candidates."

## UN Corner opens in the city of Masis

On April 21 the launching of a “United Nations (UN) Corner” took place in the Masis Youth (MY) Center in the city of Masis, Ararat province of Armenia organized jointly by the UN Information Office in Yerevan and the Masis Development Foundation.

The launch of this UN Corner, which is the 17th of its kind, is aimed at providing the Youth Center visitors and interested parties with access to the UN publications and other promotional and visual materials. Thus, this could help them to get acquainted with the United Nations values and objectives, its worldwide mandate and policies and its all-inclusive areas of action with diverse themes. The overall result of this can be the empowerment of youth and their involvement and action towards the achievement of the UN global agenda.

Armineh Haladjian, head of the UN Information Office in Yerevan, stressed the importance of UN corner opening in Masis: “Within our cooperation with new partners especially outside Yerevan, and having the main goal of reaching out to our main target group — the YOUTH, UN Information Office in Yerevan on behalf of UN Armenia is launching this UN Corner in Masis Youth Center. I am pleased to inform the audience here today that this Corner can be a good start to bring the members and visitors of this facility closer to the United Nations even being not physically in the UN House. We look forward to further cooperation and bilateral visits in the near future.”

In his welcoming speech, Executive Director of the Masis Development Foundation Stepan Hovhannisyan, congratulated the residents of the city on this landmark event and stated: “We highly appreciate the cooperation with the United Nations. The UN Corner, opened today, will help the youth



of Masis learn more about the work of the United Nations both in Armenia and around the world. Joint educational and enlightenment projects will help the children from the Youth Center learn more about the principles of the UN work. In the activities of Masis Development Foundation and the Youth Center, we also adhere to similar values, and strive to develop in the youth an active, not indifferent attitude to the development of civil society, human rights, preservation of the environment. We hope that together we will contribute to the development and prosperity of Masis and Armenia.”

Presentation of MY Center members, screening of the “See You” animation film about the UN activities in Armenia, interactive discussion with participation of UN Development Programme and UN Population Fund staff members, followed the official part of the “UN Corner” opening. A cultural program organized by Masis youth closed the event. The participants had the opportunity to take with them promotional materials and posters about the United Nations.

## Armenia’s dop diplomat does not rule out meeting with Russian, Azerbaijani counterparts

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian does not rule out a meeting with his Russian and Azerbaijani counterparts later this week.

“There is a general perception that such a meeting should be organized. When the final agreement is reached and the timetable is clarified, we will inform you,” Nalbandian told Orakarg program of Public TV.

“It is known that Armenia has always been and continues to be a supporter of negotiations,” Minister Nalbandian said.

“It is also known that it has always been Azerbaijan trying by all means to move the discussions on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue to other platforms, thus trying to avoid negotiations and to refuse meetings organized



within the agreed format under the aegis of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs, while putting the blame for that on the Armenian side,” the Foreign Minister stated.

The comments come in the wake of Azeri claims that Armenia avoids negotiations, but will have to return to the negotiating table.

Minister Nalbandian blamed Azerbaijan for the failure to implement agreements reached during negotiations, as it was the case with the agreements reached at last year’s Summits in Vienna and St. Petersburg.

“Azerbaijan always rejects the implementation of even minimal agreed steps, while demanding the maximum. Everyone gets the impression that Azerbaijan is not capable of negotiating. However, despite Azerbaijan’s attempts to refuse meetings, Armenia has always been and continue to be the supporter of talks, as there is no alternative to the negotiation process,” Minister Nalbandian stated.



## Adam Schiff: Trump's April 24 statement disappointing



Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank, has joined thousands of Armenians to rally outside the Turkish Consulate in Los Angeles to mark the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

"One hundred and two years ago, the Ottoman Empire began a gruesome campaign against the Armenians, murdering 1.5 million men, women and children. The very first genocide of the 21st Century, the Armenian Genocide, is a wound which will never truly heal," Rep. Schiff said in a Facebook post.

"Today, we march today to commemorate, to remember, and to demand justice," he added.

Schiff blasted Republican President Donald Trump for failing to recognize the events as a "genocide."

"Today, we received a disappointing statement from yet another president, refusing to acknowledge the murder of 1.5 million Armenians from 1915-1923 for what it was – a genocide," FOX 11 quotes Schiff as saying.

"President Trump now joins a long line of both Republican and Democratic presidents unwilling to confront Turkey, and by refusing to do so, he has made the United States once again a party to its campaign of denial," he added.

"Today, we remember and honor the memory of those who suffered during the Meds Yeghern, one of the worst mass atrocities of the 20th Century," Trump said.

"Beginning in 1915, one and a half million Armenians were deported, massacred or marched to their deaths in the final years of the Ottoman Empire. I join the Armenian community in America and around the world in mourning the loss of innocent lives and the suffering endured by so many," he stated.

## Canadian PM Justin Trudeau issues statement on Armenian Genocide anniversary



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has issued a statement on 102nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

On this day, we solemnly gather to commemorate the tragic loss of life among the Armenian population, which took place over a century ago.

In 2015, the House of Commons unanimously passed a motion declaring April 24th as Armenian Genocide Memorial Day.

This day honours the memory of those who unjustly lost their lives and suffered

during the genocide. We pay tribute to them and their descendants, many of who now reside in Canada.

On this occasion, Canadians – regardless of faith or ethnic background – stand together in solemn remembrance and reaffirmed dedication to ensuring that we never stand indifferently in the face of hate or violence in any form.

As we observe Armenian Genocide Day, please join me in my hope for a future characterized by peace and mutual respect.

## Emmanuel Macron commemorates Armenian Genocide

French presidential hopeful Emmanuel Macron has marked the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in ceremony in Paris.

Macron laid a wreath and held a minute of silence at a monument in the memory of the victims.

Speaking to *Nouvelles d'Armenie* before the Sunday vote Emmanuel Macron pledged to continue the tradition to commemorate the Armenian Genocide if elected.

"The date of 24 April is a strong symbol: it commemorates the murder of 600 Armenian intellectuals on 24 April 1915 in Constantinople and the beginning of the first genocide. This is an important moment for the duty of memory and for the friendship between France and Armenia. I intend to continue this tradition by participating in the commemorations. I am also in favor of a day of commemoration of the Armenian Genocide being included in our calendar," Macron said.

"In France, the penalization of the denial of the genocide could not be obtained and the decision of the Constitutional Council provoked much misunderstanding. I am convinced that we must continue to work in this direction. Law and memory cannot be incompatible," the presidential candidate said.

Macron, a centrist with pro-business, pro-European views, will face far-right leader Marine Le Pen in the May 7 runoff of the presidential election.

## Zodiac Weekly Forecast



### Aries (March 20–April 19)

Avoid challenging authorities this week. They are bigger than you and there might be an unpleasant outcome if you do. Venus has entered your sign this week and will be traveling “with you” through June 5, 2017. She is a people attractor. Her presence gives you an air of poise and people will simply like how you look. (This does not include authorities.)

attention to your dreams. They are likely to be meaningful for the next month.



### Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

You have a need to be alone and quiet during this period. That is why social life is not going so well. Give attention to your inner life and notice what your thoughts may be manifesting. Is it really what you want in your future? Think carefully. Give

attention to your dreams. They are likely to be meaningful for the next month.



### Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Information has been flying your way thick and fast. A surprise concerning a friend or a family member might have you reeling. This is a good week to let yourself be quiet while you absorb the changes

that have come your way. If you feel on edge, transfer that energy to physical exercise.



### Cancer (June 21–July 21)

At the beginning of the week you may be feeling stress related to your lover or a partner, maybe a child. Underneath it all, the issue is tied to your internalized sense of what a woman “should” do or be. Our

culture has always struggled with images of the feminine. Is she a caretaker or a seductress?



### Leo (July 22–August 21)

You may encounter a stumbling block in your path. One part of your mind wants to give up. But the better part of you knows this is a “test” of your intentions. Facing it and overcoming the trial will make you stronger and you will be more confident

on the other side. Go for it!



### Virgo

### (August 22–September 22)

Information comes your way concerning investments, debt, or other financial matters. Don't respond frantically because Mercury is retrograding. Due diligence is necessary here. You need to check the source

of this information. The person may be misleading you in some way. The info may be flat wrong. Don't panic.



### Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

Circumstances concerning partners, lovers, or children are throwing pebbles in your path. Perhaps this includes clientele, if you have a business. It seems everyone is self-inter-

ested and wants a piece of you as well. Do as much as you feel is warranted. Don't sell the whole farm.



### Scorpio

### (October 23–November 21)

This is not your best week. People will be quarrelsome and you may open your mouth one time too many. Set aside that compulsion to tell the truth, even if it hurts. Given

that Mercury is changing direction, you may not actually have accurate information anyway.



### Sagittarius

### (November 22–December 20)

You have a challenge to your new life pattern. It may be impossible to stay true to yourself without hurting someone's feelings. This has hap-

pened to you in the past. Now you are stronger and the structure is more solid under you. Do the best you can in this situation. Remain aware that most adults are in charge of their own reactions. You can't fix everyone.



### Capricorn

### (December 21–January 19)

It is just possible that you may not be well this week. The culprit is likely an infection that gives you a headache, along with other symptoms. Lie down and don't struggle. You

will heal faster. It is possible the “headache” comes through employees or lessees. Everyone is quarrelsome this week.



### Aquarius

### (January 20–February 17)

You may be in receipt of a surprise piece of news that is startling. Be aware that this news may be erroneous. Consider the source. Is it reli-

able? Don't rearrange your life until you have verified information. The surprise may be related to a roommate, neighbor, or a sibling.



### Pisces (February 18–March 19)

You have been and continue to be challenged by the need to mature. Allowing old emotional wounds to run your life and your feelings is not the way to go. The lessons started last year and will continue through

2017. By now you may be feeling much more courageous and able to surmount the old fears.



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Yerevan Home Care is the first and the only one company launched in 2011 in Yerevan. The company is providing a 24/7 qualified care service to older adults, disabled people, people suffering from chronic diseases or those who need postoperative care, as well as to people with dementia.

Creating the company we concenter to support many families that live abroad and have their elderly family members staying in Armenia. We succeed in supporting these families to have not only a solution of the raised problem but to have a deep feeling of satisfaction that their relatives are in good hands.

The organization's greatest wealth is educated, professional, skilled, experienced staff and people with high values and psychological knowledge.

We treat each patient with a strong sense of responsibility and show an individual approach to the families, at the same time maintaining the accepted norms and using contemporary approaches.

Taking your relative's care on our shoulders, we bring harmony between the different generations.

Apart from the professional knowledge the company pays a great attention to the humanitarian qualities of the serving staff, to their kindness, patience, attention and cour-



teous manner. Home health aides might also provide limited assistance with things such as taking blood pressure or offering medication reminders.

Nursing care is more related for patients after surgery, traumas, different chronic diseases

Rehabilitation service is for people who need professional rehabilitation in their recovery periods after some types of diseases and surgery. Dementia /Alzheimer /special care is for people with dementia in all stages when you worried about their safety or a health problem.

Yerevan Home Care provides all type of medical equipment that will increase the quality of life of your loved ones. (rent of the equipment is acceptable)

Transportation is a key issue for older adults and for people with temporary or permanent disabilities especially in Armenia where the streets and buildings are not adjusted for disabled people. Yerevan Home Care is providing a transportation service for people that are in wheelchairs.

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teous manner.

We assure that we will be your irreplaceable assistant in helping and surrounding your relative with care and support.

We provide service to all type of patients who needs care assistance.

Personal care is for elderly people who are alone and need support in daily living, such as dressing, bathing, feeding, or meal preparation. This type of care includes personal care aides, home care aides, and



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