

# Yes" Over "No": Government-backed constitutional changes approved in Armenia's referendum

With all ballots counted in the December 6 constitutional referendum, the Central Electoral Commission said early on December 7 that more than 63 percent of the voters have backed the reform under which Armenia will become a parliamentary republic.

According to preliminary results, more than 32 percent of the voters cast their ballots against the government-backed amendments.

The number of voters who voted in favor of the changes in absolute figures equals to 825,622, which is higher than the required threshold of some 637,000 (a quarter of all eligible voters) under Armenia's law.

Representatives of the ruling Republican Party and other parties that campaigned for the constitutional reform hailed the outcome, describing the referendum as a step forward.

The political parties and groups opposed to the changes dismissed the vote as fraudulent. They pointed to "widespread" violations during the vote, including ballot-box stuffing, open ballots, mul-

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tipple voting, vote buying, and others.

The opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK) dismissed the first official figures shortly after the CEC began

publishing them after midnight. Levon Zurabyan, an HAK leader, said that in fact Armenians have overwhelmingly rejected

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## Armenian President addresses Climate Change Conference in Paris

On November 30, in Paris, Serzh Sargsyan participated at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Conference, which is presided over by France, is attended by the Heads of state and government from 150 countries and by thousands of delegates. At the beginning of the meeting, delegations present at this Conference with the unprecedented high level of participation paid a one minute silence tribute to the memory of the victims of the November 13 terrorist attacks in Paris.

According to the organizers, the presence of numerous world leaders at the Paris Conference in the wake of these tragic events proves that when it comes to confronting challenges presented to the entire humankind, civilization and solidarity are stronger than barbarity.

In their opening remarks the President of France Francois Hollande, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France Laurent Fabius, who is presiding over the meeting, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Prince Charles of Great Britain and speakers after them underscored the importance of the 21st Conference for the future of planet Earth and humanity and noted that today people from all over the world are looking at Paris, expecting that as a result of the deliberations on the gravest challenge faced by the human kind - disastrous change of climate, with no delay there will be adopted a groundbreaking decision.

The speakers concurred that the Final Agreement of the Conference to be adopted on December 11, should not be just about good intentions: in their statements the world leaders should come up with



clear-cut and strong political messages to ensure that safe future of the humanity has no alternative.

In the statement made at the Conference, the President of Armenia first expressed gratitude to the President of France Francois Hollande for the excellent organization of the Conference on Climate Change and hospitality despite the terrorist attacks which shocked France and entire civilized world.

Considering climate change a global challenge, Serzh Sargsyan underscored that it threatens equally all states, regardless of their size or level of development. Even though Armenia's share in global emissions is not large and does not exceed two hundredth of a percent, according to the President Sargsyan Armenia attaches great importance to the need of combining efforts of all countries to address this issue and as a developing nation has committed herself to contribute to this global endeavor.

"The Armenian national position was reflected in the "Plan of Actions defined at the National Level" adopted by our Government. It is built upon the following principles:

First, global emissions of the green-

house gases shall be limited at the threshold, which would keep the temperature increase below the two degrees Celsius.

Second, we shall adopt an approach that is "general but differentiated," and take into account the varying degree of the current and historical responsibility of the numerous countries.

Third, the responsibility and burden-sharing for limiting the emissions of greenhouse gases shall be distributed by taking into account the rights of the contemporary and future generations to utilize the climate resources.

And, finally, four, not to do anything that would make the developing countries to slide back.

Armenia stands ready to undertake a commitment of a quantitative limitation to the increase of the emissions of greenhouse gases," said the President of Armenia. In conclusion, Serzh Sargsyan underlined that the challenge of climate change, as well as other contemporary global threats that are of concern to us, recognize neither national borders, nor international law, nor any civilizational norms. According to the President, a challenge that a country may face in the modern interdependent and globalizing world is, in a collective sense, a challenge to all of us. Therefore, the solutions shall be comprehensive, agreed upon, and coordinated. The President of Armenia said that it is important for us to evaluate anew foundations of the global cohabitation, and refine the toolbox at our disposal. According to President Sargsyan, joint response to the challenges of climate change, should it be successful, may become a precedent for a new kind of endeavor.

## President Sargsyan meets PACE co-rapporteur on Armenia

President Serzh Sargsyan received on December 6 Alan Mill, PACE co-rapporteur on Armenia, who has arrived in Armenia to observe the referendum on Constitutional changes.

President Sargsyan said the periodic meetings provide an opportunity to discuss issues related to the comprehensive cooperation between Armenia and the Council of Europe.

Serzh Sargsyan hailed Council of

Europe's support to the reinforcement of democracy, protection of human rights and rule of law in Armenia, underlining that Armenia has been consistently implementing reforms over the past years.

Alan Mill, in turn, praised the preparatory work done before the referendum and hailed the close cooperation with the Venice Commission.

"Please, accept out best wishes for



your efforts towards Constitutional amendments," Alan Mill said.



## PACE releases statement on observation of Constitutional referendum in Armenia

A cross-party delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) was present in Armenia from 4 to 7 December 2015 to observe the referendum on constitutional reforms which took place on 6 December and led to a new constitution.

After a somewhat low-key campaign with little public debate and a calm referendum day, according to preliminary results, around 64% of those who voted did so in favour of the changes, thus meeting the quorum of 25% of the registered voters needed to approve the changes.

The relatively low turn-out, around 50% of the population, reflects the fact that the referendum was driven by political interests instead of the needs of the Armenian public and was perceived by many citizens as a vote of confidence in the government rather than on the many proposals for change. The two-and-a-half-year reform process was not inclusive enough, the parliament having only a few weeks to discuss the text and public debate being limited to two months, making it difficult for an agreement to be reached. Thus, the core of the constitu-

tional change - the shift from a presidential to a parliamentary system - was understood by too many citizens as being a means for the current president to remain in power after the end of his second (and what would have been final) term.

Concerning the voting process, the delegation regrets that the authorities were not more concerned by the integrity of the process leading to a new constitution and that it must mention several problems, many of them already mentioned in previous PACE, Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR recommendations:

- the inaccuracy of the voting lists containing the names of many people residing permanently abroad or even deceased, leading to claims that these identities were usurped by people who then voted several times;

- allegations of large-scale organized vote buying and carousel voting as well as pressure on voters;

- the media playing field was once again not a level one and the political parties were not able to fulfil their duties of informing and motivating the public;

- the misuse of administrative resources by executive bodies;

- allegations of pressure on, and attempts to corrupt, election officials;

- shortcomings in the training of precinct election officials, particularly during counting;

- the lack of mobile voting effectively excluded disabled citizens from the process.

The delegation urges the authorities to address these issues in order to build trust in the voting process and in politics in general to ensure a genuinely democratic future for Armenia.

While in Armenia, the delegation met leaders and representatives of parliamentary groups and parties, the Chairperson of the CEC, representatives of civil society and the media as well as OSCE/ODIHR experts.

Members of the delegation:

Andreas Gross (Switzerland, SOC), head of delegation

Doris Fiala (Switzerland, ALDE)

Alan Meale (United Kingdom, SOC), rapporteur of the Monitoring Committee

## Yes" Over "No": Government-backed constitutional changes...

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the amendments drafted by an ad hoc presidential commission. He cited referendum results from dozens of precincts indicating resounding "No" votes.

Zurabyan claimed that Serzh Sargsyan and the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) secured many of the "Yes" votes through ballot box stuffing, multiple voting and vote buying. In that regard, he also dismissed the CEC claim that almost 1.3 million people making up just over half of Armenia's eligible voters cast ballots on Sunday. The official voter turnout is "not compatible with the country's demography," he said.

Zurabyan and representatives of another major opposition party, Zharangutyun (Heritage), also accused government loyalists of disrupting vote counts in many other precincts where popular support for Sargsyan's constitutional package proved weak. A Zharangutyun proxy claimed to have been beaten up in one of those precincts located just west of Yerevan.

The CEC, which is dominated by Serzh Sargsyan allies, as well as the HHK

will reject the allegations. The CEC chairman, Tigran Mukuchyan, challenged the opposition to present documentary evidence of fraud in writing as hundreds of opposition supporters rallied on Sunday night near the commission's offices in downtown Yerevan.

The demonstration was organized by Zharangutyun and several other opposition groups aligned in the New Armenia Public Salvation Front. The alliance launched on Tuesday a campaign of street protests aimed at unseating Sargsyan. It has failed to pull large crowds.

The more moderate HAK and its allies will hold a rally in Yerevan's Liberty Square on Monday. "We expect to see many people in Liberty Square," Zurabyan told a late-night news conference. Speaking before the CEC effectively gave victory to the "Yes" camp, he said the HAK's further actions will depend on the official referendum results.

The referendum was monitored by several hundred observers deployed by Armenian civic groups in polling stations across the country. Many of them also reported serious irregularities.

By contrast, international vote-monitoring bodies like the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe sent only a handful of representatives to Armenia. This might be connected with the fact that neither the United States nor the European Union has endorsed or voiced concerns over the constitutional reform.

Also, the Council of Europe's Venice Commission gave a largely positive assessment of Sargsyan's constitutional amendments in September. The commission said they would mark a "further important step forward in the transition of Armenia towards democracy."

The HAK, Zharangutyun and other reform opponents maintain that Sargsyan is only keen to stay in power in a different capacity after serving out his second and final term in 2018. In a bid to disprove such claims, Serzh Sargsyan said last year that he will not seek to become prime minister or parliament speaker if Armenia switches to the parliamentary system. However, he pointedly declined to reaffirm that pledge in televised remarks aired on Thursday.

## President Sargsyan speaks about Constitutional changes

Armenia - President Serzh Sargsyan is interviewed by Armenian television, Yerevan, 2Dec2015.

In the evening of December 2, President Serzh Sargsyan gave a comprehensive interview to the representatives of the Armenian TV companies and answered multiple questions related to the Constitutional changes such as the necessity of initiating such changes and the objective behind it, significance of the changes for the state, arguments of those who speak against the changes in the Main Law, the validity of these arguments, etc.

Raising more questions about his long-term political plans, President Serzh Sargsyan has pointedly declined to explicitly reaffirm his earlier pledges not to remain in power after 2018 if he succeeds in transforming Armenia into a parliamentary republic.

In a rare interview with the leading Armenian TV channels aired on Thursday, Serzh Sargsyan strongly defended his efforts to expedite such a transition through sweeping constitutional changes put on a referendum to be held on Sunday.

He was asked by a reporter what he will do after completing his final presidential term in 2018 in case of a "Yes" vote in the referendum. "I think that we will talk about that after the 2017 parliamentary elections," he replied. "It's too early to talk about that now."

"Why am I saying 'after 2017?'" Sargsyan said, answering a similar question from another TV journalist. "Because you can seriously speak of becoming prime minister or forming a government only if you have a majority in parliament. But if you don't have a majority in parliament, whether or not the constitution has been amended, how are you going to become prime minister? There would be no such possibility."

Serzh Sargsyan publicly stated in April 2014 that he "will not aspire to the post of prime minister" if Armenia does switch to the parliamentary system of governance. He thereby sought to disprove opposition claims that the main aim of his constitutional reform is to enable him to cling to power in a different capacity after 2018. The Armenian constitution bars the incumbent president from seek-



ing a third five-year term in office.

Senior representatives of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) have since cited Sarkisian's pledge on numerous occasions. According to some of them, the president told the HHK's governing body in July 2015 that he will also not strive to become parliament speaker in 2018 in the event of enacting the controversial amendments.

Asked in the interview whether he is now backtracking on those promises, Sargsyan said: "No, no. I won't say I have never backtracked on my statements. But as a rule, I don't backtrack on anything in

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## Armenian soldier killed as NKR troops rebuff a fresh infringement attempt by Azerbaijan



An Armenian soldier was killed by Azerbaijani forces in Nagorno-Karabakh early on December 4 just hours after the United States, Russia and France urged the conflicting parties "in the strongest possible terms" to avoid ceasefire violations.

The Karabakh Defense Army said the 20-year-old soldier, Erik Grigoryan, was shot dead in an overnight Azerbaijani commando attack on its frontline positions in Karabakh's north. It said Azerbaijani forces also violated the ceasefire regime by firing 240 mortar shells and several rockets at various sections of "the line of contact" around Karabakh.

In a statement, the Armenian-backed army added that its frontline troops are taking "punitive actions to suppress the aggressive enemy activity."

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry claimed the opposite; however, saying that Armenian forces themselves attacked Azerbaijani positions and suffered "big losses" as a result. It said one of its

servicemen, a warrant officer, was lightly wounded in the fire-fight.

According to news reports from Baku, two Azerbaijani soldiers were killed on the Karabakh frontline earlier this week. The Azerbaijani military confirmed only one of those combat casualties: Fariz Novruzov. He too was a warrant officer serving on a contractual basis.

Armenian and Azerbaijani commando units mainly consist of contract soldiers.

Late on Thursday, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and a senior French official issued a joint statement expressing serious concern at this year's "significant escalation in violence" on the Armenian-Azerbaijani frontlines. "We appeal to the sides in the strongest possible terms to reduce tensions and protect lives," they said.

Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian condemned the ensuing deadly incident in Karabakh as "Baku's response" to the mediating powers. He insisted that Kerry's and Lavrov's appeal was primarily addressed to the Azerbaijani side.

"Who is threatening to use force and restart war? Armenia? We've never done that," Nalbandian told reporters in Belgrade. He argued that Baku also continues to reject the mediators' proposal to set up a mechanism for international investigations into truce violations in the conflict zone.

Nalbandian further announced that the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan will meet later this month. But he gave no specific dates or venues for the meeting which the mediators hope will revive the Karabakh peace process.



## Heads of Delegation of Minsk Group co-chairing countries issue joint statement on Karabakh

The Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries have issued a joint statement:

We, the Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries - Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov, Secretary of State of the United States John Kerry, State Secretary for European Affairs of France Harlem Desir - remain united in our commitment to mediating a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

We welcome the upcoming meeting between President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan under the auspices of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs. In light of the recent rise in tensions, we appeal to the sides to re-commit themselves to the peaceful resolution of the conflict and dispel any misperceptions that they are not serious about reaching a negotiated settlement. The sides should continue discussions from the Sochi, Wales, and Paris Summits of 2014 on elements of a comprehensive settlement, and should intensify their dialogue in 2016 on the basis of proposals currently under discussion.

With the significant escalation in violence along the Line of Contact and Armenia-Azerbaijan border this year, the status quo has become unsustainable. We

especially condemn the use of mortars and other heavy weaponry, and regret deeply the civilian casualties these weapons have caused. There is no military solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and there is no justification for the death and injury of innocent civilians. We appeal to the sides in the strongest possible terms to reduce tensions and protect lives. The Co-Chairs have proposed risk-reduction measures that we encourage the sides to adopt, including an OSCE investigation mechanism.

We welcome the progress made by the sides in implementing the data exchange on missing persons under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). We encourage further cooperation with ICRC and must ensure that it has sufficient funding to fully implement this important humanitarian measure. Azerbaijani authorities' decision to return an Armenian soldier who crossed the Line of Contact and an Armenian civilian who crossed the international border was a helpful humanitarian gesture and consistent with international humanitarian obligations. We urge the sides to return all remaining prisoners in the spirit of the Astrakhan Declaration of October 2010 issued by the Presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Russian Federation. There must also be dialogue



between Armenians and Azerbaijanis to build trust between neighboring peoples. We encourage the sides to work with the Co-Chairs to support programs that bring together people affected by the conflict.

Over the past year, we have witnessed increasingly vocal attacks on the Co-Chairs and the Minsk Group format. We emphasize that the Minsk Group remains the only accepted format by the sides and has the full confidence of all OSCE participating States. Any attempts to blame the Co-Chairs for setbacks in the negotiation process only mask the primary obstacle to peace - the lack of political will in Armenia and Azerbaijan to reach a negotiated settlement. The Co-Chairs will continue to brief international and regional organizations interested in supporting the Minsk Group process. We reaffirm our readiness to work closely with the sides on achieving our common objective of an enduring peace.

## French National Assembly sends Armenian Genocide bill to Justice Commission

The National Assembly of France voted on December 3 to send the bill on criminalization of the Armenian Genocide denial proposed by MP Valérie Boyer back to the Justice Commission, Hilda Tchoboian, Member of the French Rhône-Alpe Regional Parliament told Public Radio of Armenia.

The decision was made on grounds that more time was needed to make the text more precise.

Explaining the reasons behind the decision, Hilda Tchoboian said: "Valérie Boyer is an opposition MP in the National Assembly. The Socialist majority of the Parliament objected that the proposal was brought on the floor at an inappropriate time, and had to be completed in order not to be rejected by the Constitutional Council."

She added that regional elections are expected in France next Sunday, and the Left and the Right are trying hard to prevent each other from realizing the expectations of the Armenian community to secure their votes.

The bill was discussed by the parliamentary Justice



Commission on Nov. 25.

Turkey had suspended military, economic and political ties with France when the lower house of the French Parliament passed a similar bill in December 2011.

The French Senate then also passed the bill in January 2012, ignoring warnings from Turkey that passage of the legislation would lead to additional sanctions. A month later, France's Constitutional Council overturned the bill.

## President vows funding for Gyumri street repairs

Amid persistent allegations that his government deliberately neglects Gyumri because its residents overwhelmingly voted against his 2013 reelection, President Serzh Sargsyan promised on December 4 large-scale funding for repairs of the city's battered streets.

The move came just two days before a referendum on constitutional changes widely regarded as crucial for Sargsyan's political future.

The roads in Armenia's second largest city have been in an increasingly poor condition in the last few years. Most of them are now dotted with deep potholes and thick layers of mud. Some are practically impassable, placing residents of nearby buildings beyond the reach of public transport and taxis.

The Gyumri municipality, whose annual budget is equivalent to only \$6.5 million, estimated last December that as much as \$80 million is needed for resurfacing the local road infrastructure. With its tacit approval, the city assembly drew up a list of six major streets that were in a particularly urgent need of repairs worth \$2.6 million. The Armenian government rejected in 2014 the council's request to finance the road works, citing a lack of funds.

The rebuff only added to a growing sense among local residents that they are paying the price for Sargsyan's extremely poor showing in Gyumri during Armenia's last presidential election held in February



2013. Most of them voted for the main opposition candidate, Raffi Hovannisian, at the time.

In 2013, the central government also effectively froze the protracted construction of new homes for hundreds of Gyumri families still living in temporary shelters 27 years after a catastrophic earthquake that ravaged their city. Government officials have denied any political motives behind these decisions.

Meeting with Gyumri Mayor Samvel Balasanyan in Yerevan, Serzh Sargsyan said he has "given an instruction to raise 23 million euros" (\$25 million) that will be channeled into the local street network. In remarks broadcast by Armenian television,

he did not specify the source of funding for the road works.

Nor did the president mention Sunday's constitutional referendum, saying instead that Gyumri should be in good shape before the reconstruction of a major Armenian highway running through it is complete in 2018. He said "the process" will start as early as on Monday if Balasanyan can guarantee efficient use of the funds.

Balasanyan thanked Serzh Sargsyan for the unexpected aid. He was also shown by state television saying that hundreds of new jobs will be created in the unemployment-stricken city by private businesses next year.

## Armenia says first year of EEU activity positive

Armenia positively views the results of the first year of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) work, the country's trade representative in the Russian Federation Karen Asoyan said at the opening ceremony of the Eurasian Economic Congress on December 1, TASS reports.

"In Armenia we're thoroughly analyzing the results of our membership - both in the government and in business," Asoyan said. "Our enterprises mainly speak about positive results. Many formalities concerning customs processing in particular, which are related to costs, are gone as the trade regime with the Union's states, Armenia's main partners, has become more open," the trade representative said.

He added though that there are some issues still in place. "The mechanism of VAT recovery hasn't been solved yet, which to some extent is restraining trade. This impacts trade (flows) from Russia to Armenia as well. Hopefully, the Eurasian Economic Commission will somehow solve the issue in the nearest future," Asoyan said.

Among major trends he mentioned more joint ventures being created by Russian and Armenian enterprises after the



country joined the bloc. "Russian tourist flow to Armenia has increased and developed," he added.

The trade representative also noted the importance of participation of the Eurasian Economic Union in formation of the Silk Road economic belt. "It would be important to construct a railroad from Iran to Armenia and reconstruct the railroad between Armenia and Russia," he said, adding that "this will allow creation of the shortest efficient way of supplying goods from the Persian Gulf countries to the EEU member-states."



## EBRD launches new strategy for Armenia



The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has adopted a new strategy for Armenia under which it will over the next four years give priority to enhancing the competitiveness of the private sector, improving the business environment, developing local the capital markets and funding infrastructure development.

Armenia's economic growth has slowed down this year as a result of the broader regional downturn which affects the country via reduced trade, remittances and investment flows. In addition, the depreciation of the Armenian dram and a decrease of foreign currency reserves have impacted the country's economy.

To speed up economic growth and support the government's

ambitious reform programme, which includes improving the business environment, the EBRD will focus on the following key priorities in its new strategy for Armenia:

- Enhancing private sector competitiveness: For Armenia's small and open economy, a significant improvement in competitiveness is key to attracting investment. The EBRD will continue financing the private sector. The Bank will target assistance for improvements to the regulatory and administrative environment and strengthen its assistance to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

- Developing capital markets and promoting local currency financing: As the authorities roll out mandatory pension reforms, the majority of pension fund investments will be channeled in local currency. Success will largely depend on the emergence of a healthy supply of capital market issues on the local market, and enough different investors to create market liquidity. The EBRD stands ready to support the development of the local capital market.

- Developing public utilities: Armenia's energy, transport and municipal infrastructure still needs much update. For this, it is important to increase private participation in public service provision. The Bank will support commercially viable energy and energy efficiency, transport and municipal service projects and engage in policy dialogue.

The EBRD is the largest single investor in Armenia. To date, the Bank has committed almost €950 million in over 140 projects in all major sectors of the economy.

## International Robots Show Coming to Yerevan

For the first time, Russia-based Robots Inc. will bring the Bal Robotov (Ball of Robots) project to Armenia with the support of Ameriabank.

The first Ball of Robots was held in Moscow in 2014 and became the most successful exhibition ever held in Russia. A subsequent country tour saw breathtaking success in Sochi, Krasnodar, St. Petersburg, Minsk and Yekaterinburg.

And now for the first time ever, Yerevan will host the exhibition from December 9, 2015 to January 10, 2016. The exhibition will be held in Yerevan Mall. Special discount rates will be offered to children: AMD 2200 on weekdays and AMD 3300 on weekends. Adult tickets will cost AMD 2900 and AMD 3900 respectively. Special rates for group school tours will also be available.

The event will introduce visitors to the latest developments of engineering by interacting with robots from around the world, some of which perfectly incorporate the latest trends in robotics, artificial intelligence and robot teaching systems. Since one of the major goals of the project

is teaching, special attention is paid to it at all levels from selection of robots to accompanying activities. Visitors will get to interact personally with each robot, play with them, have fun with them and take photos.

The exhibition will feature over 20 interactive robots from various countries, as well as the best of Armenian robotics. Other entertainments include a dancing robot show, quadcopter zone, robolab, Lego brainstorming/robot building sessions, robot programming and robomarket.

Among the robots will be the celebrated RoboThespian-a life-sized humanoid robot and one of the world's most cutting-edge and emotional robots. It can interact with humans, imitate their movements, sing, dance, laugh, cry and even recite Shakespeare. RoboThespian has been featured on several contemporary stages, even performing onstage at the CeBit opening ceremony in 2014 in front of German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister David Cameron.

Other guests in Yerevan will include

the therapeutic robot Paro from Japan, designed to administer the documented benefits of animal therapy to patients in hospitals and nursing homes; Baxter from the U.S. performs various industrial operations, robowaiter Yosha from Ukraine, RoboFootball from South Korea and many other interesting robots with diverse functionalities.

Giving high importance to the role of this event in social life in Armenia, Ameriabank has involved its partners in the organization process. Major partners of the Ball of Robots are Yerevan Mall and Yerevan Production, while "INGO ARMENIA" ICJSC will provide insurance for robots and "Panarmenian Media Group" CJSC, informational support. Partners of the exhibition include Aray Electronics Chain, Technolife, Russkoye Radio and Radio Van, Matit, Creato and The Twenty Two design companies, Tumo Center for Creative Technologies, UITE, Ayb School, UNITY Production, GAT Cutting, ImYerevan.com and cult.am and Astghik Publishing House.

*By Armenpress*



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## 1 ROOM

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

## 2 ROOMS

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



## 3 ROOMS

- 3090 **Dzorap Newly built**, 190sq.m, 2 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, capitally renovated, parking. Price: 460.000 USD
- 3090. **Busand str./Near Republic Square/**, Newly built, 6th floor, 116sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms one in master bedroom, capitally renovated, open balcony. Price: 350.000 USD negotiable
- 3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m., without divisions. Price: Negotiable.
- 3012.**Aram str**, Newly built, 7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price: 300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998.**North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built, 13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally repaired, heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- 2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building, 4 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, security system. Price: 320.000 USD.
- 1104.**Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**,

- 5/2, 125sq.m., stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- 2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4, 5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- 2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

## PREMISES

- 1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capitally repaired. Price: negotiable.
- 1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- 2035.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- 2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- 2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- 2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking.

Price: 3.600.000 USD

- 2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m, without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable
- 1986.**Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.
- 2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- 2175.**Tumanyan str.** Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor 300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m., - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- 2172. **Isahakyan str.**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

## LANDS

- 2122.**Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.
- 2121.**Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m., building permits. Price: 2million USD.
- 2013.**Cascade**. 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price: 460.000USD
- 1402.**Hr. Kochar Str.**, 1100 sq. m., facade -25 m. Price negotiable.
- 2090.**Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000USD.
- 2406.**Avan**, Mher Mkrtchyan block, 1000 sq.m.,

electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price: 30USD per sq.m

- 2310.**Monument, Babayan str.**, 1000 sq. m, facade-25m, privatized, Price: 350 USD negotiable
- 2107.**Monument**, 2400sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: 400 USD per sq.m.
- 2413.**Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable
- 2414.**Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price: 750.000 USD.

## PRIVATE HOUSES

- 3739.**Nork Marash** Land- 2000sq.m, two separate houses, total bld-600sq.m, capitally repaired, swimming pool, sauna, guard house. 2 car parking, garden. Price: 950.000 USD
- 3348.**Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- 3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- 3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.
- 3432.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD
- 3606.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD
- 3574.**Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD
- 3590 **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD
- 3651.**Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 1.700.000 USD.
- 3401.**Antarayan str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capitally repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD
- 3712 **Cascade** Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 storied bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 USD

## NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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





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## 1 ROOM

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

## 2 ROOMS

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

## 3 ROOMS AND MORE

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

- 2347 **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable
- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.



- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

## PRIVATE HOUSES

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

- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- 1142. **Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capially repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- 1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basement, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capially repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capially repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capially repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- 2033. **Abovyan str**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD
- 2031. **Vardanants str**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m, Price: 8000 USD
- 2027. **Sayat Nova str**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capially repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

## PREMISES



## Levon Oganezov: "I Liked So Much Sergey Smbatyan's Conducting..."

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Khachaturian Fest ends by unique Khachaturian Meets Jazz project



By Gourgen James Khazhakian  
Chief Correspondent

On December 5 the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia closed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Khachaturian International Festival with a really unique music project - "Khachaturian Meets Jazz" Gala concert.

At a press conference to summarize the Festival and this project held at the eve of the Gala concert, the Head of the Contemporary

Jazz" project will be continuous one; definitely, the Armenia's regions (Marzes) as well as international stages will be included.

The Artistic Director of the State Jazz Orchestra of Armenia Armen Hyusnunts said that there was a great temptation on the idea of presenting the works of Khachaturian in jazz arrangements: *"It is not the first time when jazz musicians refer to classical works. For a jazzman it is a great temptation to deal with Khachaturian's compositions, since his music is unique and national."*

Pianist Vahagn Hayrapetyan mentioned that Aram Khachaturi-



Art Dept of the Armenian Ministry of Culture **Armenuhi Ghazaryan** mentioned the importance of these events in our cultural life. The Festival also has an international significance, as in its framework many world-renowned musicians focus on great composer Aram Khachaturian's works, she stressed. *"Our goal is to spread Aram Khachaturian's name and works around the world. And every year the Khachaturian Festival organizers make it more interesting, diverse and multifaceted,"* said Mrs Ghazaryan.

Referring to the Khachaturian Festival, the Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (SYOA) **Sergey Smbatyan** said that it is held according to high international standards and added that the Festival represents the finest soloists who are leaving Armenia delighted. *"Around the Festival we have created an atmosphere that encourages not only Armenian musicians,"* said Sergey Smbatyan.

Smbatyan said the "Khachaturian and Jazz" project was anticipated from the very first day of the Festival. For the first time the SYOA and the State Jazz Orchestra of Armenia will represent jazz arrangements of Aram Khachaturian's works. The concert was dedicated to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a prominent pianist **Levon Malkhasyan** ("Malkhas"). It included solo performances by Levon Malkhasyan (piano), **Vahagn Hayrapetyan** (piano), **Armen Hyusnunts** (Head of the Armenian State Jazz Band, saxophone) and was directed by Sergey Smbatyan and Armen Hyusnunts. The sold-out concert program included jazz arrangements of excerpts from Khachaturian's legendary "Gayaneh" and "Spartacus" ballets as well as music of "Masquerade" drama. The arrangements and adaptations are made by both younger and older generations of composers who have tried to stay as close to the original source as possible. And there were many surprises throughout the evening.

According to Maestro Smbatyan, the "Khachaturian Meets



an himself had a great contribution in Armenian jazz establishment. In addition, some of world known jazz musicians profoundly studied Khachaturian's music. For instance, **Miles Davis** heard Khachaturian's music for several months before releasing his "Kind of Blue" album.

It should be reminded that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Khachaturian International Festival is held under the patronage of RA President **Serzh Sargsyan**. This musical celebration is realized by the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (General Partner VivaCell-MTS), with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture. The festival is sponsored by "Pyunik" Charitable Foundation, "Luding" Company, "Jermuk Group" and "Ani Plaza".

The concert was very interesting, the audience in the jam-packed hall made a real ovation for the bands and the soloists including not only the above mentioned ones but also of the brass section, lead guitar, duduk and the drummer indeed.

Among the guests of honor was **Levon Oganezov**, a prominent Russian pianist and showman of the Armenian origin. Asked about his impressions from the concert, Maestro Oganezov said he was very impressed from the Armenian musicians, noting that their professional level is really unprecedented for other post-Soviet countries. *"I liked so much Maestro Sergey Smbatyan's conducting manner,"* he said.

In one of The Highlights coming issues we'll put a detailed report on the concert, by the moment you can enjoy some pics of the concert.

Photos by Mariam Ghazanchyan  
(Culture.AM)



## 27 years after the devastating earthquake in Spitak



December 7 marks the 27th anniversary of the destructive earthquake in Spitak. The earthquake hit 40 % of the territory of Armenia, densely populated region with 1 million people. The cities of Spitak, Leninakan, Kirovakan and

Stepanavan, as well as hundreds of villages were totally or partially destroyed. Twenty-five thousand people were killed, 500 thousand were left without shelter. 17% of the buildings were destroyed; the work of 170 industrial companies was

halted.

Immediately after the earthquake Armenians all over the world united and offered comprehensive support to the Motherland. "SOS Armenie," "Aznavour for Armenia" and tens of other organizations were created. Many Diaspora Armenians rushed to Armenia, bringing food, clothes and medicine.

Many of them - doctors, psychologists, constructors, architects - stayed in Armenia and personally participated in the rescue works.

A number of countries of the world continued to support Armenia years after the earthquake. Italians built a whole dwelling district in Spitak, Norwegians built a hospital, which was named after great humanist F. Nansen.

A school built by an Englishmen was opened in Gyumri. Prime Minister of Great Britain Margaret Thatcher participated in the opening ceremony.

## Armenia committed to working with partners to establish peace in Afghanistan

**Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian offered a speech at the Resolute Support Mission Ministerial Meeting:**

*Mr. Secretary General,  
Distinguished Colleagues,*

*In almost a year since the launch of the Resolute Support Mission the situation still remains fragile, challenges persist and capability gaps remain to be filled. Afghan people continue to need our support.*

*Mr. Chairman,*

*The continued international support for the stability of Afghanistan is important for many reasons, first of all for its own people. We believe it also stands as a pivotal test for the international capability in adequately facing the challenges and generating solutions for the situations which have a global significance. Therefore, the realization of our mission will send a strong worldwide signal about the joint resolve and ability in taking commitments and addressing even the most daunting tasks. The defiance with which the security has been threatened not just in Afghanistan but in many other places, including those which we would hardly have imagined before, clearly demonstrates that our mission is not just limited to a particular geographic place or a situation but it is about a global challenge which requires a coherent response.*

*It is with this understanding that more than a decade ago*

*Armenia embarked on the participation of peacekeeping missions starting from Kosovo and then expanding to such past and present missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Mali. The United Nations Assistant Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations recently stated that "Armenia's support is important not only for its contribution but also for the Armenian history and the challenges overcome during it". Indeed, history teaches us that the security of one is intrinsically connected to others. And even the current tension on our borders has never diminished our resolve to contribute to the advancement of the peace in the world.*

*Mr. Chairman,*

*Armenian contingent will continue its international commitment within the Resolute Support Mission throughout 2016 on its current strength level. We are ready to stay with future mission Enduring Partnership when it will take over from Resolute Support Mission.*

*We will also continue to encourage internal inclusive peace process in Afghanistan, promotion of good-neighborly relations, as well as regional cooperation.*

*Mr. Chairman,*

*We have no doubts that eventually we will together prevail in establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan to the benefit of Afghan people, the region and beyond.*

*Thank you.*



## "Noel Rosa: Poet of Vila and People": Screening of Brazilian Music Documentary by Dacio Malta in Yerevan

Recently screening of the music documentary by the famous Brazilian director **Dacio Malta** "Noel Rosa: Poet of Vila and People" (*Noel Rosa: Poeta da Vila e do Povo*) took place at the French University of Armenia. This attractive event was organized by the Embassy of Brazil in Armenia.

According to the Ambassador of Brazil to Armenia H.E. **Edson Marinho Duarte Monteiro**, the French culture has been occupying special place in the culture of Brazil. *"It's very pleasant for us to have an opportunity to show the music documentary that strengthening ties with the French community. Music plays a great role in Brazil. And Armenia has good music traditions as well,"* Ambassador Monteiro said.

He expressed special gratitude to his old friend, film director Dacio Malta who came from Brazil to Armenia specifically for the film screening.

*"This is also a very good opportunity for the students of the French University of Armenia to develop their knowledge of the French language as the film subtitles are in French,"* the Ambassador said.

As measure of Noel's genius, Dacio Malta stressed the fact that Noel died very young at 26. He was active for 7 years of his life, and yet he produced 226 songs, the majority of which is Samba which are performed regularly until today and are recorded by any artists. Some of his works later became genuine musical masterpieces.

Famous Brazilian filmmaker Dacio Malta mentioned that Noel Rosa's documentary was originally produced as a series of programs broadcasted by TV Brazil to commemorate the 100 years anniversary of Noel Rosa.



**Projection du film documentaire de Dacio Malta**  
**Jeudi, le 26 novembre, à 17:00 heures, salle A**  
**Entrée libre**

La projection sera suivie d'une discussion avec  
l'audience en présence du Directeur Dacio Malta



**Noel Rosa**

**Poeta da Vila e do Povo**

**uma reportagem musical**  
(avec sous-titres français)

Réalisé par : Dacio Malta  
Durée : 1h 40min  
Pays de production : Brésil  
Année de production : 2010

Noel Rosa, le poète de Vila Isabel est un documentaire musical conté par Martinho da Vila qui rend hommage à l'un des plus importants compositeurs brésiliens qui, avec sa courte carrière qui a duré à peine sept ans, a laissé au public 227 créations musicales d'une extraordinaire qualité. Plusieurs d'entre elles sont devenues des œuvres majeures qui connaissent encore le succès aujourd'hui.





## Parliament of Aragon recognizes the Armenian Genocide



The Parliament of Aragon has adopted a declaration recognizing and condemning the Armenian Genocide. The text, which was tabled by MP Gregorio Briz Sánchez, pays homage to the over 1.5 million Armenian victims killed by the Ottoman Empire and asks all Turkish Institutions, including the government, to acknowledge this historical fact, the European Friends of Armenia (EuFoA) reports.

Given that 2015 marks the centenary of the Armenian Genocide many international organizations, such as the European Parliament, and political bodies have adopted motions commemorating it. Pope Francis also added his voice and recognized the Armenian Genocide in a declaration made in April. These events

were all referred to in the document adopted by Aragonese parliament.

In addition, the text pays tribute to the victims of the Armenian Genocide in a spirit of solidarity and European justice. It underlines that the European Union should make genocide prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity a top priority.

The resolution calls also on the government of Turkey to use the commemoration of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide as an opportunity to recognize it, open its archives and choose the path of reconciliation between the Turkish and Armenian people. It also highlights that a growing number of Turkish intellectuals, politicians and members of civil society have acknowledged the Armenian Genocide and encourages Turkish institutions to do the same.

The text furthermore calls on Spain to help ensuring Turkey keeps to its promise to protect and preserve the Armenian cultural heritage on its territory and to have a more active role in facilitating reconciliation between Armenia and Turkey. European history provides ample examples of reconciliation between nations which can serve as a model.

Aragon is an autonomous community in the north-east of Spain, bordering with France. It has a population of 1.2 million people and with a size of 47,719 km<sup>2</sup> (slightly bigger than Estonia). It is the fifth region in Spain that has recognized the Armenian Genocide, after the Basque Country, Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and Navarre.

## Ara Guler cancels agreement to transfer his archive to Turkish pro-government company



Famous Istanbul-based photojournalist Ara Güler has cancelled an agreement, under which he was to transfer the archive of the photos he has taken over 70 years to Dogus Holding, [cumhuriyet.com](http://cumhuriyet.com) reported.

In accordance with the agreement signed on November 18 between Ara Güler and Dogus Holding closely connected with Turkey's ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party, 3 million euros worth of the archive, the building of Ara Kafe, and a collection of photographic cameras and devices were transferred to a company set up by Dogus for the purpose of managing the

archive and the property.

As a result of the transaction, Güler and his heirs were to be paid 50,000 liras a month. Güler would only have a 40% stake in the newly-established company's shares.

Ara Güler is an Armenian-Turkish photojournalist, nicknamed "the Eye of Istanbul" or "the Photographer of Istanbul". He is considered one of Turkey's few internationally known photographers.

In the 1970s he held photographic interviews with politicians and artists such as Winston Churchill, Indira Gandhi, Maria Callas, John Berger, Bertrand Russell, Willy Brandt, Alfred Hitchcock, Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí and Pablo Picasso. Some critics consider his most renowned photographs to be his melancholic black-and-white pictures taken mostly with a Leica camera in Istanbul, mainly in the 1950s and 1960s, a golden age of photojournalism.

Güler's work is collected by the National Library of France in Paris; the George Eastman Museum in Rochester, New York; University of Nebraska-Lincoln Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery; Museum Ludwig Köln, and Das imaginäre Photo-Museum, Köln.

*By Massis Post*

## Minsk Group Co-Chairs Condemn Azerbaijan, Not Armenia, Says Nalbandian



Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandian briefed the press on the results of an OSCE Ministerial Council meeting, which took place in Belgrade on December 3.

During a meeting with Armenian media, Nalbandian answered questions on the results of the meeting and his assessment of the OSCE Minsk Group's efforts, and Azerbaijan's lack of political will for a negotiated peaceful settlement of the Artsakh conflict.

**Mr. Minister, will you brief us on the results of your meetings yesterday with the Co-Chairs? And also could you comment on the statement issued by the Foreign Ministers of the Co-Chair states on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict?**

Both the meetings and the statement are of the same logic. Now, after the statement, I can refer to it, around which the meetings were held.

**What are the Co-Chairs speaking about? They are saying that there is no alternative to peaceful and negotiated conflict settlement. They refer to it several times in the statement and call on the sides to reconfirm their commitment to reach the settlement through peaceful negotiations.**

The Co-Chairs have done it repeatedly. If you can remember, not only the Foreign Ministers of the Co-Chair states, but also the Presidents made such a call in their Enniskillen statement, minutes after Armenia reconfirmed its commitment. We did not hear Azerbaijan's position. And therefore, the call is directed to Azerbaijan.

The mediators say that the sides must dispel the impression that they do not take the negotiation process as a means for conflict settlement seriously. It is clear who that call is addressed to. And, who threatens to use force? Who threatens to unleash war? Armenia? Never! You represent media and you know that it is not true. The opposite side does it.

The Co-Chairs also call on the sides to give their consent over the creation of a mechanism investigating ceasefire violations. You know that after the last meeting of the Foreign Ministers in New York we reconfirmed that we agreed to create that mechanism. But Azerbaijan, in fact, refused. And it was mentioned in the press release issued by the Co-Chairs that they call on Azerbaijan to agree too it and that Armenia had agreed.

The Co-chairs strictly condemn the use of heavy artillery in their statement. Who uses heavy artillery? Is not it clear that the Azerbaijani side started to use heavy artillery recently? This means that they condemn Azerbaijan for using heavy artillery.

And at last, the Co-chairs once again express dissatisfaction over the severe criticism addressed towards the Co-chairs. Who does this? Has Armenia ever criticized?

I mentioned also in my speech at yesterday's plenary session that Armenia has never criticized the Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs also say that the attempts to make the Co-Chairs responsible for non-progress in the negotiation process are an attempt to conceal the absence of political will. Whose political will? Azerbaijan's.

So everything is clear. I think that the Co-Chairs have made correct assessments. The question is to what extent Azerbaijan will pay attention to those assessments and to what extent Azerbaijan will adequately realize the calls of the international community.

Because the OSCE Minsk Group format is the only format that has an international mandate, and it was also mentioned in yesterday's statement. It has been given by all the OSCE member states and also, as they say, enjoys the confidence of the sides. If one of the sides repeatedly criticizes, does it mean that they support the format? Of course not.

We hope that this statement by the heads of the delegations of the Co-Chair states will have its importance in terms of moving forward with the negotiation process.

It was also announced yesterday that a high-level meeting, meaning at the presidential level, is planned which will take place soon in December.

The time and the place of the meeting have not officially been announced yet. It will be done as required according to the consent of the sides.

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According to Armenpress, journalists also asked questions about the developments that took place after the statement was issued, specifically the announcement by Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in Baku, saying that every centimeter of Azerbaijan's "occupied territories" must be liberated and that Turkey will stand side by side with Azerbaijan. Later this morning, Azerbaijan violated the ceasefire repeatedly in an attempted advance across the line of contact, resulting in the loss of one Armenian soldier.

Nalbandian told media representatives not to be surprised by Turkey's announcements, as they are not something new.

Nalbandian also said that during his meetings with the Co-Chairs, he told them that Azerbaijan softens tensions before OSCE Ministerial Council meetings, as they have always done. But, when a statement is issued, like the most recent one following an OSCE Ministerial meeting in Belgrade on Thursday, it is immediately followed by escalation of tensions, and this morning's violations is proof of that.

According to Nalbandian, this is Baku's answer to the Co-Chairs' call for refrain from the use of force.



## Colorado Governor proclaims December 6 as Djulfa Commemoration Day

In an official proclamation, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper declared December 6, 2015 as the 10th Anniversary of Djulfa Destruction - joining global commemorations of Azerbaijan's genocidal destruction of 2,000 Djulfa (Jugha) khachkars, reported Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region.

Gov. Hickenlooper's proclamation memorializes "the deliberate destruction of the world's largest collection of medieval khachkars at Djulfa; [which] has been documented by the American Association for the Advancement of Science." The proclamation further mentions that "the State of Colorado commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide this year by unveiling a Capitol khachkar memorial, a replica of one of Djulfa's 2,000 destroyed monuments" and that "Coloradans are encouraged to visit the State Capitol and view the replica Djulfa khachkar."

"Colorado once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to human rights," remarked ANCA WR Executive Director Elen Asatryan. "Governor Hickenlooper's authorization and unveiling of the Colorado State Capitol Khachkar on April 24 was a staunch expression of support to the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide as well as an unprecedented tangible action to restore a piece of medieval Armenian culture lost in a genocidal destruction. We are so proud that Colorado's Armenian community has become such a vibrant voice in their state's democratic process and are grateful to Governor Hickenlooper for his strong leadership and commitment to issues important to our community and human rights advocates worldwide."

The Proclamation will be read by Colorado's Douglas County Public Defender and Djulfa descendant Ara Ohanian later today at the Shine a Light on All Genocides candlelight vigil and program in Denver, organized by Armenians of Colorado (AOC) in partnership with ANCA-Colorado, the Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness & Action, and the Consulate General of Armenia in Los Angeles.

December 2015 marks the 10th anniversary of Turkic Azerbaijan's genocidal destruction of 2,000 medieval khachkars, when the army of Azerbaijan utilized heavy technology to conduct an operation against helpless cultural monuments. Despite the fact that the destruction was caught on tape and further documented with satellite evidence, Azerbaijan continues to deny the existence of and the destruction of Djulfa. The destruction of Djulfa was the final step of carefully-planned and executed wipeout of Nakhichevan's indigenous Christian heritage in line with official historiography in Azerbaijan that claims Armenians did not live in that region until the 19th century. This is often seen as a continuation of Turkey's pan-Turkic genocidal policy against indigenous Armenians, which started with discrimination then organized massacres and ethnic cleansing, followed by denial and destruction of physical evidence, and is one of the reasons why the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (Artsakh) has argued that any rule by Azerbaijan over it would be tantamount to genocide. For more information on the Djulfa destruction, visit [www.djulfa.com](http://www.djulfa.com).

The Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region is the largest and most influential Armenian American

grassroots advocacy organization in the Western United States. Working in coordination with a network of offices, chapters, and supporters throughout the Western United States and affiliated organizations around the country, the ANCA-WR advances the concerns of the Armenian American community on a broad range of issues.

The complete text of the proclamation is presented below:

State of Colorado  
Proclamation

WHEREAS, December 2015 marks the 10th anniversary of the deliberate destruction of the world's largest collection of medieval khachkars at Djulfa; and

WHEREAS, this destruction has been documented by the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide this year by unveiling a Capitol khachkar memorial, a replica of one of Djulfa's 2,000 destroyed monuments; and

WHEREAS, Coloradans highly value cultural preservation and tolerance; and

WHEREAS, deliberate targeting of cultural monuments continues to pose a threat to our global heritage; and

WHEREAS, Coloradans are encouraged to visit the State Capitol and view the replica Djulfa khachkar;

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the entire State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim, forever after, December 6, 2015 as THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF DJULFA DESTRUCTION DAY in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this sixth day of December, 2015.

## Armenian soldier killed as NKR troops rebuff...

### From page 4

social life or politics. I just don't want to mix a noble cause with another cause."

The ambiguous remarks could give more ammunition to opposition groups campaigning against the passage of the amendments. Levon Zurabian, a leader of the Armenian National Congress (HAK), pounced on them when the opposition party and its allies held another rally in Yerevan on Thursday.

"Serzh Sargsyan has refuted his loyalists' claims that he has no desire to reproduce his regime," Zurabian said in a

speech. "With his statement, he has exposed his entire plan to retain power."

The HAK and other reform opponents claim that the proposed amendments would "perpetuate" Sarkisian's rule by making it easier for the ruling HHK to win the next parliamentary elections. They point to a clause that allows for the possibility of a run-off ballot if the first round of voting does not result in a "stable majority" in the National Assembly.

Sargsyan countered that the elections will not go into a second round if the top election contenders cut a power-sharing

deal. He said that even in the event of a run-off the election favorite would need to form alliances with other major parties or blocs. This alone would democratize Armenia's political system, he added.

Serzh Sargsyan further argued that Armenia's existing, supposedly semi-presidential system is fraught with potentially serious conflicts between the president of the republic and a government formed by a parliament dominated by his political opponents. "That is a threat to our security," he said. "We would address it by raising democracy to a higher level."

## Beachwood artist explores Armenia in art exhibit

Cleveland.com - Art is always personal. But it goes beyond that in the case of Jeanette Arax Melnick.

Yes, there is a personal side in works by the Beachwood artist, who will exhibit her paintings at the Beachwood Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library during the month of December.

You can see it in "The Quince Tree," a work that was inspired by a photo of her and her father, taken when she was a little girl, in 1946. The photo is in the work itself, along with photos of her grandchildren, children and husband.

But her relationship with the world is as much spatial one - in which she absorbs aspects of it through the senses or through patterns rather than just the heart or mind.

"Sometimes I just look at the world and see all these geometric shapes and I see aspects of my paintings in them," says Arax Melnick. "Like right now I'm sitting in a room looking at pillows or I could be looking at an oriental carpet and finding interesting patterns."

There is little pattern when it comes to divining the Fresno, Ca. native's style - which shoe horns folk art and "museum type art," as she likes to say.

"Art was always my companion and I never sought out to follow a particular style or painter," she says. "I started to study painting at (University of California, Berkley), but I switched to history because I realized that I wanted to be my own painter."

She delved into medieval history, along with the "flatness" found in its art. She has created in the shadows of a family history that extends back to the Armenian genocide of 1915 - which led to her family settling in California.

"Armenian history is very complicated, especially with Turkey denying the genocide of 1.5 million Armenians," says Arax Melnick, whose husband Daniel Melnick recently released a novel that honors the memory of the genocide. "And yet that complication has given me a feeling for the suffering of all mankind."

"As a child, I was inspired looking at old Armenian manuscripts and seeing these people with big brown eyes and soulful looks," she adds. "They look like they've suffered and yet survive and go on."

Sid Vicious - the English punk from a much later time, 1970s London - captivated her in a very different way.

"I never listened to his music, though I know Aaron and Lennie have," says Arax Melnick, referring to her sons, co-founders

of legendary Cleveland hardcore band Integrity. "I just loved his face and the zip-pers."

For years, the painting hung at the old Arabica on Coventry. Arax Melnick received a number of offers for it, but chose to hold onto it.

"It's hard to give up on that Sid Vicious," she says. "I've never looked at the money side of it."

It's all matter of perspective, even when it comes to art.

"I tend to avoid perspective and I think it's given my work a certain character," she says. "I'll have a table that looks like it's floating and could see it as an illusion, but to me it's just how I see it and see the world. So I guess you could say the world is an illusion, too."



## Armenian Genocide recognition advocate Ragip Zarakolu awarded PL Foundation Peace Prize

Publisher and human rights defender Ragip Zarakolu has been awarded PL Foundation Peace Prize for his extraordinary efforts in the areas of freedom of thought and expression.

Zarakolu will receive the award by PL Foundation President Poul Sögaard on November 10 in Copenhagen. PL Foundation Peace Prize is awarded to organizations and people who struggle for democracy without resorting to violence within the scope of United Nations

Declaration of Human Rights.

Zarakolu has published a number of books on the Armenian Genocide. He has visited the Armenian Genocide memorial complex on the sidelines of his numerous stopovers in Armenia.

Ragip Zarakolu was born in 1948 on Heybeliada, the second largest of the Prince Islands, in Istanbul. He started publishing with his wife, Ayse Nur Zarakolu in 1977. He never abandoned his struggle for "popularizing respect for different ideas

and cultures in Turkey" despite pressures, his books being seized or destroyed, heavy fines and being sent to prison. Zarakolu serving as the President of Publishers' Union of Turkey Committee of Free Publishing has worked on Kurdish question and condition of minorities in Turkey.

Zarakolu lastly was arrested together with his son Deniz Zarakolu within the scope of Group of Communities in Kurdistan (KCK) case\* in 2011. He remained in prison until April 2012.



## Armenian community in Canada gives a wide welcome to refugees

The Armenian community of Toronto is opening its arms to Syrian refugees.

With the help of the Armenian Community Centre, a government-sanctioned sponsorship agency, community members over the past two years have filed applications to co-sponsor about 2,500 Armenian-Syrians who fled Syria because of mounting violence. Some 1,300 have already been approved, and about 300 have been welcomed this year.

According to Citizenship and Immigration's map of approved sponsorships, as of Nov. 24, about 2,600 Syrian refugees are waiting to come to the GTA. Willowdale - where there is a concentration of people of Armenian heritage - is expected to receive about 1,079 of those. In the initial wave, sponsors from downtown Toronto will receive a further 1,326. Mississauga sponsors will get 68, Thornhill 33, North York 23, Etobicoke 18, Oakville seven and Oshawa five.

Citizenship and Immigration says about 4,511 files of privately sponsored refugees outside Quebec are currently being processed.

Some 74 people have arrived since Nov. 4. But Ottawa has said it will resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees across the country by the end of February - no easy task, given the logistics of screening, processing and transporting the families here.

The exodus from Syria has been described as the worst humanitarian crisis since the Second World War, with more than 4 million Syrians fleeing violence in their homeland and seeking refuge in neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. A further 7 million Syrians have been displaced internally.

Apkar Mirakian, who is in charge of the Armenian Community Centre's resettlement program, says applications continue to flood the office, many for friends or extended family members currently living in Jordan or Lebanon.

Besides processing applications, the centre has set up a committee to aid sponsors in finding accommodation, clothing and furniture for the new arrivals. The local Armenian private school has agreed to waive tuition for all children for their first year, said Mirakian.



The centre is also networking now to find potential jobs for refugees, to help them get on their feet as soon as possible. "We're reaching out to Armenian businessmen," said Mirakian. "We've gone to Mideastern supermarkets. Loblaws is hiring in their warehouse in Ajax."

Just when the bulk of this wave of Syrian-Armenian refugees will arrive is uncertain, Mirakian said. Resettling them can be stressful, he acknowledged.

"It's very tiring, but it's rewarding. At night you go home and say you've done something good today."

For Greg Ghitilian, a community sponsor of two Syrian refugee families, says that for Armenians there is a deeper meaning behind this act of humanity. "My dad and his family had been refugees in 1915 to 1920," and they fled to Syria from Turkey (which he describes as western Armenia). "Syrians accepted us, as Christians, and the Syrians are now in the same predicament. They are in neighbouring countries, with the kids... It's heartbreaking."

The Maksoudlian family, who arrived from Beirut in August, and the Nersesian family, who came in September, both stayed at first with Ghitilian's family in their Markham home. Now, they're on their own, with visits and occasional assistance from Ghitilian and his family as they transition to a new life in Canada.

The centre's settlement program has been successful, he believes, because so many want to "pay it forward." Everyone wants to help out, he says, pointing to the enthusiasm of friends and neighbours who contributed furniture and clothing as he waited for the families he sponsored to arrive. He received so much he had to use part of his garage to store everything.

"You have to rely on the larger community to pull off something like this."

*By Debra Black  
The Star*

## Armenia's Levon Aronyan placed 6<sup>th</sup> in FIDE ranking



Armenia's leading Grandmaster Levon Aronian has won one position and is currently placed 6th in new FIDE ranking released on December 1.

Magnus Carlsen of Norway tops the ranking followed by Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria) and Viswanathan Anand (India.)

Armenia's Gabriel Sargissian and Sergei Movsesian are ranked 43rd and 88th respectively; Hrant Melkumyan is placed 95th.

## Italy's L'Aquila recognizes Armenian Genocide



The City Council of Italy's L'Aquila recognized the Armenian Genocide on November 26, Press Service of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports.

In letters addressed to the Armenian Embassy in Italy and the Union of Armenians of Italy, L'Aquila Mayor Massimo Cialente informed that the City Council of Cialente recognizes the Armenian Genocide on its centennial and expresses its solidarity with the Armenian people as a confirmation of protection of historic truth and human rights.

## Sara Corning, the woman who helped save 5,000 Armenian orphans

Anyone with a penchant for dates and history may recall that in 1922, Marconi began making regular broadcasts from England, the British Broadcasting Corp. was established, and 14 republics formed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

It's also the year that Ecuador gained independence, and when Josef Stalin was appointed general secretary of the Communist Party.

A lesser-known story that also unfolded in 1922 - yet one with huge historical import - involved a woman from rural Nova Scotia and the fate of over 5,000 Armenian orphans.

Meet Sara Corning.

Corning was born in Chegoggin, Yarmouth County, in 1872. After finishing high school, she went to New Hampshire to study nursing - a plucky thing for a young woman to do back then.

In December 1917, she heard about the Halifax Explosion and immediately went there to help.

Shortly after, Corning joined the American Red Cross and was eventually assigned to the Near East Relief, which was providing humanitarian services to the Armenians who were being massacred by the Ottoman Turks.

In 1922, Corning travelled to Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey) where the Near East Relief was headquartered. From there, the 50-year-old was sent to the Armenian capital to be in charge of an orphanage. She also worked in refugee camps.

By year's end, she was stationed on the coast in Smyrna (now Izmir) - a city characterized by disaster and chaos.

Corning later recounted in the Kimball Union Alumni Bulletin that "the Turkish army was just taking the city as we arrived."

"The place was crowded with many sick refugees and we opened a clinic to take care of them as best we could, but it was soon closed by the soldiers."

She wrote about looting, the city being set afire and how many of the refugees jumped into the harbour and drowned rather than be burned alive.

Under great peril, Corning gathered the children from the orphanage there and led them through the burning city to safety aboard an American ship, where they were taken to Constantinople. She later established an orphanage for them on the island of Syros in Greece.

In June 1923, Corning was invited to Athens, where King George II of Greece

presented her with the Order of the Knights of St. Xavier for her courage and bravery.

The following year, Corning returned to Turkey, where she continued to work and care for orphans. She also adopted five children. Although they did not always live with her, she provided for their well-being and education.

Fast-forward to April 21, 2004, when the Canadian Parliament passed Bill M-380 recognizing the deaths of over 1.5 million Armenians from 1915 to 1923 as a genocide.

Earlier that month, His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, issued a statement titled Message of Blessing, which included a tribute to Corning.

It said in part: "The name of the late philanthropist Sara Corning is very cordial and precious to Armenians living around the world. (We) acknowledge with deep gratitude her efforts to salvage several thousands of their compatriots living in Turkey ... they were saved thanks to the unwavering humanitarian works of Sara Corning."

Local historian Susie Sweeney was recently commissioned by the Yarmouth Waterfront Development Corp. to write content about Corning for an interpretive panel that the town intends to install in Frost Park.

Sweeney said that in the past, older people in Chegoggin knew about Corning's story, but no one made a fuss. Nor did Corning ever bring attention to herself; hence, very few people in Yarmouth know her story.

Sweeney added that "Sara was strong in her faith and dedicated her life to serving humanity."

"Her attitude seemed to be that she had a job to do and simply got on with it."

The Yarmouth County Museum and Archives has a large display that houses the heroine's nursing uniform and other items such as her passport and the medal she was awarded from the King of Greece.

Jennifer Rodney-Chown, a native of Yarmouth now living in Fall River, has had a lifelong interest in the characteristics of peacemakers and humanitarians.

Captivated by Corning's story, Rodney-Chown and her husband, David, left on a Mediterranean journey this past summer in hopes of learning more.

There were many highlights, including a week's stay in Syros.

"It was an emotional experience for me after researching about Sara these past years," she said.

Rodney-Chown learned from their hosts at Hotel Ploes about an Armenian woman in town who might be a relation to an orphan from Smyrna and could be found selling loukoumi and nougat (sweet confections) in a shop adjacent to the town's square.

It didn't take the Rodney-Chowns long to find the shop and its owner, Constantina Sykutri.

"Behind her on the wall were black and white historical photos of Smyrna!" said Jennifer Rodney-Chown. "Her father was one of the Armenian orphans. She belongs to an Armenian group who keep the traditions and the memories alive."

Another highlight was to visit the area where the orphans were relocated. Although the red-roofed buildings are still standing, they are used as military barracks.

Because it was a weekend, no one was available to authorize entrance. So their driver took them to a location overlooking the buildings to take photos.

"This is where Sara gathered all the children together to form with their bodies the scripture verse: Second Corinthians 1:8-11, where they were photographed from a plane," said Rodney-Chown. "The verse expressed the suffering they experienced and the miracle of their survival through God's help and those who cared for them."

Rodney-Chown has huge admiration for her distant cousin and hopes that the town of Yarmouth will not only install the interpretive panel Sweeney worked on, but will also erect a statue in her honour.

"Sara showed through her life that no matter what history lay before (us), the extended hands of understanding, friendship and assistance are powerful and healing wherever mutual openness exists. Sara gave all that and more: in Halifax, in Turkey, in Greece ... when a door opened, she walked in and gave her best, truly helping others to survive and thrive."

Although Sara Corning is not a household name in Nova Scotia, she is well-known to the Armenian community in Canada. In September 2012, the Sara Corning Centre for Genocide Education opened in Toronto.

After her retirement, Corning moved back to her childhood home; she died in 1967. Her headstone in the Chegoggin Baptist Church Cemetery reads: She Lived To Serve.

*By Sandra Phinney  
The Chronicle Herald*



## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

### Aries

**(March 20-April 19)**

Don't skirmish with the Powers That Be. They are stronger and will win. Listen carefully and they will tell/show you what you need to make points. You are a peon right now. Save some time to attend to your Significant Other. Your communications are open and honest, just the right combination to work things out.

### Taurus

**(April 20 -- May 20)**

Venus, your ruling planet, has entered the 7th house of relationships and will be there until the end of this year. She brings improvements in clientele, social life, and partnerships. This is a good time to ask for a consultation if you need it. You are especially able to balance with others during this period in order to gain win-win solutions.

### Gemini

**(May 20-June 20)**

You are absorbed with the needs of your partner or others in your life during this period. The needs of family trump anything more personal right now. Circumstances being what they are, this is how it should be for the time being. You genuinely want to be supportive to others who share the situation.

### Cancer

**(June 21-July 21)**

You struggle with a conflict between what you feel and what you think. When we are caught with this issue, we usually are unable to move forward in any significant way. Our minds see what is logical, rational, and orderly. But our hearts are in the space of feelings, which have no rules. It is generally best to withhold judgment

until a solution develops. Be still and wait.

### Leo

**(July 22-August 21)**

You are in a good position to assist others who are in conflict. You have the objectivity required to see both sides of the story and to help generate a creative solution that will satisfy both side's needs. You have bright ideas and the energy to help make them happen.

### Virgo

**(August 22-September 22)**

Your concern for home and family members is on the front burner right now. You may feel responsible to drop your personal activities in order to contribute your part in a challenging situation. Perhaps an elder has experienced bad fortune and you want to help to make things right.

### Libra

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

This is not the best week for mechanical objects. Breakage or failures are highly possible. Your reflexes are strung too tightly. Make an effort to relax muscles and concentrate on steady, but consistent forward motion. This is the advice whether driving the car or running a mile. Anxiety is a signal to stop and reconsider where you are headed.

### Scorpio

**(October 23-November 21)**

Keep your thoughts to yourself, especially those that are critical of others or that have a sharp edge. Even if what you think is true, this is not the time to express your feelings. You are fond of offering constructive criticism, which will not be taken with a favorable attitude this week.

### Sagittarius

**(November 22-December 20)**

You have recently begun a new project that you hope will take you in a new and growing direction. You have a temptation to leap forward or move quickly, but aspects suggest that you take it carefully, measuring the outcome of each small step. That will allow you to make corrections as you go.

### Capricorn

**(December 21-January 19)**

A project begun in the fall of '14 is now reaching a point of fulfillment. If you have handled all the details along the way, the outcome will be supportive to your sense of self-esteem. It is possible your efforts have threatened the powers-that-be, who may attempt to oppose you. Do not respond in ruthless fashion, even if someone deserves it. A well laid foundation will prove your worth.

### Aquarius

**(January 20-February 17)**

Aspects of this week favor relationships of all types: partner, friends, or siblings.

Your personal genius may be called upon to resolve one or more creative issues. New experiences are brought to you by others in your world. Be open and enjoy them.

### Pisces

**(February 18-March 19)**

Your attitude about yourself is not altogether accurate right now. You may think way too much of your ideas, or alternately, you may see yourself as lower than scum. Neither is accurate and you should probably not make decisions of any importance this week. Spiritual pursuits are given a "go" signal.

# Kanye and Kim Still Haven't Chosen a First Name For Their New Son - But They Might Have a Middle Name

Naming a baby is one of the biggest decisions new parents have to make, so it makes sense that Kim Kardashian West and Kanye West are taking their time choosing a name for their new son.

A day after their second child was born, the star couple still haven't chosen his first name - or, at least, they aren't sharing it yet - a source told PEOPLE.

The pair took almost a week to name daughter North, 2, and, shortly before her son's arrival, Kardashian West told PEOPLE that they still didn't have a name picked out. However, the source did say that Kardashian West reportedly told people at the hospital that she was going to use her late father's name - Robert - for the child's middle name.

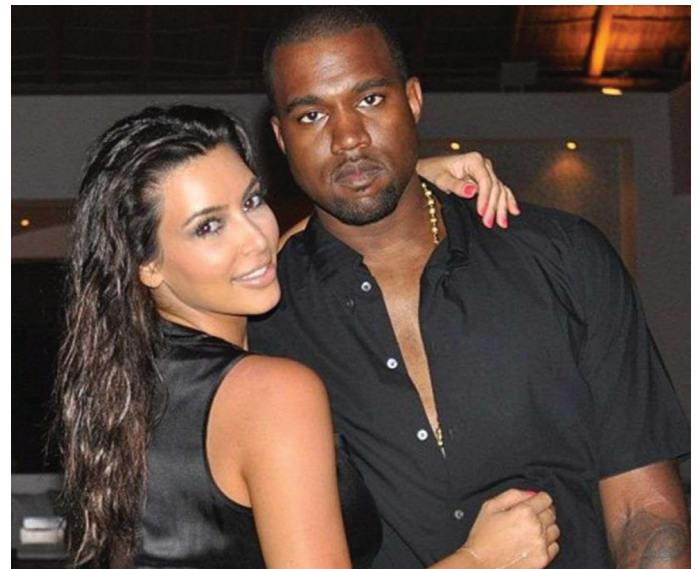
"It's like the last thing Kanye and I did when North was born," she shared. "We didn't name her for like seven days. I feel like it will just come to us."

A source close to West also told PEOPLE that they hadn't shared the new baby's name yet.

"He never said anything about the name. Even if they had one picked out, he wasn't going to share it. He doesn't believe in telling anyone the name until the baby is born."

The first source also reveals that Kardashian West did not have a C-section to deliver her baby, which was surely a relief.

After she learned that her baby was breech, the reality star wrote on her website and app that she was hoping to



avoid delivering via C-section.

"Obviously, if it's an emergency and for the safety of my son, I will get a C-section - but if I don't need one, I'd rather not," Kardashian West wrote.

The new mom had plenty of support throughout the delivery: Most of her family members stopped by the hospital on Saturday to deliver gifts and see their newest addition. And, the source says, older sister Kourtney, who has three children of her own and to whom Kardashian West has said she often turns to for pregnancy advice, stayed with her sister throughout her labor.



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E-mail: [contact@nt.am](mailto:contact@nt.am), URL: [www.nt.am](http://www.nt.am)

**Address in Armenia:** 28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009, R.A.  
Tel.: (+374 60) 27-64-62  
(+374 60) 27-64-61

**Address in France:** Masion De L' Armenie, Paris 17e - 95  
Bld. Gouvion, France.  
Tel.: (+33) 01 43 59 66 72

**Address in USA:** 1146 E. Lexington Dr., #112, Glendale,  
CA, USA, 91206.  
Tel.: (+1 818) 646 10 72