



#32 (929)
10 September 2012

Price: 1000 drams

Armenia wins World Chess Olympiad in Istanbul

HIGHLIGHT

France is to study the new draft law criminalizing Genocides denial



Armenian golden team becomes champions for the third time. Russia came second, the third is Ukraine

France is examining the new draft law criminalizing Genocides denial. This was declared by the director of France's presidential office Pier Benour from the name of Francois Hollande as a response to French Armenian Arman Mkhitaryan's letter who tried to clarify the readiness of Hollande to keep his campaign promises concerning the new draft law criminalizing the denial of Armenian Genocide.

As reports French Nouvelle d'Armenie the director of France's presidential office Pier Benour highlighted in the letter that Francois Hollande is to fulfill his commitment" and that the text of the draw is being examined.

As you know, France's Constitutional Commission has decided that the project presented in the form of a draft law does not comply with the Constitution. Therefore, it is necessary to find another solution which corresponds to "duty of memory" and to the laws of republic so that it will not be denied by the Constitutional Commission again".

See p. 8

Consequences of an Unreasonable Decision

By David Petrossian, political observer of *International Holding NoyanTapan*

In the last day of summer Hungary passed to Azerbaijan her officer RaviSafarov, who had been convicted to imprisonment for having killed with an axe an Armenian lieutenant GurgenMarkarian. The murder was committed when G. Markarian was asleep. The two officers were taking English course in Budapest according to a partnership programme with NATO.

R. Safarov was condemned for life imprisonment with a right to be forgiven only after having served a 30-year term inprison. On arriving in Baku R. Safarov was forgiven by Azerbaijan President and was set free. As stated by Azerbaijan press this action of the President is in conformity with the current decree of the President IlhanAliev and of the 2011 decree of his father - the former President of Azerbaijan GeidarAliev. R. Safarov was promoted in his military service and awarded with the title of major. He was also paid his wages for the whole period when he was in prison. Moreover, he was awarded with a new flat and was treated by the President IlhamAliev as a national hero. The

Ministry of Social Administration and Justice in Hungary maintains that the transfer of R.Safarov to Baku was done on the lines of 1983 Strasbourg Convention on the transfer of Sentenced Persons.

Azerbaijan gave to the Ministry of Social Administration and Justice of Hungary written guarantee that the preventive measure of R.Safarov will not be changed and that his being forgiven will be considered only after the period of his 25-year imprisonment is over (according to the current law of Azerbaijan). However Baku did not fulfil its own written guarantee and confronted its partners in Budapest with a fait accompli.

Armenian government was aware of R. Safarov's transfer being prepared on the part of Budapest. Therefore more than once Armenian authorities addressed the authorities of Hungary on different levels to consider this issue. High officials in Budapest repeatedly assured official Yerevan that there will be no transfer of R. Safarov. Nevertheless Hungarian side did not keep its promise.

Such high level innocent belief on *continued on page 12*

Joint Press Conference of the President Serzh Sargsyan and the Secretary General of NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen

Statement by RA President Serzh Sargsyan at the Joint Press Conference

Dear Mr. Rasmussen,

I once again welcome Your visit to the Republic of Armenia. I am glad to state that Armenia-NATO partnership in this period of time has registered considerable progress.

The third, 2011-2013 document of the Armenia-NATO Individual Partnership Action Plan is in the process of implementation. The advanced level of cooperation with NATO allowed Armenia to bring its participation to the international security system. Currently, Armenia is engaged in the NATO-led peace-keeping missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo.

Armenia is ready and determined to maintain and develop the current level of cooperation.

Existing security threats demand comprehensive and joint approaches on behalf of the Alliance and the partner states. I am confident that

relations with the partner states play a significant role in the Alliance's success and construction of the modern security system.

The framework document of the Partnership for Peace Program states that "Protection and promotion of fundamental freedoms and human rights, and safeguarding of freedom, justice, and peace through democracy are shared values fundamental to the Partnership." And since 1994, the Program has really had a significant input to the democratic development of our country. Unfortunately, in the framework of the PfP we have also witnessed stern, extremely harsh violations of the mentioned-above principles which certainly mustn't cast a shadow on our relations with NATO.

In 2004, the axing of the Armenian officer during the NATO Partnership for Peace Program's English classes is so appalling and blood chilling that there is no need to speak again about that case. At that

time, the most fundamental right of Gurgen Margarian - his right for life - was violated most perfidiously. At that time it seemed that justice was done: the murderer was sent to prison for life. However, the incident that happened several days ago sent a challenge to all people with sound reasoning: we learned that the criminal was released by the Hungarian authorities and transferred to Azerbaijan, where he was immediately granted pardon by the president of that country. I use the word "pardon" with reservation because even though that act, that decree was called a "decree of pardon", it contained a vindication clause, it was meant to exonerate Safarov; nowhere in the world pardoned persons are encouraged, pardoned persons are not rewarded. Nowhere in the world serving a sentence is considered a job or serving in the army. However he was paid for the job, he received his wages and was promot-

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Hungarian Foreign Minister says Safarov's transfer "not an insult to Armenian people"

Hungarian Foreign Minister Janos Martonyi said today that "Hungary's recent transfer of Ramil Sahib Saharov to Azerbaijan was not aimed against

Armenia and it cannot be considered as an insult to the Armenian people.

According to Hungarian www.politics.hu, Hungarian

Foreign Minister Janos Martonyi wrote this in his letter to his Armenian counterpart Edward Nalbandian.

He noted that the transfer of Safarov, who was serving a life sentence for murdering an Armenian officer in Hungary, was in line with effective international regulations and Hungary's practice in similar cases

In his letter, released to MTI on Friday, Martonyi said that the transfer of Safarov was in line with effective international regulations and Hungary's practice in similar cases. Martonyi insisted that the transaction had been "purely of a legal nature".

"Suspending diplomatic relations could have such serious ramifications that would not serve the interests of Armenia", Martonyi said.

Concluding his letter, Martonyi assured his Armenian counterpart of Hungary's unchanged interest in further developing ties with Armenia, and called for a bilateral effort to find a way of restoring friendly relations.

Serzh Sargsyan receives the US Congressman Dan Burton



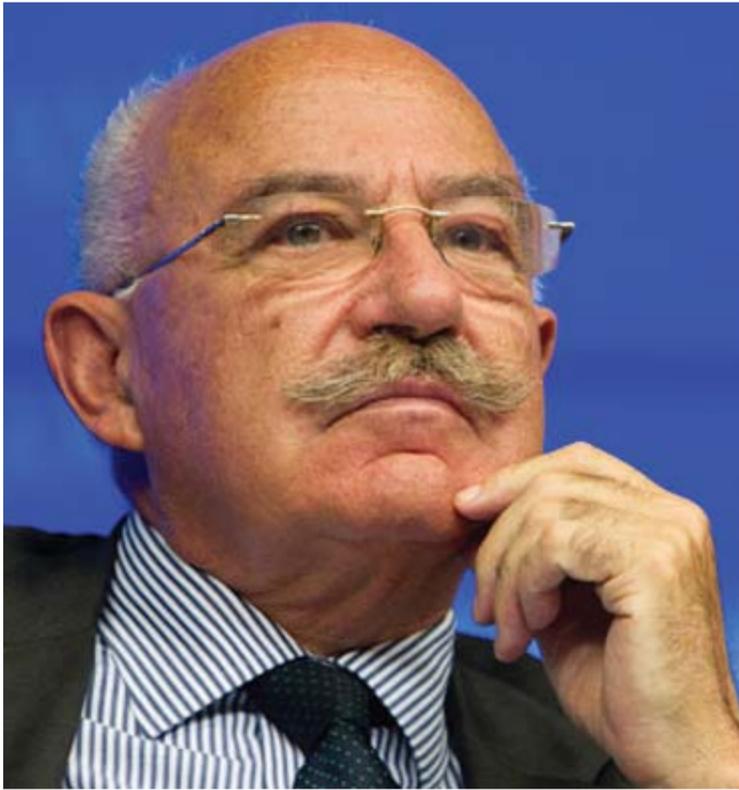
The President of Armenia noted with satisfaction that in the 20th year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and the United States, relations between the two countries are historically at their highest level. According to the President, Armenia strives to deepen relations with the United States - a traditional and true friend - in every area.

Serzh Sargsyan expressed gratitude to the US for its steady assistance to Armenia and the Armenian nation. "Recently, we witnessed yet another example of true friendship and fairness, when the President of the United States, State Department, and congressmen gave a swift, unambiguous and proportioned response to the transfer and release of Ramil Safarov. We are grateful to

them all and you personally for such a position. We are aware of the position which you have expressed in Baku, and I believe that it's a rightful position," Serzh Sargsyan said.

The parties agreed that Armenia and US have solid partnership in bilateral as multilateral relations. They stressed the importance of deepening further the Armenian-American economic relations and of the efforts aimed at the increase of the American investments in the Armenian economy.

At the meeting with Congressman Dan Burton, the President noted that he highly values the US involvement in the NK peace process and the assistance which is provided to the people of Artsakh every year.



Joint Press Conference of the President Serzh Sargsyan and the Secretary General of NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen

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ed - that's the problem.

Broad daylight cynicism and violation of international norms by which the glorification of the murderer is being carried out by Azerbaijan is astonishing. Azerbaijan has deliberately turned itself into the sponsor of the criminal.

It is an unacceptable, appalling and intolerable phenomenon which has dealt a huge blow to the objectives of the Partnership for Peace program, and poses a serious threat to the regional security in the South Caucasus. In this situation, nobody has a moral right to remain silent, to overlook what has happened. It unequivocally and unambiguously has to be condemned universally, sending a message which upholds justice and rejects impunity.

This step by the Hungarian authorities is just unacceptable. The Hungarian authorities simply could not be unaware how Azerbaijan was glorifying the Safarov rogue, could not be oblivious of the fact that he would be set free, moreover so since it was talked about many times and the leadership of Hungary affirmed that suspicions. Today, I express my heartfelt gratitude to those Hungarians, who at this difficult moment have manifested high morals and stood by the Armenian nation.

In this context, I would like also

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to touch upon another issue. We have warned our partners on numerous occasions that one-side formulations to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, which do not reflect the actual content of the negotiations, are damaging first of all because they encourage Azerbaijan's destructive, maximalistic stance. I am confident that "political correctness" has become a base for Azerbaijan's raucous posture and actions.

Once again, Mr. Secretary General, welcome. Please, the floor is yours.

Statement by the Secretary General of NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen

Thank you very much, Mr. President,

This is indeed a great pleasure to be here in Yerevan today and thank you, Mr. President for very positive and very constructive meeting this morning. My visit to Armenia shows that NATO is and will remain committed to the South Caucasus region and we highly value the relationship with Armenia. We appreciate your constant support for our mission in Afghanistan: last year, you have more than doubled your contribution to the mission and recently you have once again joined our mission in Kosovo. Your troops, your trainers are doing a great job, and you can be proud of their professionalism. Your country's contribution to the NATO-led missions means that Armenian personnel have received valuable training and peace-keeping experience. This is important in developing your own peace-keeping capabilities and efforts in which NATO is providing significant support.

An important priority in our part-

nership has been civil defense and disaster response and we have also established good cooperation and dialogue on defense reform and we encourage you to stay the course. NATO is ready to continue to assist. NATO and Armenia share many political priorities and security interests: we have achieved a great deal together in Afghanistan and Kosovo. This is the time to build on our success, to deepen the practical experience that our military forces have gained in the years of cooperation and to explore what more we can do together to face the security challenges of the 21st century.

So, Armenia is a valuable partner for NATO and NATO is a valuable partner for Armenia. Now we have the opportunity to build an even stronger partnership for the future. It is an opportunity we must seize because we all have to gain and so does the region as a whole.

Thank you.

RA President Serzh Sargsyan's and Secretary General of NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen's answers to the questions of the journalists during the joint press conference

Question: I apologize to the President of the Republic but since there is a topic of the day, I cannot avoid asking the following question to Mr. Rasmussen. Secretary General, tomorrow you will be in Baku and you will meet with the president of Azerbaijan: how are you going to shake the same hand that signed pardon for a coward who butchered our officer at the NATO training only for the fact that he was an Armenian? Thank you.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen: When I meet the Azerbaijani president

tomorrow, I will convey to him a very clear message: I am deeply concerned by the Azerbaijani decision to pardon the army officer Safarov, because that decision damages trust. The terrible and tragic incident that happened eight years ago was a crime and such crime should not be glorified, on the contrary. Having said that, I also think it's important to stress that we should not return to conflict in this region. There is a need to reduce tensions, there is a need to promote peace and cooperation and reconciliation. And I will convey that clear message tomorrow.

Question: I direct my question to the President of Armenia: how does Armenia put together its membership to the CSTO and active cooperation with NATO? And a question for the Secretary General: How would you assess the Russia-NATO relations?

Serzh Sargsyan: I believe we successfully combine our cooperation with CSTO and cooperation with NATO. We have noted many times and I repeat it now that our membership to the CSTO is an important element of our military and political security. It was a considered choice and we remain true to the principles and ideas of the CSTO. But I sincerely believe that NATO and CSTO are not adversary organizations. Moreover, I don't think that the member states should refrain from cooperation, on the contrary - we should reach stability through that cooperation. And as I have stated on many occasions, and repeat it now that our actions should never cause a conflict or deterioration of the relations. That's what our cooperation is about; cooperation

with NATO is beneficial for our country. And right now, at the meeting with the Secretary General I told him sincerely that cooperation with NATO is in the interests of Armenia.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen: There is no contradiction between having good relations with Russia and at the same time having a strong partnership with NATO. In fact, NATO as an organization has a special partnership with Russia. We have the NATO-Russia Council within which we engage in political dialogue as well as practical cooperation, and you ask me of my assessment of the relationship between NATO and Russia. We have seen a lot of progress in cooperation between NATO and Russia during recent years; we have strengthened our cooperation on Afghanistan, among other things Russia provided a transit route which is to the benefit of our operation in Afghanistan, we have enhanced cooperation on counter-narcotics, counter-terrorism, counter-piracy, so in a number of areas we have seen progress in our cooperation with Russia. We have invited Russia to cooperate also when it comes to missile defense. NATO will develop a missile defense system to protect our populations against a missile threat. And we have invited Russia to cooperate. So far, we have not reached the agreement but our dialogue we continue. Two years ago, at the NATO-Russia summit we decided to develop a true strategic partnership between NATO and Russia. I think it will be in the interest of all nations in the Euro-Atlantic area to develop such a true strategic partnership that would serve the security in the Euro-Atlantic area.

Diplomatic correctness threatens regional security

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said that "the transfer of Ramil Safarov to Azerbaijan and his release "make us seriously think about changing some of our approaches."

The President said this in Yerevan on September 7 at the meeting with the ambassadors of a number of countries to the OSCE. The U.S., Russian, Turkish and other countries' ambassadors to the OSCE were present at the meeting.

"The principles and the comprehensive understanding of security of the OSCE fully correspond to our vision. It's extremely important that within the organization we have agreed to the idea that the security of any country cannot be provided at the expense of the others. We conscientiously fulfill all our tasks. But an event has happened recently which makes us seriously think about changing our approaches."

A person who committed a brutal crime was immediately released in Azerbaijan and we think that unfortunately this is not the last case. Everything began after the OSCE Minsk Group proposed its option of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement in 2007. Many people remember how Azerbaijan refused that document, declaring then that it was generally unacceptable. After that Azerbaijan began providing its own comments to the principles.

You remember how they tried to comment on the right for self-determination. You remember how they tried to comment on the word "referendum". Then a show began. The essence of the show was to drag out time, accumulate large supplies of arms and try to resolve the Nagorno Karabakh conflict by force in suitable conditions," said Serzh Sargsyan.

"We think that the purpose of justification of a murderer was not



that Aliyev needs to increase his image inside his country; this is an attempt to test the reaction of the international community to Azerbaijan's extraordinary steps. Otherwise, I think, there are a lot of people in Azerbaijan including its leadership, who could clearly see what consequences this step could have entailed.

And the testing of international community's patience, as I said, has begun earlier, when many years ago the Azeris began to roughly violate commitments provided by the Conventional Armed Forces Treaty and nobody reacted to these rough violations. When the Azeri President publicly instructed the National Academy of Sciences to write the history of Azerbaijan where no Armenians should have been mentioned, nobody paid attention to that fact. When Aliyev began to declare that Yerevan and Armenia are Azerbaijani territories, nobody reacted to that statement. When Aliyev stated that their "number one enemy" is the Armenian nation and the enemy should be destroyed, nobody reacted to that statement either. To all our appeals and warnings, directed to both the Co-Chairs and the rest, that this is a begging of a bad process, we

received unacceptable answer. The answer is as follows: Aliyev's statements are designed for the internal public. The statements meant for the internal and foreign public cannot differ at all. One can't think in one way during half of the day and then think quite otherwise during the rest of it. Seeing this tolerance, Aliyev has already passed from statements to actions. The first action was made during the visit of the U.S. Secretary of State to the region when several subversive activities have been undertaken on the contact line and along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. And the reaction was weak again. Now we are witnessing this extraordinary fact. And as I have said, this is unfortunately not the end," the Armenian President said.

"You know, I am a man who has seen a war. This is why I don't want a new war. I have personally felt the consequences of the war on my own skin. I believe, no other country concerned with security in our region wants war either. But the desire is not enough, actions should be taken. And these actions should begin by calling the things by their names. So to say, in the given situation the diplomatic correctness threatens regional security," the Armenian President concluded.

Armenian Parliament urges all countries to condemn Hungarian-Azerbaijani bargain

The Armenian National Assembly adopted the statement by NA of the Republic of Armenia on transfer of criminal by Hungarian authorities and granting pardon by Azerbaijani President'. The National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Artak Zakarian stated that the text of the statement was discussed with all factions who made efforts to come to an overall conclusion: the draft was elaborated on the basis of the held discussions. Ninety six for, one against and no abstained votes adopted the text of the statement containing the following:

- Dwelling on cruel and inhuman crime perpetrated against Armenian Armed Forces officer Gurgen Margaryan by Azerbaijani Ramil Safarov in 2004 February 19, in Budapest in the course of NATO's " Partnership for Peace " program.

- Pointing out Hungary Government as a host country did not ensure the safety of participants in the course of international events

organized in the territory of its country.

- Recording that Armenian officer assassinated was from time to time justified and finally gifted by hero rank at a high level, reportedly Hungarian law making bodies just could not be unaware and could predicate the transfer of life sentenced criminal meant granting him peace and create a precedent encouraging crimes against Armenians on ethnic basis.

- Noting that granting various awards and titles to the criminal by Azerbaijani President is a manifestation of political cynicism towards the international community, qualifying Aliyev step contradiction to "Extradition of prisoners" Convention's humanitarian universal human rights principles and norms, National Assembly announces:

1. The Hungarian government also bears responsibility for what happened, condemnation to Hungarian authorities adopted stance and suspension of official

relations with Hungary at a Parliament level.

2. Azerbaijani regular step is a threat to regional security and aggravation of further enmity and hatred atmosphere towards Armenians, breach of human rights guaranteed by international instruments, efforts made at drawing failure NKR peaceful settlement, particularly meddling OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmen commissioned consistent policy.

3. Entrenched hatred atmosphere towards Armenians at a state level in Azerbaijan reaffirms the fact NKR cannot be a part of Azerbaijan.

4. Calls on the countries' Governments led by democratic values, condemn deal between Hungary and Azerbaijan perpetrated on August 31.

5. Looking forward to commensurate response by the international parliamentary organizations.

Exchange of point of views on the controversial points of the draft is being held.

Armenian opposition party demands NKR's recognition

Armenia's opposition Heritage Party issued a statement in connection with the extradition of the life-sentenced murderer Ramil Safarov from Hungary to Azerbaijan and with the regional and international developments generated by this move.

"As a result of extraditing the life-sentenced criminal Ramil Safarov from Hungary to Azerbaijan, the Azerbaijani president got the chance and deliberately ceased the administration of justice towards a notorious criminal. The step taken by Ilham Aliyev is unlawful in essence, it is a provocation threatening to regional stability and is an expression of fanatic enmity and hatred towards Armenians.

The country led by a president giving that example of unlawful, provocative and xenophobic conduct cannot be considered a bearer of values declared by the United Nations and take a seat at UN Security Council. The Heritage Party considers that Armenia and especially Hungary must raise the issues of expelling Azerbaijan from the UN Security Council and transmitting Ramil Safarov to the Hague International Court at the UN General Assembly.

The Heritage Party values the responses of all international structures, governments and leaders who condemned the illegitimate and willful misconduct of Azerbaijani President. We also regret that some other players at international scene simply called the both parties to pursue quietude-demonstrating a superficial approach to the problem. Still in both cases an insufficient attention was paid to anti-democratic and corrupted essence of Azerbaijani statehood revealed in full nudity.

According to some publications in Hungary Azerbaijan had offered 2-3 billion dollars veiled

bribe to Budapest for extraditing Safarov. If a President may dismiss the needs of millions of citizens, including the refugees, and entitle himself to waste three billion dollars to make his crazy longing become true then it's a thorough proof of absence of state order in the country.

The Heritage Party invites its sister-parties within EPP and especially the governing Fidesh party of Hungary, as well as the Governments of EU countries to attach attention to this unveiled reality and assumes there's a ground to discuss the suspension of EU Association Agreement negotiations with Azerbaijan, until a control over the budget and an end to the arbitrariness of the leaders will be established in that country.

Regretfully since the 1988 pogroms in Sumgait the anti-Armenian lunacy in Azerbaijan rarely attracted that much international attention and had that illustrative expression as the developments around the Safarov case did. The Heritage Party considers that the emerged situation is an appropriate ground to introduce the core essence of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to the new generation entered to political-diplomatic circles, to reinstate the necessity of engaging the NKR representatives into the Minsk Group peace negotiations and to argue the imperativeness of recognizing the independence of Nagorno Karabakh.

At the same time under the light of the ongoing developments the Heritage party considers rightful for the Armenian Parliament to discuss and recognize the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh first and therefore proposed the relating bill at the National Assembly," Heritage Party's statement reads.

UN Secretary-General is concerned about Safarov granting pardon

United Nations Secretary-General Pan Ki-Moon is concerned about the developments surrounding the case of Mr. Ramil Safarov since his transfer on 31 August 2012 to Azerbaijan and subsequent pardon by Azerbaijani authorities in Baku. UN official website Pan Ki-Moon Authorized Representative Martin Nesirki stated:

"The UN underscores the responsibility of Member States to adhere to international standards and principles of rule of law in criminal cases in order to ensure accountability and fight impunity". Dwelling on the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Co-Chairs recent statement on the issue, UN authorized representative voiced hope this issue will not damage the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process and trust between the sides. There is no alternative to a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" the UN representative

underscored.

Azerbaijani officer Ramil Safarov slayed with an axe Armenian officer Gurgen Margaryan when the latter was sleeping on February 19 of 2004 in Budapest. The two officers were taking part in English language courses in framework of NATO program in Budapest. Hungarian court sentenced Ramil Safarov to life imprisonment, without a right to be pardoned during the first 30 years in jail. Yet the criminal was extradited by Hungary Government on August 31, 2012. On the same day the assassin was granted pardon by Azerbaijani President. Armenia has suspended its diplomatic relations with Hungary. International community is coming forth with condemnation statements on international legal norms contradicting step. Hungary has accused Azerbaijan of breaking the promise.

EU in fact approves Safarov's transfer to Azerbaijan by saying it was done in the framework of the Convention of Strasbourg



The spokespersons of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission and Stefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy, issued the following statement on September 3.

"The High Representative and Commissioner Füle are concerned by the news that the President of Azerbaijan has pardoned Azerbaijani army officer Ramil Safarov, who was convicted and sentenced

to life imprisonment for the murder of Armenian Army officer Gurgen Margaryan in Budapest in 2004.

Ramil Safarov was transferred from Hungary to Azerbaijan on 31 August on the basis of an Azerbaijani request, in the framework of the Convention of Strasbourg on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons of 21 March 1983, to serve the rest of his sentence. EU representatives are in contact with the relevant authorities and will continue to follow the situation closely.

In the interest of regional stability and on-going efforts towards reconciliation, the High Representative and Commissioner Füle reiterate their call on Azerbaijan and Armenia to exercise restraint, on the ground as well as in public statements, in order to prevent an escalation of the situation."

Hungary condemns Azeri axe-killer's release



Hungary -- Prime Minister Viktor Orbán makes a speech during a ceremony in the Cupola Hall of the Parliament in Budapest, 06 Jan 2011

The Hungarian government has protested and condemned Azerbaijan's decision to free a soldier found guilty of axe-murdering an Armenian serviceman that was announced immediately after his controversial extradition from Hungary.

The Azerbaijani ambassador in Budapest, Vilayat Guliyev, was summoned to the Hungarian

Foreign Ministry on August 31 in connection with the pardon granted to Ramil Safarov by President IlhamAliyev.

"Hungary finds it unacceptable and condemns the pardoning of Ramil Safarov," the Hungarian MTI news agency quoted the Foreign Ministry state secretary, Zsolt Nemeth, as telling Guliyev.

The condemnation will hardly

placate Armenia's government and public infuriated by Safarov's release. Hundreds of people demonstrated outside Hungary's honorary consulate in Yerevan on Friday and Saturday, pelting tomatoes and eggs on its windows and burning a Hungarian flag.

The Armenian government, for its part, cut diplomatic ties with Hungary. President Serzh Sargsyan said on Friday that the Hungarian government has repeatedly assured Yerevan that Safarov, who was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Hungarian court for killing Armenian Lieutenant Gurgen Markarian during a NATO training course in Budapest in 2004, will not be repatriated to Azerbaijan. He said Hungarian officials reiterated those assurances "during contacts in recent days."

The Hungarian Ministry of Justice and Public Administration defended the extradition on Friday, saying that it stemmed from the European Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, to which both Azerbaijan and Hungary are signatories. The ministry said it had received written guarantees from the Azerbaijani government that Safarov's life sentence "will not be modified but will immediately be continued to be enforced."

The Armenian Foreign Ministry dismissed this explanation in a weekend statement saying that the authorities in Budapest were well aware of "the glorification and justification" of Markarian's murder by various-level Azerbaijani officials. It said they had "sufficient grounds to doubt the continuation of the enforcement of the sentence in Azerbaijan."

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group concerned by the attempts to glorify Safarov's crime



The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group expressed their "deep concern and regret for the damage that Ramil Safarov's pardon and any attempts to glorify the crime have done to the peace process and trust between the sides".

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group said this in a statement released today after meetings with the Foreign Minister of Armenia, Edward Nalbandian on September 2 and with the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov on September 3.

"The Co-Chairs discussed with the two Ministers the August 31 decision of the Government of Azerbaijan to pardon Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani army offi-

cer who had been serving a life imprisonment in Hungary for the brutal 2004 murder of an Armenian officer in Budapest. They expressed their deep concern and regret for the damage the pardon and any attempts to glorify the crime have done to the peace process and trust between the sides.

The Co-Chairs reiterated to both Ministers that, as their Presidents stated in Los Cabos on June 19, there is no alternative to a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. They will continue to maintain contacts with the sides to reduce tensions and advance the peace process", statement said.

Secretary General Jagland: "Making a hero out of a murder convict is unacceptable"

Secretary General condemns pardoning of Ramil Safarov by Azerbaijan

Strasbourg, 4 September 2012 - In a statement today the Council of Europe's Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland said that murder - such as that committed by Ramil Safarov - cannot be glorified.

"Ramil Safarov was convicted for murder and sentenced to life imprisonment in Hungary. On August 31, he was transferred to Azerbaijan, and immediately pardoned. I do not

want to comment on the legal proceedings, but I find it unacceptable that a convicted murderer is welcomed as a hero."

"I reject the prospect of a world whose moral code begins to fray, where respect for human dignity is denied. This is not the Europe that we should wish for future generations. I condemn such glorification of crime, and urge that we all work to uphold the respect for life, and our values as defended by the Council of Europe", he said.





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- ♦ **1458. Bryusov street**, 9/8, 68 sq.m., 2 rooms, normal state, Baxi system, Czech tiles, showcases, wood doors and parquet. Price 75.000 USD
- ♦ **1469 Tumanyan st.** 4/3 50sq.m. 2 rooms, repaired, furnished. Price 47.5mln. AM dram
- ♦ **1357. Pushkin street**, 8/6 floor, 77 sq.m., 2 rooms, newly built, furniture, techniques. Price 165000\$

3 ROOMS

- ♦ **2474. Koryun Street**, 5/3, 100 sq.m., 3 turned into 4, euro repair, euro windows, permanent gas, balcony, 2 AC, opportunity. Price 160.000 USD
- ♦ **2454. Moskovyan str.**, 5/2, 180sqm, normal state, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, permanent water, gas. Price 370.000USD
- ♦ **2453. Koryun str.**, 6/4, 100sqm, 4 rooms, euro repaired, 2 lavatories. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2429. Ekmalyan street**, 10/9, 178sqm, 3bedrooms, 3lavatories, capially repaired, AC, parking. Price-360.000USD
- ♦ **2393. Moskovyan street**, 5/3, 110 sq.m., euro repair, logha balcony 17 sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, cube 700 l, electric heating system, natural gas, Ariston, 2AC, satellite. Price: 400 000 USD
- ♦ **2335. Mashtots Avenue**, 4/4, 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, stone building, euro repair, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquet, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 125000 USD
- ♦ **2348. Abovyan Street**, 4/2, 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, concreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system, Price: 250000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **2395. North Avenue**, 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD

PREMISES

- ♦ **1710. Sayat - Nova str.**, 1st floor, 420sqm, 2 rooms, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price 1.000.000USD
- ♦ **1727. Baghramyan str.**, 2 storied, 230sqm, capially repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1725. Hanrapetutyun str.**, 1storied, 171sqm, 2 entrances, capially repaired, permanent hot and cold water. Price 500.000USD
- ♦ **1703. Northern Avenue**, 9/7, 66sqm, capially repaired, heating, lavatory, 30000AMD service rent, view to Teryan street. Price 220,000USD
- ♦ **1553. Kasyan street**, 170sq.m., working fashion saloon, large windows, facade-15m, 1room+foyer, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500 000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **1598. Nairy Zaryan street**, 180 sq.m., 1st floor, a working restaurant, hall-100 sq.m. 1st line, repaired, tonir. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1383. Nalbandian St**, cellar + 1 story, 30 sq. m. cellar, 90 sq. m. story, Euro repair, hall, kitchen, lavatory, 24-hour hot and colds water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- ♦ **1603. North avenue**, 159 sq.m., 1st floor. Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1 sq.m. 10 000 USD
- ♦ **1588. Tigran Mec street**, 256 sq.m, 5/1.2,

trade area, stone building, euro repair, 1st floor trade area - 210 sq.m., 2nd floor 46 sq.m. residential Area. Price: 600 000 USD

LANDS

- ♦ **1756 H. Qochar str.** 1000 sq m, 2-storey brick building - 1200 sq m, old repaired. Price: 1.200.000 preliminary
- ♦ **2122. Davitashen**, 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- ♦ **1869. Cascade**, 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **2121. Centre**, land-1338sqm, 1100 sqm has permission for building. Price-2million USD
- ♦ **2107 Monument**, 2400sqm, permission for building, 2 projects to build 3 storied building, possibility of water, gas, electricity, beautiful view of city and Ararat. Price-500USD per sqm.
- ♦ **2033. Tsakhkadzor**, New Quarter, 600 sq.m., 1st line, asphalted road, premises, designed for construction of residential house, with all communal conveniences. Price: 120 USD for 1 sq.m.
- ♦ **1939. Kotayk region**, Aghavnadzor district. Land 5000 sq.m., suitable for building a resort place. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2011. Proshyan street**. Land 400 sq.m. for building a house, privatized, 2nd line/ near the garden/. Price 1 sq.m. beginning from 700 USD
- ♦ **2013. Cascade**. Land 1000 sq.m. For public construction needs, First line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price for 1 sq.m. 580 USD
- ♦ **2028. District of Erebuni**, Arin-Berd street. Land 2 acr. With a 2 storied partially built building, water, electricity plastered.h=4.20m. Price 1 sq.m, 50 USD
- ♦ **1402. Hr. Kochar St**, 1,100 sq. m, personal plot, front -25 m, privatized, empty, possibility for building communications. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1351. Monument**, 2,000 sq. m, privatized, front - 17 m, APZ permission, for social purposes: suitable for a restaurant, hotel. Price negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **2725. Nork-Marash**, building - 733.25sqm, land-620sqm, semi-basement +2floors, euro repaired, semi-basement is sport room, sauna, summer room, pool, fireplace, 1st floor- sitting room, 1 bedroom, cabinet, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Spanish tiles, 2 AC. Price - 500.000USD
- ♦ **3348. Blur, Barbyusi**. 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, building-700 sq.m, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1.5 million USD
- ♦ **3059. Vahagni community**, total-1500sqm, building-280sqm, 2.5 storied, newly built, not lived in, 1st floor-living room-44sqm, kitchen, family room-24sqm, 2nd floor-3bedrooms, 3 lavatories, garage for 2 cars, cellar, security system, possible to sell with furniture. Price 490,000\$.
- ♦ **3210 Aygestan community**. 2 stories, land: 480 sq.m, building: 310 sq.m, 1st floor is not repaired, garage, 2nd floor: repaired, kitchen, lavatory-tiled, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi system, a place for barbeque, garden, trees Price: 270.000 USD
- ♦ **3292. Arabkir**, 2 floors, land - 1200 sq.m, building - 340 sq.m, 4 rooms, newly built, repaired, euro windows and doors, sauna, 2 swimming-pools, 5 bathrooms, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, Jacuzzi, fireplace, laundry room, cameras, 2 satellites, garage for 2 cars, basement, fruitful garden, brick fence. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ♦ **3313 Blur, H. Emin**, 3 floors, land - 550 sq.m, building - 450 sq.m, capially repaired, furnished, 6 bedrooms. Price: 1 600 000 USD
- ♦ **2916. Ashtarak highway**, village Nazrvan. 3 storied building. Land 3500 sq.m., building 760 sq.m., euro repair, 3 tiled lavatories, a sauna, billiard, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, garden, pool, garage.The building is ramparted. Price 50000 USD

NEWLY BUILT

- ♦ **74. Cascade, Verin Antarayin**. electricity, water, gas, euro window, drywall, no exploitation fees, parking - 15.000 USD. 136-315 sq m. 1 sq m - 1200 USD
- ♦ **107. Monument, Verin Antarayin**. inhabitied, 8th floor cockloft, gas, window, street view - 1 sq m -1000 USD, city looking - 1 sq m -1500 USD, parking - 4 million preliminary, price: started from 40 sq m
- ♦ **100. Leo str.** half basement parking, 1st floor - shops, 2nd floor - office spaces, elevator, equipped kitchen, central heating, water, height - 2.80 m, beautiful view, will be ready to for use at the end of 2013. 60-300 sq m. 16 floors
- ♦ **87. Sayat-Nova street**, newly built building Given to the operation in December 2012. Climate control, gas, the fasad sector has 3 bedrooms-188 sq.m, 199 sq.m, 1 sq.m- 1900 USD, 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight- 117 sq.m, 120 sq.m, 124 sq.m, 1 sq.m-1700 USD Price: 1 sq.m- 1900-1700 USD
- ♦ **93. Kievyan street**, newly built building Given to the operation in October 2011, gajats,

windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas supply, the second floor has a parking lot, parking is



possible for sale. Price 12 000 USD possible with mortgage, for 13 years term

- ♦ **94. Masiv**. Newly built, coupling, 8 flats, in each cottege 4 flats, total-2000 sq.m, each flat has 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking: 80 sq.m. Price: 160 000 USD

FOR RENT

1 ROOMS

- ♦ **1109 Teryan Str.**, 4/2 1 room transformed into 2, 47 sq.m, newly euro repaired, euro windows and doors, furnished, equipped, security camera, Ariston. Price: 500 USD
- ♦ **1009. Teryan str.**, 4/3, 1room changed into 2, 50sqm, euro repaired, furnished, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique, ariston heating system. Price 800USD per month, 60USD per day
- ♦ **1096. City Centre, Heratsu Str.**, 5/3, 1 room, newly repaired, furnished, equipped, bed-room sheets and dishes, heating, satellite. Price: 400 USD, 15.000 AMD per day.
- ♦ **1005. Lalayanc str.**, 11/5, 1room changed into 2, euro repaired, furniture, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique. Price 600USD per month, 40USD per day
- ♦ **853. Amiryann street**, 10/7. 1 turned into 2, 50 sq.m., euro repair, Italian furniture, bed, utensil, techniques, permanent water, gas, antenna, Baxy system. Price 700 USD, 50 USD per day

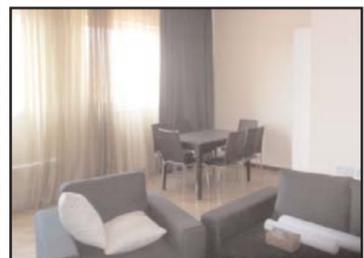
2 ROOMS

- ♦ **2064. Aygedzor**, 7/1. 2 rooms, 60 sq .m, capital repair, euro windows, Baxi system, AC, heating floor, camera, cabin. Price 800 USD
- ♦ **2037. Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, modern furniture, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, AC, technique. Price 100USD per day
- ♦ **2189 Vardanants str**, 24/12, 1 bedroom, newly built, 90 sqm, repaired, furnished, with elevator. Price: 450 000 AMD
- ♦ **2057. Sayat-Nova**. 11/4, 2 turned into 3, 78 sq.m., capially repaired, Baxi system, furniture, techniques, AC, satellite. Price: 1 day- 80 USD, a month- 900 USD
- ♦ **1961. Tumanian Street**, 4/2, 86sq.m., 1 bedroom, Euro repair, Euro windows, Furnished, permanent hot and cold water. Price: 1200 USD, 1day: 70USD
- ♦ **2186 Buzand str**, 7th floor, 2 rooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, equipped, internet, security system, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, underground parking, beautiful view. Price: 900 USD, 20 000 AMD per day.
- ♦ **2099. Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 220.000 AMD, per day - 50\$

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦ **2005. Northern Ave.**, 8/8, 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD
- ♦ **1998 Buzand Str.**, 9/6 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, water, gas, heating, view to Republic Square, parking, no service fee. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **2008 Komitas, Vagharshyan Str.**, 7/3, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capially repaired, furnished, heating, 2 bathrooms. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1739. Pushkin str.** 6/5, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capially repaired, 2 bathrooms, parking, price: 1600 USD
- ♦ **1723. Northern Ave.** 8/4. 3 bedrooms, 170 sq.m., 3 bedrooms,3 bathrooms, newly built, repaired, furnished, open kitchen, Falkon system. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1942. Teryan str.**, 4/2. 3 bedrooms, 120 sq.m, repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **942. Teryan str.** 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m, concrete, Hgt. 3.50, loggia-2, tile/ital., renovation. Price: 1500 USD
- ♦ **1969. Amiryann str**, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, capially repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system

- installed, climate control. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦ **1970. Vazgen Sargsyan str.**, 10/8. 2 bedrooms, newly built., 150 sq.m, capially repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1967. Pushkin str.**, 8/6. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1966. Ekmalyan str.**, 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capially repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed. Price: 1300 USD
- ♦ **1951. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad.** /13, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 122 sq.m, capially repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, usage fee included. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1950. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad.** /8, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 163 sq.m, capially repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, open balcony, view to the garden, usage fee included. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1137. Moskovyan str.**, 6/1, 2 bedrooms, lavatory, pool, normal state, furnished, technique, DVD, AC, permanent hot and cold water. Price 1100USD, possible daily rent.
- ♦ **1790. Byuzand street**, close to Abovyan st., 7/5, newly built, 2bedrooms, euro repaired, 2 balconies, furnished, baxi, technique, 2 lavatories, garage. Price 1600USD per month.
- ♦ **1787. Koghbeci street**, 13/6, 2bedrooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, 2 lavatories, central heating. Price 1700USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1793. Teryan street**. 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1564. Tumanyan street**, 7/4. 110 sq.m.,



euro repaire, 2 lavatories, Spanish tyles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.

- ♦ **1720. Amiryan Street.**, 18/10, 2 bedrooms, 190 sq/m, newly built, euro windows, permanent hot and cold water, gas, central heating, 2 open balcony, nice view to the city, possible with or without furniture, parking for 3 cars. Price 3000USD per month negotiable, for long term - 6 months and more.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **1191 Aygestan**, 2 floors, land 350-400 sqm, building - 270 sqm, 1sr floor - living-room, kitchen, study. 2-nd floor - 4 bedrooms, bathroom, storage room, partly furnished, summer garden, garage, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦ **1218. Cascade, freeway**. 3700 sq m, 3 floors brick building - 1490 sq m, capially repaired, walls - otto chotto, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, heating, gas. Price: 12.00 USD
- ♦ **999. Aygedzor 1st lane, Land** -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors` 310 sqm, capially repaired, 4 bedrooms, living room, hall, 4 bathrooms, new furniture, equipped, 3 AC, Baxi, sauna, swimming-pool, house garden, barbeque equipment. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1094. Noy block**, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **1095. Aygestan**, 1 storied building - 105sqm, 3bedrooms newly built repaired, furniture, technique 1 lavatory, garden. Price 1000USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, 4 storied building, each floor-160sqm, total-400sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor-garage, sport room, swimming pool, 4 bedrooms, summer kitchen, 3 lavatories, capially repaired, furnished, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 4000USD
- ♦ **1152. Baghramyan**, 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, each floor - 200 sq.m, 10 rooms, 7 bathrooms, newly capially repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, 3 TV, heating system, garage. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **1197. Blur str**, 2 floors, land -779 sqm, building-720 sqm, first floor from the yard, basement on the street side, swimming-pool, sauna, living room, 1st floor - hall, study, dining room, 2 bathrooms, 2nd floor -4 bedrooms, 1 study, 4 bathrooms, bam, no furniture. Price 8000 USD
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, Qeru, 5 floors, each floor 160 sqm, land-400 sqm, euro repaired,1st floor-gym, garage, 3rd floor-4 bedrooms, open balcony, nice view, summer kitchen, fireplace, swimming-pool, 5 bathrooms, Jacuzzi. Price: 4000 USD
- ♦ **211. Ajgedzor**. 2 storied, 3 bedrooms, permanent water, capially repaired, beutifull view. Price: 1300-1500 USD
- ♦ **721. Blur Qery street**, land 150 sq.m., 2 stories+ a cellar, 200 sq.m., newly built, tele-

phone, refrigerator, washing machine, 3 bedrooms, garage, 2 lavatories, a pool, camin, permanent hot and cold water, a cellar is used as a sport hall. Price : 3000 USD

- ♦ **1117. Aygestan**, land-420 sq.m., building 646 sq.m., 3 storied, 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, euro repair, new tiles, furnished, techniques. Price* 5000 USD
- ♦ **1195. Nork**, Armenakyan str, 4 floors, land - 2000 sqm, building-520 sqm, capially repaired, furnished, basement, 1st floor-1 living room, study, kitchen, bathroom, living room, swimming-pool, sauna, 2nd floor - 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3rd floor - open balcony, 1 bedroom, bathroom, gym, garden. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1142. Djrvej**, Bagrevand community. 3 storied, land-1000 sq.m., building-700 sq.m., 1st floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3rd floor- resting room, 1 bedroom repaired, each bedroom has its lavatory, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary/garage for 2 cars, parquet, Spanish tiles. Price: 4 000 USD.
- ♦ **1114. Gulakyan Str. in parallel with Baghramyan Str.** 3 storied building 500 sq.m., euro repair, 1st floor: sauna, a pool, kitchen, 2nd floor: kitchen, dining room, 3rd floor 3 bedrooms, lavatories in each floor. Price: 3300 USD
- ♦ **1190. Aygestan str**, 3 floors, capially repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1203. Blur**, H. Emin str, 3 floors, land - 550 sqm, building-450 sqm, capially repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 6000 USD.
- ♦ **1219. Monument**, Aram Cholakyan str, 3 floors, land - 800 sqm, building - 300 sqm, newly capially repaired, partly furnished, euro windows and doors, 1st floor - 2 rooms, garage, 2nd floor - 1 bedroom, 2 rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathroom, 3rd floor- 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, water, gas, heating system. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1085. Aygestan district**. 2 storied stone building, land 500 sq.m., each floor 12 X 14, 3 bedrooms, a cabinet, 3 lavatories, a cellar, a sauna, kitchen with cupboards, Baxi system, AC. Price 3000 USD
- ♦ **1139. Komitas, Sundukyan street**, 2 stories, stone building, land : 700 sq.m, each floor 185 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, cellar 185 sq.m, capial repair, Baxi system, swimming pool, a place for barbeque, 2 lavatories, garden, 1 cabinet. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **333. Nork**, 3 storied, 250sq.m, euro repair, 4 bedrooms, 7 lavatory, permanent hot and cold water, central heating, natural gas, garden, pool. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1014. Norq Marash district**. 2 storied, a cellar, capially repaired, land 567sq.m., building 551 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 1 cabinet, furnished, a heating system. Price 2500 USD primary.
- ♦ **1076. Nork**, 2 storied, 220 sq.m., euro repair, in the 1st floor 2 rooms, kitchen, lavatory, in the second floor, separate entrance, open kitchen, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, furnished, view to city, garage, garden. Price: 2000USD
- ♦ **990. In Monument, Papazian street**, 2 storied stone building + half-cellar, has mansard,5bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2bathrooms, laundry, permanent hot and cold water, gas, plot of land 250sq.m, the size of whole construction is 370 sq.m. Price 2500USD

PREMISES

- ♦ **1694. Komitas, H. Qochar str**, newly built, vitrines, front 20 m, 196 sq m, Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1693. Malatia-Sebastia**, 4th floor., repaired, stone building, 2 entries, no artificial walls separating the territory, climate control, 2 elevators, storage space at the ground floor, parking, two-sided parking in the street. 1200 sq.m. Price: 10.000 USD
- ♦ **1525. Hanrapetutyun street**, 1st floor, 3steps up, h-3.20m, repaired, 1 large hall+3 rooms, 2 entrances, kitchen, lavatory. Price 1400USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1526. Byuzand street**, 5/semi-basement, 170sqm, 4-5 step down. cellar-50sqm, has 6 rooms, the largest is 30sqm, 2 entrances, 2 lavatories, 6 windows from street side. Price 2000USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1528. North Avenue**, 9/1, 2 floors, total area 159sqm, 1st floor-66sqm, 2nd floor 93sqm, newly built, euro repaired, has the entrance from the street, security system, heating system. Price 7500USD per month.
- ♦ **1482. North Avenue**, 210 sq.m., 1st floor, with 2 floors, h=8m. Price 10.000 USD
- ♦ **1408. Zarobyann street**, parallel to Baghramyan, 2 storied, 300sq.m.construction, 600 sq.m. land, in a first floor hall and kitchen, in a second floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capital euro repair, gas, baxi system, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, garage, fruit garden. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦ **1438. Komitas**, 6 floors, cellar, mansard. Each floor is 120 sq.m., hasa need for cosmetic repair, walls are plastered, floor is leveled, hanging ceilings, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price: Negotiable
- ♦ **1462. Teryan street**, 3 stored, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Price: 10.000USD

The ArmTech 2012: Higher Level Expected



By Gourgen James Khazhakian
Chief correspondent

Within number of years The Highlights has been covering all the activities aimed at presenting the world, let's say, "The Best of Armenia", i.e. the country branding.

And the ArmTech Congress of Armenian ICT/hi-tech sector was started in 2007 as a Forum aimed at promoting development of Armenia's ICT/hi-tech industry, - by helping to create collaboration between Armenian and leading foreign companies, presenting our country's relevant human resources, potential and business environment to the world technological leaders to attract them to invest in Armenia, is a really unique one in the list of those activities.

Why?

Our Reader will get to know the answers from a report on a news conference held on the last Tuesday 4 September at the RA Ministry of Economy and devoted to the fifth already ArmTech Congress to be held on November 14-15 in Silicon Valley, CA, USA, as usual, under high patronage of the Prime Minister of Armenia. (Notably, the journalists were surprised when they saw RA Minister of Economy **Tigran Davtyan** himself participating in the press conference as it was announced before that his First Deputy will be a speaker. "I've decided I myself should be here...", replied to your author Mr Minister which we believe could be considered as a sign of importance the Armenian Government attaches to the ArmTech Congress).

In his opening remarks Minister Tigran Davtyan said in particular the following: "This year we mark the jubilee of the ArmTech Congress as it is already the fifth event, and we are going to organize this year's Forum at the pretty high level.

And I'd like to focus your attention on format, level and list of participants, and the place where the ArmTech 2012 will be held.

We often organize various business forums, conferences in the Republic of Armenia, but such events being held outside the country are special ones, as they differ both in sense of organization and participation, format and the size of works.

...It's not occasional at all that we've chosen Silicon Valley as a venue for the ArmTech Congress as that is a very good stage from

which the voice of Armenia, its ICT/hi-tech industry will be heard best, and where setting the contacts with the companies working in that global intellectual, educational, technological and business center as well as attracting multinational giants' top management's attention an Armenia is much easier, as not they, but we ourselves come to them.

Indeed, this is an additional responsibility and also needs additional expenses, but from the point of view of maximal outcome it is an optimal solution..."

According to Minister Davtyan, total amount needed for ArmTech 2012 is about USD 150,000, and the RA Government is to allocate near 10-12% of that amount; among the sponsors is USAID, but the lion's share of the expenses will be covered by private companies, which, in Mr Minister's words, is "a good sign - an evidence that ICT/hi-tech community is really interested in to have such a forum". "The time has told that such a trilateral format of collaboration, i.e. the Government - private sector - international organizations is optimal to organize such events", said Tigran Davtyan and announced that the organizational committee headed by him has started already the active phase of preparatory works and will spare no effort to carry out the fifth ArmTech as it befits a country having solid IT/hi-tech potential.

"At the yesterday's meeting we asked ourselves: do we have enough resources to organize ArmTech 2012 comme il faut? And we all came to conclusion "Yes, we can!", said the RA Economy Minister Tigran Davtyan.

As next speaker, Director of Enterprises Incubator Foundation (EIF) **Bagrat Yengibaryan** said, it's important that for the first time the ArmTech will be held at the Stanford University, which, in his words, is "a cradle of technology", and where "very few countries are able to organize such an event". He stressed that the main accent of this year's forum will be done on attracting investors to Armenia.

Notably, at the Congress start-ups will be present, which, according to Mr Yengibaryan, can give additional chance in terms of attracting investment.

"We will strive to present Armenia, first of all, as a technological country not only within the frontiers of the region, but also a country which produces the world-recognized values... In today's world for IT industry a major value, besides money, is human resources, and, using this circumstance, we'll speak on Armenia's educational system and R&D potential, including technoparks,

Ministry of Economy for organizational work, in particular, for providing effective interaction between all parties, which, noted Tony Moroyan, has been started already now, two months before the event.

As Dr **Hovik Musayelyan**, Head of the Marketing Committee of the ArmTech, Director of Synopsys Armenia CJSC, member of the Public Council under RA



From left to right: Tony Moroyan, Tigran Davtyan, Bagrat Yengibaryan, Hovik Musayelyan

free economic zones, etc...", said EIF Director and added that in terms of participants' geography this year's ArmTech is unprecedented as they've got applications from, among others, Australia, South America and several Asian countries.

It was announced that in the days of ArmTech 2012 the official opening of the Armenia Representation Office in Silicon Valley will be held.

According to **Tony Moroyan**, a veteran of Silicon Valley (since 1960s), Co-Founder of the ArmTech Congress, Chairman and President of the Viasphere International, Inc a number of countries came to Silicon Valley to attract its multinational giants' attention on them, but, in fact, those attempts were not so successful as Armenia's effort, - via ArmTech Congress.

"Though this year's participation is free of charge, but it's only by invitation, and we expect high level guests, - top executives of the giant companies of Silicon Valley", Mr Moroyan said.

However, the format of contacts with the reps of the Armenian community will be more open, said Tony Moroyan and added that our overseas compatriots are very interested in participation.

He heaped praise to the

President said, "the main achievement is the continuity of the ArmTech, because when yet in 2007 it was announced about intention to organize a congress of Armenian IT/hi-tech, there were many sceptics there, but now, on the eve of the fifth already ArmTech Congress, we can state with no doubt that the Project is a success as we've obtained, in Silicon Valley, the world technological, business and scientific/educational center, a stage at which we can present our country's potential, IT/hi-tech community, and, importantly, attract investments by multinationals, for who number one pre-condition for investing in a country, no matter where is it geographically, is to get low-cost and high-quality products. Today it is the globalized businesses that are successful, and I think Armenia has to say its word in this sense".

Dr Musayelyan pointed out that it is possible to convene a conference, congress once, to say something, but it is absolutely impossible to have one, two, three gatherings, at which you'd repeat the same things... "No doubt, it's a matter of national pride for such a small country like Armenia to be the only country having: a permanent annual IT/hi-tech forum at Silicon Valley itself, Global IT

Award of the Republic's President, International Mycroelectronics Olympiad (sponsored by Armenia's leading telecom operator company **VivaCell-MTS** (General Manager - **Ralph Yirikian**) and **Synopsys Armenia CJSC**)", he continued adding that they've found that a kind of similar Intl Olympiad is being held in Malaysia, but its winner applied for participation in this year's Olympiad to be held in Yerevan in October, and, moreover, the rating of the Olympiad being held in Armenia is so high that those who won second places in their countries' olympiads, are ready to travel at their own to participate in our International Mycroelectronics Olympiad. (Travel expenses of the winners are paid by the above-mentioned sponsors). "At the ArmTech we present Success Stories of Armenian companies, - to attract attention of multinationals, - to invest further in our country's ICT/hi-tech sector, but at the same time we should speak openly on possible risks, challenges existing currently in Armenia, and the giant companies should decide themselves whether to invest in Armenia", finalized Hovik Musayelyan.

To your correspondent's question "What kind of life we'd live without ArmTech Congress?" posed to all four speakers Minister Tigran Davtyan replied by saying "Sad!", and Hovik Musayelyan's answer was the following: "If we'd carry out the ArmTech only in Armenia, it'd be (almost) impossible to show the world ICT/hi-tech leaders our potential and achievements, but, fortunately, we achieved to make Armenia's voice to be heard not somewhere on the Planet, but in Silicon Valley itself, that technological heart of the world".

"I agree with Mr Musayelyan that we've succeeded to be heard by the world technology leaders, and that fact gives us self-confidence, so, definitely, we'd lack smth very significant without ArmTech", said Bagrat Yengibaryan.

In turn, Tony Moroyan dwelled on attracting foreign investors to Armenia, saying that all the interested parties - the Armenian Government, private companies and the Diaspora, all together, (PanArmenian co-operation - ? - read on this and other issues in Mr Moroyan's interview in The Highlights 30 July issue) must do their very best to organize the fifth ArmTech Congress as it befits the nation having world-recognized brains.

Acknowledgement:
Davit Khazhakian

Minister of Emergency Situations, Major General, Professor Armen H. Yeritsyan: "We Made Progress, but There is Still Much to be Done"

By Gourgen James Khazhakian,
Chief correspondent

In the March 31, 2012 issue of our weekly we published an extensive interview with Major General, Professor Armen Yeritsyan, Armenian Minister of Emergency Situations.

He was among the first three ministers to have retained their portfolios after the parliamentary elections, and we presume to say that this was not accidental...

When we visited the Ministry of Emergency Situations again a few months later, we immediately noticed that within a few months, the Ministry's new multi-floor, 10 point earthquake-resistant building was almost ready, the "brain" of the Ministry - the Crisis Management Center, now extended and equipped with state-of-art equipment, and many other things were in fact completed. Below you can read about this in Minister Yeritsyan's new interview which we decided to publish on the occasion of the Day of Emergency Situation Worker marked in Armenia on September 4.



- Mr Minister, please tell us how Armenia's Ministry of Emergency Situations responded to the recent events caused by the disastrous floods in Russia's Kuban Region?

- Immediately after the disaster, on the instructions of Armenian President **Serzh Sargsyan** I contacted my Russian counterpart **Vladimir Puchkov**, expressing our readiness to participate in rescue work and provide humanitarian aid. Mr Puchkov thanked me and said that more than ten thousand rescuers were already involved in rescue efforts and that they would ask for help, if necessary. As soon as the news of the Kuban events was received, our Crisis Management Center (CMC) announced the hot-line numbers through the mass media. Naturally there were phone calls from our citizens as well. We checked all information by getting into touch with the CMC in Kuban. Unfortunately, it became known that there were seven ethnic Armenians among the victims.

Cont. on page 7

Minister of Emergency Situations, Major General, Professor Armen H. Yeritsyan: "We Made Progress, but There is Still Much to be Done"

Now that the Crisis Management Center has grown, involving more staff and equipment, we have already reached agreements with tour agencies, thanks to which we receive information about movement of tourist buses and the number of tourists travelling in this or that direction. Therefore, in case of an accident, we will be able to respond more rapidly and provide the necessary help.

For example, we were informed recently that Armenian mountaineer Andranik Miribyan got into trouble when climbing a mountain in neighboring Georgia. We contacted the Department of Emergency Situations of Georgian Ministry of Interior and by joint efforts helped him descend the mountain safely. Let me give another example. Two Armenian citizens (a young woman and her child) were injured in a car accident in Georgia. Their relatives requested us to help transport them to Yerevan. The Ministry of Emergency Situations sent an ambulance car. Accompanied by a doctor, the woman and her child were transported to Armenia.

- We are interested to know about work that the Ministry of Emergency Situations does at Lake Sevan during the summer season?

- The number of special water rescuers on duty in Sevan has increased. Their equipment has been upgraded. In particular, now they have two large boats and five small ones. Yet another boat will be provided by our French partners in the near future.

- By the way, could you inform us about the latest developments in cooperation with foreign partners?

- Prior to your visit, I was giving instructions to our rescuers regarding new exercises. NATO exercises "Georgia 2012" are scheduled to take place in Georgia on September 22-28. 51 Armenian rescuers equipped with the necessary equipment will participate in these exercises. As you probably remember, NATO exercises "Armenia 2010" were held in Armenia, during which the Armenian rescuers were quite impressive. We must try our best so that this time, too, their performance will be up to the mark.

- Mr Minister, during our previous conversation, you noted that in accordance with INSARAC rules, our rescuers shall also have a detachment of paratroopers. What can you say regarding this issue?

- We have achieved some progress in this respect. Along with the Ministry of Defense, our paratrooper-rescuers participated in joint flights. Today I paid a visit to Arzni where preparations for the next exercise are underway.

Cooperation with the Ministry of Defense will continue, allowing our paratrooper-rescuers to become more skilful and professional. In addition, we met with our Swiss

are going to import new signal systems, in which lights of different colors are used to help an operator of 911 Service to decide what kind of a phone call is received from a

of anti-hail stations, and our opportunities to receive online information, the Iranian Minister asked our experts to assist them in these issues. An agreement on our coop-

building of the Ministry. Its construction will be completed very soon and it will house other sections of the Crisis Management Center. A copy of data received from each Ministry will be kept there so that the Ministries will not be "paralyzed" in case of an emergency situation and can continue functioning.

Our Belarusian colleagues visited us quite recently. They made new proposals about a special military uniform of fire-fighters. We will examine this issue in the near future.

Well, as you might see, we made a progress, but, still, there is much to be done...

On 4 September, within the framework of the festive events held on the occasion of the Day of Emergency Situations Worker, in Yerevan Myasnikiyan str. # 8 official inauguration ceremony of the administration building of No.8 Firemen Squad was held. The solemn opening ceremony was attended by the RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, the RA Natl Security Council Secretary Arthur Baghdasaryan, Minister of Emergency Situations Armen Yeritsyan, Yerevan City Mayor Taron Margaryan, members of the RA Government, MES reps and other dignitaries. After that the guests forwarded to the RA MES where the new polyclinic for the Ministry staff, their family members as well as the retired MES workers was inaugurated. And that was followed by a demonstration at the MES Crisis Management Center (CMC), where its Head Col. H. Khangeldyan told the high-ranking guests about functions and capacities of the CMC as well as presented brand new fire control GPS system.

The festive events of the Day were finalized by the meeting at the Ministry's Grand Hall.

Minister Armen Yeritsyan in his address said he was proud for having such a strong and powerful team and thanked the RA MES staff for receiving only words of gratitude and praise for their difficult, often-dangerous but noble work. Mr Minister also thanked the RA leadership for attention and care for them as well as MES international partners for fruitful cooperation.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan congratulated the RA MES entire staff and thanked them for hard and heroic work.

And about 200 MES staff members were awarded medals and certificates of appreciation.

Well, The Noyan Tapan Media Holding entire staff wholeheartedly joins to those congratulations and wish Minister Armen H. Yeritsyan and the Ministry staff having no emergency situations in their personal lives!



partners and discussed the issue of setting up a team in line with INSARAC requirements.

Not so long ago, in Japan, I attended an event on disaster risk reduction measures within the framework of international cooperation. In my speech, I presented the work done in our Republic. Of course, I thanked the Japanese partners for providing 28 fire engines. Meetings with Japanese Prime Minister and heads of the crisis center took place, during which we discussed our further activities. We

citizen: whether the call is related to the police, ambulance, or some other service. Thus, we will have the opportunity to see what service the operator cooperates with.

By the way, recently the Iranian Minister of Interior, who was on an official visit to Armenia, came to the Crisis Management Center of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and, I am not afraid to say, expressed his admiration after seeing our achievements over the past several years. Seeing the high level of our preparedness, the work

eration with Iran, too, is expected to be reached soon. And when recently a new earthquake struck the neighboring country, the Armenian Government took a decision to provide humanitarian aid of 57 million AMD to Iranian citizens who suffered from the earthquake (the aid included canned products, drinking water, tents, beds, and bed items).

- What would you like to add, concerning your further activities?

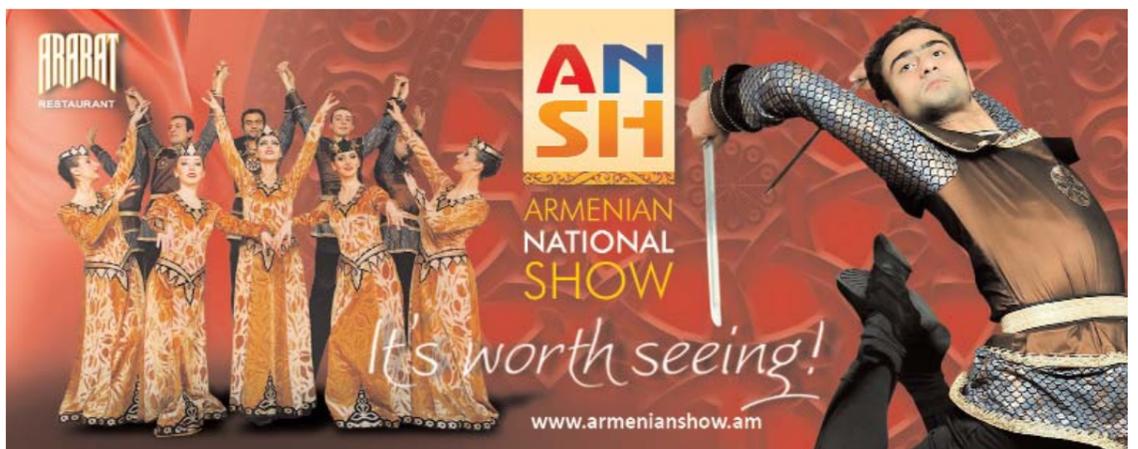
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Armenian men`s chess team wins Olympic champion's title

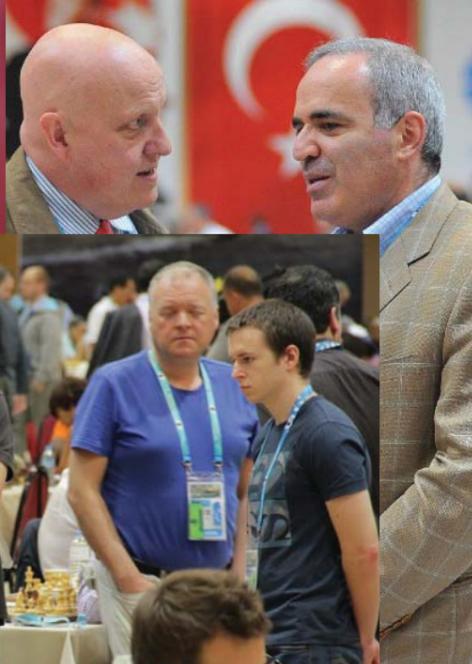
Armenian men's team has won the World Chess Olympiad in Istanbul, Turkey, to become champions for the third time.

Rivaling Hungary in the last round, Levon Aronian, Gabriel Sargissian and Vladimir Akopian played in a draw against Peter Leko, Ferenc Berkes and Judit Polgar respectively, while Sergei

Mosvesian celebrated a victory over Zoltán Almási, thus finishing the round 2.5:1.5.

Russia came second, followed by Ukraine.

The competitions kicked off in Istanbul on August 27. The Armenian team had earlier won the world Olympic champion's title in Turin (2006) and Dresden (2008).



Tigran Davtyan sees serious prospects in Armenian-Iraqi cooperation

On September 6 the Armenian Minister of Economy Tigran Davtyan accepted the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq Rowsch Nuri Shaways. The Minister mentioned that Armenia accepted such an authoritative delegation from Iraq for the first time. "In the framework of the delegation's visit the considerable part is given to economy. Cooperation with Iraq creates quite serious opportunities for us, as Iraq is our neighbor country and has very significant development programs and I think that Armenia should use this opportunity", said Davtyan.

He emphasized that Iraq, being a big country and having a huge market, should raise the interest of our exporters. They should be able to present our products. According to the Minister, these processes have already started and this meeting will open new opportunities for the local organizations and provide our Iraqi partners with the prospect to get acquainted with Armenia's economic potentials. "I am certain that our cooperation has quite serious prospects and this visit will largely promote it. We are entering a very serious working phase", said Davtyan.

The Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister mentioned that the aim of their visit is to develop and deepen the relations between the two countries. "We see that Armenia has an appetite to develop relations with Iraq in the field of economy in par-



ticular. Strengthening and development of relations will be for benefit for the two countries and their nations", - said Shaways. According to him, Armenia and Iraq actively cooperate in economy, tourism and commerce. The Deputy Prime Minister said that getting acquainted with the Armenian economy, they understood that there were quite a lot of potentials and they should use every chance to use them.

"We, the members of the Iraqi delegation, are sure that we can advance in this field and with joint efforts we will create the legal field, where we would feel safe in our countries. We should find the right directions and work in cooperation", said Shaways.

On September 4-7 the Iraqi delegation of 35 delegates headed by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq Rowsch Nuri Shaways are in Armenia with official visit. The Ministers of Commerce, Health, Agriculture, Industry and Natural Resources, Human Rights and other officials are in the delegation.

Demand on Armenian carpets increases in international market

In Armenian and international market this year is notices increase of demand towards Armenian carpets. Armenpress was informed about this from executive director of "Tufenkian Trans Caucasus" company Arman Grigoryan and Director on production and commercial director of "Megeryan Carpet" company Leonid Andreyan. "Because of the crisis during the last four years the demand on our carpets increased but this year is obviously noticed rather great growth" said Arman Grigoryan.

The 90 percent of the production we export to Europe, Asia, USA and the rest realize in internal market. Basically we use traditional Armenian trims, do combination of different patterns. "If the supplier presents his demand than we act according to it" said the executive director of "Tufenkian Trans Caucasus" company.

Leonid Andreyan also mentioned that in comparison with several recent years' growth of interest towards

Armenian carpets is noticed in international market.

"Our carpets are similar to letters: each trim consists of an interesting idea and the carpet in total presents a unique idea. We try to keep our national character as now many countries use Armenian trims and try to introduce them as their own. Our company has always implemented steps in order Armenian carpets find their place in international market" mentioned Andreyan.

Each year these companies present Armenian carpets at the exhibition in American city Atlanta.

Five enterprises which are involved in carpet production in 2011 gave a production of 77.31 million AMD. The increase in comparison with 2010 is 23.7 percent.

The carpet culture which has its own place in Armenian cultural system has been known since 4-3 millennia B.C. Armenian carpets are unique by their rich color combination and high level sewing.

Hrant Bagratyan sees threats in CIS free trade area agreement

The CIS Free Trade Area Agreement is in fact the basis for the future Customs Union, former Armenian Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan said.

Armenia signed the CIS Free Trade Area Agreement on 18 October 2011 together with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Moldova. It will be submitted to the Armenian National Assembly for ratification in September.

"In accord with the agreement, Armenia enters a free trade area with CIS states, applying customs duties only on imported cigarettes. Meanwhile, we see that Ukraine and Russia have hundreds of such exceptions for the import of which duties still can be imposed during the first year of the agreement. As far as the CIS Free Trade Area Agreement is the basis for the future Customs Union, Armenia should also apply these customs duties. As a result, we should impose customs duties while importing petrol and diesel fuel which will lead to the growth of



prices," Hrant Bagratyan said.

It should be recalled that Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan has frequently stated

Armenia cannot join the Customs Union with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan since it doesn't have land borders with them.

Minister of Agriculture: volume of agricultural products exceeds the 2011 figures

On September 4 the Armenian Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia Armen Gevorgyan at the meeting with the marz governors with the presence of the Armenian Minister of Agriculture Sergo Karapetyan discussed the issues concerning the harvest sell, implementation of state support programs on provision of nitrogen fertilizers and diesel fuel for affordable prices to the farmers, as well as issues on wheat seed allocation processes.

The PR Department of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, the Minister of Agriculture informed that the volume of the agricultural products exceeds the figures of the year of 2011, when about 16,000 tons of vegetables were exported and currently it is already 17,8 thousand. Recently the exportation of potatoes, cabbage and beet has also started. He assured that there were no any problems with purveyance as well: they have agreements with procurement companies on both, the volumes of products acceptance and on-time payments.

The works on provision of diesel and fertilizers have already started as well. The Minister of Agriculture considers the support of the marz governors in agreement signing and money recruit processes to be quite important. It was mentioned that the works on elite seed allocation and financial obligations for the first seed reproduction are also in implementation process.

The Armenian Vice Prime Minister appealed to the marz governors to assist the Ministry



of Agriculture in the work organization, as well as keep the procurement process in the center of attention.

The Chair of the State Committee of Water System of the Ministry of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia Andranik Andreyan presented information on irrigation issues organization. Taking into account the difficulties connected with the dry year, in general the water supply in the Ararat Valley is carried out on certain hours, though from September 15 the water demand will decrease. It was mentioned that about 287 million square meters of water have already been taken from the Sevan Lake.

The Armenian Vice Prime Minister once again emphasized the necessity of the irrigation effective organization, paying significant attention to the sufficient water supply to the farmers during the autumn agricultural works.

At the meeting the Minister of Education and Science Armen Ashotyan informed the marz gov-

ernors about the establishment of a working group to carry out researches in the field of education. In particular, studies of schoolchildren's number, effective use of school areas, as well as other researches. Each marz will have its own representative in the working group and the Vice Prime Minister assigned the marz governors to present their candidates. Armen Ashotyan commented on the issue to change the 22-hour weekly load of the teachers working in the marzes into 18 hours a week, mentioning that it has been much discussed and it was decided to keep the current 22 hours.

The Armenian-Russian second forum on interregional cooperation will take place in mid October. The Vice Prime Minister considered quite important the active participation of the marzes in the forum, mentioning that it is a good chance to establish mutual cooperation with the Russian partners, as well as offer concrete programs and present new cooperation offers.

Viewpoint: Setback for peace in the Caucasus

By Thomas de Waal
Caucasus expert

This is a black week for those who are seeking a peaceful settlement of the long-running Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

On 31 August, in a deeply provocative move, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev pardoned convicted murderer Ramil Safarov on his return to Baku from a Hungarian prison.

Safarov had been attending a Nato training-course in 2004 when he killed Armenian fellow officer Gurgen Markarian with an axe while he slept.

Back in 2004, the brutal killing on ethnic grounds caused an inevitable upsurge of emotion in both Armenia and Azerbaijan, which have been waging a conflict in various forms over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh since 1988.

There was an upsurge in the war of words in the media, which generally goes further than what officials allow themselves to say.

Markarian was given a state funeral. In Azerbaijan a few members of parliament dared to call Safarov a "hero," but many Azerbaijanis felt ashamed at how his action reflected on their country and, mercifully, government officials mostly kept silent.

Eight years on, that has all turned round.

This is now a full-blown state-to-state row, with as yet unknowable consequences. For reasons that have yet to be fully explained, the Hungarian government negotiated the extradition of Safarov to Baku having secured an agreement, they maintained, that he would only be eligible for parole after having served the remainder of a 25-year prison term in an Azerbaijani jail.

Hero's welcome

Instead, Safarov was pardoned. Leaving him a free man without public comment would have been bad enough. The Azerbaijani government went much further than that, treating Safarov as a hero. He was given an apartment in Baku and personally promoted to the rank of major by the defence minister.

Every action has a reaction. Unsurprisingly, the US government and the Russian foreign ministry reacted to the news with strong disapproval.

The spokeswoman for EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton also expressed alarm but stopped short of directly criticising its own member state, Hungary. The EU already has enough problems with controversial Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

As for Armenia, it appears to be close to boiling over. It has suspended diplomatic relations with Hungary and observers of the Karabakh negotiating process - already on the verge of failure - are watching apprehensively for what it will do next.

The Armenian government was already telling all foreign interlocutors how unhappy it was with the state of the peace process. There were tough questions to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in June as to why there was not a sharper US response to violations of the Armenian-Azerbaijani ceasefire, which are widely perceived to come more from the Azerbaijani side.

Yerevan could now be tempted to suspend its participation in the peace talks.

Some Armenian commentators are calling for more extreme steps such as recognising breakaway Armenian-controlled Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent state. There will also be the inevitable worry that a fanatical Armenian will try to commit a revenge attack.

From the political perspective, to call the Azerbaijani government's actions a mistake is an understatement. It is a worrying indication of the quality of advice that President Ilham Aliyev is receiving from his inner circle.

Over the past few years, the government in Baku has spent tens of millions of dollars of its new oil revenues promoting the image of Azerbaijan as a new, modernising, dynamic country. The effect has been quite successful, with results ranging from Azerbaijan joining the UN Security Council to Baku hosting feel-good events such as the Eurovision Song Contest.

All that PR work now has to contend with a contrary image, of the government welcoming home an axe-murderer.

Sadly, the events of this week are a big boost for radicals on both sides.

They strengthen the hands of those Armenian hardliners who say that this proves that Azerbaijanis are barbarians who cannot be trusted.

In Azerbaijan, I know a substantial number of non-governmental activists and middle-level officials who have been working quietly on dialogue projects with Armenians. It is hard to see those going forward in the current environment.

If there is any silver lining to this dark episode it could be that the international community pays more attention to the dangers of a new Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. The conflict is not "frozen," as it is frequently described.

The current format of quiet mediation by France, Russia and the US is not strong enough to move the two sides from their intransigent positions. The reception given Safarov suggests that the situation is moving closer to war than peace. This slide can be halted, but the time to start working harder on diplomacy is now.

Thomas de Waal is a senior associate of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington DC.

Harut Sassounian. Hungarian/Azeri Scandal Vindicates Artsakh's Quest for Independence

Armenians worldwide are outraged by Pres. Aliyev's pardon following the Hungarian government's release of Ramil Safarov -- an axe-wielding Azeri Lieutenant who hacked to death Armenian officer Gurgen Margarian in his sleep, while attending a 2004 NATO course in Budapest.

One is at a loss to decide which country should be blamed more for this scandalous and shameful affair -- Hungary or Azerbaijan? Part of the blame should also go to the international community for ignoring the repeated protestations of Karabagh (Artsakh) Armenians that they never again could live under the repressive rule of Azerbaijan.

When Safarov committed his barbaric act in 2004, Azeris celebrated his cowardly crime and sang his praises. Since then, Azerbaijan did everything possible to induce the Hungarian government to release the axe-man from prison, while Armenian officials sought to ensure that Safarov serves his life-sentence.

Hungary's leaders repeatedly assured Armenia that the Azeri prisoner would not be released, despite Azerbaijan's relentless pressures. Yet, on August 31, 2012, without any prior notice, the Hungarian authorities broke their solemn pledge by sending Safarov to Baku.

Why this sudden turn of events? The likely explanation may be found in a brief news item released by Bloomberg a week earlier: "Azerbaijan is in talks with Hungary to buy as much as three billion euros worth of government debt.... The debt, which may be sold in Turkey at the request of Azerbaijan and denominated in Turkish lira, may be sold prior to Hungary coming to an agreement with the International Monetary Fund on a backstop.... Azerbaijan is willing to accept yields below the market rate on Hungary's debt."

Clearly, Hungary has betrayed

Armenia for "30 pieces of silver" -- in this instance, three billion euros (\$3.77 billion)! Such a large sum would go a long way to rescue Hungary from financial ruin, but would not save Hungarian officials from moral bankruptcy! For Hungary, Azerbaijan's oil money is more precious than Armenian blood.

To justify its sinister deed, Hungary leaked a letter dated August 15, 2012 from Vilayat Zhirov, Azerbaijan's Deputy Minister of Justice, confirming that his country would not commute Safarov's sentence after his transfer to Baku. Zhirov cited Article 57.3 of Azerbaijan's Criminal Code, assuring that a convict serving a life sentence can only be released after 25 years in prison.

Not surprisingly, Azerbaijan violated not only its commitment to Hungary, but also its own laws, when Pres. Aliyev set Safarov free by granting him an immediate pardon upon arrival in Baku on a specially chartered flight of Azerbaijan Airlines. The Azeri Lieutenant was promoted to the rank of Major, received a free apartment, eight years of back pay, and a hero's welcome for the cold-blooded murder of a sleeping Armenian!

In view of the worldwide Armenian outrage at this disgraceful development, Pres. Serzh Sargsyan called the National Security Council to an emergency session on August 31, announcing Armenia's suspension of diplomatic relations and all official contacts with Hungary. He further summoned the head of Armenia's National Security Service and gave him a "special assignment!" Pres. Sargsyan then delivered a terse message to a gathering of foreign Ambassadors in Yerevan, cautioning them that Armenia's future relations with their governments would depend on their reaction to this incident! Russia and the United States responded by expressing their concern at Safarov's release and pardon, and



demanding an explanation from Hungary and Azerbaijan.

Since Azerbaijan will surely reject any suggestion of incarcerating its "national hero" or returning him to Hungary to serve out his life-sentence, Armenians should embark on a series of initiatives to convince the international community that Artsakh can never accept the rule of axe-wielding murderers and their state sponsors. Armenians should take advantage of the sympathy generated by this miscarriage of justice in order to strengthen their case for Artsakh's independent statehood.

In the coming days and weeks, Armenians should step up the pressure on Hungary and Azerbaijan by holding demonstrations in front of their embassies and consulates, asking all countries as well as NATO, EU and OSCE to condemn the shameful manipulation of international norms of justice by Budapest and Baku.

Armenia should immediately suspend negotiations with Azerbaijan and recognize the independence of Artsakh, urging all other countries to do likewise. When Pres. Aliyev signed Safarov's pardon, he unwittingly affirmed Artsakh's quest for independence.

Armenians worldwide should join forces to strengthen Armenia politically, economically, and militarily to forestall Azerbaijan, Turkey, and all others from resorting to any future hostile action.

PACE President concerned over new Armenian-Azerbaijani tension caused by axe-killer's release

PACE President concerned by the serious deterioration in relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan following the decision to pardon Ramil Safarov, reports PACE Press Service.

"I join the international condemnation of the 'glorification' of the terrible crime which Mr Safarov has committed, and for which he has been condemned by a court in a Council of

Europe member state," Jean-Claude Mignon, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, said today.

"His liberation is unacceptable, and I am extremely disappointed by the abusive use of a Council of Europe legal instrument in this affair." "This scandalous liberation is having very negative consequences

on the already-strained relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and also risks destabilizing the situation in the region. I call on the Azeri authorities to reconsider their position, in line with the standards and the ethos of the Council of Europe," Mr Mignon concluded.

Hungary can still return Safarov - Slovak politician

Hungary still has an opportunity to correct its error by demanding the Azerbaijani murderer's return to a Hungarian prison, František Mikloško, the first president of the Slovak National Council has claimed.

"I hope it isn't yet too late for Hungary to correct its mistake, at least partially, and demand Safarov's return from Azerbaijan" the politician said, according to an official statement by the Armenian Unions of Europe Forum.

Ramil Safarov axed Armenian officer Gurgen Margaryan to death in 2004 when both servicemen were in Hungary for a Nato-orga-

nized English language training. The Budapest City Court sentenced Safarov to life imprisonment in 2006, without any right to appeal against the ruling for 30 years.

But after being transferred to Azerbaijan, the murderer was granted pardon by the country's president, Ilham Aliyev.

Commenting on the incident, Mikloško noted that the Armenian government suspended its diplomatic relations with Hungary on the grounds that such policies could undermine the peace efforts over Karabakh.

"Those who have been to

Karabakh realize well that its population of 160,000 will be annihilated just within a day once the country becomes part of Azerbaijan. As for the other states in Europe, they might turn a blind eye to this thanks to the oil dollars.

It is necessary for Hungary today to urgently demand Safarov's return considering the failure to follow earlier agreements. And the European states have to finally realize that only the recognition of Karabakh's independence is the sole guarantee for preventing the recurrence of such incidents," reads the statement.

Towards a New Relationship between the Armenian Diaspora and the Oligarchy

By Arman Sarvarian

Lecturer, School of Law, University of Surrey and Chairman of the St Sarkis Church Parish Council. All of the views expressed in this letter are entirely those of the author alone and do not in any way represent those of the University of Surrey, the St Sarkis Church Parish, the Armenian Apostolic Church or any other organisation. All internet sources in this letter were last accessed on 13 June 2012.

From 28-30 July 2012, in a visit to the London Games President Serzh Sargsyan attended a fundraiser banquet hosted by the Armenian Community and Church Council of Great Britain ('ACCC') as 'guest of honour', the Armenian Street Festival organised by the Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Great Britain and Ireland and another fundraiser banquet organised by the Hayastan All-Armenia Fund. I staged a solo demonstration at the two fundraiser banquets against his attendance at these events, holding a sign that read: 'Boycott not Honour: Let us Create in our Fatherland Christian Justice not Kleptocracy'. The aim of the demonstration was to prompt reflection, education and debate amongst Diasporan Armenians concerning their relationship with the Armenian Government and the oligarchy that controls it and every other crucial sphere of public life in Armenia.

This open letter is intended to explain my reasons for doing so and to call for a new policy amongst diasporan Armenian organisations in their activities in Armenia. At present, the Diaspora largely functions as a source of unconditional charity for Armenia. From remittances to charitable donations to the Yerevan real estate market, diasporan Armenians continuously inject foreign cash into the country on an individual and organised basis. However, diasporan influence in the internal politics of the country is negligible and there are few, if indeed any, improvements in the social or political life of Armenia that can be directly attributed to pressure exerted by diasporan organisations. Furthermore, there is often

a low level of knowledge and understanding amongst diasporan Armenians about the realities of life in Armenia and its politics. In short, the diasporan leadership has defined its role as fundraising for Armenia, lobbying foreign governments to support Armenia, taking summer holidays in Yerevan as tourists and investing in the Yerevan real estate market. A more convenient relationship for the oligarchs of Armenia can hardly be conceived.

Meanwhile, in the United Kingdom at least, there is little if any vocal criticism of the Government of Armenia to be heard in public by diasporans. Indeed, the Embassy of Armenia is closely connected to community organisations and any seminars or conferences organised concerning Armenian politics are invariably attended by Embassy staff whose objective is to denounce any criticism made of the Government. Meanwhile, in private those relatively few diasporans who are literate about the politics of the country are vehemently critical about the same leadership that they invite to their community events and do everything to support in public. In my view, this schizophrenic mentality is part of the problem and not the solution to the plagues of Armenia. Whilst undoubtedly some genuinely believe that, whatever private misgivings they have, they should not publicly criticise the Government, in my experience self-censorship based upon fear of retaliation is to a considerable degree the root cause for this 'double-think'.

Meanwhile, we have sunk to a new nadir in our benign tolerance of the corrupt oligarchs. President Sargsyan and Mr Gagik Tsarukyan, two of their ilk who attended these fundraiser dinners, are saluted by the diasporans as symbols of the Armenian nation rather than opposed as the criminals they are. This apathetic and fearful complacency is symptomatic of the spiritual decay of the Armenian nation.

Even as freedom of economic competition is largely a myth under the monopolistic oligarchy, Armenia continues to be mired in rampant corruption and politically-motivated criminal prose-

cutions and other tools of authoritarian repression of political opponents. Diasporans seemingly believe that these serious national problems will somehow solve themselves over time even as they continue to pump money through remittances, charitable donations, tourism and real estate investments to keep the country afloat. Meanwhile, open debate about these problems is largely non-existent due to apathy and the opposition of community leaders who are hand-in-glove with the Government. In short, diasporans have no basis for privately complaining about the state of the country when they are themselves complicit in the status quo.

Whilst Mr Sargsyan and Tsarukyan were enjoying the hospitality of the London Armenian community, our compatriots in Armenia were protesting for the prosecution of Sargsyan's ally and fellow oligarch Ruben 'Nemets Rubo' Hayrapetyan (member of parliament and President of the Football Federation of Armenia) for the manslaughter of Major Dr Vahe Avetyan and assault of others by employees of Mr Hayrapetyan at his Harsnakar Restaurant on 17 June. The National Security Service (the Armenian successor to the Soviet KGB) continues its 'criminal investigation' of former Foreign Minister and Tsarukyan ally Vartan Oskanian for alleged tax evasion by the 'Civilitas' think tank. Arbitrary arrest, long-term pre-trial detention and torture continue to be employed by the Government to silence opposition. Boys of conscript age continue to use corruption to evade service in an army in which they could be killed, tortured and abused by their own countrymen.

Although Mr Sargsyan should be impeached and removed from office for violating his presidential oath and he and the rest of the oligarchs should be subject to criminal investigation for their actions, justice will not come without concerted and continuous pressure from both within and without Armenia. The Diaspora is a key actor in this process. We need a political awakening. We need to pressure our leaders to open political debate about Armenia and to enact a fundamental

change in Diasporan policy. We need to stop donating to organisations like the

laws of Armenia.

To build the 'spiritual Armenia'



Hayastan All-Armenia Fund, which serves as a conduit for no-strings-attached funding to be transmitted from patriotic diasporans to the corrupt Armenian Government. Alternatively, if diasporan organisations are to continue to finance the existence and activities of Armenia then they must begin to accept the political responsibility for their actions. This entails the promotion of a normative agenda, principally the elimination of the criminal oligarchy and the implementation of the Constitution and

envisaged by Vahan Teryan and others, a morally vibrant and strong Armenia true to its Christian mission and indigenous traditions whilst holding itself to European standards of governance, the status quo must change. The Diaspora is an important actor in the transition from greed and corruption to honesty and justice. It is high time for diasporan leadership to fundamentally change its policies towards Armenia to live up to this historic responsibility.

Consequences of an Unreasonable Decision

from page 1

the part of the officials in Hungary can be accounted for by the fact that, according to some sources in Budapest, Baku promised to Budapest that Azerbaijan authorities will purchase 3 milliard worth of Hungarian state bonds.

The fact is that nowadays financial situation in Hungary is far from being simple: to overcome the current financial crisis the country's government is trying to secure a 20 milliard credit from IMF. Meanwhile Victor Orban's government refuses to fulfil IMF's demand to reduce budget expenses on social needs.

The effect of R. Safarov's transfer from Budapest to Baku and his further being forgiven and made a hero on the part of the President of Azerbaijan may be summed up in the following issues:

- by the act of forgiving a murderer who cruelly killed a man on the basis of ethnic hatred and by making him a national hero on the state scale Azerbaijan authorities demonstrated to the whole world that they approve of such murders; all talks about NagornyKharabach getting "the highest autonomy" (of the type of the Alland Islands in Finland or South Tirol in Italy) in the framework of "democratic Azerbaijan" are nothing else but bluffing. In fact Baku proved to the whole world what Armenian politicians and diplomats were not able to prove - the fact that NagornyKharabach cannot

remain a part of Azerbaijan.

- by the act of forgiving a cruel murderer of an Armenian officer Azerbaijan authorities demonstrated that they actually provided their citizens with an indulgence to exterminate ethnic Armenians throughout the world (including central Europe) independent of the citizenship of the latter. It is not surprising since it has been less than a year since the moment when the President IlhamAliiev announced that the Armenians living in all parts of the world are enemies of the Azerbaijan people;

- it is not clear enough what course the negotiations process in the framework of Minsk OBSE group will take with the co-chairmen (Russia, USA, France). At any rate the Armenian side will not come out beyond the taken framework, but it is quite possible that Armenia will either refuse to be in contact with the Azerbaijan side or will make a decision to regulate its position;

- it is obvious that the number of military collisions in the area of NagornyKharabach conflict will increase, the latter becoming more cruel which will lead to heavy losses among military stuff on both opposite sides. If the losses acquire a critical scale the escalation of the conflict will crucially increase;

- the actions of Hungarian authorities inflicted a substantial blow to the image and policy of EC and NATO in

Armenia since Hungary is a member of these two organisations;

- a case of R. Safarov's sudden death a kind of an accident will be introduced as a revenge act of terrorism on the part of Armenians and Armenia;

- a keen reaction to the act in question on the part of different organisations such as outer power centres in south Caucasus (Moscow, Paris, Washington, Brussels) and of different international structures such as ODKB (the announcement of general secretary Bordjuze was, to our mind, the harshest of all those made) PASE,ES, OBSE and others, was not taken into account. We also assume that this acute reaction will have its continuation in all the documents to be accepted;

- what concerns Armenian - Hungarian relations on the state level, they are interrupted on the part of Armenia; the decisions taken by the President of Armenia SerzhSarkissian are supported both by the society in Armenia and by Diaspora.

It should be mentioned that according to some Hungarian sources (the oppositional socialist paper Nepsabadshap) the decision about the transfer of R. Safarov to Azerbaijan was taken personally by the Head of government - the Prime Minister Victor Orban and the State Secretary PeterSiyargo. The sources of the paper are close to the leading party Hungarian Union - FIDESH (Hungarian FIDESZ) which has 262 mandates and 386 seats in the

parliament, i.e. constitutional majority.

It is probable that while taking a badly-calculated decision on R. Safarov's transfer Hungarian authorities believed that emotions will soon be calmed down and that South Caucasus is rather far from Hungary. However, two important circumstances were not taken into consideration: acute character of NagornyKharabach conflict and resources of Armenian Diaspora.

Though Victor Orban's government possesses constitutional majority in the Hungarian parliament its position cannot be considered absolutely strong. Moreover, there are some factors that cause irritation among international centres powers. Among these factors are:

- A new Constitution (it has come into force since January 1 this year) and its introduction in particular (Declaration of faith in nation). In the new Constitution the stress is laid on Hungary's return to her Christian and national roots; from contemporary European viewpoint this document is of a nationalist character;

- in Hungary abortions may be forbidden;

- there are serious problems connected not only with IMF, but also with European Board (Brussels);

- some American/European mass media (L' Express, La Republica and others) and some politicians make malicious attacks at Victor Orban and name him Europe's UgoChavis, a new emper-

or from Budapest, Hungarian Chausheskuand even new Hitler. The same mass media compare Hungary with authoritative European countries of 1920s - 1930s;

- some experts declare that Victor Orban is admiral MikloshHorty's admirer, the latter being a dictator who ruled over Hungary in 1919-1944. V. Orban is often blamed for his desire to revise the results of the World War II and to reanimate territorial arguments with neighbouring countries (for instance with Romania).

It could be assumed that V. Orban's personality is not the best one to be accepted by the western centres of force. It is quite possible that the above -mentioned issues are a distorted image of contemporary Hungarian reality on the part of European liberal forces, the image that aims at creating an opinion in society which could become a basis of some protest movement demanding either to overthrow V. Orban's government or to provoke a split in FIDESZ .

As to the unpleasant situation that developed as a result of the unreasonable decision concerning R. Safarian's transfer to Baku and his further being forgiven by Azerbaijan, we hold that this situation may be used by V. Orban's opponents as a pretext to make the situation in Hungary instable .

To overcome the present complex situation Hungary's authorities will have to take extraordinary political decisions. September 5, 2011

Environmental commission to solve Yerevan's ecological issues



The newly set up environmental commission affiliated to the City Hall's urban development council will try to eliminate the disastrous ecological situation in the capital.

"We are starting a war. If till now we have been fighting in streets, now we will have wider opportunities. The situation should be changed," the chairperson of the commission Karine Danielyan said.

She has stressed that the commission is of consulting nature with its authorities not being specified yet.

"Our authorities are being discussed. The positive thing is that we have been called to discuss our activities, and not being told to go away," she said.

The commission includes experts relating and dealing with Yerevan issues. It has been divided into sub commissions dealing with seismicity issue, greening works, water resources, etc.

Speaking about the situation in Yerevan, Karine Danielyan said the researches from space showed that since Armenia's independence 70 per cent of green territories have been eliminated in the capital. Danielyan said polls have been conducted among Yerevan residents to assess the ecological situation of the capital. The 33.2 per cent of the participants said the ecological condition in the capital is disastrous, 54 per cent assessed it as unsatisfactory, 5.4 said it is satisfactory.

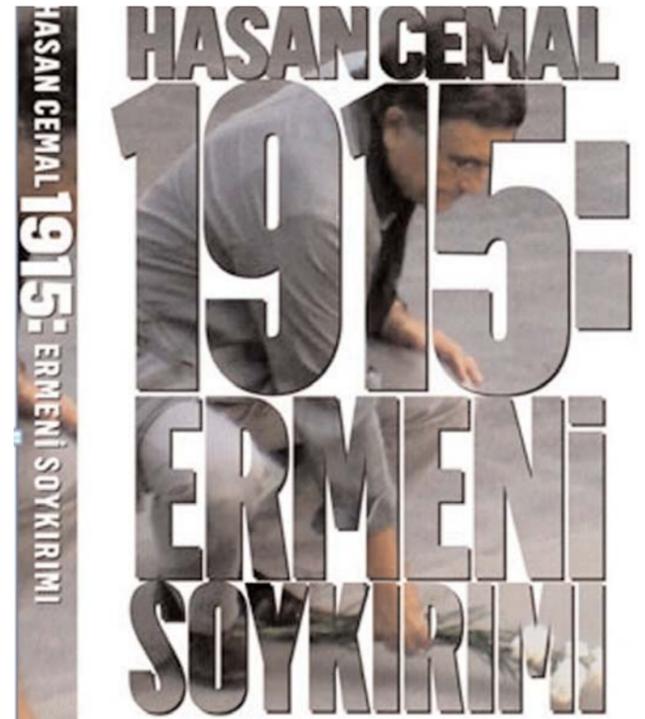
Diana Grigoryan, chief specialist of environmental department, said the approach of the Yerevan Municipality has changed. "What has already been built is impossible to change but at the same time we should try to develop our city on the basis of ecological norms," she said.

Member of the commission Ruzanna Ghazaryan called on all the residents to participate in their initiatives.

Cemal Pasha Grandson publishes a book about Armenian Genocide

Hasan Cemal, the grandson of one of Armenian Genocide perpetrators Cemal Pasha is publishing a book in coming week entitled "1915. Armenian Genocide". As Armenpress reports citing Istanbul based "Agos" Armenian weekly newspaper, the author stated "We cannot move forward without confronting and taking into consideration the events of past. We cannot keep an eye on the anguish of the past. Moreover the pain of 1915 is not a story, it is current day issue".

The first chapter of the book runs how Hasan comes to know 1915 events. Then the author dwells on how he became to be called "parricide" after coming forth with his obtained information and statements in the course of Hrant Dink assassination hearings in 2006. The second chapter of the book tells the author's way of thinking before revealing 1915 events and reportedly how it changed in the course of the time. The most interesting part of the book is the third chapter enti-



itled "Pasha Grandfather or Cemal Pasha family". This chapter tells about 1915 Armenian Genocide organizer Cemal Pasha and his family. Hasan Cemal has repeated-

ly stated he recognizes 1915 events Genocide.

He visited Tsitsernakeberd and laid a wreath at the Genocide Memorial in 2008.

Syrian Armenian Relief Fund

By Garo Bedrossian

Our beloved Syrian-Armenians are facing a serious crisis.

The widespread civil war, the slaying of hundreds, often on a daily basis the destruction and collapse of buildings, fires, gunfire, abductions, sabotage events everywhere, widespread unemployment as an obvious consequence, involuntary "imprisonment" of families in their own homes several days at a time, lack of bread and water, the skyrocketing food prices, price gouging, anxiety and fear, etc.

Because of the conflict, within the Armenian-populated districts of Aleppo, Kamishli, Der Zor, Damascus, Homs, Latakia, Kessab, etc., our brothers and sisters are being subjected to relative losses and evilness.

For weeks, Syria's largest city, Aleppo, has been under fire with modern destructive weapons, frightful street fighting, destruction and fires. People confined to their homes, they do not speak of going to work, or even getting close to their own shops. Everyone feels consoled upon finding out that their shop is still standing, is neither destroyed, nor looted.

After a century following the Genocide of the Armenian people and the deadly deportations, Aleppo was considered as the first shelter for the survivors. Once again, due to the ensuing conditions, for refugees Aleppo became a hard to cross bridge to Beirut, Jordan, Iraq, Ethiopia, Europe, North and South Americas, Canada, etc.

Superhuman efforts were necessitated to rebuild the community for the survival of the nation with churches, schools, social and cultural institutions, print media, and in time, distinguished secondary schools, of course with the brotherly and generous contributions of Diaspora donors.

Following 30 to 40 years of excellent efforts, the vigorous community in Aleppo became a center for providing human capital for intellectual, cultural and social realms for other Diaspora communities, in not only Syria, but

also Lebanon, Jordan, Cyprus, Iraq, Ethiopia, Europe, North and South Americas, Canada and elsewhere. Furthermore, their contributions were not limited to just providing intellectual human capital, but also monetary assistance, along with human and material resources as the needs arose, such as assistance to Lebanon during the years of civil war, assistance to Armenia following the devastating earthquake, assistance to Artsakh (Karabakh) liberation struggle, assistance to rebuild the newly independent Armenia, etc.

Remembering all these and refreshing our memories of the recent past of our "dream" and beloved Aleppo and generally the promising lives of the greater Syrian-Armenian community, and thinking about the unexpected, bloody and gloomy situation created by the present day "Arab Spring" movement, there is no doubt that we will feel deeply saddened for the predicament that has overwhelmed the outstanding community and the hosting country considered as a second fatherland.

Everyone's heartfelt wish will be

for reestablishment of peace and normalcy.

Nevertheless, it is vital that expression of support by each person and family include a monetary contribution involving all Armenians in California including Churches, Political Parties, Humanitarian Organizations and Cultural, social and compatriotic unions to the Executive Committee of the SYRIAN ARMENIAN RELIEF FUND, which has already released a call to action to the media through the press and the TV stations.

We are convinced that the urgent need to assist this cause will not only provide needed funds to the numerous families, but also strengthen the moral spirit of the community, confirming that the all Armenians in the Diaspora and the homeland care about each of its members.

RELIEF efforts are always considered highly during difficult times of need.

Garo Bedrossian is a retired teacher.



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Ticketing / Transportation Department

- Reservation and issuing of air tickets,
- Reservation and issuing of train tickets
- Special offers and Group rates for more than 10 travelers

Department of Incoming & Domestic Tourism

- Organization of one day and two days conferences both in Yerevan and in Regions
- Organization of individual and group tours in Armenia
- Organization of vacation in Armenian Rest & Health Resorts,
- Organization of business incentive activities
- Providing transportation services

Outgoing Department

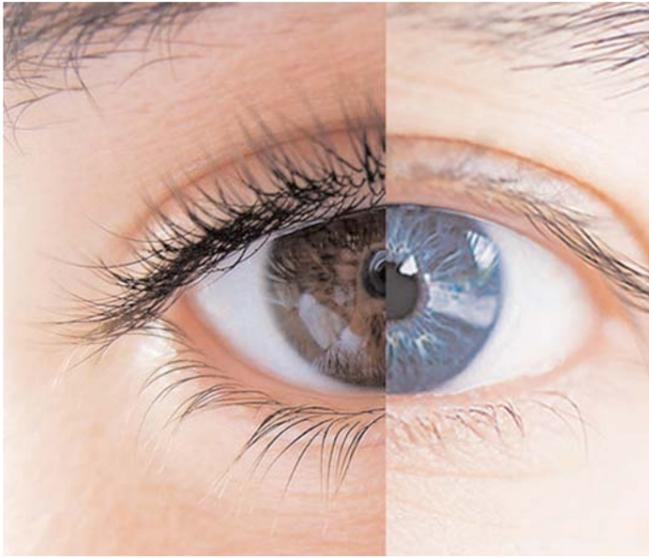
- Worldwide hotel reservation
- Organization of tailored individual and group tours abroad;
- Organization of rest combined with therapeutic treatment at famous European resorts and SPAs
- Visa Support
- Ensuring access to destination information

Department of Educational Tourism

- Professional Courses like ACCA, CIM etc.,
- Language Courses
- Specialized trainings in Accounting, Marketing, Financial Services, Business Development & Sales etc.,
- Undergraduate and Postgraduate Education Worldwide

*There are so many places in the world where you
can spend your money
Give us a chance to spend it on you
unforgettable trip!*

Men and women really do see the world differently



Guys' eyes are more sensitive to small details and moving objects, while women are more perceptive to color changes, according to a new vision study that suggests men and women actually do see things differently.

"As with other senses, such as hearing and the olfactory system, there are marked sex differences in vision between men and women," researcher Israel Abramov, of the City University of New York (CUNY), said in a statement. Research has shown women have more sensitive ears and sniffers than men.

"[A] recent, large review of the literature concluded that, in most cases females had better sensitivity, and discriminated and categorized odors better than males," Abramov and colleagues write Sept. 4 in the journal *Biology of Sex Differences*.

Abramov and his team from CUNY's Brooklyn and Hunter Colleges compared the vision of males and females over age 16 who had normal color vision and 20/20 sight - or at least 20/20 vision with glasses or contacts.

In one part of the study, the researchers asked the volunteers to describe different colors shown to them. They found that the guys required a slightly longer wavelength of a color to experience the same shade as women and the men were less able to tell the difference between hues.

The researchers also showed the participants images made up of light and dark bars that varied in width and alternated in color so that they appeared to flicker, a measure of participants' sensitivity to contrast. Compared with the women, the male volunteers were better able to identify the more rapidly changing images made up of thinner bars, the researchers said.

Abramov explained in a statement these elements of vision are linked to specific sets of thalamic neurons in the brain's primary visual cortex. The development of these neurons is controlled by male sex hormones called androgens when the embryo is developing into a fetus.

"We suggest that, since these neurons are guided by the cortex during embryogenesis, that testosterone plays a major role, somehow leading to different connectivity between males and females," Abramov said. "The evolutionary driving force between these differences is less clear."

Previous research found that men and women also focus differently. In experiments at the University of Southern California, researchers found that men are likely to fixate on the mouth of a person in conversation and also are more likely to be distracted by movement behind that person. Meanwhile, women tend to shift their gaze between a speaker's eyes and body, and they are more likely to be distracted by other people, the researchers found.

Job a (literal) pain in the neck? Down some coffee

If your job is a literal pain in the neck, drinking coffee may help, a new study from Norway says.

People who drank coffee before sitting down to work at a computer for 90 minutes reported less pain in their necks and shoulders than those who didn't drink coffee, according to the study. Some in the study had previously suffered chronic neck and shoulder pain, while other participants hadn't - but people in both groups who drank coffee reported less pain, the researchers said.

Among people whose daily work involves low levels of muscle activity, such as sitting at a computer all day, about 10 percent report shoulder and neck pain, according to the study.

The researchers looked at 48 people, including 22 with chronic neck or shoulder pain, and 26 healthy people. The experiment was part of research on how pain develops during office work; it was not intended to look at the effects of caffeine, the researchers said.

People in the study reported to the laboratory first thing in the morning, so to offset any effects of sleepiness, coffee and tea

were available. Nineteen of the study participants chose to drink coffee, but were instructed not to drink more than one cup.

Then, for 90 minutes, participants performed a computer task, using only a mouse.

Researchers found that people who drank coffee - whether they had previous chronic pain or not - developed less pain over the course of the 90 minutes, compared with those who didn't drink coffee. And at the end of the computer task, the coffee drinkers rated their pain as less intense than the other study participants.

It's possible the reduction in pain experienced by coffee drinkers in the study was due to other traits or lifestyle behaviors common to people in this group. Future studies should be conducted in which participants are randomly assigned to consume caffeine or not in order to better understand whether the caffeine itself is truly reducing pain, the researchers said.

The study, conducted by researchers at the Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital in Norway, was published Sept. 3 in the journal *BMC Research Notes*.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Hovhannes Toumanian

(English translation by Alice Stone Blackwell)

The Crane (1896)

The Crane has lost his way across the heaven,
From yonder stormy cloud I hear him cry,
A traveller'er an unknown pathway driven,
In a cold world unheeded he doth fly.
Ah, whither leads this pathway long and dark,
My God, where ends it, thus with fears obsessed ?
When shall night end this day's last glimmering spark ?
Where shall my weary feet to-night find rest ?
Farewell, beloved bird, where'er thou roam
Spring shall return and bring thee back once more,
With thy sweet mate and young ones, to thy home
Thy last year's nest upon the sycamore.
But I am exiled from my ruined nest,
And roam with faltering steps from hill to hill,
Like to the fowls of heaven in my unrest
Envyng the boulders motionless and still.
Each boulder unassailed stands in its place,
But I from mine must wander tempest tossed
And every bird its homeward way can trace,
But I must roam in darkness, lone and lost.
Ah, whither leads this pathway long and dark,
My God, where ends it, thus with fears obsessed?
When shall night end this day's last glimmering spark?
Where shall my weary feet to-night find rest ?



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

This month is a time that will test the strength of your relationships. Dormant or hidden tensions that are gnawing at the edges of any relationship are likely to become apparent now. Make an effort to recognize the difference between ego conflicts and genuine difference of opinion. A good relationship is more important than being "right".

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19) :

Your romantic side is cooperating well with your nurturing side at this time. This is especially good for female friendships. Make a date for lunch and reconnect with people you like. You and a significant other are bringing closure to a long cycle in a creative way this week.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

You have an odd mix of energies this week. During the first half you may have a tendency to obsess and worry over matters that may never happen. As you move into the weekend you will cast off that dark cloud. The probability is that you will have a fun weekend. Attitude makes all the difference.

Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

During this week you will enjoy home, hearth, and family. That also includes those whom you think of as an extended family, such as coworkers or maybe a special circle of friends. The arts and all things of beauty are of a special pleasure to you now.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21) :

Venus enters your sign this week and will be traveling "with you" through Sept. Her presence gives you an air of poise and people will simply like how you look. Often when Venus is prominent we become more interested in art forms and want to make things in the environment more attractive.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

You have a desire to celebrate. The temptation to overspend is strong. Consider what would be fun and interesting that doesn't require a big expenditure. Activities concerning education, publishing, the law, and travel have positive aspects. You are talkative and in an exploring frame of mind.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22) :

Venus, your ruling planet, travels with you into the territory of friendships, community and organizational affairs. Over the next three weeks she will enhance your presence at any activity in this sphere. It is a good time to plan a party for friends or to meet new people at other gatherings.

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

This week you have opportunities to mend fences and heal old wounds with family and friends. If you can let go of that sting in your tail, many things in your life will go more smoothly, including relationship to your children. Don't swallow anger, but do try to talk it through with someone you love.

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

Your frame of mind is expansive and optimistic. You want to talk to everybody in sight, but particularly to those closest to you. Archers with clientele will have a busy week with lots of appointments and people asking questions. You will make a friend of each of them.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

It is possible that you will experience a dip in your frame of mind. Perhaps you simply feel somber at this time. Don't let it trouble you because this is brief. On the whole you are experiencing healing and more opportunities to enjoy your relationships.

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

You are working toward a significant shift in focus that begins in November. At present it is time to pull things together, tie up loose ends, and finish with all the balls in the air. You may be feeling the pressure already. Take your time and do things well. You will then feel proud of yourself.

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

This week brings lots of social activity into your home. You may be participating in more than one reunion of folks you have not seen for a while. Your health has been a bit fragile this summer. Don't push yourself over the edge. Get some rest and take your vitamins.

HUMOR

Will you marry me?

An elderly widow and widower were dating for about five years. The man finally decided to ask her to marry. She immediately said "yes".

The next morning when he awoke, he couldn't remember what her answer was! "Was she happy? I think so, wait, no, she looked at me funny..."

After about an hour of trying to remember to no avail, he got on the telephone and gave her a call. Embarrassed, he admitted that he didn't remember her answer to the marriage proposal.

"Oh", she said, "I'm so glad you called. I remembered saying 'yes' to someone, but I couldn't remember who it was."

Quote of the week

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life.

Steve Jobs

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

MEZZO classic house club

CLUBS

MEZZO CLASSIC HOUSE CLUB

28 Isahakyan

September 10 at 9:30 p.m. Marina and City Project" Band
September 11 at 9:30 p.m. Yeva Sujyan
September 12 at 9:30 p.m. Lupe y la Banda
September 13 at 9:30 p.m. Aurent Robin and Vahagn Hayrapetyan jazz quartet
September 14 at 9:30 p.m. "Imagine" Band
September 15 at 9:30 p.m. CHIGAPO & THE GENIUSES Band
September 16 at 9:30 p.m. 'Impression' Band

THE CLUB

40 Tumanyan Street

September 11, at 8 p.m. Film Screening
September 14, at 9 p.m. Bard Club
September 17, at 7 p.m. Tea Master invites to tasting Chinese teas

STOP MUSIC CLUB

Moskovyan Str., 37

September 15 at 7 p.m. Persian Metal Festival after-party

MALKHAS JAZZ CLUB

September 11 at 9 p.m. Jazz quartet (Soloist Zara). Malkhas Jazz Trio (Levon Malkhasyan, Aramo)
September 12 at 9 p.m. Crossroads Blues Band (Soloist Amiryan Misho). Malkhas Jazz Trio (Levon Malkhasyan, Aramo)
September 13 at 9 p.m. Jazz Trio (Soloist Aghvan). Malkhas Jazz Trio (Levon Malkhasyan, Aramo)
September 15 at 9 p.m. Group Fiesta (Soloist Sona). Malkhas Jazz Trio (Levon Malkhasyan, Aramo)
September 16 at 9 p.m. Vahagn Hayrapetyan Jazz Trio. Malkhas Jazz Trio (Levon Malkhasyan, Aramo)
September 17 at 9 p.m. Group Remino and Forsh. Malkhas Jazz Trio (Levon Malkhasyan, Aramo)

WALL STREET PUB

September 12 at 8 p.m. Crayfish Day

ARMENIAN NATIONAL SHOW

Republic Square, Government House 2, (Restaurant Ararat)

Every Day at 7:30 p.m.

BOURBON ST.

Teryan 19

September 13 at 8:30 p.m. Hayway Band

CAFESJIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Cascade Complex

September 12 at 8 p.m. Romantic Cello

Levon Arakelyan, cello
Arthur Avanesov, piano
September 14 at 8 p.m. City Project Band
September 15 at 8 p.m. Fiesta Caliente Latino Jazz Band

HAVANA COMPLEX

September 15 at 8 p.m. Water Dance Floor Party

CALUMET ETHNIC LOUNGE BAR

September 13 at 9 p.m. Lelo and Friends concert

THEATRES

G. SUNDUKIAN NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

Grigor Lusavorich st., house 6

September 15 at 7 p.m. The Adventures of Masha and the Bear

H. TUMANIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

Sayat-Nova av., house 4

September 14 at 4:30 p.m. Persian Metal Festival
September 15 at 12:00, at 2p.m. Gnome's Song. Director/ Producer: T. Zahalyan
September 16 at 12:00, at 2p.m. Alice in Wonderland
September 16 at 7 p.m. Operation Nemesis

CONCERTS

ARAM KHACHATURIAN CONCERT HALL

September 12 at 7 p.m. Rouben Hakhverdyan Solo Concert
6th Yerevan International Music Festival
September 14 at 7 p.m. Chamber Music Concert Borodin String Quartet (Russia)
Program: Beethoven,

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STATE MARIONETTE THEATER

September 14 at 4 p.m. Musical performance Hans Christian Andersen
September 15 at 12:30, 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. The Adventures of Buratino
September 16 at 12:30, 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. The Tailless Fox

Mirzoyan, Shostakovich
September 15 at 7 p.m. Borodin Quartet and APO Concert dedicated to the 65th anniversary of Ruben Aharonian
Program: Louis Spohr, Rimsky Korsakov

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Noyan Tapan logo and text: Weekly Newspaper Since May 4, 1993, Yerevan, Armenias

President of the Noyan Tapan Media Holding: Tigran Haroutiunian
Editor-in-Chief of the Noyan Tapan: Gayaneh Arakelian

Director of the Weekly: Marina Harutiunyan
Chief Correspondent: Gourgen Khazhakian
Proofreader: Susanna Mkrтчian

INFORMATION AND ARTICLES by Noyan Tapan News Agency
PHOTOGRAPHS by Noyan Tapan TV&Photo Studio
ADS & NEWSPAPER DESIGN by Noyan Tapan Advertising Agency
PRINTING by Noyan Tapan Publishing House

The publisher: Noyan Tapan LTD, 28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009
Republic of Armenia
Registration certificate and the date: 273.110.00512, 15.12.1995
Circulation: 1000 copies
Tel.: (374 60) 27-64-62, Fax:(374 60) 27-64-61
E-mail: contact@nt.am
URL: www.nt.am
ISSN 1829-0604