

## Syria airstrikes not to affect Armenia?



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## Government Officials Told To Work Longer Hours



Armenian government agencies must work in “emergency” mode to live up to voters’ expectations after the ruling Republican Party’s victory in the April 2 parliamentary elections, Prime Minister Karen Karapetian said on Thursday.

“Our team received a mandate to effect changes in our country,” Karapetian said at the first cabinet meeting held after the vote. “I am telling all of my teammates that we are declaring a state of emergency in terms of our work regime, efforts, responsibility and all actions.”

“Emergency mode means that we should now work not for 8 hours but 10-12 hours a day, including Saturdays,” Finance Minister Vartan Aramian explained to reporters after the session.

“We have to work to ensure that people feel the difference,”

Transport and Communications Minister Vahan Martirosian said for his part.

Karapetian personally conducted the ruling HHK party’s election campaign, pledging to implement “serious reforms” and attract large-scale investments in the Armenian economy. He said on Tuesday that his government will do its best to build “a new Armenia.”

President Serzh Sarkisian, who is the HHK’s chairman, also promised major reforms when he took office in April 2008. “We are again announcing a new beginning for changes,” he declared at the time.

Karapetian described the economic situation in Armenia as “very grave” just days after he was appointed as prime minister in September. He said the country is in urgent need of “systemic changes.”

His cabinet subsequently pledged to combat corruption and improve the investment climate. Opposition leaders dismissed that as a publicity stunt aimed at facilitating the HHK’s victory in the upcoming elections.

Vahagn Khachatrian, a senior member of the opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK), said on Thursday that the reshuffled government has so far failed to deliver on its promises. It particular, Khachatrian said, it has not broken up de facto economic monopolies. “They avoid talking of monopolies, using instead the phrase ‘companies having dominant positions,’” he told RFE/RL’s Armenian service (Azatutyun.am).

## Russia condemns US missile strike on ‘chemical weapons’ base in Syria

Russia has reacted angrily after the US launched a missile strike on a Syrian government air base, the BBC reports.

US officials said the base had been used to launch a chemical weapons attack in north-western Syria that left dozens of civilians dead on Tuesday.

But Russia, which backs President Bashar al-Assad, condemned the US strike and suspended a deal designed to avoid mid-air collisions over Syria.

It is the first direct US military action against Syria’s government. At least six people are reported to have been killed.

It comes just days after some 80 civilians, including many children, died in the suspected nerve gas attack in the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhoun in Idlib province.

The Syrian opposition and Western powers say the Syrian government launched the attack but Syria denies this.



## Syria airstrikes not to affect Armenia?

In comments to the paper, Vigen Cheteryan, an international expert specializing in Oriental studies (Geneva-based CIMERA center), commented on the recent US strikes against Syria.

“[President Donald] Trump’s airstrikes were a political message, a ‘letter’ which certainly has its role in the Middle East politics and the Russia-US relations. But I find domestic policies the main platform behind this step. My belief is that Trump wishes to demonstrate that he is a strong leader and a decision-making actor,” he is quoted as saying.

Cheteryan said he treats the airstrike as a symbolic gesture not likely to continue in the future. “I think Armenia’s unsettled conflict with Azerbaijan, the complicated relations with Turkey and the alliance with Russia are a completely different matter in international relations. It has nothing to do with the military or political balance in the Middle East. Hence the concerns that Armenia may be entangled in the Middle East developments are not absolutely to the point. This has to be cut from the context; secondly, I don’t think it will essentially escalate the situation to affect Armenia,” he added.



## Ruling Party Coy About Post-Election Coalition With Tsarukian

The ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) declined to clarify on Friday whether it could reach a power-sharing deal with businessman Gagik Tsarukian's alliance, the runner-up in the April 2 parliamentary elections.

The HHK spokesman, Eduard Sharmazanov, said the party's governing body did not discuss possible coalitions at its most recent meeting held on Thursday. "We still have time," he told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "We should not deviate from our agenda. We will discuss it when the time is right."

"The issue of forming a coalition with the Tsarukian Bloc is not on the Republican Party's agenda at the moment," he said.

Sharmazanov did not deny or confirm media reports that President Serzh Sarkisian and Tsarukian met earlier this week. "I can't say if there was such a meeting because I don't know," he said.

The Tsarukian Bloc shed no light on its next political moves in a statement released on Monday. None of its leaders has made public statements since then.

Armenia - Businessman Gagik Tsarukian campaigns in Masis, 24Mar2017.

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Tsarukian's Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK), the dominant force in the bloc,



was part of Sarkisian's government from 2008-2012. It withdrew from the ruling coalition amid mounting tensions with the president that culminated in a bitter confrontation two years ago. Tsarukian was forced to retire from politics at that time.

Tsarukian announced his return to the political arena in January, fueling media speculation that his comeback is the result of a secret deal with Sarkisian. BHK representatives denied that.

According to official election results, the HHK won just over 49 percent of the vote and will control the majority of seats in the new parliament. The Tsarukian

Bloc finished second with 27 percent.

"There are two options," said Sharmazanov. "The first one is that the Republican Party forms the government single-handedly -- and it has a mandate to do that. The second option is a coalition government with shared responsibility. But we will discuss it."

The official again indicated that the HHK expects to extend its power-sharing arrangement with the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun), which is represented in the current government by three ministers. The official results showed Dashnaksutyun winning 6.6 percent of the vote.

## Armena's President offers condolences over deadly blasts in Egypt churches



President Serzh Sargsyan today offered condolences to the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt Abdel Fattah el-Sisi over the deadly blasts at St. George's Church and St. Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria, which claimed the lives of dozens of innocent people.

"The Republic of Armenia strongly condemns these inhumane acts and reaffirms its solidarity to fight against international terrorism.

At this difficult time for Egypt I express my deepest condolences to you, to the friendly people of Egypt and to families of the victims, wishing them fortitude and a speedy recovery to the injured," President Sargsyan said in a letter.

## Ter-Petrosian Bloc To Challenge Election Results In Court

Former President Levon Ter-Petrosian's opposition alliance said on Friday that it will ask Armenia's Constitutional Court to annul the official results of the April 2 parliamentary elections because of what it called widespread vote buying and other "systematic" irregularities.

The Congress-HZhK bloc alleged "mass distribution of vote bribes," intimidation of voters by government loyalists, violations of the secrecy of the ballot as well as "numerous registered cases of multiple voting." "The large-scale and systematic violations of the electoral process precluded a free expression of the people's will," it claimed in a statement.

The Congress-HZhK said ahead of the elections that multiple voting will be practically impossible because of opposition-backed amendments to the Electoral Code enacted by the authorities last fall. In particular, those changes led to the installation of electronic voter authentication devices in all polling stations.

The authorities also agreed to publicize the signed lists of voters that cast ballots on April 2. This allowed opposition parties to verify whether somebody else voted in place of those Armenians who were absent from the country or simply boycotted the polls.

The Congress-HZhK statement did not say whether the bloc has examined those lists and found evidence of such fraud. One of its leading members, Levon Zurabian, told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) that the bloc will



present evidence of its allegations during Constitutional Court hearings.

European election observers did not report significant instances of multiple voting in their preliminary report released on Monday. They cited instead "credible information about vote-buying, and pressure on civil servants and employees of private companies."

Virtually all Armenian opposition parties and blocs have said that vote buying was decisive in the ruling HHK's landslide election victory. Ter-Petrosian similarly said on Monday that the election outcome was not unexpected "in a country where ... the people are condemned to utter misery."

"Vote bribes were only a bonus [for the authorities] because in reality the people were forced to vote [for the HHK,]" claimed Zurabian. "Pressure on voters was exerted through administrative resources and criminal elements. Vote

bribes were only an additional component of that whole system."

The HHK spokesman, Eduard Sharmazanov, admitted on Wednesday that vote bribes were handed out but insisted that they did not significantly affect the vote results. Sharmazanov also argued that the United States and the European Union gave largely positive assessments of the conduct of the ballot.

The EU foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, said through a spokesperson on Tuesday that the official results reflect "the overall will of the Armenian people." She also said the EU will work closely with Armenia's "democratically elected new parliament and government."

According to the Central Election Commission (CEC), the Congress-HZhK won 1.65 percent of the vote. Ter-Petrosian's bloc will therefore have no seats in the new Armenian parliament.

## Vulnerable Infrastructures Of Armenia And Azerbaijan: Defense And Political Issues



A seminar titled Vulnerable Infrastructures of Armenia and Azerbaijan: Defense and Political Issues was held in Noravank Foundation on April 5, 2017.

Keynote was delivered by Davit Petrosyan, Military-Political Analyst of Noyan Tapan, covering vulnerable infrastructures of Armenia and Azerbaijan in the context of Artsakh problem and military-political processes occurring in the South Caucasus region.

The speaker also elaborated on resources to change political and public stances of the conflicting parties, and opportunities of dialog between them.

An active discussion unfolded afterwards with exchange of various viewpoints on the matter.



## Diaspora Armenian celebrities urge culture workers to visit Artsakh



On a visit to Artsakh, Arsine Khanjian, Serj Tankian, Atom Egoyan, Eric Nazarian and made a statement, urging the culture workers of the world to visit Artsakh and support the people of Artsakh who continue to write, compose, play and paint even when they are isolated from the world because of the war, Artsakhpress reports.

“On these days a year ago, the Artsakh contact line again flared up when the Azerbaijani armed forces—in a sudden offensive—fired not only the frontline positions but also peaceful residents, schools and unarmed residents. The Artsakh self-defense forces calmed this aggression for the twentieth time, the only result being new human

and material losses on both sides. Since 1988 or the day when Artsakh or Nagorno-Karabakh people decided to create their own fate and exercise their right to free self-determination, having overcome the bitter spirit of the Soviet Union and international laws, Azerbaijan has been opposing this by displacements, attacks and large-scale military actions. However, despite all this the Artsakh people have been able to defend its ancestral lands, organize an independence referendum and establish a state.

On this historical land parcel, where there are more news on ceasefire violations, victims and wounded than any other information, thousands of children are deprived of their fair right to create, since the country remains blocked, the ceasefire being fragile. Thousands of gifted people are obliged to take weapons instead of a pen and brush and go to the front to defend their homes and homeland. Because of the Azerbaijani attacks and these forced attacks, these youths are deprived of the right to create and discover their talents. Numerous pupils living in border settlements listen to the sounds of exploding bombs and firing instead of songs and music.

But despite this, there are lots of artists, who continue to write, create, play music and paint. They are in blockade because of the war, unfortunately having very little opportunity to communicate with their colleagues worldwide. The blockade and isolations reduce the mutual visits, communication and exchange of experience. The opportunities of opening themselves to the world and knowing each other are limited for these creative talents.”

## Sergey Minasyan: Election results come as no surprise



The election results came as no surprise to political scientist Sergey Minasyan. The one thing he that was unexpected to him was the defeat of the Armenian Renaissance Party. He believes the party had to cross the threshold of 5 percent, considering the administrative resources its leader Arthur Baghdasaryan possesses and many other factors.

Sergey Minasyan says he's impressed by the results of Yelk bloc, and wonders why the Armenian National Congress decided to form an alliance to run for Parliament. He believes the force could make it to the National Assembly as a party.

According to the political scientist, Levon Ter-Petrosyan's recent interviews played into the hands of ARF Dashnaksutyun. “My impression is that Levon Ter-Petrosyan did everything for the Congress to fail to collect 5 percent,” Minasyan told a press conference today.

The political scientist says Karen Karapetyan played a positive role for the Republican Party. “The rebranding of the party was important at least during the election campaign,” he said.

Minasyan says the assessment of the elections by international observers was more positive than expected.

“The assessment shows there must be no problems with the signing of the Armenia-EU Framework Agreement,” he said.

Sergey Minasyan says Yelk bloc will be the only opposition force in the National Assembly, while representatives of Tsarukyan Alliance will play more of a role of ‘constructive opposition.’”

## British Embassy issues statement on parliamentary elections in Armenia

The British Embassy in Yerevan has issued the following statement regarding the 2 April parliamentary elections in Armenia:

The UK shares the assessment of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Election Observation Mission that these elections were well-administered and fundamental rights were generally respected but that they were “tainted by credible information about vote-buying” and pressure on some voters.

The UK welcomed the inclusive process pursued by government, opposition parties and civil society in shaping the new electoral code. Along with other in-

ternational partners – EU, Germany, US and UN – and the Government of Armenia, the UK supported the introduction of a new voter authentication system.

We welcome OSCE/ODIHR's assessment that this technology reduced the scope for voting irregularities. We note, however, the complaints and allegations relating to the overall electoral process and encourage the relevant authorities to deal with them efficiently and effectively.

The UK will continue to support all in government, parliament and civil society committed to strengthening democracy, prosperity and stability in Armenia for the benefit of its people.

## Armenian Government Plans Extra Spending in 2017



Citing improved tax collection, the Armenian government said on Thursday that it hopes to spend roughly 50 billion drams (\$103 million) more than expected this year.

Prime Minister Karen Karapetian and Finance Minister Vartan Aramian announced those plans at a weekly cabinet session in Yerevan.

"We can increase our tax revenue [projected for] this year by around 50 billion drams and spend as much on capital projects so that we can target much faster economic growth for 2018," Aramian said at the meeting.

"We need more capital spending in this country so that we can ensure faster economic growth," he told reporters afterwards. He did not specify which concrete projects the additional tax revenue, which totaled 11.5 billion drams in the first quarter of this year, will finance.

Armenia – Finance Minister Vardan Aramian at a cabinet meeting in Yerevan, 6 April, 2017.

Armenia – Finance Minister Vardan Aramian at a cabinet meeting in Yerevan, 6 April, 2017.

According to government data, economic growth in Armenia slowed to 0.5 percent last year amid a continuing recession in Russia.

Karapetian's cabinet has forecast that it will accelerate to 3.2 percent this year.

The planned extra spending would be equivalent to about 4 percent of overall expenditures envisaged by Armenia's 2017 state budget. The government had decided to cut public spending this year in order to curb a widening budget deficit that exceeded 5 percent of Gross Domestic Product in 2016. The 2017 budget also calls for higher tax revenue.

The State Revenue Committee (SRC) reported on Thursday that it collected 255 billion drams in taxes and customs duties in the first quarter, a year-on-year increase of 10.5 percent. The SRC attributed the increase to a tougher fight against corporate tax evasion and on-going reforms of tax administration.

Vartan Harutiunian, the current SRC chief appointed in October, said in December that he plans to remove "corrupt and unhealthy elements" from the SRC. Karapetian, for his part, spoke in February of "fundamental" changes planned within Armenia's tax and customs services making up the SRC. Corruption among tax and customs officials has long been endemic.

The prime minister said on Thursday that he expects the new SRC leadership to come up soon with a "plan for the second phase of reforms" of tax administration.



## Agriculture programs in Ararat region are aimed at development of organic production processing

By Naira Badalyan

ArmInfo. On April 7, in the Ministry of Agriculture of Armenia, the Deputy Minister Robert Makaryan discussed investment programs in Ararat region.

As the Ministry's press service told ArmInfo, the represented programs are about organizing production of organic production and its processing, dried fruit and the launch of a milk processing plant. The responsible ones for the sector and potential beneficiaries of the programs discussed the presented programs and the financial justification, and also the preferred variants of financial support. Earlier it was reported that in 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture of Armenia will implement investment projects amounting \$ 120 million. As the Minister Ignaty Araqelyan stated, the investments will be directed to creation of intensive gardens, modernization of brandy production and etc. Besides, the programs of development of regions will be implemented.





## Armenian Robotics Team Excels in Ohio Competition



Students from Ayb High School in Armenia's capital city made their second trip to Marion this week to compete in the National Robotics Challenge, The Marion Star reports.

The three-day open robotics competition started Thursday and continues through Saturday at Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

"Last year we heard about it and decided to participate," said Vazgen Gabrielyan, director of the robotics laboratory at Ayb High School.

"We really liked that the competition has no limits, not limiting us to any kits and having the chance to create things from scratch. That's our approach to robotics."

That approach proved to be successful as the Ayb students captured a Honda Innovation Award and a silver award in the lightweight/self-controlled sumo robot competition at the 2016 edition of the NRC.

"We've had a lot of success in both local and international championships since the school opened," Gabrielyan said.

The Ayb team's accomplishments in Marion had both the school and the country "boiling," according to Gabrielyan.

"That was a big pleasure for us to get that (Honda Innovation Award), because we put a lot of hard work into that robot," said Armen Barseghyan, a senior at Ayb. "Reporters were coming to our school and doing interviews, asking how it was to go to the National Robotics Challenge from a little country and take the silver medal and the higher award."

Barseghyan and classmates Areg Kalantaryan, Areg Karapetyan, Felix Ghandilyan, Simon Zohrabyan, and Arman Mnatsakanyan have entered two robots in this year's competition — one combat robot and one maze robot.

## Minister of Transport of Armenia excludes presence of practice of "kickbacks" in road construction

Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technologies of Armenia Vahan Martirosyan excludes the presence of practice of "kickbacks" in road construction. "If there are facts proving the contrary, I ask to share them," Vahan Martirosyan stated in an interview with journalists on April 6 after the meeting of the country's government. At the same time, responding to the question of ArmInfo, the minister acknowledged that the condition of many roads in Armenia remains unsatisfactory.

According to the Minister, there are many problems related to road construction, but we must reckon with the financial possibilities. Within three weeks, the Ministry of Transport promises to make proposals in this direction, but recognizes that even a billion-dollar investment cannot solve this problem in a short time.

According to Vahan Martirosyan, the rehabilitation and repair of roads in Armenia will require very serious investments, since the roads in Armenia require major repairs, rather than temporary solutions in the form of a separate backfill, as is usually done. "At this stage, the necessary amount of investment is being specified." According to preliminary calculations, huge investments are required," said the head of the Ministry of Transport, promising to give more specific information within three weeks." The expected investments, as the minister explained, involve both budgetary funds and investments from International donors, and despite the desire of the Government not to increase the country's debt burden, as explained by Martirosyan, in the matter of improving roads, the government will have to go on attracting external credit. However, as Vahan Martirosyan stated, there is no hope that the local business will express a desire to invest in road construction - the state can not force the business to build roads. However, if the business is interested in financing road construction, then afterwards they will be paid.

As the minister pointed out, the reasons for this state of the roads of



Armenia are not only that overhaul has not been done for a long time, but also in the climatic conditions of the country. "You can see the temperature changes in Armenia: from +50 in summer to -30 and -40 degrees in winter, in such conditions road maintenance is extremely difficult," he said.

Nevertheless, as Martirosyan noted, roads built in recent years in the republic are of high quality. For example, as he assured, the new road to Georgia (Vanadzor - Alaverdi - the border of Georgia) will serve the term of 12 years. "According to the standards, the lifespan of a new road with asphalt concrete pavement is estimated at 12 years, but with the condition of routine repairs on the 7th or 8th year," he explained.

The head of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and IT does not agree with the fact that unsatisfactory state of roads can be associated with poor quality of the supplied bitumen. As Vahan Martirosyan assured, there can be no censures, because, according to the conclusion of relevant laboratories, the bitumen used in road construction corresponds to the established standards.

## OSCE monitoring: No cease-fire violation reported



On April 5, 2017, in accordance with the arrangement reached with the authorities of the Republic of Artsakh, the OSCE Mission conducted a planned monitoring of the Line of Contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan, in the direction of the Hadrut

region, near Karakhanbeyli.

From the positions of the Defense Army of the Republic of Artsakh, the monitoring was conducted by Field Assistants to the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Mihail Olaru (Moldova) and Ghenadie Petrica (Moldova), as well as staff-member of the OSCE High-Level Planning Group Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Farrelli (Ireland).

From the opposite side of the Line of Contact, the monitoring was conducted by staff member of the Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE CiO Peter Svedberg (Sweden), Personal Assistant to the CiO Personal Representative Simon Tiller (Great Britain), and Head of the OSCE High-Level Planning Group (HLPG) Colonel Hans Lampalzer (Austria).

The monitoring passed in accordance with the agreed schedule. No violation of the cease-fire regime was registered.

From the Artsakh side, the monitoring mission was accompanied by representatives of the Republic of Artsakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense.

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## Russia hopes parties to Karabakh conflict will resume dialogue

Russia hopes the parties to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict will return to the negotiating table, Spokesperson for the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said.

"Today marks the anniversary of the end of large-scale military actions at the line of contact between the Armenian and Azerbaijani forces in what became the worst violation of the ceasefire regime since 1994," Spokesperson Maria Zakharova told a briefing today.

"The OSCE Minsk Group and the international community have been taking measures to help create conditions for furthering the negotiations. For that purpose two summits were organized in Vienna and St. Petersburg. Work in that direction continues, and we hope the parties will return to the negotiating table and continue discussions," Zakharova said.



## France committed to bringing negotiated solution to Karabakh conflict

France has reiterated the belief that the current status quo in Nagorno-Karabakh is unsustainable.



"A year ago, the hostilities that had broken out in Nagorno-Karabakh between April 2 and 5, to the grief of the people of the region, were suspended. As co-chair of the Minsk Group, France worked actively with its Russian and American partners to end the fighting and resume negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan," the Foreign Ministry of France said in a statement.

"France reiterates its belief that the current status quo in Nagorno-Karabakh is unsustainable and that there can be no military solution to the conflict. It calls on the parties to respect the commitments made at the Vienna Summits of 16 May 2016 and St. Petersburg on 20 June 2016, namely respect for the ceasefire, confidence-building measures and recovery Negotiations," the statement reads.

"As the President of the Republic, during his recent talks in Paris with his Armenian and Azerbaijani counterparts, reiterated, France remains fully committed to bringing a negotiated and lasting solution to this conflict for the benefit of stability, stability and prosperity of the entire region," the statement concludes.



## Sasna Tsrer group member Aram Manukyan`s accusation will be toughened



ArmInfo.A new article appeared in Aram Manukyan's, Sasna Tsrer group member accusatory case (Pavel Manukyan warrior's son-editor's notes).

As Harutyun Baghdasaryan, Manukyan's lawyer informs his defendant is also incriminated crimes introduced by Article 185 of CC (deliberate destruc-

tion or other's property damage). The lawyer also informed that Aram does not consider himself guilty on incriminated crimes towards him.

To note, Sasna Tsrer Group member Aram Manukyan in July 2016 was accused by Article 219 1st 3 part (Capture of buildings, transport means, messages or relations committed by organized group) and Article 3 part 235 (Illegal purchase, sale, saving, transfer or keeping weapon, armament, explosive stuff and explosive device done by organized group) Armenian Criminal Code, Article 218 part3 point 1 (hostage taking) and Article 238 (weapon rape, armed technique, explosive devices).

As means of suppression was selected arrest. Appeler court rejected to change the suppression way on August 23 2016.

## October 2017, First Armenian National Cognac Festival

Armenian national cognac festival will be held for the first time on October 2017. The initiator of «Armenian national cognac festival» is the founder and president of BPA (Business Partners of Armenia) company Vruyr Penesyan.

Recently during the conversation with correspondent of «Noyan Tapan» newspaper he informed, that the first Armenian national cognac festival is planning to be held on October 2017 and the festival's aim is bringing to Armenia more tourists and the businessmen engaged in cognac activity.

«Actually, we were planning to hold festival in spring, however according to the proposal of experts of cognac production we decided to hold it in autumn, so that tourists and festival participants will have the opportunity to become a direct participant in the process of grape harvest», he said, adding that he does not want to reveal all further plans.

According to V, Penesyan, famous international musicians will be invited to the festival, who will glorify the national festival of Armenian cognac.

Going back to business forum «Invest Armenia» which was organized and performed by BPA Company during many years in spring, the company's president said that unlike previous years this year «Invest Armenia 2017» will be held in autumn.

«Every year, we get new projects

from representatives of public and private sector. This year, during the business forum of «Invest Armenia» will be announced about the formation of new economic structure that I am sure will have a positive impact on economic development and expansion of business ties of our country», said V. Penesyan.





**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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## Turkey starts mine-clearing along the borders with Armenia, Iran and Azerbaijan



Efforts to clear mines have been launched on Mount Ararat in Turkey's eastern province of Igdir as part of a project financed by the European Union and Turkey in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Hurriyet Daily News reports.

According to the source, the project aims to clear Turkey's eastern border of mines to increase Ankara's ability to control the border and provide socio-economic development. As part of the project, mines along the borders with Armenia, Iran and Azerbaijan will be cleared within two years.

South African firm DENEL-MECHEM will conduct the mine-clearing works as part of the project. Company officials said a total of 15 square kilometers will be cleared of 222,000 mines in 511 areas near the Armenian, Azerbaijani and Iranian borders within two years. Speaking at the ceremony, the head of the EU delegation in Ankara, Ambassador Christian Berger, said hundreds of innocent people, including children, die each year after stepping on mines. Berger also said land mines produce serious societal and financial effects and prevent development, as well as killing individuals.

"This project aims to reduce these effects by taking plenty of precautions including clearing the area of mines and helping the victims. The support given by the EU to mine activities is a part of our support for border management. The mines were planted between 1984 and 1999 for border security. Turkey, the EU and the U.N. are jointly working to clear the area of mines, as well as creating a modern, humanitarian and strong border security," Berger said on April 4.

## Azerbaijan disrupts any initiative aimed at excluding resumption of hostilities – Artsakh MFA

Baku deliberately deepens the mistrust between the parties and tries to make the process of peaceful settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict a hostage of its destructive policy and maximalist demands, the Artsakh Foreign Ministry said in a statement, marking the anniversary of the end of Azeri aggression.

### The statement reads:

Today marks exactly one year since the end of military aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh with a view to resolving the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict by force. On the night of 1 to 2 April 2016, in flagrant violation of the ceasefire, the Azerbaijani armed forces launched a large-scale offensive along the entire border using heavy equipment, artillery and aviation. Only after suffering heavy losses in manpower and military equipment, on 5 April 2016, Azerbaijan was forced to ask for a cessation of hostilities with the mediation of Russia.

The April aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh, accompanied by numerous violations of international humanitarian law and war crimes, became a serious challenge to regional peace and security and caused great damage to the negotiation process for the settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict within the framework of the mediation efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

During the year that has passed since the end of the hostilities on 5 April 2016, the Co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group have been making efforts to ensure conditions for a full restoration of the negotiation process.

The Republic of Artsakh has been consistently supporting the statements of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs on the need for the full implementation of the ceasefire agreement of 12 May 1994, practical application of the provisions of the agreement of 6 February 1995 on strengthening the ceasefire regime, as well as implementation of the agreements reached in Vienna (16 May 2016) and in St. Petersburg (20 June,

2016) on introduction of a mechanism for investigating incidents and increasing the capacity of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office.

Azerbaijan not only rejects these proposals, but also disrupts any initiative aimed at excluding the possibility of resumption of hostilities. Moreover, throughout this time Azerbaijan has been sparing no effort to transfer the logic of confrontation to the spheres of economy, culture and even human contacts.

While demonstrating complete unwillingness to reach a negotiated peace settlement, the Azerbaijani authorities threaten to unleash another war. By consistently increasing the degree of tension on the Line of Contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan and continuing the policy of confrontation and hostility, Baku deliberately deepens the mistrust between the parties and tries to make the process of peaceful settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict a hostage of its destructive policy and maximalist demands.

## Artsakh Ombudsman holds meetings in Washington, DC and New York

Republic of Artsakh Ombudsman Ruben Melikyan recently completed a ten-day tour organized by the ANCA Eastern Region to highlight Azerbaijan's human rights abuses and the potential war crimes committed during the Four-Day War in April 2016. The Ombudsman made stops in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Washington, DC, New York, and New Jersey holding over 40 meetings with government officials, media representatives, and NGOs active in the fields of human and legal rights.

"We were happy to be able to connect Mr. Melikyan with key officials and groups during his visit to the U.S.," said ANCA-ER Community Outreach and Communications Director Dr. Artur Martirosyan. "Today, in the midst of rising autocratic and populist tendencies in the entire region, Artsakh stands as a beacon of democracy, human rights, and freedom. We are proud of the progress that the Artsakh Republic has made in upholding Western values and traditions since its independence a quarter century ago."

His Washington, DC itinerary included two public talks and a series of meetings with various groups and officials. On March 15 Melikyan headlined an event entitled, "Human Rights in Non-Recognized States: The Case of Karabakh" at the prestigious Center for Transatlantic Relations at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. Benedikt Harzl, Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation Fellow at CTR, moderated the event. The Embassy of the Republic of Armenia to the United States hosted Melikyan for his second public event where he presented his recent report "Atrocities Committed by Azerbaijan During the 2016 April War" and answered questions from the audience.

"It is important to deliver Artsakh's message throughout major capital cities in the world," said Melikyan. "I am



thankful to the ANCA Eastern Region for organizing such a fruitful visit to Eastern United States and look forward to collaborating with all of our partners throughout the Diaspora to raise awareness and understanding about Republic of Artsakh and its unique human rights situation."

Melikyan's visit to Washington, DC also included an interview with the renowned Foreign Policy Magazine as well as discussions with reporters from The Washington Post. He also met with other leading human rights, civil society, and public policy organizations discussing the general human rights situation in Artsakh Republic and the projects that his office undertakes to safeguard and further strengthen the overall human rights situation in the country. Melikyan also met with ANCA coalition partners In Defense of Christians, A Demand For Action, and the Hellenic American Leadership Council, where he shared the details of his report on the Four-Day War. The parties also exchanged ideas about regional developments and held consultations.

His visit to Washington, DC concluded

with meetings held on Capitol Hill with various Members of Congress, including House Intelligence Committee Ranking Member Adam Schiff (D-CA), Armenian Caucus Co-Chairs Dave Trott (R-MI), Jackie Speier (D-CA), and David Valadao (R-CA), and Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA). Melikyan touched upon the duties and responsibilities of his office, the general human rights situation in the country, and challenges facing the region. The Ombudsman's last Capitol Hill stop was the event commemorating the one-year anniversary of U.S. recognition of ISIS Genocide, where Melikyan was present in solidarity with all the victims of this horrific atrocity.

In New York, Melikyan held meetings with the representatives of the Armenian Bar Association, Archbishops Oshagan Choloyan and Khajag Barsamian as well as leading human rights organizations headquartered in the city. A special community briefing entitled, "Human Rights in Artsakh Amid Azerbaijani Aggression" was held at St. Illuminator's Cathedral and Fr. Nareg Terterian of St. Sarkis church hosted Mr. Melikyan on his podcast show.



## ANCA Advances Armenia and Artsakh foreign aid priorities

The Congressional Armenian Caucus has called on key U.S. House appropriators to prioritize Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) foreign aid policies “strengthening Armenia’s independence, promoting peace in Nagorno Karabakh, and supporting Armenia as a regional safe haven for at-risk Middle East refugees,” reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

In a bipartisan letter, addressed to Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY) and Nita Lowey, the Chairman and Ranking Democrat, respectively, of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State-Foreign Operations, more than two dozen U.S. Representative underscored the importance of “the U.S.-Armenia partnership, a relationship founded upon a shared commitment to faith, freedom, and democratic values.” They stressed that “U.S. assistance has empowered progress in the areas of democracy, rule of law, freedom of expression, and free enterprise.”

Among the specific priorities advanced by the Caucus were:

— U.S. support for Armenia as a regional safe haven for Middle East refugees, in the form of a \$40 million appropriation to support transitional programs, including short-term housing/rental assistance and social and economic integration initiatives.

— A renewed focus on aid to Artsakh, with an appropriation of at least \$8 million for de-mining, rehabilitation programs (such as the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Center), and water supply systems.

— A focused effort to check Azerbaijani aggression, through the appropriation of at least \$20 million to support implementation of the Royce-Engel peace proposals, the suspension of U.S. military aid to Baku, and the strengthening of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act.

— An appropriation of at least \$40 million in economic aid to Armenia, and no less than \$11 million in military aid, with a focus on advancing U.S.-Armenia defense cooperation goals, promoting NATO interoperability, and supporting increased Armenia’s participation in global peacekeeping operations.

“Armenia – a genocide survivor state, landlocked and illegally blockaded by Turkey and Azerbaijan – has stepped forward, despite its own economic hardships, as a regional safe haven for Middle East refugees,” said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. “We thank our friends in the leadership of the Armenian Caucus for seeking at least \$40 million in FY18 funding to help transition thousands of at-risk

families to a secure, stable life in Armenia. More broadly, we would like to express our appreciation to all the signatories for supporting increased aid to Artsakh and each of the other foreign aid priorities in their letter to Chairman Rogers and Ranking Democrat Lowey.”

Joining with Armenian Caucus Co-Chairs, Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Jackie Speier (D-CA), and Vice-Chair, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), in signing this letter were Representatives Salud Carbajal (D-CA), Michael Capuano (D-MA), Tony Cardenas (D-CA), Judy Chu (D-CA), David Cicilline (D-RI), Mike Coffman (R-CO), Jim Costa (D-CA), Joe Crowley (D-NY), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Jim Langevin (D-RI), Dan Lipinski (D-IL), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Stephen Lynch (D-MA), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Jim McGovern (D-MA), Grace Napolitano (D-CA), Colin Peterson (D-MN), Jared Polis (D-CO), Linda Sanchez (D-CA), John Sarbanes (D-MD), and Brad Sherman (D-CA).

On March 16th, Representatives Schiff and Pallone delivered powerful testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State-Foreign Operations, echoing the priorities shared in the Congressional Armenian Caucus letter.



**The ANCA supports the Armenian Caucus FY18 appropriation request for \$40 million to position Armenia as a regional safe haven for at-risk refugees.**

**anca.org**

## Building formerly slated for Armenian Genocide Museum sells for \$57m

Washington Business Journal – Lincoln Property Co. is now in control of the former National Bank of Washington at 619 14 St. NW, paving the way for its planned redevelopment of the historic building that's been a blight on the resurgent downtown for years.

D.C. deed records show the Cafesjian Family Foundation Inc. sold the building and three adjacent parcels Tuesday for \$57 million. The buyer is 14th G Street Holdings LP, and Bari Nichols, a senior vice president with Lincoln Property, signed the trust documents reported with the deed. Lincoln Property acquired the property in partnership with Pearlmark.

The trust shows that a firm called Cara Investment GmbH is putting up more than \$48 million for the project.

The partners plan to start work on the trophy office development in the fourth quarter of 2017, Lincoln Property said in a release. The new building, to be branded as 699 Fourteenth, is slated for completion in the fourth quarter of 2019. Lincoln Property will oversee the project's development, leasing and management.

Lincoln Property in August filed plans to redevelop the bank and the adjacent parcels with an 11-story office building that would sit behind it on G Street NW. Lincoln is working with architect Shalom Baranes on the proposal, which would add 127,186 square feet to the 35,000-square-foot existing building.

The historic bank building, which dates to the 1920s, would



serve as the main entrance to the building, with the cavernous, ornate bank hall serving as the building's lobby. The proposal does include restoration of the bank's historic facade, as well as the bank hall and mezzanine level in the building. The Historic Preservation Review Board approved a slightly modified version of the concept in December.

It is just the latest proposed breath of new life for the Classic Revival structure, in which the Cafesjian Family Foundation hoped to install an Armenian Genocide Museum before those plans fell through and the property became embroiled in years of litigation.

Later, the foundation floated the idea of filling the building with retail tenants.

## Armenian Genocide Library opens in Washington

Historians and researchers will now have access to more than 5,000 publications on Armenian Genocide.

The Armenian Genocide Library of the Armenian National Institute (ANI) opened in Washington on April 5, Voice

of America reports.

The Armenian and English books here do not present the Armenian history and national identity, but provide detailed information on the most painful page of Armenian history – the Arme-

nian Genocide.

Director of ANI Ruben Adalyan says the library currently hosts 5,000 books, but they hope to increase the number.

"We have created a system, which will allow researchers to use the precious collection acquired by the Armenian Assembly of American and the Armenian National Institute over the past 40 years," he said.

Attending the opening ceremony was Hayk Demoyan, Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, who welcomed the creation of the library and the perspective of cooperation with Armenia.

"Opening of an Armenian information center in Washington is a very important event. The opening of such a center in the US capital is a huge achievement by itself," Demoyan said.

He added that the center will become a venue for meetings, discussions and coordinated work.





## Armenian Genocide movie 'The Promise' screens at Vatican

Variety — “The Promise,” a movie about the Armenian genocide, screened at the Vatican on Tuesday with director Terry George, producer Eric Esrailian and some talent in attendance, in a clear sign of Catholic Church support ahead of the film’s upcoming U.S. release.

The big-budget epic was bankrolled by late billionaire Kirk Kerkorian. Its lead actors, Christian Bale and Oscar Isaac, did not make the trek to Vatican City, but the intimate event held for Vatican officials in the 50-seat Vatican Cinematheque’s screening room was attended by stars Shohreh Aghdashloo and James Cromwell and by singer-songwriter Chris Cornell, who composed the theme song.

The Vatican screening comes after Pope Francis last year made his first visit to Armenia. During the visit, he used the term “genocide” to describe the slaughter of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians by Ottoman Turks during World War I.

The pope’s remark sparked an angry reaction by the Turkish government, which strongly denies that a genocide occurred, arguing that it was wartime and many Turks were killed as well and insisting there was never a systematic plan to execute Armenians.

Esrailian, head of Survival Pictures, which he set up with Kerkorian to produce “The Promise,” traveled to Armenia for the papal visit.

“When he [Pope Francis] mentioned the word ‘genocide’ once in the big Mass, you could hear a kind of collective gasp and people getting tearful because he spoke really as a world leader,” Esrailian recalled. He noted that Armenia was the first nation to adopt Christianity as a state religion, “so it has a special place in Catholicism.”

“When there was awareness [within the Vatican] that a major film was being made, we were contacted to screen the movie. So we sent a private link to be viewed,” he said.

“The Promise,” which world-premiered at the Toronto Film Festival last September, will go on wide release in the U.S. on 2,000 screens via Open Road Films on April 21.

The roughly \$100-million film is considered a breakthrough after several at-



tempts to make a Hollywood film about the Armenian genocide failed during past decades because of what director Terry George calls a “denialist lobby,” which these days is efficiently run by the government of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, he claims.

George said there was a denialist propaganda machine behind “The Ottoman Lieutenant,” a film with strikingly similar elements to “The Promise,” but which allegedly takes the side of the denialists. “Ottoman Lieutenant” went on release via New York-based Paladin on roughly 200 screens in the U.S. in March.

“It’s an Erdogan propaganda film released as a feature film in the United States, remarkably, just ahead of us,” the director said. “The Ottoman Lieutenant,” which stars Josh Hartnett and Ben Kingsley, was produced by a Turkish company called Eastern Sunrise Films.

Variety critic Dennis Harvey, in his review of “The Ottoman Lieutenant,” wrote that, “[in] this primarily Turkish-funded production, the historical, political, ethnic and other intricacies — not to mention that perpetual elephant in the room, the Armenian Genocide, which commenced in 1915 — are glossed over in favor of a generalized ‘Whattaya gonna do... war is bad’ aura that implies conscience without actually saying anything.”

“The Promise” faces its own challenges, including tepid reviews. Variety critic Peter Debruge called it “a sloggy

melodrama in which the tragedy of a people is forced to take a back seat to a not especially compelling love triangle.”

“The Promise” centers on a love story involving a medical student (Isaac), a journalist (Bale), and the Armenian woman (Charlotte Le Bon) who steals their hearts. All three find themselves grappling with the Ottomans’ decision to begin rounding up and persecuting Armenians.

“The construct of the love triangle is clearly there for people who are unaware of the genocide or not particularly that interested in it,” said George. “It’s a big, old-fashioned love story. I think we’ve created a classic form of story, and hopefully women in particular will be entertained by it,” the director added.

As part of its marketing strategy, Survival Pictures has launched a #KeepThePromise social impact campaign for which it has already recruited Elton John, Barbara Streisand, Andre Agassi, Cher, Sylvester Stallone, among others, for an anti-genocide call to action connected to the film which has a strong philanthropic aspect. Survival Pictures’ cut of the box office will go to charities including The Sentry, the non-profit group co-founded by George Clooney and activist and author John Prendergast.

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## Special cover cancelled on 25th anniversary of Armenia-China diplomatic ties

A Special cover dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and the People's Republic of China was cancelled on April 5.

The Special cover represents a unique philatelic product – a thematic cover, which is cancelled with a Special postmark.

The Special cover has been designed with a print run of 1000 pcs. The author of the Special cover's design is the designer of "HayPost" CJSC Vahagn Mkrtchyan.

The Special cover depicts Etchmiadzin Cathedral and the Temple of Heaven in Beijing designed by the Armenian ornament and Chinese dragon symbolizing Armenia and China respectively. The stamp dedicated to the theme "Armenian national costumes. Yerevan" issued by "HayPost" CJSC in 2014 and the stamp dedicated to ancient towns of China is-



sued by China Post in 2016 are attached on the Special cover.

The participants of the cover signing ceremony were the RA Minister of Transport, Communication and Information technologies Mr. Vahan Martirosyan, the RA Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr.

Edward Nalbandian, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China in Armenia Mr. Tian Erlong, President of the Union of Philatelists of the RA Mr. Hovik Musayelyan, "HayPost" CJSC Trust Manager Mr. Juan Pablo Gechidjian.

## Leonardo DiCaprio applauds creators of Armenian Genocide film The Promise

Oscar-winning actor Leonardo DiCaprio has applauded creators of the Armenian Genocide film The Promise.

"Oscar Isaac, Christian Bale and Charlotte Le Bon, under the direction of Terry George, provide extraordinary performances in the upcoming film The Promise," DiCaprio said in a Facebook post.

"I applaud the entire team, together with my good friend the legendary producer Mike Medavoy, whose enduring talent, dedication and commitment brought this important project and subject to life," the actor added.

Set during the last days of the Ottoman Empire, "The Promise" is an epic human drama about a love triangle between Michael Boghosian, a brilliant medical student played by Golden Globe winning actor Oscar Isaac, the beautiful and sophisticated Armenian



artist Ana played by Charlotte le Bon, and Chris Myers, a renowned American photo-journalist covering the war played by Oscar-winning actor Christian Bale.

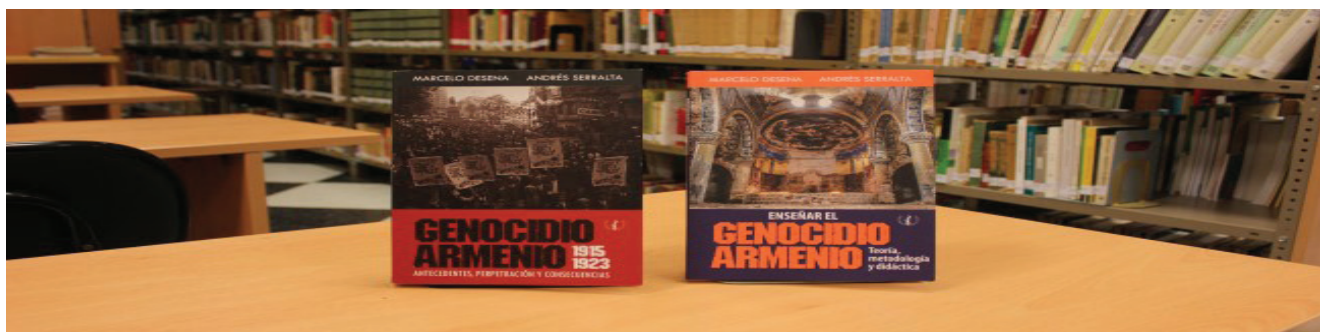
The film is also supported by an im-

pressive cast of international actors. Their relationships unfold amidst the start of the Armenian Genocide, causing major upheaval of their lives and a struggle just to survive.

The Promise hits theaters April 21.



## Research book on Armenian Genocide published in Uruguay



Professors Andrés Serralta and Marcelo Desena by the Faculty of Humanities and Education of the University of Montevideo, have published their educational research book “Teaching Armenian Genocide. Theory, Methodology and Didactics,” the University’s official website informs.

According to the source, the work was presented by national authorities in the area of education and human rights, before a public

that brought together personalities from national and international human rights organizations as well as social organizations, community entities, educators and national cultural referents.

This work complements a previous work of historical research, “Armenian Genocide 1915 -1923. Antecedents, perpetration and consequences,” which dealt with general aspects of the Armenian Genocide and its international recognition.

## Armenian Genocide remembered on Capitol Hill



Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives joined with Armenian American community leaders, genocide-prevention coalition partners, and diplomats representing Armenia and Artsakh in a standing-room-only Capitol Hill remembrance of the Armenian Genocide that featured strong bipartisan calls on the President and Congress to reject the gag-rule that Ankara has long enforced against honest American commemoration of this still-unpunished crime against humanity, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

“We were pleased to join, once again, with our friends in the Armenian Caucus to bring together so many legislators, community leaders, and coalition partners for today’s Capitol Hill remembrance,” said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. “With renewed resolve, we reaffirmed our collective commitment to ending U.S. complicity in Turkey’s denial of the Armenian Genocide, overcoming Turkey’s obstruction of justice for this crime, and paving the way toward a truthful and just international resolution that will contribute to Armenia’s security and, ultimately, serve all the citizens of the region.”

The annual Capitol Hill Armenian Genocide commemoration was sponsored by the Congressional Armenian Caucus, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, Office of the Artsakh

Republic, and Armenian American organizations.

Members of the Senate and House participating in the solemn observance included Senator Ed Markey (D-MA), House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA), Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chairs Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Jackie Speier (D-CA), Dave Trott (R-MI) and David Valadao (R-CA), Vice-Chair Adam Schiff (D-CA), and Representatives Salud Carbajal (D-CA), Judy Chu (D-CA), Katherine Clark (D-MA), Jim Costa (D-CA), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Brad Schneider (D-IL), Brad Sherman (D-CA), and Tom Suozzi (D-NY)

Capitol Hill veteran Dean Shahinian served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening, inviting clerical leaders Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Vicar General of the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church Eastern US and Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Legate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church to offer opening and closing prayers, respectively.

Among those offering keynote remarks were His Excellency Grigor Hovhannissian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia, the Honorable Robert Avetisyan, Artsakh Representative to the U.S, and Hayk Demoyan, the Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan. Joining in the commemoration were California State University Fresno President Joseph Castro, former U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John Evans and Mrs. Donna Evans, and representatives of In Defense of Christians, Hellenic American Leadership Council, A Demand for Action, and other friends and allies from human rights groups and the Greek, Assyrian and Kurdish communities. ANCA National Board member Greg Bedian, from Chicago, took part in the remembrance.

This year’s Congressional commemoration followed just two weeks after the special Capitol Hill viewing of “The Promise” – the Armenian Genocide-era epic starring Christian Bale, set for nationwide release on April 21st – which drew a capacity crowd of Members of Congress, senior Congressional aides, coalition partners, and a broad cross-section of the Washington, DC foreign policy community.

## Zodiac Weekly Forecast



### Aries (March 20–April 19)

A plan or agreement to move forward early in the week may be reversed or detoured by the week's end. There is a sense of general chaos among corporate bodies and it appears to include you in a personal way.



### Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Please note the lead paragraph. This time Mercury is changing direction in your sign, emphasizing the overall shift in your direction as well. You could be changing your mind this week about speaking up on your own behalf. This is likely not permanent. You may be realizing the timing is just not "right" yet.



### Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Mercury is your ruling avatar planet. As he slows down to turn retrograde, you may be rethinking a previous plan. There is a shift of your attention to matters of your personal history that may go back quite a long time. You will be looking inside yourself for meditative peace, answers to serious questions, and encouragement from your source.



### Cancer (June 21–July 21)

You may have a minor struggle with yourself about whether to take care of others or yourself. Helping others may look good, but it isn't what you want to do right now. Because Mercury is turning retrograde this week, you may be splitting your time and attention between both.



### Leo (July 22–August 21)

You are in a handicapped spot right now. You may have legal or ethical issues on your plate. The Powers That Be are running the show and almost any move you make outside of the box will be challenged. For the time being you are surrounded. Accept this with grace for the present.



### Virgo

### (August 22–September 22)

Your ruling planet is changing directions in the territory which deals with education, publishing, travel, public speaking, the law, and philosophy. Therefore any of these activities are subject to shifts, changes, or sudden deceleration due to lack of decision. Maybe the right solution just is not available yet. Have a sense of humor. You know Mercury is retrograding.



### Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

Venus retrograde will cause you to focus on your health unless that is normal for you. For those who are routinely conscious of fitness, you may be surprised that you are prone to let good habits slide. Don't beat yourself to pieces. A retrograding planet in this territory asks us to make positive health decisions again and again.



### Scorpio

### (October 23–November 21)

An agreement is reached between you and another early in the week. Life looks like it will move forward at an agreeable pace. However, something or someone out of your control steps in to throw a wrench in things on or about Mar. 8. A vehicle may not cooperate.



### Sagittarius

### (November 22–December 20)

This is a time in which your exuberance and enthusiasm may carry you farther than you really intended to go. You will certainly have more energy to do whatever you choose, but take care that you don't promise way more than you can deliver. Your warm and generous heart could get you in trouble.



### Capricorn

### (December 21–January 19)

A new project or person that began at the first of this year is now up for review. The time has come to grow it or let go. If you wish it to grow, you must put considerably more resources into it. This week your planetary avatar, Saturn, is turning retrograde. You may wish to opt out of this one.



### Aquarius

### (January 20–February 17)

Necessary expenses (those not of the "fun" type) may develop this week. If not that, you could be just having a little blue mood. It is one of those times when we become aware that our loved ones can never know or understand fully what is inside of us. This is an existential dilemma that everyone encounters now and then. It will pass quickly.



### Pisces (February 18–March 19)

Be careful with your spending this week. Over-optimism may drive you to spend too much or blow away a chunk of change on something you don't really need. If a thing looks too good to be true, it probably is. Beware of vampires. You tend to attract them. Disengage as soon as you recognize it.



# ARMENIA

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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.

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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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