

#ElectricYerevan photo among Reuters' 2015 Pictures of the Year



Reuters has included Armenian photographer Vahram Baghdasaryan's photo in its 2015 Pictures of the Year. The pictured was captured during the #ElectricYerevan protests against the power price hike in Armenia.

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Armenian statehood moving into next stage: Serzh Sargsyan

President Serzh Sargsyan on December 7 praised electoral bodies controlled by his administration for "the proper conduct" of Armenia's disputed constitutional referendum and said he has received a popular mandate to turn the country into a parliamentary republic.

Serzh Sargsyan addressed a large group of senior government officials and his political allies several hours after the Central Election Commission (CEC) declared a popular "Yes" vote for his constitutional changes that will take effect after he completes his final presidential term in 2018.

"We can now conclude that the parliamentary system of government for our state is already a reality," he said. "It means the existence of strong government and strong opposition, an increased role for political parties and new opportunities for their development."

"I want to thank all individuals who have participated in the proper organization and conduct of the referendum process," he added amid continuing street protests in Yerevan staged by opposition groups accusing the Sargsyan administra-

tion of rigging Sunday's referendum.

Serzh Sargsyan made no direct mention of the opposition allegations. He said only that "competent bodies" should properly investigate reported irregularities.

The constitutional changes mean that Armenia's next president will have largely ceremonial functions. The bulk of sweeping powers currently enjoyed by Sargsyan will be transferred to the prime minister and their cabinet formed by the parliamentary majority. The president will be elected by the parliament, rather than popular vote, for a seven-year term.

Serzh Sargsyan, his Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) and some nominally opposition parties supporting the constitutional reform say that the parliamentary system would democratize the country's political system and strengthen the rule of law. But other, more hardline opposition forces insist that it is only designed to enable him to extend his rule beyond 2018.

In an effort to disprove the opposition claims, Sargsyan said last year that he will not run for any government office if the proposed amendments are enacted by 2018. However, he pointedly declined to



reaffirm that pledge on the eve of the referendum.

The fraud allegations were effectively echoed on Monday by three members of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) who monitored the vote. In a joint statement, Swiss lawmakers Andreas Gross and Doris Fiala and their British colleague Alan Meale also criticized the broader constitutional reform process, saying that it has not been "inclusive enough." They said that "too many citizens" of Armenia regard it as a "means for the current president to remain in power" after 2018.

Serzh Sargsyan 'may stay in power' In 2018

President Serzh Sargsyan could stay in power as Armenia's prime minister after completing his second and final term in 2018, Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan said on December 2.

"Never say never," Abrahamyan told reporters when asked about the possibility of Sargsyan becoming prime minister after Armenia finishes its transition to the parliamentary system of government.

"We'll see after 2017," he said. "The [2017] parliamentary elections will determine which political force the prime minister represents. If the [ruling] Republican Party (HHK) wins, it will decide who will be prime minister."

Constitutional changes, which the Armenian authorities say were approved by voters in Sunday's referendum, mean that the prime minister will be the country's most powerful official in 2018. Serzh Sargsyan's successor as president will have largely ceremonial powers.

Sargsyan's political opponents say the

main purpose of this sweeping reform is to enable him to cling to power as prime minister or in another capacity. Sargsyan sought to quash such speculation last year when he publicly pledged not to become prime minister if the Armenian constitution is amended. He also reportedly told senior HHK figures this summer that he would not aspire to the post of parliament speaker either.

Serzh Sargsyan pointedly declined to reaffirm those pledges in a televised interview aired three days before the referendum. "We will talk about that after the 2017 parliamentary elections," he said, commenting on his political future.

Abrahamyan's remarks will only stoke opposition allegations that Sargsyan is intent on extending his rule.

The premier, who led the HHK's "Yes" campaign for the referendum, also dismissed opposition allegations that the vote was blatantly rigged by the authorities. "If they have complaints, they should appeal



to relevant bodies," he said.

Hovik Abrahamyan, who also managed Sargsyan's 2008 and 2013 presidential election campaigns, further dismissed video evidence of fraud reported by media, non-partisan observers and opposition proxies. He suggested that video clips showing vote buying, ballot stuffing and violence committed by government loyalists were doctored by "interested persons who want to cast a shadow on the referendum results."

Opposition Party Wants Tougher Western Reaction To Armenian Vote

Yerevan (RFE/RL) The opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK) on December 9 criticized Western powers for not explicitly challenging the official results of Sunday's disputed referendum on President Serzh Sargsyan's constitutional changes.

Levon Zurabyan, an HAK leader, complained that the U.S. and European Union missions in Yerevan have only called on the Armenian authorities to investigate serious irregularities reported during the vote.

"Let those embassies know that Serzh Sargsyan is playing the following game. With one hand, he organizes those petty criminals to falsify the referendum ... and with the other, he orders law-enforcement bodies to 'very seriously' investigate those crimes," Zurabyan told about 200 opposition supporters who gathered in the city's Liberty Square. The West should not fall for this "trickery," he said.

The U.S. Embassy and the EU Delegation in Armenia said on Tuesday that identifying and punishing those responsible for fraud is essential for the legitimacy of Sarkisian's controversial constitutional reform. The U.S. mission described allegations of vote rigging voiced by opposition forces and local observers as "credible."

The EU Delegation reiterated its calls on Thursday in a statement which it said was also endorsed by the Yerevan-based ambassadors of EU member states. "Without a transparent investigation of the alleged frauds as well as remediation if these are confirmed, the referendum would be a missed opportunity to increase the confidence in, and the integrity of, electoral processes in Armenia," it said.

The EU statement also said: "Should the results of the referendum be officially confirmed, we underline that it is important to implement the new constitution."

Zurabyan said he is "a bit surprised" by the Western reactions. "Let's assume that [the authorities] catch and punish vote falsifiers: 50 or 100 persons, for instance," he said. "Would that



change anything? Would the people trust in the referendum's legitimacy?"

"The people voted 'No' and they know that very well," added the opposition leader. "If [the authorities] declare the victory of the 'Yes' vote while punishing all vote falsifiers, will we be happy with that? Of course not."

Law-enforcement authorities have already opened a number of criminal cases in connection with the alleged fraud. But they have reported no arrests so far.

The HAK and its opposition allies claim that the authorities rigged the referendum to push through the sweeping amendments to the Armenian constitution and thereby enable Sarkisian to extend his rule. Sargsyan's Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) denies this.

According to the Central Election Commission (CEC), over 63 percent of Armenians voted for the amendments envisaging Armenia's transformation into a parliamentary republic. The CEC put voter turnout at 50.5 percent, just enough to make the vote valid. The HAK says, however, that no more than one-third of the country's 2.5 million eligible voters cast ballots on Sunday.

Armenian DM discusses situation at the line of contact with Amb. Kasprzyk



On December 9 Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan had a phone conversation with Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

Issues related to the situation at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno

Karabakh and Azerbaijan were discussed.

The Armenian Defense Minister informed Ambassador Kasprzyk about the provocations incited by the Azerbaijani side and the retaliatory measures taken by the Armenian side during the referendum on Constitutional amendments and the following days.

Mr. Ohanyan expressed his concern over the continuous attempts of the rival to destabilize the situation, emphasizing that on the eve the Azerbaijani side used a tank to fire in the direction of the Armenian positions, which threatens to raise the tension to a new level.

The Armenian Defense Minister stressed the importance of the targeted reaction of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs for keeping Azerbaijan within the limits of the logic of the negotiation process.

Ambassador Kasprzyk, in turn, voiced concern over the current situation and pledged to take relevant steps.

Azeri tank shelling reported near Karabakh

Azerbaijani forces have used a battle tank in fighting around Nagorno-Karabakh for the first time since a Russian-brokered truce stopped the Armenian-Azerbaijani war in 1994, the Armenian military said on Wednesday.

Karabakh's Armenian-backed army said an Azerbaijani tank fired live rounds on its frontline positions southeast of the disputed territory.

Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan condemned the reported incident as a further escalation of fighting along "the line of contact" in an emergency phone call with Andrzej Kasprzyk, the chief OSCE official monitoring the ceasefire regime in the Karabakh conflict.

Ohanian was quoted by his press office as saying that the Armenian side is responding by "forcibly restraining" the Azerbaijani army. He said international mediators acting under aegis of the OSCE Minsk Group should openly hold Baku responsible for the latest truce violations in order to help ease tensions on the Karabakh frontline and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

A senior Karabakh Armenian official, Davit Babayan, also condemned the alleged tank shelling. "There is no logical explanation for such actions because they don't change the military balance in any way," Babayan told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am).

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry did not respond to the Armenian claims as of Wednesday evening. In a statement cited by Azerbaijani news agencies, it said its troops have carried out massive "mortar strikes" over the past day in response to "Armenia's deliberate escalation of the situation."

The Karabakh Defense Army said the Azerbaijani side fired more than 300 mortar shells and 27 rockets towards its frontline positions on the night from Tuesday to Wednesday. It also said that one of its soldiers, Garik Avanesyan, was killed by an Azerbaijani



sniper on Tuesday evening.

"The enemy's destabilizing actions will not go unpunished, and the consequences of this situation will be severe and irreversible," it added in a statement.

Fighting in the conflict zone appears have again escalated last week after several weeks of relative calm on the frontlines. Another Armenian soldier was shot dead in Karabakh on December 4 just hours after United States, Russia and France urged the conflicting parties "in the strongest possible terms" to observe the ceasefire. An Azerbaijani army officer was killed and two Azerbaijani soldiers wounded in the following days.

Karen Mirzoyan, the foreign minister of the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, discussed on Tuesday the latest upsurge in fighting with James Warlick, the U.S. co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, during a visit to the United States. According to Mirzoyan's office, the two men stressed the need for "steps to reduce the tensions on the Line of Contact."

The presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan are due to meet later this month for talks which Warlick and his fellow co-chairs from Russia and France hope will help to revive the peace process.

Karabakh conflict: Use of heavy weapons unacceptable



The US calls on the parties to the Karabakh conflict to take all steps to avoid violence and to improve the atmosphere for negotiations, Spokesperson for the Department of State John Kirby told a daily press briefing.

"We express our deep condolences to the families of those who died or were injured in recent incidents in the Nagorno-

Karabakh conflict. The recent escalation of violence and the use of heavy weapons are unacceptable and we call for the sides to strictly adhere to the ceasefire regimen," he said.

We also remind the sides that these attacks do not conform to the commitment by the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict peacefully. Later this month the OSCE Minsk group co-chairs will hold the next presidential summit between the presidents. We call on the sides to take all steps to avoid violence and to improve the atmosphere for negotiations to take place in good faith at the summit," John Kirby added.

Asked whether the tensions between Turkey and Russia might have contributed to the escalation between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Spokesman said: "We're concerned about the escalation itself and not necessarily the source. Obviously, in both cases we want to see tensions de-escalated and for cool heads to prevail. But rather than do a cause and effect, let me just state we're - as I said, we're concerned about this violence and we are certainly - continue to monitor and watch the relations between Turkey and Russia, particularly over the shootdown a couple weeks ago. We want to see the tensions de-escalate."

Armenia-NATO Cooperation Discussed in Brussels

Session in NATO Partnerships and Cooperative Security Committee+ Armenia format was held in Brussels

The session was chaired by NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for South Caucasus and Central Asia **James Appathurai**, and the Armenian delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia **Ashot Hovakimyan** and First Deputy Minister of Defense **Davit Tonoyan**. The session focused on the Armenia-NATO Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) Assessment Report for 2014-2015. A.Hovakimyan has reconfirmed Armenia's commitment to continue Armenian peacekeepers' involvement in Resolute Support missions in Kosovo and Afghanistan in 2016 as well. Davit E.Tonoyan has talked about the process of reforms in the Armenian Armed Forces, implementation of Building Integrity program, steps towards strengthening of human rights in the Armed Forces as well as military education programs implemented by the Armenian Defense Ministry. In this context Mr Tonoyan attached importance to the Armenian Center of Building Integrity and Human Rights in the Armed Forces. Upon the request of the participants of the session, the Armenian side has also presented the situation on the NKR-Azerbaijan contact line. Armenian First Deputy Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan also responded to a question on the possible impact of the constitutional changes to defense and security of Armenia.

The reps of the Alliance member countries had speeches in which they highly assessed Armenia's cooperation with NATO in all the areas and expressed their support to the OSCE Minsk



Group Co-Chairs activity in the NK conflict settlement. Following the session, the Deputy Ministers met with NATO's Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy Ambassador **Terry Stamatoopoulos** and NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security **Marriet Schuurman**.

MFA/Mediamax/The Highlights

Russian military deploys helicopters In Armenia



In a further expansion of its military presence in Armenia, Russia has begun the deployment of new combat helicopters to an airbase just outside Yerevan that has long been used by Russian warplanes.

Russia's Southern Military District said on December 8 that "the first batch" of helicopter gunships delivered to Russian troops in Armenia consists of 7 modernized Mi-24 attack helicopters and Mi-8 transport choppers. "Another batch of helicopters will be delivered by the end of this year," it said in a statement.

The Russian military announced plans to reinforce its base in Armenia with about two dozen helicopters in January 2014. It said they will have "a wide range of tasks in aviation support for troops and transportation" of Russian military personnel.

The Armenian government formally authorized the deployment in November 2013. It also set aside two plots of land for the Russian helicopter squadron. They are located in and around the Erebuni military airport that hosts more than a dozen Russian MiG-29 fighter jets as well as Armenian military aircraft. The Russian jets were modernized in 2013-2014.

The Russian base numbering up to 5,000 soldiers has also been beefed up with other advanced military hardware in recent years. Its latest reinforcement coincided with Russia's bitter row with Turkey sparked by last month's downing of a Russian warplane near the Syrian-Turkish border.

The standoff has raised fears in Yerevan that Armenia, which has a closed border with Turkey, could be drawn into a potential military confrontation between the two regional powers. Turkish military helicopters reportedly twice violated the Armenian airspace in early October, just days after Ankara accused Russian warplanes of straying into Turkish territory from Syria.

Even before the outbreak of Russian-Turkish tensions, Armenia perceived a threat to its security emanating from Turkey. From Yerevan's perspective, the Russian military presence on Armenian soil also precludes Turkey's direct military intervention on Azerbaijan's side in the event of another war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenian and Russian troops targeted an imaginary invader codenamed "Ottomania" when they held annual joint exercises last year.

World Bank approves US\$50 million loan to enhance Armenia's competitiveness and sustainability

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a US\$50 million loan for the Third Development Policy Financing (DPF-3) for Armenia to support a wide range of reforms promoting fiscal, social and environmental sustainability and strengthening competitiveness. This is the third in a programmatic series of four DPFs, supporting the Government of Armenia in meeting its strategic objective of job creation, which is the country's overarching development challenge.

There are two pillars under this operation: the first one includes measures increasing the fiscal space, improving the financial sustainability of key sectors, enhancing the efficiency of social protection programs, and improving environmental and social safeguards in the mining industry, which accounts for over half of Armenia's exports. The second pillar focuses on strengthening the business environment, improving trade facilitation and connectivity, and supporting access to credit.

"The Operation is designed to reinforce Armenia's macroeconomic stability and resilience through increased attention to fiscal sustainability, and to continue efforts to improve competitiveness in the context of an uncertain external environment," says Laura E. Bailey, World Bank Country Manager for Armenia. "The program supports reforms that affect the poor and the bottom 40 percent of the welfare distribution by protecting the scope of public transfers and addressing other social needs, as well as enhancing employment opportunities as a result of increased competitiveness and improved business environment."

The Operation supports several reform measures implemented by the Government, and focuses specifically on the development of the Unified Tax Code through expanding the tax base,



rationalizing rates, improving transparency of tax policy and closing major loopholes in the current tax legislation. The new Tax Code will address issues related to complex, unsystematic and occasionally contradictory regulations reducing voluntary tax compliance, distorting the horizontal equity of taxation and creating uncertainty for businesses and households.

"The main purpose of the new Tax Code is to enhance domestic revenue mobilization, and support long-term growth and sustainable levels of public debt and deficit. The Bank will continue working with the authorities to strengthen provisions for critical social spending and infrastructure and ensure that the re-distributional and equity aspects of the tax reform are not undermined. The latter can be addressed through progressive taxation and increased efficiency and improved targeting of public spending increasing access to basic services by the poor and vulnerable," says Gohar Gyulumyan, World Bank Co-Task Team Leader of the Project.

Another focus area of this Operation will be around the enabling and enacting the new Law on Social Services,

that is aimed at providing social services in an integrated way. Amending the legal framework on Waste Management will improve the management of mining waste and reduce negative environmental impacts.

The Operation will also work on streamlining customs clearance procedures for e-trade at post services, introducing the principle of business notification streamlining the current licensing process, improving the legal and institutional framework for the aviation sector geared towards refining Armenia's connectivity with the rest of the world and developing a legal and regulatory framework for consolidated supervision of banks and financial institutions supporting financial stability and transparency, that would deepen investor confidence.

The Third DPF in the total amount of US\$50 million is an IBRD flexible loan with fixed spread with a 14.5-year grace period and repayment of over 25 years.

Since joining the World Bank in 1992 and IDA in 1993, the total IDA and IBRD commitments to Armenia amount to US\$2.2 billion.

Armenia, EU launch talks on new framework agreement



The European Union and Armenia began on December 7 official negotiations on a new deal which is expected to contain many political and economic provisions of the Association Agreement nearly signed by them two years ago.

"We aim for a comprehensive framework agreement covering political, economic and sectoral cooperation and taking into account Armenia's more recent commitments," the EU's foreign and security policy chief, Federica Mogherini, said at the start of the talks in Brussels.

"Our shared common values and strong commitment to democracy, human rights, rule of law will be at the basis of the new agreement," she added, according to a statement released by the EU's executive body, the European Commission.

Mogherini listed trade, investments, energy and transport among the areas of closer EU-Armenia cooperation to be covered by the accord. Those sectors were identified during a "scoping exercise" completed by the two sides in March.

Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian, who headed the Armenian delegation at the opening session of the talks, said Armenia is "determined to further develop and strengthen comprehensive cooperation in all areas of mutual interest." Nalbandian pointed to President Serzh Sargsyan's recent remark that "the Armenian nation is an inseparable part of the European civilization."

"We look forward to intensify effective cooperation in a large number of areas, such as education, science, research and innovation, air transportation and others," the Armenian Foreign Ministry quoted him as saying.

The planned deal will have no free trade-related clauses that were a key element of the would-be Association Agreement. Serzh Sargsyan made the signing of that agreement impossible when he unexpectedly decided in September 2013 to join the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). The volte-face is thought to have resulted from strong Russian pressure exerted on Yerevan.

Armenian and EU officials have said

that other political and economic provisions of the Association Agreement not contradicting Armenia's membership in the EEU will be incorporated into the planned deal. In Mogherini's words, the deal should help to "definitively turn the page following uncertainties created in 2013."

Armenia has already enjoyed a preferential trade regime with the EU for the past several years. Under its Generalized System of Preferences (GSP+), the EU collects no import duties from 3,300 types of Armenian products and applies reduced tariffs to 3,900 other goods imported from the South Caucasus state. The 28-nation bloc extended this arrangement even after the Armenian entry into the EEU.

The EU remains Armenia's leading trading partner, accounting, according to Armenian government data, for about 26 percent of its overall foreign trade in January-October 2015.

Nalbandian on Monday urged the EU to also launch a "dialogue" with Yerevan on the eventual lifting of its visa requirements for Armenian citizens travelling to Europe. The EU expressed readiness for visa liberalization in a joint declaration with Armenia and several other ex-Soviet states adopted at a May 2015 summit in Riga.

The declaration says that such a process is contingent on the "full implementation" of an EU-Armenia agreement on "readmission" of illegal immigrants. The agreement was signed in April 2013 shortly after the EU eased some of its stringent visa rules for Armenians.

Armenia unilaterally abolished its visa regime for citizens of the EU member states three years ago.



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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



3 ROOMS

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

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

PREMISES

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

Price: 3.600.000 USD

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

LANDS

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

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

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

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

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



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

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- 1142. **Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capially repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- 1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capially repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capially repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capially repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- 2033. **Abovyan str**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD
- 2031. **Vardanants str**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m, Price: 8000 USD
- 2027. **Sayat Nova str**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capially repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

Armenian FM visits Germany



On December 9, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian visited Berlin upon the invitation of Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Foreign Minister of Germany.

On the same day the meeting of Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Germany took place.

Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Germany expressed satisfaction with the high-level active political dialogue between the two states and underlined that both countries are interested in the further development of bilateral cooperation.

Expressing gratitude for the invitation to visit Berlin, Minister Nalbandian noted that recently the Armenian-German cooperation has gained a new momentum in different fields. The Minister expressed confidence that due to the joint and consistent efforts it is possible to deepen and expand relations between the two countries. Foreign Minister of Armenia stressed that Germany is one of the main economic partners of Armenia and expressed gratitude for Germany's continuous assistance to projects aimed at the development of Armenia.

The sides emphasized with satisfaction that there is a solid legal framework including over four dozens documents and agreements, the collaboration in international organizations is developing, inter-parliamentary contacts are on a high-level, the scientific and cultural cooperation is intensifying, business ties are expanding: there are almost 100 companies working with German capital in Armenia.

The interlocuteurs noted that Armenia and Germany cooperate productively within the framework of peacekeeping opera-

tions, particularly in Afghanistan.

Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Germany touched upon a number of regional and international issues: implementation of agreements on Iran's nuclear programme, developments in Ukraine, situation in the Middle East, crisis in Syria, efforts exerted by international community towards fight against terrorism.

Ministers discussed the relations between Armenia and the EU. The negotiations on Armenia-EU legal framework agreement, that were launched a day before, were highlighted.

Within the framework of Germany's presidency in the OSCE next year, Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Germany exchanged views on the issues of the Organization agenda, results of Ministerial Council in Belgrade, priorities of German presidency.

Minister Nalbandian presented to his German counterpart the efforts exerted by Armenia and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs towards the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Foreign Minister of Armenia invited Foreign Minister of Germany to visit Armenia.

On the same day Edward Nalbandian had a meeting with Christoph Heusgen, foreign and security policy adviser to German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The sides discussed in detail Armenia-EU cooperation. During the meeting they exchanged views also on a number of pressing regional issues.

On December 9, Edward Nalbandian had a meeting with the representatives of Germany-Armenia forum presided by Albert Wailer, German MP.

During the meeting Albert Wailer presented to Edward Nalbandian the activities of the forum and the projects of the institution.

Foreign Minister of Armenia highly appreciated the activity of the forum aimed at further strengthening and enhancement of the Armenian-German friendly relations.

The sides exchanged views on the Armenian-German relations, Armenia-EU cooperation, current international and regional issues, efforts on the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Angela Merkel named Time's Person of the Year

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has been named Time's Person of the Year.

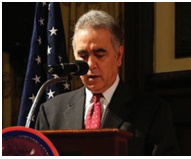
Merkel's selection was announced Wednesday morning on NBC's "Today" show.

"Leaders are tested only when people don't want to follow," Time editor Nancy Gibbs said in a statement issued Wednesday. "For asking more of her country than most politicians would dare, for standing firm against tyranny as well as expedience and for providing steadfast moral leadership in a world where it is in short supply, Angela Merkel is TIME's Person of the Year."

She's the first individual woman to be recognized since 1986.



77% of the world's population recognize Armenian Genocide



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

Last month, I reported in this column the results of the Zogby Analytics survey, which found that 35% of the American public was aware of the Armenian Genocide. I thought this was a low figure, having expected that a larger percentage of Americans would be cognizant of the Armenian Genocide.

Several readers correctly pointed out that the 35% figure is not low at all since:

1) One third of the US population of over 300 million means that at least 100 million Americans are aware of the Armenian Genocide.

2) Most Americans are unaware of events occurring in their own time, let alone a genocide that took place in a far off land a century ago.

This week, I would like to present the results of another important survey conducted in 31 countries by two French groups: Fondapol (Foundation for Political Innovation) and Foundation for the Memory of Shoah. This international poll asked 33 questions in 24 languages to 31,172 young people between the ages of 16 and 29, regarding their knowledge and characterization of various significant world events, including the Armenian Genocide.

Here are highlights of the 164-page global poll, originally published in French:

- On average, 90% of respondents in 31 countries acknowledged that the Jewish Holocaust was a genocide, while 77% considered the killings of 1.5 million Armenians by the Turkish government also a genocide. This is a signifi-

cantly high percentage since 100 years later the memory of those barbaric acts continues to remain alive in the minds of much of the world's younger generation.

- The percentage of those aware of the Armenian Genocide is even higher among Europeans (82%), with France in the lead (93%), followed by Greece (90%), United Kingdom (68%), and Americans (64%). Not surprisingly, the lowest figure was registered in Turkey (33%). However, this percentage is not as discouraging as it seems at first glance. Despite a century long genocide denial concocted by the Turkish government, using massive state resources, it is a miracle that fully one-third of the Turkish youth, in tens of millions, reject their government's propaganda by responding truthfully to the pollsters without any reluctance or fear. The 33% figure also shows that the facts of the Armenian Genocide are acknowledged in Turkey much beyond the small circle of Turkish liberals and intellectuals.

- The percentage of the young people cognizant of the Armenian Genocide in the other 26 countries is as follows: Australia (67%), Austria (85%), Belgium (81%), Canada (71%), China (80%), Croatia (87%), Czech Republic (74%), Denmark (81%), Estonia (81%), Finland (83%), Germany (83%), Holland (76%), Honduras (87%), India (51%), Israel (88%), Italy (87%), Japan (68%), Latvia (84%), Lithuania (70%), Poland (87%), Romania (72%), Russia (84%), Serbia (86%), Spain (86%), Switzerland (87%), and Ukraine (65%).

- The Rwandan Genocide of Tutsis by Hutus has the third highest public awareness (76%) in 31 countries, less than the Jewish Holocaust and the

Armenian Genocide, despite its more recent occurrence 21 years ago!

- A varying percentage of survey respondents classified the following events as genocide, while ignoring the existence of the Cambodian Genocide:

1) United States dropping atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: 70%.

2) The 1937 Nanking Massacre in China by the Japanese Imperial Army: 66%.

3) Colonization of African and Asian countries by Europe and the United States: 55%.

4) The 1932-33 famine in Ukraine: 41%.

5) The 1943 famine in India: 37%.

The above figures indicate that the knowledge of the Armenian Genocide among young people in 31 countries is higher than those five historic cataclysms.

The most important revelation of this global survey is the Turkish government's obvious loss of the protracted battle of genocide denial not only internationally - as an increasing number of countries have recently recognized the Armenian Genocide - but also domestically, since one-third of the Turkish youth also acknowledges it!

Finally, if we assume that the entire population of the surveyed countries has a similar knowledge of the Armenian Genocide as its youth (77%), we can estimate that around three out of the four billion people living in these 31 countries are informed about the Armenian Genocide. We can similarly extrapolate that 77% of the world's total population of 7.25 billion - over five billion people - recognize the Armenian Genocide!

NKR Foreign Minister speaks at U.S. Congress



On December 9, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic Karen Mirzoyan had separate meetings in Washington with members of the U.S. Congress, Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues Frank Pallone and Robert Dold, as well as Congresswoman Anna Eshoo. On the same day, accompanied by Chairman of the Armenian National Committee of America Ken Khachikian and Kate Nahapetian, who is responsible for the Committee's relations with the U.S. Government, Karen Mirzoyan met with U.S. Senator, member of the Appropriations Committee Mark Kirk.

During the meeting, a range of issues related to the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict peaceful settlement process, provocations on the Line of Contact by Azerbaijan, as well as the U.S. humanitarian assistance rendered to Artsakh were discussed.

On the same day, the NKR Minister of Foreign Affairs took part in a traditional event dedicated to the anniversary of Artsakh's independence in the U.S. Congress, which was organized under the auspices of the Co-Chairs of the U.S. Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues and through the joint efforts of the Armenian National Committee of America, the Armenian Assembly of

America, the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia to the USA, and the NKR Permanent Representation to the USA.

The event, which started with the prayer of blessing by the Armenian Church's North American Eastern Diocese Legate, Archbishop Vigen Haykazian, was attended by representatives of the American Armenian organizations and communities, staff members of Congressmen's Offices, experts, and journalists.

A number of Congressmen attended the event and delivered speeches, including Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Ed Royce, Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues Frank Pallone and Robert Dold, Congressman Adam Schiff, and others. The Congressmen expressed their support for the Nagorno Karabakh Republic's independence and democratic development and underlined their readiness to continue to focus on the issues related to Artsakh. The speakers also stressed the necessity of taking immediate steps for reducing the tensions on the Line of Contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan.

RA Ambassador to the USA Tigran Sargsyan also welcomed the participants of the event with his address.

The NKR Foreign Minister briefed on the state-building process in the NKR, stressing that the path that Artsakh people have gone through serves as a proof that it is impossible to limit the strive of people to decide their own future and fate.

The NKR Foreign Minister expressed his gratitude to the Congressmen for their continued support in the issues related to the NKR.

Karen Mirzoyan also touched upon the current stage of the process of peaceful settlement of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh and briefed on the situation on the Line of Contact aggravated due to Azerbaijan's provocative policy.

The Minister stressed that the NKR is an established state with all the attributes and institutions of statehood, its Constitution, an active civil society and a vibrant economy. Artsakh is also an important geopolitical factor in the region, which contributes to the stability and peace. Throughout its independence, the NKR has proven to be a reliable, predictable, and responsible partner for the international community and is consistent in its actions aimed at maintaining regional peace and stability.

At the end of his speech, Karen Mirzoyan expressed confidence that the time had come for the international community to accept the reality and to recognize the free and democratic Nagorno Karabakh Republic.



All Change in Armenia



By Thomas de Vaal

The headline from Armenia following a much-disputed referendum on December 6 is that the country has a new constitution and will soon have a parliamentary system of government. But more people are paying attention to the short-term politics than to the long-term implications of the vote.

That is hardly surprising. The new constitution adopted in the referendum is a massive overhaul of the previous 2005 version, with only two articles surviving intact. There was no obvious need for such a big change.

As in most of the post-Soviet space, Armenian politics is an elite game in which the leaders change the rules to suit themselves, and the members of the public are mere bystanders. In this instance, President Serzh Sargsyan's evident motivation for holding a referendum was to be able to change the game to secure his own political survival.

Over the past five years, the elites have changed the constitutions in all three South Caucasus countries. In Azerbaijan, there was no pretense that the change was about anything other than power preservation. President Ilham Aliyev followed the examples of the Central Asian states and Belarus in abolishing presidential term limits, enabling him to secure a third term as leader and rule more or less in perpetuity.

In Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili changed the constitution to limit the powers of the president, just as his second and final term as head of state was ending. Many anticipated that he was planning to stay at the center of Georgian politics by making the transition to the newly strengthened

post of prime minister. But that proposition was never tested. In 2012, Saakashvili lost a parliamentary election, and his whole power base crumbled.

Now, in Armenia, Sargsyan appears to be attempting a similar maneuver to ensure himself the chance of a political future after his final presidential term expires in 2018.

The changed constitution gives Sargsyan the opportunity to stay at the top of public life if he wants to, by becoming either prime minister or parliamentary speaker. From 2018, Armenia will have a new president with largely ceremonial powers who will be elected for a single seven-year term. Most executive power will devolve to a prime minister chosen by a slimmed-down 101-seat parliament elected by proportional representation.

The most controversial provision of the new constitution is Article 89, which stipulates that if no party secures a "stable parliamentary majority" in legislative elections, there may be a runoff vote to ensure a governing coalition is elected. Some critics, among them Robert Kocharian, a former Armenian president and erstwhile ally of Sargsyan, have argued that this is a dangerous recipe for one-party rule. (Other critics have said Kocharian is upset only because the changes thwart ambitions he may have had of returning for a third presidential term akin to that of Russian President Vladimir Putin.)

There was almost no public debate on the changes. A poll by the Yerevan-based Advanced Public Research Group found very little knowledge about what the changes meant, with 71 percent of those surveyed believing that the amendments

would go through regardless of what happened on voting day.

There were grounds for cynicism. A three-person delegation from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was critical of the referendum, citing inaccurate voting lists, a skewed media landscape, and "allegations of large-scale organized vote buying and carousel voting as well as pressure on voters."

But it would be wrong to describe the Armenian public as passive. The "no" campaign, opposed to the ruling elite, was not powerful enough to stop the changes, but it was vocal enough to kick up a fuss. Social media have disseminated numerous reports of electoral fraud. These include the allegation that a one-hundred-twenty-year-old man, born in the year 1895, was registered to vote.

Such criticism suggests that in 2018, when Sargsyan's term ends, if he and his team do make a play to keep themselves in power, they will face a backlash.

The short-term dynamics are worrying. But in the longer term, Sargsyan may have done everyone a favor. The bigger picture is that Armenia, a small, well-educated country with a professional class (albeit much depleted by emigration), is much better suited to a parliamentary style of government than to the executive power vertical it has at the moment.

In Georgia, constitutional changes were initiated by one ruling party, the United National Movement, with one set of motives: to further party members' own ambitions. The changes were inherited by another ruling party, Georgian Dream, and the effect has been mostly positive. Georgian's parliament is stronger than it has been for years, and there is a real division of powers—often more like a contestation—between the prime minister and the president.

Eventually, Armenia could get to the same place. Even before that, the country's 2017 parliamentary elections could be a lot livelier than anticipated. The new constitutional change frees the opposition from a straitjacket in which it has been struggling for years: its lack of a credible individual who could be its presidential candidate in 2018. Now, the opposition's challenge is slightly less daunting: to build a proper party machine capable of taking on the ruling Republican Party in two years' time.

Those who do not learn from history doomed to repeat it, Armenian Amb. tells UN

On 9 December 2015, the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations, in partnership with the President of the UN General Assembly and the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, co-hosted the first annual observance of the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of This Crime at the Trusteeship Council Chamber of the United Nations Headquarters.

Attended by a large number of representatives of UN member states and observers, international organizations, think-tanks, civil society organizations and media, as well as members of Armenian-American community and school students, the meeting in observance of the International Day began with a minute of silence in remembrance of the victims of genocide. Opening remarks were delivered by the President of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, the Deputy Secretary-General of the UN Mr. Jan Eliasson and the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Armenia to the UN Mr. Zohrab Mnatsakanyan. The panel featured the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Mr. Adama Dieng, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence Mr. Pablo de Greiff, President of the International Center for Transitional Justice Mr. David Tolbert and First Vice President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, Assistant Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Stockton University Prof. Elisa von-Joeden-Forgey. Statements on behalf of the UN member states were delivered by Chairpersons of regional groups.

In his remarks, Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan noted that the International Day, established pursuant to the UNGA Resolution 69/323 of September 11, 2015, calls for a manifestation of a collective sense of a duty before all victims of the crime of genocide. He reconfirmed Armenia's commitment to promote and support international efforts to underpin the significance of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and to consistently and resolutely construct rigid foundations for



prevention. In this regard, the Ambassador of Armenia recalled the unanimous adoption of the respective resolutions initiated by Armenia and adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council earlier this year, expressing appreciation to all the partners for their unwavering support. He recalled that in April 2015 Armenia hosted a Global Forum Against the Crime of Genocide.

Referring to the remarks by the President of the General Assembly and the Deputy Secretary General, who said, earlier, that, by honoring the memory of the victims of the Genocide, the international community reaffirmed its commitment to prevent this horrendous crime, Zohrab Mnatsakanyan noted that the International Day would render dignity to the victims of past inaction and would help reclaim justice. Mr. Mnatsakanyan further remarked that 9 December would not merely mark the adoption of a landmark international legal instrument, but also send a powerful message to ignite political, legal and moral responsibility "for defying and ultimately halting the repetitive nature of this crime", as a "moral and political imperative" to consistently elaborate a rigid system of prevention.

"Those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat it", stressed the Ambassador of Armenia, suggesting that, to eliminate genocidal tendencies, it will be imperative to analyze the causation of past cases, and that "every pattern of discrimination, every violation of rights affecting vulnerable groups, every exclusionary ideology, climate of impunity, denial of genocide and hate speech, as well as incitement to violence" are exactly compelling early signs, which beg early action.

The panelists elaborated on the nature, causes, and consequences of genocide, empirical analysis of genocidal patterns,

and their relationship to long-term prevention, the importance of memorialization and dignity of genocide victims, their right to remedies and reparations, guarantees of non-recurrence and accountability, the links between genocide and other human rights violations, and prevention and punishment of genocide.

The UN Secretary-General issued a message on the first observance of this International Day, calling upon the international community "to recognize the need to work more concertedly to protect individuals from gross human rights violations and uphold our common humanity".

The event, which also featured musical performance by the UN Symphony Orchestra, was widely publicized in the UN, as well as in local and international media. The UN Department of Public Information launched a social media campaign "#GenocideVictimsDay" and "#PreventGenocide", a special slogan ("Remember the Victims Prevent Genocide") and logo for the International Day.

Background: Upon the initiative of Armenia, in September 2015, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution A/RES/69/323 proclaiming this International Day, which encourages all Member and Observer States, all organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations and individuals to observe the International Day in order to raise awareness of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and its role in combating and preventing the crime of genocide, as well as to commemorate and honor its victims. It acknowledges that victims of this crime call for a form of memorialization, which plays an important role in the prevention of genocide. 9 December also marks the day of the adoption of the Convention in 1948. The resolution 69/323 followed up on another important resolution, initiated by Armenia and adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in March 2015 which recommended to the UN General Assembly to proclaim such International Day. These resolutions and the first observance event add to the continued efforts of Armenia to promote consolidated international action against the crime of genocide.

U.S. Police Experts on domestic violence visit Armenian counterparts



On December 11, 2015, U.S. and Armenian law enforcement officers were joined by other government officials and NGO representatives at a day-long working group to discuss ways to end the cycle of domestic violence that affects many homes in Armenia.

"Countries are more peaceful and prosperous when women are accorded full and equal rights and have opportunities to succeed," said Clark Price, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan, as he opened the workshop in Yerevan. "Violence hinders the ability of citizens to fully participate in and contribute to their families, communities, and nation - economically, politically, and socially."

Recent research by the OSCE revealed that 60% of respondents in Armenia, mostly female, noted they had been subjected to at least one form of domestic violence during their lifetimes. The workshop's participants discussed ways all sectors of society can work together to reduce that number.

"Seeing so many active Armenian offices and organizations

- our partners from the Armenian Police, the Investigative Committee, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, international organizations, and civil society groups - come together means, I hope, we will make progress in ending domestic violence," DCM Price said.

Joining the Armenian attendees were two experts from the Las Vegas, Nevada Police Department: Lieutenants Kelly McMahon and Jamie Prosser. The pair spent more than a week in Armenia meeting with their peers and touring facilities designed to aid the victims of domestic violence.

The day-long workshop was the latest in the Embassy's efforts to aid Armenians in fighting domestic violence. In November 2014, the Embassy organized a study tour for Armenian police officers to travel to Seattle and meet with their peers. In April 2015, the Embassy conducted a needs assessment to gather information on the current capacity of Armenia's law enforcement agencies to deal with crimes of domestic violence. That assessment highlighted the importance of including other government agencies in the effort. A second study tour was organized in August 2015, through which the Embassy took representatives from the Investigative Committee and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to meet with the Las Vegas Metro Police Department.

Moving forward, the Embassy, its Armenian partners, and the U.S. experts will focus on three areas: raising awareness and providing training in communities where crisis centers have been built; establishing an interdisciplinary working group focused on the development of uniform procedures to ensure consistency and efficiency across agencies investigating domestic violence cases; and creating a referral mechanism to improve coordination among the different agencies that have a role in fighting domestic violence.

U.S. Embassy Gives 'Thumbs-Up' to Passage of Constitutional Change Referendum



The U.S. Embassy in Armenia has released the following statement regarding the December 6 constitutional referendum.

"We commend the Armenian people and the government on the peaceful conduct of the constitutional referendum on Sunday, December 6, which took place after an open debate.

The change in the form of Armenia's government that will result from the new constitution is significant. The credible allegations of electoral irregularities reported by both non-partisan observers as well as Armenian political parties are of concern, however, and need to be fully investigated to ensure that the Armenian people can see the outcome of the referendum as credible and legitimate. We urge the Electoral Commission and the Armenian government to carry out transparent investigations of all credible reports of irregularities.

These issues must be addressed, both now and as the government and parliament develop the new electoral code, building on OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, to ensure that future elections are viewed by the Armenian people as credible, legitimate, and a true reflection of their will".

Armenians in Iran preserve cultural identity

Christian Armenians have lived in Iran since thousands of years ago and their existence in the nation dates to the pre-Christ times, the Kuwait News Agency reports.

According to historic evidences and relics, their existence in the nation dates back to the B.C fifth and sixth centuries. Since then, they have preserved their own social fabric and language in Iran, as well as in other countries of their diaspora.

In an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the chief Armenian bishop in Tehran, Sebul Sarkisian, said the Armenians have been since the old times a very active community in Iran in humanitarian, cultural, literary, commercial and military sectors.

In the 17th century, the Safavid Shah Abbas transferred more than 300,000 Armenians from Armenia to Esfahan, with aim of renovating the city and creating a new social mix-up, he said. Esfahan was the first city to host the Armenians. They built their own town in Esfahan, named Newo Julfa before spreading to other countries such as India and Iraq.

According to official figures, there are some 100,000 Christians, including 80,000 Armenians, in Iran. They practice their religious rites freely. The Iranian Christians have three patriarchates. According to historic sources, the patriarchate in Tabriz is the oldest one in the country, followed by the one in Esfahan. The newest is located in Tehran.



The Tehran patriarchate groups the largest number of Armenian worshippers. It is significantly influential, managing 20 schools, 20 associations in addition to a number of clubs for the community.

The Armenians are represented with two men in the parliament. They publish a number of newspapers and the patriarchate in Tehran oversees up to 11 churches.

Bishop Sarkisian noted that the

largest number of Armenians live in Tehran, followed by Esfahan and Aroumiah. He affirmed that the Armenians enjoy freedoms in Iran, unlike other countries, with exception of Lebanon. They practice their rituals without any restrictions, Sarkisian said, adding that the authorities encourage them to hold their religious ceremonies.

The Armenians view Armenia as their mother land. The Armenian schools teach the official curricula, except for the religious curricula, the Armenian language and history.

Czech President speaks out against granting EU membership to Turkey

Turkey should not become a part of the EU, the President of the Czech Republic, Milos Zeman said on December 9 as he addressed voters in the north of the country, TASS reports. He indicated that although Turkey is a NATO member-state, sometimes it behaves as if it were an ally of the Islamic State terrorist grouping. Zeman criticized the EU's plans to remit €3 billion to Turkey for the upkeep of 2 million refugees stranded on its territory, since Ankara is supposed to block the road to Europe for them. He believes Turkey is capable of hosting the refugees on its territory, in no small a measure because it shares religion with them. Zeman called for caution in the process of building up relations with Turkey. He added that the Turkish ambassador to the Czech Republic was likely to file a note of protest with the Prague Castle.



Prehistoric rock paintings discovered close to the ancient Armenian city of Ani



Fifteen rock paintings discovered in a village close to the ancient city of Ani in Kars will play a significant role for the area to be declared a world heritage site by UNESCO.

The head of the Culture and Arts Association in the eastern province of Kars, Vedat Akçayöz, has said the registration of 15 rock paintings discovered around the Alem village, some 11 kilometers away from the ancient city of Ani on the Turkish-Armenian border, has been sent to the Museum Directorate, adding the hope was to have the entire area added to UNESCO's World Heritage list, the Hurriyet Daily News reports.

Akçayöz said the 15 rock paintings carved on the rocks depicted hunting scenes with horses, dogs, mountain goats, deer and humans.

He said that upon their application,

Kars Museum Director Necmettin Alp, Culture and Tourism Provincial Director Hakan Doğançay and Board of Protection of Cultural Property Director Yasin Dursun had begun works to register the Prehistoric-era rock paintings.

Akçayöz said they had asked for the region to be declared an archaeological site, adding they hoped the ancient city of Ani and its environment would be included in the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2016.

Stating that the association had been supporting Kars' culture and arts for 15 years, Akçayöz said the following:

"2016 will be a very important year

for the future of Ani, Kars and Turkish tourism. The Alem village is home to 15 rock paintings that have never been examined and belong to humanity. The importance of this discovery is that Ani and its environment dates back thousands of years older than we had known. Therefore the inns, rock tombs and settlements around the ancient city of Ani should be declared an archaeological site as a whole. Works have started in the rock tombs. On Nov. 24, a committee including the museum director, archaeologist and art historians coordinated to collect the data for registration. These rock paintings will play a significant role for the ruins of Ani to be included in the UNESCO list in 2016."

The ancient Ani was once the capital of a medieval Armenian kingdom that covered much of present-day Armenia and eastern Turkey. Ani is protected on its eastern side by a ravine formed by the Akhurian River and on its western side by the Bostanlar or Tzaghknotadzor Valley. The Akhurian is a branch of the Aras River and forms part of the current border between Turkey and Armenia.



Arthur Abraham in Armenia to celebrate the victory



Committed to a long-established tradition, WBO Middleweight Champion Arthur Abraham, has arrived in Armenia to celebrate his victory with relatives, friends and the Armenian people.

Arthur Abraham last won a split decision over Martin Murray on November 21 at the TUI Arena in Hannover.

Abraham says he had studied the opponent and was intentionally allowing Murray to attack.

Speaking of his recent "Champion of Berlin-2015" Award, the boxer said it was important for him.

Arthur Abraham told reporters in Armenia he married a few months ago, but tried to keep it secret.

The boxer said he'll have another bout by the end of the year and will stay in professional boxing for another two years.

Hidden portrait 'found under Mona Lisa', says French scientist

An image of a portrait underneath the Mona Lisa has been found beneath the existing painting using reflective light technology, according to a French scientist, the BBC reports.

Pascal Cotte said he has spent more than 10 years using the technology to analyse the painting.

He claims the earlier portrait lies hidden underneath the surface of Leonardo's most celebrated artwork.

A reconstruction shows another image of a sitter looking off to the side.

The Louvre Museum has declined to comment on his claims.

Instead of the famous, direct gaze of the painting which hangs in the Louvre Museum in Paris, the image of the sitter also shows no trace of her enigmatic smile, which has intrigued art lovers for more than 500 years.

But Mr Cotte's claims are controversial and have divided opinion among Leonardo experts.

The scientist, who is the co-founder of Lumiere Technology in Paris, was given access to the painting in 2004 by the Louvre.

He has pioneered a technique called Layer Amplification Method (LAM), which he used to analyse the Mona Lisa.

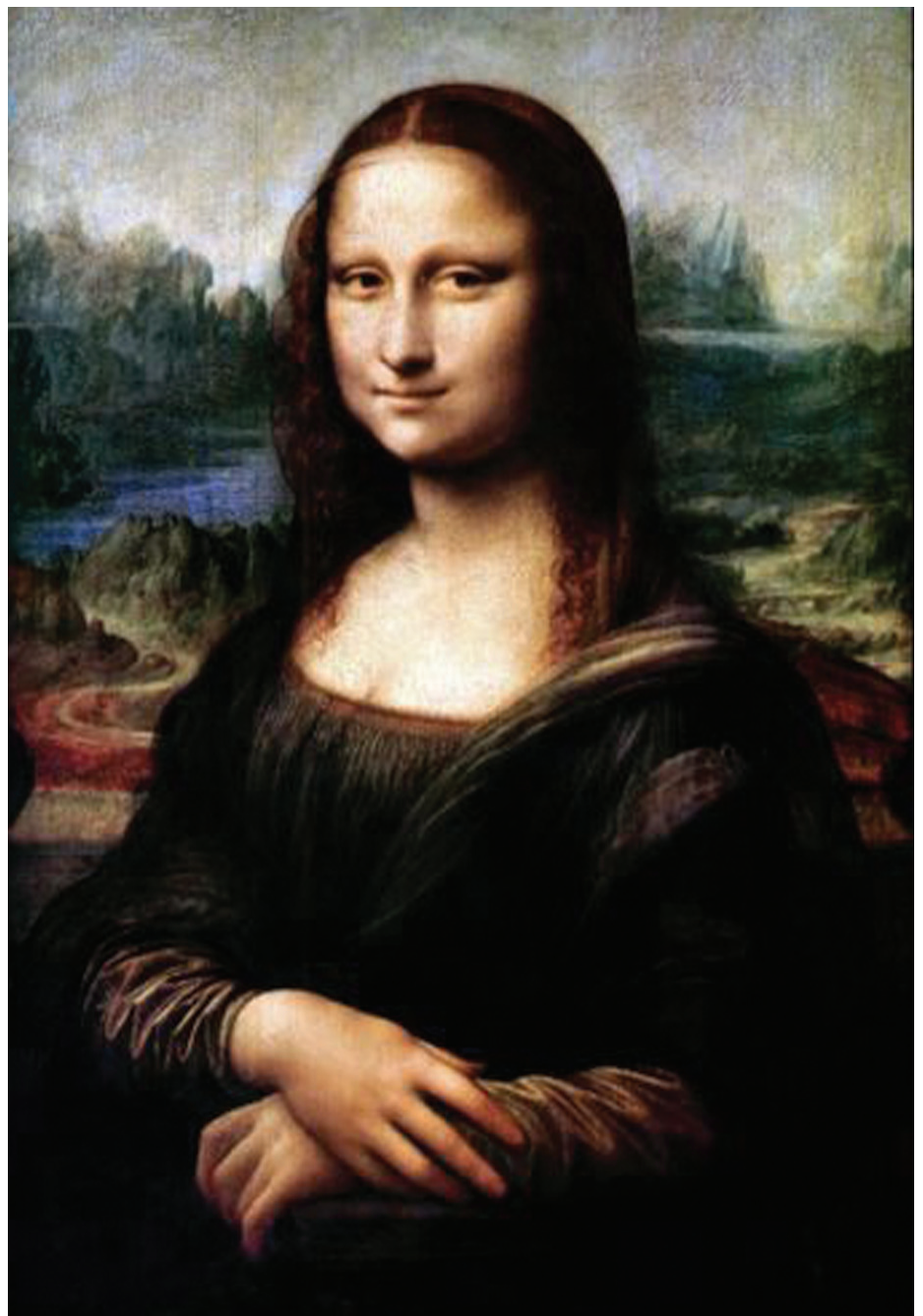
It works by "projecting a series of intense lights" on to the painting, Mr Cotte said. A camera then takes measurements of the lights' reflections and from those measurements, Mr Cotte

said he is able to reconstruct what has happened between the layers of the paint.

The Mona Lisa has been the subject of several scientific examinations over more than half a century. More recent techniques include infrared inspections and multi-spectral scanning.

But Mr Cotte has claimed his technique is able to penetrate more deeply into the painting.

He said: "We can now analyse exactly what is happening inside the layers of the paint and we can peel like an onion all the layers of the painting. We can reconstruct all the chronology of the creation of the painting."



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries

(March 20-April 19)

You have been dealing with a dilemma over the past 2-3 weeks. You want very much to manage your own life with few, if any "rules" imposed upon you. This is fine. However, where does that leave the other people in your personal circle? This week they will be the squeaking wheels. It is an ongoing existential dilemma to do your own thing and also be in relationship.

Taurus

(April 20 -- May 20)

Events of this week trigger your sense of compassion and draw you into the need to assist in the healing of another. As you live into this experience, you will discover that having compassion also heals you. Your spirit will be lifted. Don't ignore the call.

Gemini

(May 20-June 20)

There are occasionally moments in life when we are focused upon contemplation of the deeper topics in life. Why am I here? What is my purpose? Where am I headed? Do I take action based upon my principles or am I adopting the values of someone else? Taking stock periodically brings a stronger sense of direction.

Cancer

(June 21-July 21)

This holiday season is tainted with sadness for you. It happens to everyone, sooner or later. Old memories surface from the past and may seem to taunt you. Give each one the attention it is due and then move onto the next one that surfaces. Fighting them is not the best thing to do. It will just make the sad period drag on longer. But do take a fun break now and then.

Leo

(July 22-August 21)

You are oh, so tempted, to open the credit cards and spend, spend, spend. Your mood is expansive and optimistic this week. Enjoying your creativity and your "playmates" could break the bank. Now is not the time to go Christmas shopping lest you run up balances that will be hard to manage later.

Virgo

(August 22-September 22)

Mercury, your ruling planet, moves into the sector of life related to children, recreation, personal creativity, and romance. Your attention will be focused in these areas through most of January. Mercury will be retrograding for a good part of that time, so you can expect to change and re-change your mind in any of these areas. Don't consider decisions to be set in concrete.

Libra

(Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

If you feel anger brewing below the surface, speak up during a quiet moment of conversation. Don't ignore it or a sudden and unexpected episode this week may cause you to explode. Your reflexes and reactions may be too quick for your highest good. Use caution when driving, dealing with tools, and in exercise.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 21)

Venus entered your sign on the 4th and will be traveling "with you" through the end of this year. Her presence gives you an air of poise and people will simply like how you look. You may become interested in your personal appearance and make improvements in how you are seen. The goddess of love brings complements, small gifts, romance, or other pleasures.

Sagittarius

(November 22-December 20)

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

Capricorn

(December 21-January 19)

Mercury travels slowly through your sign between now and Feb 12. It will be going through its retrograde cycle before it moves along. Take care with any decision of importance because you likely will find reason to change your mind more than once. New information keeps popping up to muddy the works. This is normal with Mercury retrogrades. You must make multiple decisions that cause you to think deeply about who you are.

Aquarius

(January 20-February 17)

It is particularly important that you drive and handle tools carefully during this period. Don't allow yourself to get in a hurry to go anywhere, lest you meet with an accident. This might be on foot or in a vehicle. You may feel temperamental and in the mood to keep your own company this week. Follow this internal advice for best results.

Pisces

(February 18-March 19)

You have several aspects that favor romance, the arts, and things of beauty. You may be the happy recipient of small gifts, compliments or favors from others. Your mind wants to wander in the world of fantasy, daydreams, good books, and music. It is not a great week for getting things done, but you will enjoy the journey.

Shadowmatic among Apple's Best Games of 2015

American tech giant Apple has summed up 2015, selecting the best applications from the App Store for different countries.

Developed by Armenian Triada Studio Games, the popular Shadowmatic 3-D puzzle was included in the list of the best games of 2015. Apple recognized Shadowmatic as the Game of the Year and Best Innovative Game of the Year in several countries simultaneously.

Traditionally, Best of App Store is awarded to applications for iPhone and iPad separately, with Shadowmatic winning on both platforms.

The puzzle won the title of Game of the Year for iPhone in China, India and Russia, as well as Best iPhone Games in the United States, Britain, France and Germany. In Hong Kong and Taiwan, the game won in the category Most Innovative Game of the Year for iPhone, and received the title of the Most Brilliant Bestseller for iPhone in Korea. Also, Shadowmatic was named the Best iPhone Game in Japan.

The game has been recognized as the Game of the Year for iPad in Japan and won the Best Games for iPad award in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, France, Great Britain, Mexico and the United States. In China, Hong Kong, Korea and Taiwan, Shadowmatic won the title of the Most Innovative Game of the Year for iPad.

Launched on January 15, 2015, Shadowmatic found itself in the center of attention: the game was included in the AppStore's Editor's Choice section, with Apple naming it the best game of January. On April 4, 2015, Shadowmatic was honored at ArmNet Awards, scoring prizes in Innovations and Design and Comfort nominations, as well as Grand Prix for the best mobile app. In May, the 3D puzzle scored the Excellence in Visual Art and Media Choice awards at DevGAMM international conference in Moscow. The game was also featured in the Game of the Day section at the iOS Games website for iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch games.

Shadowmatic earned the highest accolade from tech giant Apple, winning the Apple Design Awards prize in early June, 2015.

Apple Design Awards (ADA) is a special event hosted



by Apple Inc. at its annual Worldwide Developers Conference. The event is meant to recognize the best and most innovative Macintosh and iOS software and hardware produced by independent developers, as well as the best and most creative uses of Apple's products. The ADAs, as they are commonly known, are awarded in a variety of categories which vary from year to year. Since 2003 the physical awards were designed with an Apple logo that glows when touched.

As children, all of us loved to play with our own shadows on the wall. By manipulating the hands and fingers, we sometimes managed to form figures with the shadow, resembling a dog, swan and other things.

Shadowmatic is an imagination-firing puzzle where users rotate abstract objects in three dimensions and use their shadows to create recognizable silhouettes on the wall. The game progresses through different rooms, which are all designed to look relevant to the hidden silhouette. There are also secret levels enabling the player to get not one, but several shades of various items.

The game includes over 70 levels and 9 rooms, each of which has its own unique atmosphere with a related music composition. The game has a special hint system to help users guess the correct option in exchange for some points. In any event, to enjoy the game the creators advise to use the tips only in extreme cases.

Shadowmatic is available for iOS devices, compatible to iPhone 3GS and above, iPad 2 and above, 4th generation iPod Touch and above.



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