

Pope Reaffirms Armenian Genocide Recognition



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Lessons not learned:

The Armenian Genocide

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Another Karabakh War 'Unthinkable' For Russia

Russia is strongly opposed to any attempts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by military means, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on April 8 after talks with his visiting Armenian counterpart Edward Nalbandian.

Lavrov also described Armenia as his country's "reliable partner and ally." "We value our centuries-old relations which have been cemented by the historical, cultural and spiritual proximity between the peoples of the two states," he told a joint news conference in Moscow. "These relations have been developing steadily and have taken on a new quality in the context of Armenia's accession to the Eurasian Economic Union."

The meeting with Nalbandian "reaffirmed the strategic and allied character of Russian-Armenian relations, added Lavrov.

The unresolved Karabakh conflict was high on the agenda of the talks. Lavrov said that Russia will continue to "actively" mediate Armenian-Azerbaijani peace talks within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group, which it co-heads together with the United States and France.

"We don't even assume that the Nagorno-Karabakh will enter a 'hot' phase," stressed the chief Russian diplomat. "I am convinced that despite [bellicose] rhetoric none of the interested parties wants that."

Lavrov made the comment in

response to a reporter's question about whether Moscow is ready to fulfill its "military obligations" to Yerevan in the face of Baku's regular threats to regain control over not only Karabakh but what President Ilham Aliyev calls "historic Azerbaijani lands" in Armenia proper. He noted that Russia and Armenia are members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a defense pact of six ex-Soviet states.

Nalbadian's visit to Moscow comes amid what appears to be growing Armenian discontent with recent years' large-scale sales of Russian offensive weapons to Azerbaijan. President Serzh Sarkisian publicly warned last month that they could undermine Russian-Armenian ties

Russian State Duma speaker Sergey Naryshkin defended the Russian-Azerbaijani arms deals, worth an estimated \$4 million since 2010, when he visited Yerevan later in March. Speaking at a meeting with Armenian lawmakers, Naryshkin emphasized their commercial significance to Moscow.

Critics in Armenia dismiss such explanations. They say that the Russians only increase the likelihood of another war in Karabakh by assisting in Azerbaijan's massive military buildup.

Lavrov pointed to Russian President Vladimir Putin's personal involvement last year in international efforts to prevent a further escalation tensions in the conflict zone. Putin hosted in August



emergency talks between his Armenian and Azerbaijani counterparts following an upsurge in deadly truce violations there.

Speaking at the news conference with Lavrov, Nalbandian again blamed Azerbaijan for the lack of progress in the Karabakh peace process. He claimed that Baku rejects key elements of the international mediators' Basic Principles of a Karabakh settlement and their concrete proposals to bolster the ceasefire regime.

Earlier this week, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry denounced similar claims made by Nalbandian in an interview with a Russian magazine. A ministry spokesman also said that the Armenian side itself is reluctant to start negotiation on a comprehensive Armenian-Azerbaijani peace accord.

Yerevan argues such negotiations would be meaningless in the absence of an agreement on the Basic Principles outlining the key terms of Karabakh peace.

Russian soldier accused of murdering a family in Gyumri found sane

Russian soldier Valery Permyakov who stands accused of killing seven members of a family in Armenia's city of Gyumri was found sane, the Russian Legal Information Agency reports, quoting Interfax.

"The soldier was found sane following a psychiatric examination. Investigators claim he was fully aware of what he was doing at the time the crime was committed," the agency quoted its source as saying. "The experts identified a number of psychiatric deviations and disorders, but found him sane."

The examination was conducted at Russia's 102nd military base in Gyumri, where Permyakov is held in custody and where he will stand trial.

As a result of an armed assault on January 12 a family of seven was killed. A six-month-old baby was fatally wounded and died of its injuries a week later. Permyakov was charged with the murder of two or more persons under the Armenian Criminal Code. He pled guilty later in January.

The investigation into the murder is being conducted by Russian and



Armenian authorities. All the required procedures have been completed.

Investigators interviewed over 30 witnesses and conducted over a dozen expert reviews.

Pope Reaffirms Armenian Genocide Recognition

Pope Francis on April 12 again described the massacres of 1.5 million Armenians in Ottoman Turkey as "the first genocide of the 20th century" during an unprecedented Vatican Mass dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the tragedy.

Francis remembered the victims of "that immense and senseless slaughter" at the start of the Mass at St. Peter's basilica, which was attended by President Serzh Sarkisian, the supreme heads of the Armenian Apostolic Churches and hundreds of Armenian Catholics.

"It is necessary, and indeed a duty, to honor their memory, for whenever memory fades, it means that evil allows wounds to fester. Concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it," he declared.

The pontiff spoke of "three massive and unprecedented tragedies" of the past century. "The first, which is widely considered the first genocide of the twentieth century, struck your own Armenian people, the first Christian nation, as well as Catholic and Orthodox Syrians, Assyrians, Chaldeans and Greeks," he said.

"Bishops and priests, religious, women and men, the elderly and even defenseless children and the infirm were murdered. The remaining two were perpetrated by Nazism and Stalinism."

Humanity, he went on, did not learn lessons from those tragedies as evidenced by the mass killings in Cambodia, Rwanda, Burundi and Bosnia later in the 20th century. "Sadly, today too we hear the muffled and forgotten cry of so many of our defenseless brothers and sisters who, on account of their faith in Christ or their ethnic origin, are publicly and ruthlessly put to death ... or forced to leave their homeland," he said in a clear reference to the

beleaguered Christian communities in Iraq and Syria.

Francis's characterization of the 1915 mass killings and deportations of Armenians was in tune with his views on the subject repeatedly voiced in the past. He publicly called them "the first genocide of the 20th century" in 2013 just a few months after becoming supreme head of the Roman Catholic Church. The Turkish government condemned that statement.

Reuters reported later on Sunday that Turkey summoned the Vatican's ambassador in Ankara to protest over the pope's comments. The Turkish Foreign Ministry did not immediately issue any statements to that effect.

In the weeks leading up to the landmark Mass, Ankara reportedly pressured Francis to avoid uttering the word "genocide." Successive Turkish governments have for decades denied a deliberate government effort to exterminate the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire.

According to the Associated Press news agency, Turkey's embassy to the Vatican canceled a planned news conference for Sunday, presumably after learning that the pope will after all use the politically sensitive term.

The two-hour Mass was concelebrated by Armenian Catholic Patriarch Nerses Bedros XIX and featured medieval Armenian religious hymns performed by two choirs from Gyumri. Underlining its ecumenical spirit, Catholicos Garegin II, Catholicos Aram I and over a dozen bishops of the Armenian Apostolic Church sat in a place of honor in the basilica along with President Sarkisian.

In another unprecedented development, Garegin and Aram, the number one and two figures in the independent church to which over 80 percent of Armenians belong, embraced Francis at the altar and delivered sermons at the end of the ceremony broadcast live to Armenia.

"Our ancient people were uprooted from their cradle and historic homeland and scattered around the world," Garegin said in reference to the Armenian genocide. "Our centuries-old Christian heritage was torn down, destroyed and seized."

"However, nothing -- neither suffering, nor persecution or even death -- forced our people to renounce their sacred faith," he added.

Both Garegin and the Lebanon-based Aram expressed their "deep gratitude" to the Roman Catholic Church for its attempts to stop the genocide and support its survivors. They specifically paid tribute to Pope Benedict XV who protested to Ottoman Sultan Mehmed V against the massacres.

"We will never forget the continuous concern, assistance and solidarity of the Church of Rome towards Armenians -- that is to say towards justice," said Aram.

Francis also honored Armenia and its worldwide Diaspora by bestowing the title of "Doctor of the Universal Church" on St. Gregory of Narek, a 10-11th century Armenian cleric renowned for his religious writings. Only 35 Christian figures have received the Catholic title to date. A large picture of Gregory was put on display during Sunday's Mass.

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Arrested Oppositionists Formally Charged

Armenian law-enforcement authorities on April 9 pressed criminal charges against the leaders of the Founding Parliament opposition movement arrested in advance of its planned antigovernment protests in Yerevan.

The group's top leader, Zhirayr Sefilian, and two other senior members -- Varuzhan Avetisyan and Garegin Chukaszyan -- were formally charged with "preparing mass disturbances" during the upcoming officials ceremonies to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey. They will almost certainly be remanded in pre-trial custody.

Armenia's Investigative Committee is due to level the same accusations against the three other Founding Parliament figures detained on Tuesday. One of them could also be charged with illegal arms possession.

The Investigative Committee pressed the charges after interrogating Sefilian, Avetisyan and Chukaszyan for several hours. The law-enforcement body leading the criminal investigation stood by its allegations in a statement issued afterwards.

The statement said that investigators confiscated a hand grenade, several knives and dozens of sticks and batons during searches carried out in the suspects' homes and the Founding Parliament's offices. It claimed that those objects were "designed to inflict corporal injuries" during riots.

The detainees, their associates as well as virtually all mainstream opposition parties strongly deny these allegations. They argue that the Founding Parliament never called for violence



while preparing to launch on April 24 a campaign of nonstop protests aimed at forcing President Serzh Sargsyan to resign. The radical group has for years accused Sargsyan of corruption and misrule.

Several dozen Founding Parliament activists rallied outside the Investigative Committee as Sefilian and his comrades were questioned there. They again said that the protests will go ahead as planned despite the arrests.

"The regime's end is coming. I promise you, people," one of the activists told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). He said the Founding Parliament will follow a "roadmap" to regime change drawn up in 2013. He did not elaborate.

Kocharyan downplays ties to Tsarukian



Former President Robert Kocharyan has distanced himself from Gagik Tsarukyan's political activities just weeks after the influential tycoon reputed to be close to him retired from politics under strong government pressure.

In an interview published on April 8, Kocharyan insisted that Tsarukyan's Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK), the second largest in parliament, has never been his support base and denied any responsibility for its "dismantling" by President Serzh Sargsyan.

"I have closely followed political processes of the last several years but have never participated in them," he told 2rd.am, his unofficial website. "I had good relations and contacts with Gagik Tsarukyan but did not cut shadowy political deals on future formats of cooperation with the [BHK] party and its leader."

Kocharyan argued that the BHK joined forces last year with two other, established opposition parties that are highly critical of his track record in power. He claimed that he could not have cooperated with the Armenian National Congress (HAK) and the Zharangutyun party under any circumstances.

Because of Tsarukyan's reputed ties to Kocharyan both the HAK and Zharangutyun have been criticized by other opposition forces for their alliance with the BHK. The alliance held a series of anti-government rallies last fall and threatened to stage more such protests this year in a bid to overthrow Sargsyan.

Serzh Sargsyan responded in February by ordering law-enforcement authorities to investigate tax evasion and other "crimes" possibly committed by Tsarukyan. The order also led to brief mass detentions of BHK activists across the country.

Tsarukyan capitulated in the following days, saying that he will stop challenging the government to avoid bloodshed in Armenia. He went on to resign as BHK leader and retire from politics altogether. The BHK faction in the 131-seat parliament has since shrunk from 36 to 24 deputies.

Some of the faction's current and former members, notably former Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian, held senior government positions during Kocharyan's 1998-2008 presidency. Observers have portrayed this fact as further proof that Kocharyan is behind the BHK's activities. Some have even suggested that the ex-president will use Tsarukyan and his party for staging a political comeback.

"The dismantling of the BHK has certainly made life easier for the authorities and thereby strengthened the political monopoly existing in the country," Kocharyan told 2rd.am. He reiterated his highly critical evaluation of the Sargsyan administration's economic policies and his successor's controversial plans to amend the Armenian constitution.

But more importantly, Kocharyan said nothing about the likelihood of his return to active politics in the foreseeable future.

Armenia: A country rich in history, traditions and opportunities



The Diplomat Magaine has published an article by Ms. Dziunik Aghajanian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the Kingdom of Netherlands.

Armenian -Dutch connections go back into the depth of history. Sint Servaas, an Armenian-born bishop from 4th century, is patron saint of Maastricht and the towns of Schijndel and Grimbergen. Gent still honors the memory of St. Macarius, an Armenian thaumaturge who died there in the eleventh century. Over half a millennium Armenians were trading with the Dutch and had well-established communities around the country. A Dutch writer states in " De Amsterdammer " magazine of 14 August 1887 that "The story of the Armenian community is a golden page in the history of the city of Amsterdam."

Despite the historic connections, the relationship between Armenia and the Netherlands are still in early stages of development. It started in 1992, as Armenia regained its independence after six centuries of statelessness. The cooperation then focused mainly on assistance to Armenia as part of the Dutch constituency in IMF and World Bank. It is only recently that the cooperation has shifted towards bilateral economic partnership. Yet there is an untapped potential that could easily develop given the many similarities between our peoples.

Both the Dutch and the Armenians are well-known for being trading people with big networks, both are heavily reliant on the human capital given the natural restrictions, both have relatively small countries and are focusing on innovative approaches to maximize the possibilities for advancement. Yet the geopolitical situation that Armenia faces- the continued blockade by Turkey and Azerbaijan, the escalation of ceasefire violations around the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, the persistent geopolitical tensions in the South Caucasus and inoperative communication infrastructure in the region create almost insurmountable difficulties for rapid development of a land-locked country like Armenia.

The resilience of the Armenian people is more apparent now than ever. Hundred years from the day when the Armenian genocide was perpetrated in the Ottoman Turkish Empire with the purpose of wiping out Armenians and all Armenian traces from their homeland, Armenians are proud to stand with a strong and prosperous Diaspora enjoying respect in all the countries where they found refuge. About two decades after a devastating earthquake that took the lives of more than 25000 people leaving one-third of the country in total devastation and over half a million people homeless, over 400000 refugees fleeing the massacres of Armenians in Sumgait, Kirovabad and Baku, and a war unleashed by neighboring Azerbaijan to stifle the peaceful drive of Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh for self-determination, the collapse of the Soviet economic system and the blockade by the neighbors that through the economy to a total standstill, Armenia, today, presents itself as a middle-income country with diversified economy registering growth despite the world financial crisis hitting hard.

Reforms carried out in the country have created beneficial environment: Armenia ranks thirty-seven in WB's 2014 "Doing Business" index, 2013 Index of Economic Freedom by Heritage Foundation rates Armenia thirty-eight, greater than global average. It is considered to be a good place to do business especially in the areas considered to be priority for Armenia's development: IT,

precision engineering, agriculture, especially horticulture, tourism, health and education, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. Highly-skilled labor force and emphasis on innovative technologies generate competitive advantages for all those creating partnerships in Armenia.

Armenia, blessed with nine climatic zones in a relatively small territory, with rich history, culture and traditions, diverse flora and fauna presents multiple possibilities for traditional and ecological tourism, an area which can be very attractive to the Dutch people. The recent archeological discoveries - the oldest known winemaking facility, dating back to 6100BC, and the oldest, 5000-year-old leather shoe add on to the existing historic and natural attractions in the country. Hundreds of Medieval churches dotting the Armenian landscape are of immense interest to tourists that have a fancy for the early Christian history and architecture.

Creative zeal of the Armenian people well-known for its hard-working nature can be a good basis for establishing businesses and tapping into abundant research opportunities. Unique soil and climatic conditions, the limited use of chemical fertilizers make the Armenian agricultural products much appreciated in the export markets because of their high quality. The recent years have seen surge in horticulture and aquaculture in Armenia. Vegetables, trout, sturgeon, red and black caviars are some of the products highly sought in export markets. Alcoholic beverages, world famous Armenian brandy, natural juices, grape and fruit wines are expanding their markets as well. The Armenian beer, produced in Armenia from ancient times, the oldest records of which can be found in Xenophon's "Anabasis", has been rediscovered and is gaining more ground, too.

Armenia's recent joining the Eurasian Union and privileged trading status with USA and the EU creates unequaled opportunities for becoming an economic bridge between the two markets.

Armenia, Russia Negotiate Over Deeper Gas Price Discount

The Armenian government is negotiating with the Gazprom giant in hopes of securing a greater discount on Russian natural gas deliveries to Armenia, Energy and Natural Resources Minister Yervand Zakharyan said on April 9.

"Negotiations on the gas tariffs are in progress," Zakharian told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "Everything is being done to have the gas price at the [Armenian] border go down."

"We should succeed," he said after a weekly cabinet meeting in Yerevan. He gave no further details.

Armenia currently pays Gazprom almost \$190 million per thousand cubic meters of Russian gas, a price which is well below international market levels. The discount was agreed upon in late 2013 shortly after Armenia decided to join a Russian-led alliance of ex-Soviet states at the expense of a farreaching deal with the European Union. Armenian officials said at the time that the tariff will not change for the next five years.

The Armenian government is apparently seeking a further cut in the tariff set in U.S. dollars to prevent a rise in domestic retail gas prices as a result of a nearly 20 percent depreciation of the Armenian dram registered in recent months. Citing the weaker dram, Armenia's Gazprom-owned gas distribution network already raised the price for its large corporate consumers by over 13 percent in January. The price for households remains unchanged.

"If would be good for the economy if the [retail] price does-



n't change," said Economy Minister Karen Chshmarityan. He claimed to be unaware of details of the ongoing talks with the Russians.

The domestic gas fees were the subject of three-day heated debates in the Armenian parliament that ended on Thursday. Opposition lawmakers questioned the veracity of financial losses posted by the Gazprom Armenia operator and said the company's profit margins are disproportionately large.

One of those lawmakers, Aram Manukyan, claimed that the gas price for households can be cut by as much as 25 percent. He accused top Gazprom Armenia executives and government officials interacting with them of pocketing company funds.

Pro-government deputies denied the allegations.

Community center being consructed in Khachmach, Artsakh



The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund is putting the finishing touches on a community center it has built in Khachmach, a village in Artsakh's Askeran Region. The project has been made possible by the financial support of the fund's Lebanese, Brazilian, Dutch, Greek, and Cypriot affiliates as well as the government of Artsakh.

By the end of May, the Khachmach mayor's office and health clinic, which still operate out of a decrepit building, will move to the newly constructed, two-story community center, only meters away from the old site. The community center will also house a library, a 150-seat events hall, and a computer

room, all of which will serve the 233 residents of the village.

Currently crews are decorating the interior of the community center, a visually striking structure covered with local marble. The building also features state-of-the-art amenities and creature comforts, including central heating and air-conditioning.

"Apart from solving a host of key issues faced by our village, the new community center will function as a wonderful leisure destination," said Mayor Mkhitar Ghahriyan. "Moreover, the construction of the building in the past few years has provided numerous jobs to our residents."

"The new, beautiful community center of Khachmach is a testament to the community's ongoing development," said Ara Vardanyan, executive director of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund. "As significantly, the structure is a vivid example of the synergistic efforts of our compatriots living in various countries. The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund has implemented and continues to carry out a great many collaborative projects of this scale, including the complete renovation of the Noyemberyan Hospital and the construction of the Karin Tak water network."

Thanks to the support of several benefactors, living standards have risen considerably in Khachmach. The community now has regular access to water and natural gas, as well as a recently built road that runs the length of the village. In addition, St. Stepanos Church, a Khachmach landmark, has been rebuilt.

Armenian PM meets Kardashian sisters



Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan praised Kim Kardashian for promoting Armenia on April 9 when he met with the Armenian-American TV star and her family members on the second day of their visit to the country of their ancestors.

Abrahamyan also hailed Kardashian's vocal support for a greater international recognition of the 1915 Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire. He noted that her high-profile trip comes on the eve of the 100the anniversary of the slaughter of some 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Turks, which will be officially marked on April 24.

"Hovik Abrahamyan emphasized the fact that just like many Armenians scattered around the world, the Kardashians have not forgotten their roots and are making our country more recognizable with their trip to their historic homeland," read a statement released by Abrahamian's office.

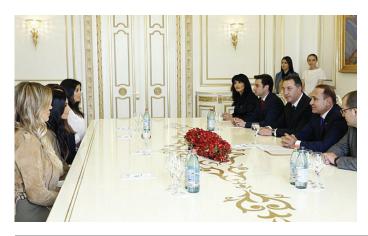
"The Kardashians stressed that they will continue to actively fight for international recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide and stressed the importance of consolidation of all Armenians around this cause," it said.

The statement also said that Kardashian and her sister Khloe apologized for not speaking Armenian and pledged to learn the language.

The famous sisters and two other women thought to be their cousins met the Armenian premier after strolling in downtown Yerevan and taking selfies with local fans. They also visited the city's Victory Park, home to a Second World War memorial, and posed for a photograph in front of Mother Armenia, a giant statue.

"Mother Armenia statue symbolizes peace through strength," Khloe blogged on her Instagram page afterwards. "It can remind viewers of some of the prominent female figures in Armenian history. Who took up arms to help their husbands in their clashes with Turkish troops and Kurdish irregulars." Kim Kardashian called her first-ever trip to Armenia a "journey of a lifetime" after arriving in Yerevan on Wednesday evening together with her husband, rapper Kanye West, and 2-year-old daughter North. "Thank [you] everyone who greeted us," she wrote on Twitter.

"I can't wait to explore our country and have some yummy food!" the 34-year-old tweeted the following morning.





New IT Center opens in Artsakh



On 9 April President Bako Sahakyan attended the solemn opening of the new building of the "Artsakh Information Technologies Center" fund in Stepanakert, NKR President's Press Office reported.

Bako Sahakyan underlined that information technologies were among the most promising directions of the republic's socioeconomic development, expressing hope that the fund would substantially contribute to the sphere's progress by establishing practical ties between the local, Armenian and foreign leading organizations.

The President expressed gratitude to philanthropist Constantine Manoukyan for participating in the realization of this program, highlighting his continuous patriotic activity in Artsakh.



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1 ROOM

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

tem, 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

- +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 reapaired, heating systen, 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. Negotiable.
- •2895.Northern Ave., Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,capitally repaied, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- +2802.Amiryan Newly 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
- •2950.Aram str., Newly built, 5th floor, 176 sq.m,

- 3 bedrooms, office, zero state, Price: 310.000 USD •2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4,5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- +2990.North Ave., Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- •1789. Charents str. Land-1270sq.m,5 storied buildeach 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: neaotiable.
- •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: Negotiabel
- +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 capitally

glasses, 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 building1200sq.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 floorof the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq,m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally reapired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per
- +2172. **Isahakyan str,** 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capital-Price: 450.000 USD ly repaired, heating system.

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 per-
- mits, 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 sa.m
- 1000 sq. m, +2310.Monument, Babayan str, facade-25m, privatized, Price:350 USD negotiable
 •2107.Monument, 2400sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: 400 USD per sq.m.

- +2413.Ashtarak roadway, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable
- •2414.Demirchyan str. land-750sq.m., building permits. Price:750.000 USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- +3348.Blur, 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, hjeating system,elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- •3583.Nork-Marash, Land-1100sq.m,2 storied bld-520sq.m,6 bedrooms,5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price:1.350.000 USD.
- •3432. Aygedzor, Land 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price:1.000.000 USD
- •3576.Avan, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 USD
- •3606. Avan, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m.,3 storied building-750sq.m.,6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD
- •3574.**Blur,** Land-779sq.m.,2 storied building-720sq.m.,4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, 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
- •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. Antarayin 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 Antaravin, 136-315 sa 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
- •87. Sayat-Nova str., 21 floors, 3 bedrooms -188 sq.m., 199 sq.m., Price 1900 USD per sq.m., 2 bedrooms -189 sq.m., 2 bedrooms -180 usc. rooms have a beautiful sight - 117 sq.m., 120 sq.m., 124 sq.m., Price: 1700 USD per sq.m., climate control,
- •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. Antarayin str., 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m,available sevices-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable
- +131.Busand str., commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available sevices-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, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD.

•2099.Sayat-Nova Ave., 12/6, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired,gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price:600 USD.

•1972.Northern ave., 8/4, 80sq.m.,1bedrrom, 2

bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, climate Price: 1200 USD

*2171.**Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sq.m., 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capitally repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD

•2367 Northern ave., Newly built, 9th flloor, 98 sq.m., capitally repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

2 ROOMS

+2302 North Ave, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD

Price: 2000 GGL North Ave., Newly built 16/15 173sq.m., 2bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price:5000 USD
•2290 **Bayron str.**, Newly built, /5th floor, 220sq.m,

2bedrooms, study, open kitchen, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, furnished, parking. Price: 4000 USD

•1780.Amiryan str, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system,

AC, furnished, equipped Price: 1700 USD negotiable.

•942.Teryan str. 4/3, 130 sq.m.,2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnishred, equipped. Price. 1500 USD.

1950.Buzand/Mashtots area. Newly built,8th floor, 163 sq.m.,2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired,climate control furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.

•1681.Northern Ave., Newly built,6/2,130 sq.m.,2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating

bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.

1535. Busand str., Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m,2bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.

2089. Northern ave., Newly built,8/6, 120sq.m.,2 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, capitally reapired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD.

1738. Amiryan str., 8/8, 159sq.m.,2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. capitally repaired. heating system. park-

bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable

•1951. Busand str., Newly built, 13th floor,

122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD

•1406.**Sayat Nova ave.,** 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally reapired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

•2187.Northern ave., Newly built, 9/5, 120 sq.m. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally reapired, firnished, equipped. Price: 2.200 USD

+2109 Northern ave., Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD

•2243.**Buzand str,** Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD

• Amiryan str, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bed-

rooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

•2277.Kievyan str. duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bath-rooms, capitally repaired, with or without furniture.

Price: Negotiable

+2310 Busand str., Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD

 2316 Northern Ave, Newly built,6th floor, 227sq.m.,4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price:2500 USD

 2303 Hanrapetutyan str Newly built, 9/5, *2303 Hanrapetutyan str Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. captially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD *2286.Sose str, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally reapired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD *2257.Northern Ave., Newly built, 17/16, 160

sq.m.,3 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system,

AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
•2021.**Teryan Str.,** Newly built,9/8,9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms,capitally repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD. •2005. Northern Ave., Newly built,8/8, 130 sq.m, 3

bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD. •1723. Northern Ave., Newly built,8/4., 170 sq.m 3

repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.

1981. Vardanants Str., Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq.
m,3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open baconies, furnished, equipped,parking. Price: 2000 USD.

•1793.**Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m.,3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitally 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, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture,

heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without terriffere, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable

2195.Northern ave.,
Newly built, 3rd floor,
300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired,climate conrol, ΔC parking. Price:5000 USD

+2261.Hin Yerevantsi, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price:

•2084.Tumanyan str., 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price:5000 USD repaired, climate control, parking. Price:5000 USD •2252.Northern ave, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

Baghramyan str., Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m.,4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms,capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD

Aygedzor, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathroosm,capitally repaired, furnished. Price:2000 USD

•1337 **Daytashen** Land-406sq.m,3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitally 306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathroo repaired, furnished. Price:3900 USD

•1323.Monument, Babayan str, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable

◆1248. Aygedzor, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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,

capitally repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD neaotiable.

negoriable.

1142.**Djrvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden.Price7.000 USD

•327. **Nork-Marash,** Land-500sq.m.,4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally 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 bed-rooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally 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 bed-

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, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable

17. Blur, Barbyus str., Land-900sq.m.,5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

•2049. Teryan str, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD •1693. Malatia-Sebastia 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, 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, capitally repaired, gas, heating system,parking. Price: Negotiable.

+1462.Teryan str., 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitally repaired, AC, parking, Price: 10.000 USD.
+1945.Mashtots Ave., 5/1,2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
+1943.Tumanyan str., Ground floor of the building, 265cg m. 1st line capitally repaired booting systems.

265sq.m.,1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD

•1868.Tumanyan str., Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m.,1st line, facade-55m.,capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.

•2087 **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m,1st line, zero level, capitally repaired, win-

dow glasses. Price: Negotiable. •2033. Abovyan str, 388sq,m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, windoq glasses,

h-3m.,basement-235sq.m, capitally 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

•2027. Sayat Nova str, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

10 www.nt.am SOCIETY

VivaCell-MTS: Some April News

"The International Child Development Center" NGO has moved to a new building

On April 2, World Autism Awareness Day, the opening of the new building for "My Way" educational and rehabilitation center took place. The Center will provide specialized educational treatment and contribute to the social adaptation of children with autism.

VivaCell-MTS has been supporting the "International Child Development Center" NGO since 2008. The specialized educational treatment of children with autism is a difficult and resource-consuming process, as each child is being taught intensively and individually – one therapist per each child. In order to support this process VivaCell-MTS has allocated more than AMD 115, 500, 000 since 2008, thanks to which 30 children from 3 to 12 attend this institution with no fee.

According to the staff of the Center and the parents of the children, progress and positive change are both observed in terms of obtaining knowledge and in the behavior as well as mental abilities of the children. Moreover, 14 children from the Center started attendsecondary ing

schools. Those results are the proof of the efficiency of the activities realized by the "International Child Development Center" NGO. Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and is a result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the brain. Both children and adults with autism typically show difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions, and leisure or play activities.

Joint project of the RA Police and VivaCell-MTS on teaching traffic rules to children

Ensuring the safety of children stays at the heart of Police' attention as one of the key directions of its activities. Special significance is prescribed to road safety issues: teaching traffic rules to children, instilling in them the understanding of the necessity to unconditionally follow road safety rules, and bringing up law-abiding citizens. Regular open classes at schools, visits of young people to police stations and close cooperation with parents and representatives of the sphere of education are directed towards the implementation of these objectives

The Police are convinced that guidance to children should begin at an elementary school or even pre-school age. One of the first steps in applying this principle is the "Little Policeman" game-manual which is addressed to first class schoolchildren. The manual will help the children master traffic rules on their own, teach them the road signs, as well as provide information about emergency situations.





As a socially-responsible Company, having supported numerous awareness and public education programs targeted to children, VivaCell-MTS extended hands to the initiative of the Police by allocating about AMD 14 million for the publication of 1000 copies of the electronic game-manual.

The launch time of the project is linked

The launch time of the project is linked with the coming summer vacations, when children regularly spend more time outdoors and will no doubt need the knowledge of road safety rules.

Ralph Yirikian hosted by the School of Business Management, American University of Armenia

VivaCell-MTS General Manager *Ralph Yirikian* was invited to the American University of Armenia on 10 April as a guest speaker to lecture on the contemporary issues of Corporate Social Responsibility for the students of the School of Business Administration. Ralph Yirikian has delivered numerous lectures at different educational institutions and forums in Armenia and abroad, as part of his voluntary commitment to share his experience and knowledge with future managers and

entrepreneurs, in order to enable them find the formula of success in business and effectively manage modern-day business structures, to give them innovative practical knowledge for them to be able to make the country competitive on international markets

Prior to touching upon the concept of corporate responsibility and its application in the Armenian context, Ralph Yirikian introduced to MBA students the stakeholder approach employed by VivaCell-MTS as a socially responsible company. Based on the experience of VivaCell-MTS, he encouraged future managers and executives to keep integrated the principles of CSR into the core of their business strategies, to always take into consideration interests of stakeholders during day to day operation and in managerial decision-making processes.

VivaCell-MTS General Manager presented the importance and the principles of responsible management. He introduced the

difference between traditional management and responsible management as well as the importance of stakeholder engagement and its analysis.

"A corporate executive striving for excellent performance can't underestimate the importance of thinking strategically about key stake-

holders' concerns, mapping out their values and power bases. Corporate executives should be able to make right decisions to support and strengthen the alignment of organizational strategies with the most influential stakeholders. Commercial organizations don't live isolated. They are bound by moral obligations to their stakeholders, including consumers, customers, regulators, suppliers, shareholders, the natural environment and communities," Ralph Yirikian commented.

In less than 10 years, VivaCell-MTS has become popular not only as the leader in telecommunications, with the largest market share, but also in innovations. The Company was not only the first and only telecommunications operator to offer 4G services, but also the first to introduce and promote the concept of CSR as an essential part of corporate behavior. At the same time VivaCell-MTS has implemented numerous of social investment projects in a broad range of spheres, contributing to the sustainability of these spheres and the country's economic development. The Company makes considerable investments into the implementation of innovative projects in the spheres of healthcare, culture, science, children, environmental protection, education, and rural infrastructure.

CULTURE www.nt.am 11

Sergey Smbatyan: "In Armenia the Noble Mission to Support the Culture Championed by VivaCell-MTS and its Leader Ralph Yirikian"

Partnership between VivaCell-MTS and the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia continues



By Gourgen James Khazhakian Chief Correspondent Journalist Emeritus of Armenia

A joint press conference of Ralph Yirikian, VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager and Sergey Smbatyan, the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia was held on the April 7th.

For the State Youth Orchestra the year starts with cooperation with its General Partner VivaCell-MTS. The Company has been near the Orchestra for years now and continuously supports all the initiatives of SYOA. Owing to the close partnership, numerous SYOA innovative projects have been implemented, many world famous musicians have performed to Armenia.

Thanks to the partnership with VivaCell-MTS the Orchestra not only had the opportunity to collaborate with outstanding musicians of our time but also, importantly, to present the Armenian culture and the achievements of the Armenian performing art school on foreign stages.

«VivaCell-MTS is pleased to support a team which is composed of young talented musicians. It is nice to see the enthusiasm, dedication and the desire for high

quality, with which the Orchestra works. Definitely, this is what determines the achievements of the SYOA not only in Armenia but abroad as well. It is also important that these young people have the opportunity to stay in their homeland and fully realize themselves in their professional field», noted VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager Ralph C. Yirikian.

As the outcome of the cooperation between the State Committee Coordinating the Commemoration Events Dedicated to the Centenni-

al of the Armenian Genocide and Viva-Cell-MTS, the State Youth Orchestra, as the official orchestra, for the second time already, has taken part in the Al Bustan International Festival held in Lebanon. The concerts given in the frames of the Festival were commemorating the victims of the Armenian Genocide. (The Highlights covered the Fest in its respective issues.)

Thanks to the partnership with

VivaCell-MTS, the SYOA in fact has become the first orchestra in Armenia that introduced the practice of online broadcasting of classical music concerts in the country, applying modern technologies, thus, making its concerts available to both the audience present at the concert hall, and the music loving public from around the world.

"The art always needs support. We



need sponsorship for presenting high art to the public constantly. In Armenia this mission is carried by VivaCell-MTS and its General Manager Ralph Yirikian. This Company and its Leader are the one whose contribution to the development and distribution of high values is more than significant, and for many years they have ensured the propagation and development of high cultural values," Sergey Smbatyan noted, by such a statement

once more expressing their gratitude to the Orchestra General Partner.

During the press conference Sergey Smbatyan also touched upon the issue of the Orchestra's involvement in the projects dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Particularly, he highlighted the concert dated on 8 April presenting Gustav Mahler's Symphony No.6. He also referred to the «24/04 Orchestra»: Armenia will host 100 musicians, members of the leading orchestras in the world, from more than 40 countries, and together with their Armenian colleagues the latter will perform on April 24 at 20:15 at the very heart of Yerevan, the Republic Square. A unique concert program will be held under the baton of the conductors Sergey Smbatyan, Hovhannes Tchekijian, Gianluca Marciano and Michavil Jurowski.

Author's note.

During this news conference your correspondent noticed a banner with an inscription as "VivaCell-MTS, Culture's Friend"...

We The Highlights strongly believe that it would be a more proper thing to write "VivaCell-MTS, Culture's **BEST** Friend".

So probably all (the numerous) cultural/artistic ensembles (vitally) supported

for years already by Armenia's leading telecom operator and its Leader should think about "inventing" such Award nomination – we think it is clear "for who?".........

Gustav Mahler's "Tragic" Symphony No. 6 was performed for the very first time in Armenia by the Youth Orchestra on April 8 at the A.Spendiaryan National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet. As it was mentioned above,

the concert was dedicated to the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. "My Sixth is ready; I think I have managed to do it! Basta forever!" - wrote Gustav Mahler in his letter to Bruno Walter in summer of 1904. Willem Mengelberg, the conductor and interpreter of Mahler's music, described the Symphony as follows: "There is an incredible drama in sounds, titanic strug-

continued on page 12

Sergey Smbatyan: "In Armenia the Noble Mission to Support the Culture Championed by VivaCell-MTS and its Leader Ralph Yirikian"

From page 11

gle of the hero who dies in a terrible catastrophe." Sergey Smbatyan, the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, mentioned in his interview that the choice of Mahler's "Tragic" Symphony was not accidental. No other composition could be performed in April. "Tragic" has a message and this performance is a tribute to the innocent victims of the Armenian Genocide. Sergey Smbatyan mentioned that the 6th symphony is one of the most difficult symphonic works in the world, but through the positive energy it bears the orchestra becomes incomparably stronger and it helps to achieve new heights, even if it requires overcoming of really heavy difficulties.

al improvement.

After the concert Davit Gyulamiryan pointed out that the Youth Orchestra comprised of numerous instrumental ensembles, and that it was Sergey Smbatyan's idea to create and name the duet after Abgar Mouradyan. Talking to The Highlights correspondent, he noted that Professor Mouradyan was a quiet strict teacher but at the same time his master-classes were very informal, warm ones.

A. G. Mouradyan had headed the Wind Chair of Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory for many years. He released a lot of talented students: some of them are now included in the staff of Armenian and foreign orchestras, others are leading



gratitude to all those who have been preserving carefully memory of my father Professor Abgar Gurgenovich Mouradyan", he said.

Inauguration of the "Abgar Mouradyan" Duo

The first concert of the newly founded "Abgar Mouradyan" Duo took place on 4 April at the Yerevan Komitas Chamber Music Hall. The Duo was named after Honored Artist of Armenia, prominent clarinet player and pedagogue Prof. *Abgar Mouradyan* (1944-2010). The ensemble members are Professor Abgar Mouradyan's student, clarinet player *Davit Gyulamiryan* and a gifted pianist *Lilit Zakaryan*. The



latters are performers of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia since its very establishment and winners of a number of competitions held both in Armenia and abroad.

This is the 3rd time

the SYOA and its Artistic Director and Principal Conductor *Sergey Smbatyan* dedicate a concert in memory of Abgar Mouradyan. And this has a symbolic meaning as Maestro Mouradyan was such an artist who had his great contribution in the activity of the Youth Orchestra since its formation; always giving advice to the young musicians, he did his utmost to possibly support them in their profession-



soloists. Pianist Lilit Zakaryan especially noted the variety of the concert program. The audience was presented music by Schumann, Debussy, Penderecki, Messager and Rosenblatt.

The honorary guests of the concert were Armenia's Minister of Culture Mrs *Hasmik Poghosyan* and the Minister of Health Prof. *Armen Mouradyan*, Abgar Mouradyan's son.

Armen Mouradyan expressed his impression after the concert and shared his emotions, excitement and gratitude. "I think the name of Abgar Mouradyan is very compulsory. I was just a bit anxious before the start of the performance, but as soon as I listened to the musicians playing, I got once more assured Davit Gyulamiryan is my father's estimable student. I am highly affected also by Lilit Zakaryan's performing art, so the concert was a nice surprise to me and my family members", said Mr Minister who, notably, has got music education and plays piano. "Taking the advantage of this wonderful occasion, I'd like to express my

"Vladimir Spivakov Invites...": Three Concerts of the National Philharmony Orchestra of Russia for the Armenian Genocide Centennial

On 14,15,16 April Natl Philharmony Orchestra of Russia (NFOR) conducted by its Artistic Director and the Principal Conductor, world renowned musician and philantropist, great

friend of Armenia and Armenians *Vladimir Spivakov* presents a Fest dedicated to the 1915 Armenian Genocide



Centennial to be held under patronage of the Armenian President *Serzh Sargsyan*.

The program includes Mozart's "Requiem", G. Mahler's "Songs about Died Children" and Requiem "Scenes of Madness" in the world opera repertoire "Chaplin's Hour".

Armenians Should Build a Wall of Shame for Those Going to Gallipoli



By Harut Sassounian

Publisher, The California Courier

While Armenians criticize Turkey for genocide denial and other massive violations of human rights, it is just as important to blame all non-Turks who conduct business as usual with Turkey, thereby encouraging Turkish officials to continue their outrageous behavior.

For example, right now, leaders of many countries are shamelessly preparing to go to Gallipoli on April 24, to commemorate the Turkish victory a Century ago, knowing full well that they would be participating in a ceremony on a fake date designed to undermine the commemoration in Yerevan of the Armenian Genocide Centennial.

Armenians should build a "Wall of Shame" and inscribe on it the names of all world leaders who are in Gallipoli on April 24! Who is more to blame? Pres. Erdogan who has shown repeatedly that he has no qualms about violating human rights, or foreign officials who participate in his orchestrated charades?

One would think that after Erdogan's objectionable actions, such as supporting ISIS, money laundering, jailing journalists, ordering the shooting of peaceful demonstrators in Istanbul's Gezi Park, and myriad other abuses, he would be considered a pariah and shunned by the international community!

Unfortunately, there are many foreign leaders who maintain warm relations with Turkey and are willing to jump in bed with 'the devil' in the pursuit of their misperceived interests. While countless nations have their share of the blame, most puzzling is the behavior of Israeli leaders toward Turkey, given Erdogan's virulent anti-Semitic statements and anti-Israeli actions! Yet, we hardly hear a single word of criticism of the Turkish leader from Israel's outspoken Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. No one should be surprised if Netanyahu ends up sending a high-ranking Israeli official to Gallipoli!

For several decades, Israeli leaders have tolerated racist statements in the Turkish media and even supported Turkey's denials of the Armenian Genocide, not wishing to antagonize Turkey and endanger the lives of Jews in Istanbul. We were told that Israel had to tolerate Turkey's misbehavior because it allowed Jews escaping from Iran to cross its border, and that saving the life of a single Jew was more important than acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. Until a decade ago, Israeli officials were cautious not to take any steps that would undermine their country's strategic alliance with Turkey. Now that Turkey has become outright hostile, Israel's leaders have adopted a completely irrational position: let's not do anything that would further damage 'the fragile' relationship with Turkey!

Last month, the L.A. Jewish Journal dispatched Simone Wilson to Turkey to report on the situation of Jews there. She described the hopeless condition of remnants of the once thriving Jewish community: "Jews and other ethnic and religious minorities have been subject to waves of severe discrimination - in terms of property rights, freedom of language and education, upward mobility and more." The

Jewish population has decreased from 500,000 to a mere 17,000, and continues to shrink. In 2003, many Jews realized that they could no longer remain in Turkey, after terrorists attacked Istanbul's Neve Shalom and Bet Israel synagogues, killing 27 and injuring hundreds. "Pervasive anti-Semitism in the public sphere also has played an undeniable role" in Jewish emigration, reported Wilson. According to a poll commissioned by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), "around 70% of Turks harbor anti-Semitic attitudes."

In Turkey, the situation of the Jewish minority is becoming more intolerable. Last September, "a cellphone store in downtown Istanbul hung up a sign in its window that read, 'The Jew dogs cannot come in here,'" Wilson reported. Mois Gabay, editor of the local Jewish newspaper Salom, wrote: "We face threats, attacks and harassment every day." Last July, Erdogan expressed his utter hatred of Jews by telling the Turkish public during a campaign stop: "They [Jews] curse Hitler day and night, but they have surpassed Hitler in barbarism." Ankara's Mayor, Melih Gokcek, member of Erdogan's ruling party, praised a Turkish singer who had declared: "May God bless Hitler." During a Holocaust Memorial Day event in Ankara on January 27, Parliament Speaker Cemil Cicek was quoted as scolding Israel for committing a modern Holocaust in

The silence of Israel, the United States, and the international community in the face of such outrageous Turkish behavior has created an out of control monster. All those who have spoiled Erdogan are obligated to restrain him before he becomes a true menace to the region and the world.

Iranian-Armenian Students Urge Rouhani to Recognize Genocide

TEHRAN-Iranian-Armenian students have appealed to Iran's President Hassan Rouhani with an open letter urging his government to recognize the Armenian Genocide

The authors of the letter have drawn Iran's President's attention to the unconstructive policy of Turkey in the region, noting that today Turkey does not only deny the Genocide committed against around 1.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, but also sponsors the ter-

rorist groups in the region which slaughter numerous innocent civilians in Syria and Iraq.

Highlighting the peaceful coexistence of various ethnic and religious minorities in Iran, the Iranian-Armenian students are calling on Rouhani to recognize the Armenian Genocide, in a step to help prevent such atrocities in the future.

Despite their serious disagreements concerning regional issues, Iran and Turkey maintain economic relations.

As a Muslim country, Iran has been conducting a moderate and cautious policy regarding the Armenian Genocide over the last years. Remarkably, however, the members of parliament of the 6th Majlis of Iran condemned the Armenian Genocide. Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, then President of Iran, visited Tsitsernakaberd during his official visit to Yerevan on September 9, 2004. Vice president of Iran, Hamid Baghaei, used the word "genocide"

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Uruguay releases stamp marking Armenian Genocide centennial

A stamp sheet to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide was released by the Uruguayan Post Office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Asbarez reports.

Uruguay was the first and is still one of a handful of countries to recognize the Genocide.

"Uruguay was the first country to recognize the Armenian genocide by law 50 years ago, a transcendental step in a struggle that continues to the present day," said Uruguayan Foreign Minister Rodolfo Nin Novoa, who also announced an official delegation to Armenia for the centenary on April 24.



According to Novoa, the relationship between the two countries is at a high and the stamp "is full of significance and emotion because it delves into the memory of all those victims of the brutal crime of genocide" whose struggle for recognition is supported by Uruguay.

The Uruguayan Minister of Tourism and Sport, Lilian Kechichian, of Armenian origin, said "the suffering of a 100 years has the added pain of still not being recognized by the whole world, but Uruguay has set an extraordinary example."

"It is a huge honor that Uruguay received our grandparents, our parents, offered them work, allowed each one of us to study and live in a country of peace," she added.

The Archbishop of the Armenian Church in Uruguay, Hakob Kedenjian, also applauded the country's role in the struggle for international recognition of the Armenian genocide.

"We are very proud to live in this country that defends just causes because the greatness of a country is not measured by its military might, economic power, its extensive borders, but by how it defends human rights," noted Kedenjian.

Armenian Genocide Centennial Commemoration Events in Norway

This year marks the 100th year since the Armenian Genocide by Ottoman Turkey of 1915-1923. The Armenian Genocide, first genocide of the 20th century, was planned and carried out by the "Young Turk" government of Ottoman Turkey in 1915 (with subsidiaries to 1922-23). One and a half million Armenians were killed on their ancestral lands

The Armenian genocide is considered one of the three archetypes of what constitutes a genocide by Norwegian and international historians.

Events and initiatives marking the centennial are being held around the world throughout the year of 2015. Leaders from around the world including presidents of France, Russia, Poland, Cyprus among others, will gather in capital of Armenia, Yerevan, on April 24, to commemorate this event.

Prime Minister Erna Solberg has not accepted the invitation to join the commemorations in Yerevan. Neither is she willing to send a minister or a state secretary.

The Armenian Cultural Association in Norway presents various commemorative events marking the Armenian Genocide centennial in Norway. Events on such a solid scale in Norway signal that the country and the people of great explorer, scientist and humanist -an outstanding advocate for the rights for the Armenian people - Fridtjof Nansen, carry on his mission and demand that justice be served, regardless of the controversial position of their government.

There is a wide variety of events planned in Oslo this year, as well as events in Bergen and Stavanger. Organizations and individuals like Norsk P.E.N., Jahn Otto Johansen,

Kirkelig KulturVerkstad, FN Sambandet (i Rogaland), the Armenian Church Society and s at the Armenian Cultural Association among others have been instrumental in keeping the memory of the 1.5 million martyred Armenians alive in this country.

Over 12 successful events have already been organized in February and March (some of them supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and the Fritt Ord Foundation) and there



are over 10 different cultural events planned in the month of April, presented below.

April 14 - Commemorative Concert by the acclaimed Armenian National Philharmonc

Orchestra in the Royal Cathedral in Oslo

April 18 - To Survive and Thrive: Public Lecture about Calouste Gulbenkian (Oil Entrepreneur and philanthropist)

Presented by José Rodrigues dos Santos (Portugal)

Cello concert - Martin Rasten (Norway)

April 19 - Historic Sunday: The Armenian Genocide

By Jahn Otto Johansen

April 21 Norsk PEN's Annual MeetingSeminar: The Centennial of the Armenian Genocide

Meeting with a prominent Turkish Human Rights Activist Ragip Zarakolu

April 22 - Meeting about the Armenian Genocide with Otto Johansen

April 24 - March for Recognition of the Armenian Genocide

Route: The march with torches begins at Youngstorget at 19.00, and then moves through

Torggata, Stortorvet and up Karl Johan gate to Stortinget (the Parliament).

April 24, STAVANGER - Armenian Liturgy for the 1.5 mln martyrs of the Armenian Genocide at St. Svithun Catholic Church

April 24, BERGEN -Commemorating the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide

Place: Near the Nansen Khachkar memorial outside Reksten Samlingene

April 25 - Armenian Liturgy Place: Royal Cathedral, Oslo

ICRC: 100 Years on such tragedies must never happen again



Sarah Epprecht, head of the ICRC delegation in Armenia, reflects on the tragic loss of countless Armenian lives under Ottoman rule a century ago. 2015 is the centennial of what is conventional-

ly held to be the starting date of those terrible events.

What is the ICRC's position on the massacre of the Armenian people in the Ottoman Empire?

The events that occurred a century ago are without doubt tragic and still provoke strong feelings. From a humanitarian perspective, it is a tragedy.

In line with our mandate, we prefer to focus on the importance of remembering the tremendous suffering and loss of life endured by countless Armenians under Ottoman rule. We see this year's centennial commemoration as a time to recognize the need to strengthen respect for human dignity and highlight the impor-

tance of efforts to prevent such tragedies from happening again anywhere in the world.

How does the ICRC classify the events in legal terms?

We are aware that there is a lot of interest in ascertaining which countries or organizations officially recognize as genocide the terrible events that took place under Ottoman rule. However, as a neutral and independent humanitarian organization, the ICRC does not take part in such debates.

The ICRC is an international humanitarian organization with a history of working in situations of violence that

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Events dedicated to 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Berlin



On April 4, "Island of Dogs" short film by well-known director Serge Avedikian and "Germany and the Secret Genocide" by Michael Hagopian were screened at Maxim Gorki Theater, Berlin, in the frameworks of set of events entitled "Never again" that will last 40 days.

Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Honorary Chairman of "Golden apricot" international film festival Levon Sargsyan, Charge d'Affaires of the Republic of Armenia to

Germany, Chairman of "Golden apricot" Ashot Smbatyan, the Ambassadors, politicians and public figures, diplomats, film critics, journalists and representatives of the Armenian community attended the event. After the screening, Ambassador Sargsyan delivered lecture on the Armenian Genocide, presenting essence and content of the Centennial events. Afterwards, Ambassador Sargsyan, Ashot Smbatyan and Harutyun Khachatryan answered questions of the attendees.

Iranian-Armenian Students Urge Rouhani to Recognize Genocide

From page 13

during a conference in August 2010. "The government of Ottoman Turkey committed genocide in 1915," he said. However, the statement was refuted to prevent aggravating relations with Turkey.

The former Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, avoided going to Tsitsernakaberd during his official visit to Armenia in 2007.

The recent years have seen some changes in the position of official Tehran regarding the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian community of Iran has recently been allowed to hold a number of events without facing substantial obstacles, including protests in front of the Turkish Embassy in Iran in the past two years.

However, both the political and religious elite of Iran, as well as ordinary citi-

zens, admit the fact of the Armenian Genocide, as, according to Iranian sources,

the Ottoman Turks also slaughtered many Armenians in Iran's Urmia region in 1918.



Turkish lawyers apologize to Armenians for Genocide

A scheduled conference devoted to the denial of the Armenian Genocide has angered several Turkish lawyers from Izmir, who have responded by issuing an apology for Armenians over the Armenian Genocide, Asbarez reports.

The local Izmir branch of the Association of Modern Lawyers has issued a statement apologizing to Armenians over the Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Turkish government during the First World War.

The association says that an alliance

of lawyers responsible for establishing justice in Turkey is sure that what happened in the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923 was a crime of Genocide committed under the pretext of deportation.

The authors of the statement noted that among the Armenians arrested and exiled to death in 1915 were also lawyers and advocates.

"We, as lawyers from Izmir, will not allow that the crimes and the genocide committed against the Armenians be consigned to oblivion. We apologize to the



Armenian people on behalf of the organization we are members of," reads the

Kardashians visit Geghard Monastery in Armenia

Reality star Kim Kardashian visited the Geghard Monastery on April 9 with her husband Kanye West, sister Khloe and daughter North. The E! camera followed the starts to shoot episodes for the Keeping Up With The Kardashians reality show.



ICRC: 100 Years on such tragedies must never happen again

From page 15 stretches back 150 years. What efforts did the ICRC make to assist the Armenian people back then?

One hundred years ago, the ICRC was not yet the organization that it is today. Unfortunately, at that time, we did not have the extensive field presence and proximity to victims that now characterizes our work. The situation at that time made direct assistance impossible.

Nevertheless, in the years that followed, the ICRC focused on providing relief to Armenian children. It coordinated the efforts of a number of organizations to help children in Armenia who were suffering from the effects of the First World War.

The ICRC has an extensive archive of different types of documents dating back a long time. Does it contain information about those terrible events?

The ICRC archives from that time are open to the public, so they can be consulted by anyone who is interested. The resources to be found there reflect the ICRC's historical position and actions, which stemmed from its deep concern about the massacre of the Armenian people in the Ottoman Empire.



Embassy of India Yerevan

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Embassy of India in Yerevan, Armenia invites application from the interested candidates for filling up the post of "MULTITASK-CUM-MESSENGER". Applications are invited from the interested candidates fulfilling the following Eligibility/criteria qualification etc.

Eligibility

Minimum Education: Graduate with fluency in English, Armenian and Russian (both written and spoken)

Age: 30 Years minimum. Depending on the experience & qualification, the age limit may be relaxed. Knowledge of computer applications including typing with fair speed and use of Word, Excel, etc are essential.

Work Experience: Minimum 5 Years. (Preferably in Diplomatic/International organizations)

Preference will be given to candidate(s) having adequate experience in handling computer repairing, web maintenance, commercial work etc.

Responsibilities

The person will be responsible for handling various administration, establishment, delivery of official documents, materials in various offices in Yerevan and other related jobs in the Embassy, protocol duties etc. The person will also be required to perform additional duties assigned to him/her from time to time.

Interested applicants may address their application/Curriculum Vitae to:

Head of Chancery Embassy of India, 50/2, Dzorapi Street, Yerevan, Armenia

By E-mail their resume to the following emails

ambassador@embassyofindia.am, hoc@embassyofindia.am. hoc.yerevan@mea.gov.in, and administration@embassyofindia.am

Last date: 23 April, 2015

Lessons not learned: The Armenian Genocide

The Jerusalem Post has published an article by Emily Schrader titled "Lessons not learned: The Armenian Genocide.

Adolph Hitler is believed to have said in 1939, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" Likely unknowingly, Hitler demonstrated an important lesson that remains as relevant today as it was at the time: a failure to confront evil, enables evil.

Understandably, we don't like to recognize evil, and never have. It is an uncomfortable, almost "religious" concept that cannot be explained by the rational.

As human beings, we want to believe that we've evolved beyond it, that "evil" is simply a cultural misunderstanding, or a concept which exclusively belongs to a distant past. Yet evil is a part of reality and a part of human nature that we have seen so clearly time and time again. By not recognizing it, and not standing against it, we allow it to flourish.

This month marks 100 years since the official commencement of the Armenian Genocide - a dark chapter of human history which sadly we have yet to come to grips with. Despite overwhelming evidence, there are still those who deny that the Armenian Genocide occurred at all. 100 years later, no one has held the Ottomans - and their direct successor, Turkey - accountable for the unconscionable barbaric acts they committed. Shockingly, even countries such as Israel and the United States have yet to recognize this horrific event in human history that nearly eliminated the entire Armenian population.

Where is the "Never Again" for the Armenian people? We cry out against the horrors of the Holocaust - and we rightly demand reparations. We demand justice for the genocide in Rwanda. We still take steps to repair the appalling treatment of blacks in the United States until far too recently. We protest the mass murders in Darfur - and we prosecute those responsible. We do our best to expose and to stop the sickening acts of Islamic terror committed by Islamic State and similar groups against Muslims, Christians, Jews and other minorities. We've established international institutions like the United Nations (partially for the precise purpose

of preventing acts genocide from ever occurring again).

We look back in history and say, "how could we not have known?" And yet, atrocities continue to occur all over the world, and these international bodies remain silent before the tyranny and human oppression in places like North Korea, Saudi Arabia, China, or Iran.

Why? Because we do not want to accept that evil exists - and even more so, that many human beings have an affinity for it. Evil is an unpleasant problem to address, as evidenced by the failure, for one hundred years, to recognize the evil of the Armenian Genocide.

April 24, 1915 is known as the beginning of the Armenian Genocide - yet just as in the case of the Holocaust, the persecution began before that. No one paid attention when the systematic persecution of Armenians began decades before. Nobody cared about the land seizures, the forced conversions, and the general abuse which was rampant in the Ottoman Empire in the mid 1800s.

In the 1890s there were brutal pogroms against Armenians. It is estimated that under Sultan Abdul Hamid, 100,000- 300,000 Armenians were murdered.

Still the world was silent. When 250 Armenian intellectuals were rounded up and killed on April 24, it was the beginning of one of the most horrific atrocities the world had ever seen.

Following the implementation of Tehcir Law, Armenians were deported en masse - sent on death marches into the Syrian desert, and denied food and water. Their land and all belongings were confiscated, and if they survived the death march they were sent to concentration camps, or otherwise "disposed of." Witnesses recorded that nearly 50,000 men, women and children were tossed into the Black Sea and left to drown.

An estimated 1-1.5 million Armenians were brutally robbed, raped, starved and murdered by the Ottoman Empire between 1914 and 1918 for no other reason other than that they were Armenian.

Is it too much to ask, 100 years later, for recognition from the world's major powers? Is it too much to demand that

Turkey, which actually outlaws referring to the Armenian Genocide as a genocide, be held accountable for these unconscionable crimes against humanity? This refusal to own up to our mistakes only enables evil to flourish.

It enabled it in Kristallnacht, and it enables evil to thrive today. One cannot help but wonder: if we had recognized evil when the persecution of Armenians began in the 1800s, would things have been different in 1914 for the Armenians? Would things have been different when we witnessed Kristallnacht? Would things have been different when American Jews were screaming at the top of their lungs at the mass-murder of Europe's Jewry in the 1940s? Would things have been different when more than 20 million were killed under Stalin, or when an estimated 45 million were killed by Mao Zedong's "great leap forward" in China? When 800,000 were murdered in Rwanda, or when tens of thousands were killed in Darfur? When millions are still being murdered and tortured and starved to death in North Korea? We cannot stamp out evil for good.

But we can stand up for what is morally right; whether it concern the past or the future. Though we may not want to believe in this day and age that any person or government is capable of such egregious crimes, we must always remember that evil is a very real threat more than we can imagine.

After all, who would have thought that enlightened German society, and pinnacle of liberal European culture, would end up murdering nearly 11 million people? As Judea Pearl - the UCLA Professor and father of the late Daniel Pearl - has emphatically stated, "We Westerners fail to understand that half of mankind today is aroused by cruelty."

In order to stop this cruelty, in order to make it right, we must first recognize it for what it is: evil. We must recognize the Armenian Genocide and hold the perpetrators accountable for their crimes against humanity.

Never Again, for Armenians too.

The author is a freelance writer and the social media director for an Israeli non-profit organization.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

SOCIETY

This is a really challenging time for you and many others as well. You may be presented with a relationship issue that will cause you to depart a toxic bond. Perhaps it is time. But if this is someone you truly don't want to lose, then watch your temper and attempt to work through problems.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

You likely are tagged to walk a tightrope of trials. This began last week. Your challenger is Saturn, planet of rules and regs. It is possible you have extended your body or your money farther than you should. The buck stops here until you put return order to these departments of life.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

You may feel the need to bring an abrupt halt to your relationship with a business or organization that is pulling a power play. The IRS is out of bounds. You have to deal with them. However, you probably can find another bank, insurance company, or other business that promises more fair play.

Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21):

After the eclipses and high tensions of the last several weeks, you need some rest and recovery time. Circumstances may develop that will allow you to back away from the world for a few days while you regroup. You will be fine after a several day rest.

Leo (July 22 -- Aug. 21):

The planet Jupiter has been traversing your sign since last summer and has been retrograde for the last four months. On April 8 Jupiter turns direct and through July you will be able to express yourself more freely and ask for what you want. You may not realize that you've been holding back through the first quarter of 2015.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22):

A sudden revelation concerning joint resources, debt, taxes, or insurance matters may cause you to reel wildly for a bit. There could be a certain amount of drama in this department, such as a sudden need to access a large sum of money. Hold onto your natural caution. Think about this before you accept the drama at face value. Is it yourdrama or that of someone else?

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

The week begins in a peaceful fashion. You will be finishing projects. However, on the weekend you may encounter trouble with travel, the internet, or the law. Whatever the obstacle, there is no getting around it. So the best option is to accept that you cannot negotiate and not allow it to ruin your days.

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

It appears that two relationships are described by the aspects this week. One is pleasant and enjoying positive plans ahead. The other feels manipulative and possibly deceptive. Don't try to make things happen. You must be as honest as possible in each of these situations.

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

Fun and games will be hampered this week as you are required to tend to business. The new identity you have begun needs concentrated attention. There may be a mishap in paper work or communications to resolve. Meanwhile you are on the verge of better forward motion.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19):

Once again, this week may bring sudden developments concerning your home, your property, or your family. For a time things will feel out of control and maybe difficult to understand on any rational level. This struggle could be internal and of the ego. Take time enough to discern the truth before moving impulsively.

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

You may experience grumbling in your everyday world and it might be you. Give no attention to rumors or here-say until the facts are clear. It will improve your attitude. Things are not going totally smoothly right now, but it will improve in the near future.

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

There are vampires loose in the world and the Fish tends to attract them. If you have aged a bit, you probably have begun to smell them when they enter your vicinity. Those who have not will be learning soon. It's a required lesson for this sign. Take care of yourself first when someone approaches you with a sad story.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Alicia Ghiragossian FATHERLAND

I would like to buy
the face of my childhood.

To take it out
of the photo album
of refugees
and draw it identically
in another land
- that of my ancestors –
naked
newly born
from the fires
because in spite
of all the lives
I have lived
I am still not myself.

I would like to wander through the streets of that land pregnant with freedom where bones were burst with gun powder on a bed of flags.

I would like to touch that land to feel my past in its fragrance and reclaim my essence. When silence goes beyond sound we shall be revealed.

PROPHESY

When space stops at the idea and gives form and life to it we shall accomplish impossible dreams we shall be the creators of light and shall touch the truth.

Everything will change.

When the surprise surprises itself the mirrors will resign from the images...

A new dawn will announce the reign of the unfairly dethroned and truth will inaugurate the always.

The Grammy-winning raper sang free for Armenian fans and jumped into water at the end of the show



Reality star Kim Kardashian took to Facebook to share her impressions from the surprise concert her husband, Kanye West, performed in Armenia. The Grammy-winning raper sang free for Armenian fans and jumped into water at the end of the show.

Kim posted the photo of Kanye in Swan Lake and wrote: ""What a crazy night!" Kanye wakes me up & says he's doing a free concert in Yerevan, Armenia! I throw on sweats & we head out! Thousands of people were there! Kanye jumped in Swan Lake to be closer to the crowd on the other side & so many people jumped in too! I was so nervous but it was such an exciting crazy night! So happy I got to rock out with everyone in Armenia on our last night here!!!"







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