



#3 (900)
30 January
2012

Price: 1000 drams

"Merci, la France!"



From the early morning of January 24 people rushed to the French Embassy in Yerevan to express their gratitude for the French Senate's passing the Bill on penalization of the Armenian Genocide denial

See below and p.6

HIGHLIGHT

President of Armenia receives Eric Rubin

On January 27, President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan received U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Eric Rubin. The parties referred to Armenian-American relations, regional issues, emphasizing the importance of expansion of the economic relations especially in the fields of high technologies and energy.

"We want to continuously expand the Armenian-American relations in all the spheres," said President Serzh Sargsyan.

"Now when we mark the 20th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and the USA, we want to assure that the commitment of the USA and its people to independence, welfare and success of Armenia remains at the same high level," stressed Eric Rubin.

Is everybody against the Republicans?

by David Petrosian

In the opinion of any Western expert in electoral systems, the ongoing political campaign in Armenia with the demand to change the principle of forming future parliaments by using a 100% proportional electoral system appears at least strange, especially as the Electoral Code has already been "reformed", and the amendments have been approved by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe. Indeed, in accordance with the Electoral Code, the composition of the National Assembly of Armenia shall be formed by the mixed system: 41 mandates shall be given to deputies elected in majoritarian districts and 90 mandates to those elected by the proportional system (the party list system). It should be mentioned that the parliament of the current term of legislature, which was elected in 2007, also has such a ratio of deputies.

Nevertheless, a short excursus to Armenia's contemporary political history would be useful to analyze the changes in the ratio of parliament deputies elected by the majoritarian and proportional systems.

The entire first parliament (1990-1995) of the Third Republic was elected by the majoritarian system that Armenia had inherited from the masters of the Second Republic – the communists.

All the subsequent elections to the legislative body have shown a clear tendency towards a decline in the number of deputies elected in majoritarian districts and an increase in the number of deputies elected by the proportional electoral system:

- 190 deputies were elected in the 1995 parliamentary elections, including 150 deputies in the majoritarian districts and 40 ones elected by the proportional system;

- In 1999 the number of deputies of the National Assembly was reduced to their number stipulated by the Constitution – 131 deputies. At that time 75 deputies were elected in the majoritarian districts and 56 ones by the proportional system;

- In 2003, 56 deputies were elected by the majoritarian system and 75 ones by the proportional system;

- Finally, in the last elections held in 2007, 41 deputies of the National As-

continued on page 4

"Merci, la France": Achievements and Challenges



By Gourgen James Khazhakian, Chief correspondent

...Tuesday, 24 January, 1.27 a.m. in AMT (THE ARMENIAN TIME, you know...)...

After eight-hour-long, quite emotional and *real* debates, the French Senate has adopted a bill criminalizing the denial of genocides, including the Armenian Genocide (1915)...

"Hey, buddy, get up and hurry up!" a long-standing friend of mine urged me. And it was absolutely meaningless to ask him "where?", because the answer could only be: to the French Embassy!

...I recollected the night of 10 October '73 when the people's euphoria spilled out on to the streets of Yerevan after the glorious victory of the "Ararat" football team in the USSR Cup final vs the all-conquering "Dynamo" of Kiev...

As to very recent times, similar euphoria was in the air after the

liberation of the ancient Armenian city of Shushi in Karabakh on 8 May '93, two unbelievable victories of our guys in the World

pendence could be counted among such memorable events.

Did I say "military", i.e. of the Army?



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the Republic of Armenia His Excellency M. Henri Renaud (in the center)

Chess Olympiad which turned our tiny Republic into a SUPER-POWER, even if it was only that of chess...

Most probably, the military parade held on the occasion of Armenia's 20th anniversary of inde-

...The universal euphoria coincided with the inspiration caused by the 20th anniversary of THE VICTORIOUS ARMENIAN ARMY, marked by a series of festive events that have been held within

continued on page 6

President of Armenia thanks France's Sarkozy for genocide bill

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan sent a letter to his French counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy on the occasion of the adoption of the bill criminalizing the denial of genocides by the French Senate.

The letter states:

"Dear Mr. President,

Today France has reaffirmed its greatness and power, its devotion to the universal human values.

This day is exceptional for all those, who are struggling for the protection of human rights, for the condemnation and prevention of the crimes against humanity.

This is a historic day for the Armenians all over the world – in Ar-

menia, in France, everywhere.

Finally, this is an unforgettable day, and it will be inscribed in gold into the centuries-long history of the Armenian and French peoples.

Dear Mr. President,

I thank you for your personal commitment, for your invaluable input which made possible the adoption of the law criminalizing the denial of genocides. I convey to you these words of gratitude and wish you new and greater achievements for the benefit and the best future of France and the French people.

Please accept, dear Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration."



Genocide bill mechanism to prevent new crimes against humanity – Armenian FM

Adoption of the bill criminalizing genocide denials is an important mechanism to prevent new crimes against humanity, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian told reporters on Wednesday, January 25.

He called adoption of the bill "an important step" which can be not only welcomed by supported by other countries, AFP reports.

"The first thing we have to do is turn a page in our common history with Turkey, not through denial but through recognition of the Armenian genocide. We do hope very

much that there will come a day when Turkey itself recognises the Armenian genocide," he said during his visit to Latvia.

In his turn, Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics stressed that there is an issue "where we understand the pain of the Armenian people". However, Latvian FM noted that the discussion of the past should be held "in an academic rather than politicized environment."

Edward Nalbandian has left for a visit to Latvia and Lithuania on January 25.

Yerevan Mayor receives Iranian Ambassador to Armenia

Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan met with Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Seyed Ali Saghaiyan, press service of the municipality told Noyan Tapan.



Attaching importance to the current level of Armenian-Iranian relations and bilateral partner ties, Taron Margaryan said a long-term cooperation experience has been established between the local authorities of the two countries and

that experience must be expanded and strengthened with the help of practical projects.

"Yerevan Mayor's Office cooperates with Mayor Offices of Isfahan, Tabriz, Shiraz and Tehran. We are ready to discuss programs concerning all areas of the urban economy," Taron Margaryan mentioned.

The mayor highlighted the cooperation in the field of green-covering and expressed hope that the cooperation will continue in the future as well.

The Iranian Ambassador stressed the importance of partnership in areas like transportation unloading, waste recycling and environmental issues.

President Serzh Sargsyan met in Sochi with the Russian President Dmitry Medvedev

President Serzh Sargsyan, who was in the Russian Federation on a working visit on January 23, met in Sochi with the Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

At the meeting, Presidents Sargsyan and Medvedev discussed cooperation of the two states in the economic, trade, military-technical, other areas as well as regional issues. They also spoke about the results of cooperation in 2011 and future development programs aimed at the further advancement of the bilateral ties.

"Esteemed Serzh Azatovich, we have created a good tradition of meeting in wintertime in Sochi, in the mountains. I believe it is emblematic. Now, we will discuss the current state of the Armenian-Russian relations, and will recap the results of last year. It was not bad – from the viewpoint of the turnover and other aspects of our cooperation – from the economic and up to the military and technical cooperation. As for the future, along with the traditional business development, which has penetrated all areas of the Armenian-Russian cooperation, it is also necessary to contemplate major programs.

Beside the bilateral relations, I also propose to discuss regional issues. The life is complicated enough; there is a number of tricky challenges, including also in our re-

gion. Later, we will continue with the discussions on one of the most intricate regional issue – discussions on the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict; this will be done with the participation of our Azerbaijani colleague.



I cordially welcome You and I am very happy to once again see you here, in Sochi," the President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev said at the meeting with the President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan.

Serzh Sargsyan thanked Dmitry Medvedev for the invitation and for the efforts exercised by the Russian President towards the resolution of the NK issue.

"These meetings have indeed

become traditional; they are very useful. I thank You for the efforts exercised towards the resolution of the NK issue. Indeed, these meetings, Your efforts, the time You give for the resolution of this issue allow to have more or less manageable

situation in the South Caucasus. For that very reason, these meetings are very useful and, naturally, it is also a nice opportunity to discuss our bilateral issues.

I fully share the viewpoint that last year was not bad. In any case, the turnover has increased by some 15 percent. It is tangible. And thank You for the readiness to discuss major programs. It is very important for us," said the President of Armenia.

The Presidents of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan held a trilateral meeting in Sochi

The bilateral meeting of Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Dmitry Medvedev was followed by the trilateral meeting of the Presidents of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan, and was dedicated to the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. The Parties adopted a joint Declaration.



Joint Declaration by the Presidents of the Republic of Armenia, Russian Federation and Republic of Azerbaijan on the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict (January 23, 2012)

At the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation, the Presidents of the Republic of Armenia, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan met on January 23, 2012 in Sochi and dis-

cussed issues pertinent to the process and prospects of the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

The leaders of the three states underscored the great amount of work conducted towards the resolution of the NK conflict, starting from their meeting on November 2, 2008 when the Parties adopted the

the Basic Principles, taking into account all the works conducted so far.

The two Presidents hailed the mediation mission of the Russian Federation and other Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and expressed hope that the RF, the USA and France in that capacity will in the future also bring their active participation to the process of settlement until eventual peace and stability have been established in the region.

Further to the provision of the Joint Declaration adopted on March 5, 2011 in Sochi, the Presidents of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan took note of the jointly drafted report by the Co-Chairs and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office pertinent to the mechanisms for the investigation of the accidents along the line of contact and directed to continue that work.

The Presidents reaffirmed that in the context of the NK settlement, the development of humanitarian contacts between the parties is part of the confidence building measures. With this regard, the Presidents of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan expressed readiness to encourage the establishment of a subsequent dialogue between the representatives of intelligentsia, scientific and social circles.

Turkologist says decision of France's Senate unprecedented

The decision of France's Senate was unprecedented as irrespective of Turkey's threats the Senate confronted them and adopted the bill penalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide, Turkologist Anush Hovhannissyan told a news conference January 25.

According to her, the Senate's decision has started having its impact on the inner-political life of Turkey as many Turkish parties, using this decision, strictly criticize the ruling party of that country.

"This decision cannot have an impact on Armenian-Turkish relations as there are no such relations," she said.

Hovhannissyan noted that not denying the fact of the Genocide

the senators who were against the adoption of the bill were saying that the laws about history must not be brought to the political field.

"It is Turkey's diplomatic step which they use for quite a long time," she said.

The Turkologist said currently Turkish-French relations are in critical phase and no qualitative changes are expected. "This decision is more a wish to restrict Turkey," Hovhannissyan said.

Expert Vladimir Vardanyan noted that the majority of mass media were presenting the decision as a pre-electoral step.

"The positive side of the decision was that neither of the French senators disputed the fact of the Armenian Genocide," he said.

Will the Armenians in Turkey "pay a high price" for the French Senate's decision?

Turkey is preparing to make amendments in No. 5683 law on Residence and Travels of Foreigners. These amendments will also concern Armenian migrant workers living in Turkey.

Bianet.org reports that the President of Turkish Migrants' Association for Social Cooperation and Culture Sefika Gurbuz said that the adoption of the amendments into the law is due to be held already next week.

The head of the Association noted that the authorities agree to adopt these amendments to stop the flow of illegal migrant workers and contribute to reducing the unemployment level of Turkish citizens.

However, Sefika Gubuz said that the amendments should be considered in the light of the French Senate's adoption of the bill on banning the denial of genocides' including the Armenian Genocide.

According to her, the law is "a threat directed against Armenians".

Specialist of Turkish studies Artak Shakaryan noted talking to Mediamax that the adoption of these amendments was scheduled earlier but the Turkish side was waiting of the most convenient moment. "Though in fact these amendments solve the problem of migration and will concern not only the Armenian migrant workers but Azeris, Ukrainians and representatives of other nationalities as well, their adoption will bear an open anti-Armenian character today", stated the expert.

He recalled that still before the French Senate's adoption of the bill, Erdogan warned that "a wrong step in this issue will harm Armenians living in Turkey".

According to Artak Shakaryan, the data cited by the Turkish Prime Minister are exaggerated. According to the specialist of Turkish studies, maximum 30-40 thousand Armenian migrant workers currently live in Turkey and the Armenian community of Istanbul makes 70 thousand.

We want for Armenians, Turks to accept reality of 1915 – US Ambassador to Turkey



In an interview with Turkish journalists, US Ambassador to Turkey, Francis Ricciardone, spoke about the regional issues.

And with respect to the French Senate's passing of the bill that

criminalizes the denial of genocides, including the Armenian Genocide, the American ambassador noted that France is an ancient and a very important friend of the United States. "Turkey is such, too. We want for the Turks and the Armenians to genuinely and fully accept the events in connection with 1915. The simple, straightforward, and constructive way is the most correct way. A meeting of the historians of the two parties must be organized. There is more contact between the Turks and the Armenians. We, as Americans, are interested in the future," the US Ambassador to Ankara said, Hurriyet daily of Turkey informs.

Turkey considerably contributed to adoption of the bill on banning Armenian Genocide's denial, the political scientist thinks

Political scientist Karen Bekaryan expressed the opinion on January 25 that if Turkey didn't demonstrate "hysterical behavior" during the discussion and adoption of the bill on banning the Armenian Genocide's denial, voting of the French Senate would have a different result.

"A broad layer of the European society can't imagine that a country which is a candidate for EU mem-



bership may have a political culture of threatening and blackmail", said Karen Bekaryan and added that Tur-

key's political conduct and hostile stance towards Armenians "considerably contributes to the process as a great number of Europeans begins to understand whom they are dealing with".

The political scientist also expressed the confidence that the bill doesn't contradict the freedom of expression as denial of genocides is equal to calls to racism which also is considered to be a crime.

French Senate's decision to raise wave of Armenian Genocide recognition-Russian expert

French Senate's decision is really historical, director of the Institute of Political and Social Researches of the Black Sea and Caspian Region Vladimir Zakharov said during a Yerevan-Moscow space bridge on Wednesday, January 25.

"Now it is impossible to say that the Armenian Genocide did not occur, as Turkey and Azerbaijan used to claim," the expert said adding that the adoption of the bill by such an influential state would inevitably rise a wave of recognition of the Armenian Genocide. He recollected the Holocaust Museum head's



words that the Holocaust was a repetition of the Armenian Genocide.

"I do not doubt that other states will also take certain moves. However, time is needed," he said.

In his turn, another Russian political analyst Andrey Areshev

speaking on emotional reaction of Turkey towards French MPs, said the situation will become stable in a while, taken into account that it is not the first case in the history of French-Turkish relation.

According to him, the current 'Turkey's measures against France' is a declaration intended for domestic policy. If Turkey really wishes to set up normal relations with its neighbors, it should show more balanced approach and review its own history. Besides, such processes are already running in Turkey, the expert stated.

Clinton says genocide recognition opens "dangerous door"

By Ara Khachatourian

This is the same Hillary Clinton who, four years ago, pledged that she would recognize the Genocide as U.S. President.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Thursday, Jan 26, said the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the U.S. "opens a door that is a very dangerous one to go through."

This is the same Hillary Clinton who, four years ago, pledged that she would recognize the Genocide as President of the United States, Asbarez reports.

Responding to a question from a participant of a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, who asked why the U.S. does not recognize the Genocide, Clinton characterized the Armenian Genocide as an historical issue and not a political one.

"I think it's fair to say that this has always been viewed, and I think properly so, as a matter of historical debate and conclusions rather than political. And I think that is the right posture for the United States Government to be in, because whatever the terrible event might be or the high emotions that it represents, to try to use government power to resolve historical issues, I think, opens a door that is a very dangerous one to go through. So the issue is a very emotional one; I recognize that and I have great sympathy for those who are

just so incredibly passionate about it," Clinton told the audience.

"But I think the free market of ideas, the academic community, the open architecture of communi-

ence.

She also took time to respond to a question from the same person on Monday's passage of the French Senate resolution criminalizing the



cation that is even greater now than it was in the past, are the proper fora for this kind of engagement, and that's where I hope it is worked out. And eventually, people will have their own conclusions, which needs to be respected, but we need to encourage anyone on any side of any contentious historical debate to get out into the marketplace of ideas. Muster your evidence, put forth your arguments, and be willing to engage, and that's what I think should happen on that too," added Clinton who received a round of applause from the audi-

denial of the Armenian Genocide.

"...One of our great strengths is we do not criminalize speech. People can say nearly anything they choose, and they do, in our country. And so other countries, including close friends and allies like France, have different standards, different histories, but we are, I hope, never going to go down that path to criminalize speech," explained the Secretary of State, who seems to have forgotten that there are succinct laws against hate speech in the US, under which people can be prosecuted.

Report on Armenia to be presented during PACE summer session

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), in all appearances, will adopt a resolution on Armenia during its summer session, which will launch June 25, Noyan Tapan reports.

Naira Zohrabyan, member of the Armenian delegation to PACE, reported from Strasburg that the resolution is more rational to adopt during the summer session, when the parliamentary elections will be finished and their results will be reflected in the resolution as well.

Ms. Zohrabyan said since our

country is in monitoring procedure, reports on countries were regularly presented. "We expect that in the upcoming report the general developments of the home politics will be reflected," she added.

According to her, almost all the delegates, including Thomas Hammaberg, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, noted in their reports that the upcoming elections are among the most important challenges our country faces.

Instead of being corrected shortcomings get worse ahead of elections - Armenian party



The closer the elections are, the more evident it becomes that instead of being corrected the shortcomings get worse, said representative of Armenia's Heritage Party.

In this regard Heritage member Karine Hakobyan recalled President Serzh Sargsyan's words that these elections will differ from the

previous ones by their transparency and justice.

"Words must be followed by actions which did not happen. Heritage party is worried about this. I want to remind that Heritage leader Raffi Hovhannisyan has offered in his letter to work for fair and transparent elections step by step. It is time for the public to come to senses or they will be pushed aside as audience," she told journalists on Thursday.

According to Karine Hakobyan, the political field resembles a one-wing monster which is the government. She also mentioned that distrusts the disagreements between the Prosperous Party and Republican Party, both ruling forces.

The Iranian people are not ready to abandon their legitimate rights under pressure

"Continuing its illegal steps at the 23 January 2012 meeting, the Council of EU Foreign Ministers took a number of illogical and inadmissible decisions related to the Islamic Republic of Iran," is said in a report submitted to Noyan Tapan by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The report notes that "while condemning this unprincipled step and emphasizing Iran's responsible policy aimed at forming relations with other countries based on international law and rules as well as mutual respect, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that these decisions will have unpleasant consequences for European and other peoples. The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stressed the peaceful nature of its nuclear program and always continued cooperation within the framework of its

commitments to the International Atomic Energy Agency, sparing no efforts to make its nuclear program most transparent. It seems that the European Union, continuing the illogical policy of the United States and bypassing its own economic and social problems, wants to detract the attention of public opinion from the popular soberness striving for justice and the ongoing movements against discrimination and capitalism.

The Iranian people have proven many a time that they are not ready to abandon their legitimate rights under pressure. While offering resistance in accordance with justice-seeking principles and the firm belief in international peace and stability, the Iranian people will never give up in the face of such actions in the future too and they warn the heads of Western countries that opposing the independence and progress of sovereign states will multiply grave problems in the world and that it is the European Union, that will bear responsibility for the consequences of such ill-considered decisions as well as for the efforts to cause tension and a crisis".



Is everybody against the Republicans?

from page 1

sembly were elected in the majoritarian districts and 90 deputies were elected by the proportional system.

Throughout the twenty years of the existence of the Third Republic, the Electoral Code has been reformed in the periods between parliamentary elections, with the support of European experts. One of the constant demands made by the Armenian opposition (different political forces have occupied that niche at different times) was either the greatest possible reduction in the number of deputies elected in majoritarian districts or the abolition of the majoritarian electoral system.

How can one explain the constancy of these demands over the last 18 (!) years and how can one explain such a fierce resistance of those in power for all these years? It should be noted that we mean the events taking place since 1994 when the first post-communist reforms of the Electoral Code began.

Over the last 18 years, the reasons for the demand to abolish the majoritarian system (another option is to reduce the number of deputies elected in majoritarian districts) and the reasons for refusal to give in to these demands have not changed, that is to say:

- The opposition has constantly made this demand for the simple reason that the existence of majoritarian districts throughout these years has been the most important mechanism making it possible to rig elections. The overwhelming majority of candidates running in majoritarian districts are either nabobs or persons who are directly or indirectly connected with criminals. During elections, these candidates also secure votes for one of the ruling parties, by the proportional system. At the 2012 elections, they will attempt to secure votes for the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA). In order not to discredit themselves by being connected with such candidates, the ruling parties very often do not put them on their proportional lists. For that reason they often run as nonpartisan or "independent" candidates. Later, after receiving a deputy mandate, they either overtly join the parliamentary majority in the parliament or simply support the "party in power" with their votes. Thus the deputies elected in majoritarian districts constitute an efficient

mechanism for retaining power;

- running in an election only by the proportional system is far less costly for the opposition as the opposition considerably yields to the "party in power" in terms of its financial, information and other resources. Besides, the proportional system gives the Armenian opposition the opportunity to move its election campaign to the political scene, curbing the influence of nabobs and criminals. By securing votes in the proportional part of elections for ruling parties by means of vote rigging, nabobs and criminals receive mandates in majoritarian districts as a reward for their services. The absence of a reward in the form of a mandate in a majoritarian district means the absence of a motivation for vote rigging.

Meanwhile, most political forces in Armenia have demonstrated that they are ready to act in concord so as to endorse the legislative initiative of the parliamentary opposition parties – Heritage Party and ARF-Dashnaksutyun. It is these two parties that try to pilot through the parliament the demand to hold elections by the 100% proportional electoral system. The extra-parliamentary opposition – the Armenian National Congress (ANC) declared that it will support this political demand and the legislative initiative by staging rallies, the first of which is scheduled for February 17.

The initiative to hold parliamentary elections by the 100% proportional system is backed not only by other extra-parliamentary political forces (both right-wing and left-wing ones), but also by some deputies of Prosperous Armenia Party that makes part of the governing parliamentary coalition.

The appeals regarding this issue, which were addressed by the parliamentary opposition and the ANC to the PACE co-rapporteur on Armenia John Prescott, have been disregarded for a number of reasons, including the following ones:

- John Prescott believes that his major goal is to achieve such a situation in Armenia, in which the events of 1 March, 2008 will not repeat themselves, but he is unable or

unwilling to link those events with the vote rigging. For this reason the PACE co-rapporteur focuses on reforms in the judicial system and the police, rather than on the Electoral Code;

- Like all the Britons, the British MP is a staunch supporter of the majoritarian system, and it is difficult to convince him that this system is inappropriate for any other country. He has no intention of going into Armenia's peculiarities, although he must do it;

- Mr. Prescott has absolute trust in the Serzh Sargsyan administration and the parliamentary majority – regarding all matters, including their solemn oaths to hold fair elections, so any attempt to achieve a certain degree of objectivity from him would be a waste of time.

On the whole, an interesting situation has emerged on the political scene of Armenia as a result of the political campaign related to the demand to hold the upcoming parliamentary elections only by the proportional system. The crux of the matter is that the Republican Party of Armenia, which has a majority of mandates in the parliament (66 of the 131 mandates), has found itself in political isolation. To parry the opponents' demands, the Republicans offer rather unconvincing arguments about the "inexpediency and inopportune" of such a decision and about the need to make amendments to the Constitution (???) which says nothing about the electoral system, and so on. However, their main argument is that the RPA has a majority in the parliament and it will not allow any amendments (undesirable for RPA) to the Electoral Code. That's all there is to it.

Despite these "arguments", the Republicans should consider the fact that their grip on power in Armenia for the last 17 years in various formats (since 1999, only the Republicans have served as Prime Ministers of Armenia, while since 2008 the party has also controlled the post of President) – against the background of a complex social situation – may cause a feeling of tiredness in society.

The Noyan Tapan Media Holding staff expresses deep condolences to its long time members Davit Petrosyan and Susanna Petrosyan on the death of their mother Anahit Petrosyan

Highly qualified experts of "Noyan Tapan" training center invite you for the following courses:

- TOEFL (IBT, PBT)
- CBT
- Business English (1-6 levels)
- General English
- GMAT
- GRE
- SAT

For the proper information call (from 9:00 till 18:00)
(010) 56-59-65, (055) 27-64-78, (077) 76-55-77
or visit Isahakyan 28, 3rd floor



YOUR DEAL IS OUR DEAL

MREALTY

5 6 4 6 3 1
5 6 2 1 8 1

12 G. Lusavorich str,
Mrealty@list.ru, www.mrealty.am

FOR SALE

1 ROOMS

- **683. Argisht street, Glendel Hills, 14/10.** 35.4sqm, newly built, euro repaired, gas in the building, permanent water, beautiful view of ravine. Price 45.000USD
- **684. Mashtoc avenue. 5/4,** 37.4 sq.m., 1 room, stone building, a need to repair, old tiles, no water and gas, balcony looks at the avenue. Price: 70.000 USD
- **645. Baghramyan Street, 5/1,** 48 sq/m, newly repaired, iron door, euro windows, doors, AC, cabin, water tank. Price: 58.000USD
- **711. Abovyan Street, 5/5,** 38.5sq.m, 1room, repaired, euro doors and windows, furnished, tiled bathroom, water, gas, Baxi heating system. Price: 65.000 USD
- **706 Amiryan Street, Saryan Street, 11/6,** 44 sq.m, 1 turned into 2, euro repaired, furnished, inhabited, tiles, studio kitchen, AC, an iron door. Price: 24 000 000 AMD

2 ROOMS

- **1445. Sayat-Nova street. 5/4,** 73 sq.m. 2 rooms, stone building, capitally repaired, furnished, h-3 m. Price: 150 000 USD
- **1467. Mashtoc av. 8/5,** 81sq.m. 2 made 3 , stone , special project , old but repaired, always running hot and cold water, looking at the Sun. Price 125.000\$
- **1440. North Avenue,** 3rd floor, 110sqm, 1 bedroom, newly built, euro repaired, furniture, parking, h-3m, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, heating system. Price 350.000USD
- **1459. Baghramyan Avenue. 5/3,** 55 sq.m., 2 rooms, capitally repaired, h-3.8 m, balcony, iron door, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, furniture and techniques. Price: 49. 000.000 AMD
- **1458. Bryusov street. 9/8,** 68 sq.m., 2 rooms, normal state, Baxi system, Czech tiles, showcases, wood doors and parquet. Price 70.000 USD
- **1498. Saryan Street, 5/3,** 67sq.m 2 rooms, newly capitally repaired, stone house, Stalin's project, covered with concrete, euro windows and doors, 2AC, heating system 3mit. Price: 100.000 USD
- **1503 Buzand Street, 11/6,** 74sq.m 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 155.000 USD

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
- **Tumanyan str. 5/3,** 170 sqm, 4 rooms, 2 garages for 3 cars, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped, permanent water, gas, heating system, 3 balconies. Price: 1100 USD
- **2335. Mashtots Avenue. 4/4,** 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 lavatories, stone building, euro repair, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquetry, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 120000 USD
- **2348. Abovyan Street, 4/2,** 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, conreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system. Price: 175000 USD preliminary
- **2395. North Avenue.** 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m-1600 USD
- **2540 Deghatan Street, 8/7,** 137.5sq.m 4 rooms, newly capitally repaired, euro windows and doors, furnished kitchen, 3 bathrooms, laundry,1 open storage balcony, water, gas, Baxi heating system, 2AC, 2 satellites, Jacuzzi, alarm system, service fee - 5000 AMD. Price: 275.000 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, capitally repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- **1725. Hanrapetutyany str.,** 1storied, 171sqm, 2 entrances, capitally repaired, permanent hot and cold water. Price 500.000USD
- **1703. Northern Avenue, 9/7,** 66sqm, capitally 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+foye, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500000 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 cols water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- **Tumanyan str., 3/1,** 100 sqm, office space, not repaired, entrance from the street, windows looking at the yard. Price: 115.000 USD
- **1603. North avenue,** 159 sq.m., 1st floor. Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1sq.m. 10000USD

- **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

- **2122. Davitashen,** 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- **1869. Kaskade.** 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- **2121. Centre,** land-1338sqm, 1100sqm 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 2800USD
- **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
- **Avan, Ayntapi str., near Star Supermarket,** 1st line, 528 sqm, land attached to a house, water, canalization, front-25m. Price: 60.000 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
- **3063. Komitas A. Avetisyan street,** 3storied+cellar, total-500sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, cabinet, possible to sell with furniture. Price-negotiable
- **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-negotiable.
- **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
- **3103. Ajapnyak community, Miraqyan street.** 1 storey, land -264.8 sq.m., building 110 sq.m., euro repair, euro windows, 5 rooms, 1 lavatory, Baxi system, kitchen, book, ramparted. Price: 90000 USD
- **3105. Kaskad, Antarain.** 4 stories, land 1800 sq.m., building 1000 sq.m., newly built, need of cosmetic repair, windows, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, 4 bedrooms, ramparted, solar lamps, security system, cameras, external lighting. Price: 1. 300.000 USD
- **3054. Blur, Kharkovyan street.** 3 storied building, land 400 sq.m., building 450 sq.m., new, euro repair, ramparted, 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories inside, 2 lavatories outside, Baxi system. Price 800 000 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

- **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
- **90. Main avenue.** Newly built, 2 buildings, 14 stories. Ready for habitation at the end of 2013, at the beginning of 2014. Comercial areas on the 1st and on the 2nd floors, flats on the higher floors. Price: 1 sq.m.- 1150 USD 1 sq.m.- 1300 USD
- **91. Main Avenue, Park, near Malibu cafe,** 16 storied newly building, Capitally repaired, heating and security system, 2 lavatories. Price: 1 sq.m.- 2.000 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 cottage 4 flats, totall-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

- **1031. Byuzand street.** 1 room, 34 sq.m, capitally repair, newly built, furniture, techniques, heating, AC, cabin. Price 600 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
- **1057. Argishti str., 14/9,** 1 room, furnished, heating system, permanent hot and cold water, AC
- **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
- **1024. Amiryan street. 12/3,** 1turned into 2, 50 sq.m, euro repair, techniques. Price: 1 day 60 USD
- **853. Amiryan 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

- **1024. Amiryan street. 12/3.** 2 rooms, 50 sq.m, euro repaire, furniture, techniques. Price: 1 day -50 USD, a month: 700 USD
- **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
- **2022. Amiryan street, 4/3.** 74 sq.m., 2 turned into 3, newly repaired, Spanish tiles, jakoozi, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, techniques. Price 1500 USD, 1 day 100 USD
- **2057. Sayat-Nova. 11/4,** 2 turned into 3, 78 sq.m., capitally 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
- **115. Buzand str. Building 7, /near Republic Square/, 9/4,** 75 sq.m, 2 rooms, newly built, capitally and euro repaired, furnished, equipped, permanent water, gas, heating system, AC, open balcony. Price: 1100 USD long-term, 1500 USD short-term.
- **2119. Argishti,Glendale Hills /, 7th floor ,** 2 rooms, 46 sq.m, capitally repaired, new furniture, tiled bathroom, equipped, water, gas, Baxi heating system, refrigerator, TV, balcony for storage. Price: 450 USD , 50 USD per day
- **2108. Amirtyan str. /City center/,** 2 rooms, AC, washing machine, TV, refrigerator, satellite, bed sheets, utensil, all the conveniences. Price: 600 USD , 60 USD per day
- **2138. Al. Mnukyan str., 5/4,** 2 rooms, 65sq, 1t. Euro repaired, euro doors, euro windows, furniture, technique, water, gas, baxi. Price: 600 USD , 20.000 AMD per day

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- **1137. Moskovyan str., 6/1,** 2 bedrooms, lavatory, normal state, furnished, technique, DVD, AC, permanent hot and cold water. Price 1100USD, possible daily rent.
- **1856 Abovyan str. 5/4 floor** 3 rooms, 95 sqm, euro repaired, 2 bathrooms,heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, satellite. Price: 750USD, 70-75 USD per day.
- **1874 Amiryan str. 14/5 floor** 120 sqm, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, 2 AC, heating system, parking, looking at the boulevard Price: 2000USD
- **12 Northern Ave. 5/5,6 floor** 450sqm 8 rooms., capitally and euro repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, 3 bathrooms, Price: 1500USD, 300 USD per day
- **13 Orbeli Str. 5/5 floor** 100sqm 3rooms, capitally and euro repaired, newly furnished, equipped,heating system, AC Price: 700 USD, 70USD per day
- **1406. Sayat-Nova str., 7/3,** 110sqm, 2 bedrooms, euro repaired, gas, furnished, technique,

permanent hot and cold water , baxi. Pric negotiable

- **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.
- **1810. North Avenue,** 2bedrooms, newly built, euro repaired, beautiful view, refrigerator, washing machine, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, garage, TV, lavatory, Price negotiable.
- **1787. Koghbaci 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, sattelite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.
- **1720. Amirian Street.,** 3 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.
- **1780. Amiryan Str., Gri Ar, 13,** 82 sq.m, 3 rooms, newly built, euro repaire, furnished, equipped, heating system, AC, loggia balcony Price:1500 USD service fee included

PRIVATE HOUSES

- **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.
- **1808. Amiryan, 4/3,** 3 rooms, 64 sq.m, capitally repaired, Venetian style, furnished, equipped, Spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, no balcony. Price: 800-900 USD, 50 USD per day



- **971. Norq-Marash community The gardens of Norq Ground** 620sq.m, basement +2f. con 733.15 sq.m, basement: the sport hall, sauna, room for summer, swimming pool, fireplace,1st floor: leaving room, bedroom, kitchen, office, corridor , bathroom, 2nd floor 4 bedrooms, 2 bathroom(Spanish), always running cold and hot water, natural gas, 2 conditioner, baxi. Price 1500\$
- **1096. Blur,** 4 storied building, each floor-160-sqm, total-400sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor- garage, sport room, swimming pool, 4 bedrooms, summer kitchen, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, furnished, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 4000USD
- **455. Norq,** 3 storied building-150sqm, total -600sqm, 3bedrooms, lavatory, capitally repaired, furnished, technique, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 2000USD
- **1135. Monument V. Papazyan street,** 2floors, total-375sqm, stone building-210sqm, cellar, euro repaired, baxi, AC, garage-14sqm. Price 2000 USD per month.
- **1164. Arabkir, Monument.** 1 storied, land-300 sq.m, building-150 sq.m., capitally repaired, 3 bedrooms, 2lavatories, pool. Price: 1200 USD
- **211. Ajgedzor.** 2 storied, 3 bedrooms, permanent water, capitally repaired, beautiful view, 150 sq.m. Price: 1300-1500 USD
- **721. Blur Qery street,** land 150 sq.m., 2 stories+ a cellar, 200 sq.m., newly built, telephone, 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
- **1121. Vahagni community.** 2 stories, building 402 sq.m.(including garage and cellar) euro repair, 3 bedrooms, hall, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, heating floor, kitchen and dining room are furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- **1142. Djrvje, 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 street.** 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
- **1109. Blur,** 3 storied building, land 400 sq.m., building 450 sq.m., new, euro repair, ramparted, 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories inside, 2 lavatories outside, Baxi system. Price 3800 USD
- **662. Norq gardens, Amarancocayin street.** 2 storied stone building.Land 1000 sq.m., building 300 sq.m., ramparted, 3 lavatories, 3 bedrooms, hall, camin, gas, heating system, stained glasses. Price 3000USD negotiable
- **1071. Noy block. 2.5 storied,** land 400 sq.m., building 500 sq.m., garden 250sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories, 2 kitchen, a hall. Price 3000 USD priliminary
- **1085. Aygestan dstrict.** 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. , capital 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 Marsh district.** 2 storied, a cellar, capitally 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
- **1019. Nork, 2 storied, separate structure,** 700 sq.m. land, 350 sq.m. construction, capital euro repaired, firmished, garage with remote control, pool, 3 bedrooms, one with bathroom, and 2 separate bathrooms. In the first floor sitting-room, gas, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi System, fireplace, view to town, walled. Price: Negotiable
- **211 Aygedzor,** 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, permanent water, capitally repaired, Price:1300-1500 USD

PREMISES

- **1869. Kaskade.** 720 sq.m., 1st line, building permission, suitable for new building or a business center. Price: negotiable
- **1461. Sayat - Nova str.,** 1st floor 95sqm, capitally repaired, 2 halls - 32sqm and 46sqm, kitchen, lavatory, 1 line, 2 entrances. Price 3000USD
- **1525. Hanrapetutyany street,** 1st floor, 3steps up, h-3.20m, repaired, 1 large hall+3 rooms, 2 entrances, kithen, 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
- **1113. Abovyan Koryun district,** 2 storied, 400 sq.m., 2 separate entrances, capital euro repair, convenient for restaurant or shop, has a possibility for open air café. 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
- **1429. Nalbandian St,** 2 stories - 78 sq. m, each story - 38 sq. m, hall, lavatory, 2 show windows, door, two-way entrance, 24-hour water, gas, suitable for any activity. Price: 2300USD
- **1461. Amiryan (down-town),** 1st circle, 5 stored building, 300sq.m is renovated, the rest is under renovation, central heating, climate-control, parking. (tax included) . The price is available for 5 and more years, 2500sq. Price: 1sqm - 40USD
- **1462. Teryan street,** 3 stored, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Price: 10.000USD
- **1757. Mashtoc av. Hin Erevancu,** 2 floors, 250sq, 90 sq and 110 sq salons, absolutely repaired., garden, pool, garage for 3 cars, partly is also available, 520sq.m. Price: 4mln
- **1733. Amiryan /sale is also possible,** 2repaired, door from behind, Showcard, 114sq.m. Price: 640.000AMD
- **1722. Amiryan,** repaired, security system, heating and conditioning, 95sq.m. Price: 1sq - 7000AMD

“Merci, la France”: Achievements and Challenges

from page 1

the last few weeks.

But...was it merely a “coincidence”?

... “Sultan guze jnjel mzi, zartir, Lao, mrnim qzi”, the Armenians gathered at the door of the French Senate (while they, inside the House, were discussing the Bill) were singing this century-old song translated as “*The Sultan (the Turkish) wants to eliminate us, so wake up, dearest Lao! (The Son)*... Well, it seems “Sultan” can no more “eliminate us”, as we have now THE VICTORIOUS ARMENIAN ARMY, and indeed friendly powers such as France itself, our “strategical partner” Russia, America, others.

...Your correspondent has no information on the exact number of GRATEFUL ARMENIANS who rushed to the French Embassy in Yerevan in the night of Jan. 24, -just after the Bill was passed, to say “MERCI, LA FRANCE!” but it’s well-known that from the morning of Jan. 24 numerous people and organizations, -one and all, with portraits of President **Nicolas Sarkozy**, Mme **Valérie Boyer** (member of the National Assembly, main initiator and the defender of the Bill), slogans and banners inscribed with “*Vive la France*”, “*Merci*”, “*La France est la garante de la solidarité entre les peuples*”.

“We hope that the Bill’s passing will become a kind of consolation for the successors of the 1915 Genocide victims”, said the French Ambassador to Armenia, H.E. **Henri Renaud**, to the excited people who surrounded him immediately after His Excellency was out of the Embassy building.

...Besides the most obvious features of this truly landmark event, such as “*France’s devotion to universal human values*”, being “exceptional... for all those who are struggling for the protection of human rights, for

the condemnation and prevention of crimes against humanity”, and “...a historic day for Armenians all over the world... to be inscribed in gold in the centuries-long history of the Armenian and French peoples” (all the quotations are taken from the letter of the RA President **Serzh Sargsyan** to his French counterpart, Nicolas Sarkozy), “*France has penalized the genocide denial, who’s next*” (one of the most frequent headlines of the articles in the newspress (and not only the Armenian one)), yours truly sees two more important moments:



a) All the Armenians around the world, - irrespective of their political party/Church membership, geography, all other possible (and impossible) preferences seemed UNITED that day, which, alas, has been qualified, -first of all by us the Armenians (too) often as a “rare” thing for our nation...

b) All the world, - via its leading mass media such as BBC, CNN, Russia Today, etc. has started to speak about Armenians and Armenia.

(...Remarkably, Russia’s First (“Public”) Channel said - telling about the horrors of the Armenian Genocide 1915 – “1.5 million Christian Armenians were massacred in 1915 Genocide...” Well, may those ultranationalists/skinheads in Russia, beating and even killing Armenians

who are of the same faith as they themselves, hear those words!)

...Since the end of the 1950s, the Armenian Genocide recognition issue has repeatedly been raised in the French Parliament, and your correspondent, then an Armenian diplomat, was among the huge crowd of Armenians gathered outside the French National Assembly, (Assemblée nationale) in the summer of 1995, when they, -again, were talking about THE ARMENIAN CAUSE (HAY DAT)...

...It’s really unforgettable how



M. **Patrick Devedjian**, a lawyer and the only member of the French Parliament of Armenian descent, kept coming time after time to us, - including Genocide survivors of a venerable age, to “report” what was going on inside the Parliament...Alas, that was not a time for our VICTORY (though the French Court fired **Bernard Lewis**, a US/Israeli historian, for calling the Armenian Genocide 1915 a kind of “...a figment of imagination of Armenians...”).

Some permanent “sceptics” might (and are already doing so) consider the Bill was passed for several political reasons, such as the “votes of the 500,000-strong Armenian community of France”, “the unwillingness of the united Europe locomotives such as France (and Germany)

to see Turkey as a fully-fledged member of the EU”, others; but even if this were the case, we, the Armenians should NOT FORGET that within many decades, the French Republic was the No.1 FRIEND for us in the Western world.

...Today, Turkey demonstrates undisguised ambitions to become a leader, at least a regional one, and even one of the entire Islamic world (...and perhaps even a superpower?!)

The Turkish establishment is very angry, -it’s quite explicable.

OK, there is not such a big

problem; it’s passable, as it was for several times before (keep in mind multi-billion French investments in Turkey’s economy).

And...what of Turkey’s “younger brother”, Azerbaijan?! It’s (expected) “solidarity” should not at all be a concern, though some “patriots” announced their decision to give back the French awards and even appealed to Mr and Mrs Aliiev to give back their “Légions d’honneur” ...

...History has proved, finally and irreversibly, that the GREAT NATIONS recognize their own mistakes and even crimes, and the best example is Germany’s recognition of the Jewish Holocaust (and a very recent example is the recognition by Serbia of mass massacres/genocide carried out by them in Bosnia in the

mid-90s). For the CIVILIZED world, such recognition is not a humiliation, but, first of all, a RISING.

Fortunately for the neighbouring country, there are representatives of the *real* intellectual elite who realize the urgency of such a RECOGNITION.

If we take into account that M. Sarkozy (do not confuse him with **Sarkozy Avetisyan**, a baby boy born in Gyumri on Jan. 25, the next day of the Bill’s passing, and named after the Président de la République française, Monsieur Nicolas Sarkozy, as a sign of GRATITUDE, like a similar one, - when Armenians were calling new-born boys “Wilson”, - after the then US President **Woodrow Wilson**, initiator of the 1920 Sevres Treaty, - a really favorable one for Armenia) sent a letter to the Turkish PM **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, in which he said the Bill was not directed against any one country.

... I would NEVER remove a picture of my great-great-grandfather **Davit** (Ghasabyan), assassinated by the murderers by order of THE RULERS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN 1915, but, NO DOUBT, I’m ready to extend my hand to those TURKISH INTELLECTUALS who have been repeating, - the last time was just after THE TURKISH COURT’s scandalous verdict on the assassins of **Hrant Dink** – “*We are all Armenians!*”.

Finally, let your author repeat two more important (in my personal opinion) things we have obtained by the passing of this Bill criminalizing the denial of genocides, including the Armenian Genocide: we’re united and the world has started to speak on us, - naturally, positively.

And this time (as before), we simply have no right to lose this.

Photos by Armenpress/PanArmenian Photo

VivaCell-MTS Handing Prizes to the Winners of the Quiz for Opera Mini Browser Users...

... as Well as to the Winners of the WebApricot Pan-Armenian Online Film Festival

By Andy Barsamian

On January 24 VivaCell-MTS announced names of 14 winners of the VivaCell-MTS’ holiday quiz for Opera Mini browser.

VivaCell-MTS subscribers could participate in the holiday quiz, by entering viktorina.mts.am page through their mobile phones using the Opera Mini browser in the period from December 15 till 28, 2011, inclusive.

According to the terms of the quiz, publicized on VivaCell-MTS website, the participants were suggested to answer one question per day; and the winner of the day would be the 50th participant who would give the correct answer.

Valuable prizes were handed out by VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**. Opera Software was represented by **Andrey Gorshkov**, Director of Projects in CIS.

On behalf of the awardees **Vigen Martirosyan** thanked Mr Yirikian for the valuable prizes such as BlackBerry: Torch 9800, Pearl 9105, Storm2 9520, Bold 9000/9800, Samsung Google Nexus S smartphones and HTC Flyers.

According to Mr Gorshkov, in Armenia they have 350,000 users of Opera Mini web-browser per month, and more than a half of them are VivaCell-MTS subscribers. “That’s why we are doubly happy that our very first partner in Armenia has

become VivaCell-MTS, which is an energetic and fast company as they were first in Armenia who responded our proposal to cooperate”, he said. Asked about Armenia’s users of the browser, A.Gorshkov qualified them as “very active”. He said also that together with VivaCell-MTS they are preparing “new surprise” for the users to be presented in February.

Using the Opera Mini browser,

web browser, which is available on Android, BREW, Windows Mobile, iOS, Blackberry OS, and Symbian, has gained a wide popularity for its ability to compress data up to 90%, which ultimately results in considerable data-saving. Offering Opera Mini to its subscribers is in line with VivaCell-MTS commitment to provide its subscribers with comfortable, high-quality and cost-effective

year they will present to subscribers new “surprises”, in particular, on the Internet use.

And on January 27 the results of the WebApricot Pan-Armenian online film festival were summed up at the VivaCell-MTS headquarters.

By the decision of the professional jury (**Ara Khanjyan, Siranuysh Galstyan, Gohar Hakobyan, Karine Rafayelyan, Mikayel Stamboltsyan**

on November 15, 2011 by the initiative of GOLDEN APRICOT IFF and WebTV.am Internet TV. The Sponsor of the Festival is VivaCell-MTS.

“These days developing modern technologies are inevitably being integrated in one of the most important spheres of life – culture, and are used as means of promoting talent. Technologies, in this case the Internet, allow filmmakers to present their vision to a wider range of audience without big financial investments. This is what cinematography, especially amateurs, always need. I want to congratulate the winners of this innovative festival and hope that this victory will stimulate these filmmakers for higher achievements and full realization of their talent,” - mentioned VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

49 films of different genres were shown during the festival. From November 15 to December 21 (37 days) the 49 films had 42,032 viewers.

To remind, Armenian filmmakers from Armenia and abroad could participate in WebApricot Pan-Armenian Film Festival. The Competition was open for all films up to 20 minutes, without genre limitation: feature, documentary, animated and etc. No restrictions were also for technical means by which a film was made.

The results of jury voting can be found at webtv.am website.



one can easily access and enjoy the endless opportunities of the Internet. Ralph Yirikian told the mass media reps the following: “VivaCell-MTS has signed a partnership agreement with Opera Software, the developer of Opera Mini web-browser, which is the world’s most popular mobile web-browser. The partnership which was started in the last December, gives VivaCell-MTS an opportunity to offer its subscribers a co-branded Opera Mini mobile browser; the fastest browser for mobile devices which provides the most comfortable surfing experience. Opera mini mobile

mobile internet experience. This is another important step toward increasing the penetration of mobile internet and wider accessibility of internet resources”. Mr Yirikian said the quiz aimed at encouraging the Company’s subscribers to use Opera Mini web-browser ever more widely. According to him, some 170,000 VivaCell-MTS subscribers uses the browser. “As to the quiz participants, their number was about 100,000”, Ralph Yirikian said. He confirmed the afore-mentioned “surprise” on Opera Mini browser, adding that in February, as well as within the whole

(the Head of the jury)) the following participants were announced as winners: the General Prize (USD 1000) went to “Autumn Sun”, director **Diana Kardumyan**. The Special Prize (500USD) went to “The Dead Angle”, director **Arsen Hayrapetian**. Incentive awards were given to: “Soft Touch”, director **Nareh Mkrtchian**, “Nakhsho’s School”, director **Gohar Khachatryan**, “Help Them Now”, director **ArtNerses**, “Bye-Bye”, directors **Areg Mkrtchian, Hrayr Lazyan, Ashot Harutyunyan**.

The WebApricot Pan-Armenian online film festival was launched

bmi brings Scottish culture a little closer to home

British Midland
International **bmi**

Burns Night, the celebration of the life and poetry of Robert Burns, is renowned across the world, and is one of the most globally celebrated of Scotland's national days.

To celebrate the annual event, Burns suppers will be taking place across Scotland on and around the 25th of January, with traditional food such as cock-a-leekie soup, haggis and Clootie dumplings, and entertainment in the form of bagpipe music and ceilidh dancing.

bmi, British Midland International, Heathrow's second largest airline, is committed to promoting and developing links between Armenian and British cultures, and as such will be helping the Armenian-British Chamber of Commerce bring Burns Night celebrations to Armenia in 2012.

bmi is flying two special Scottish guests to Armenia to take part in the annual Robert Burns charity

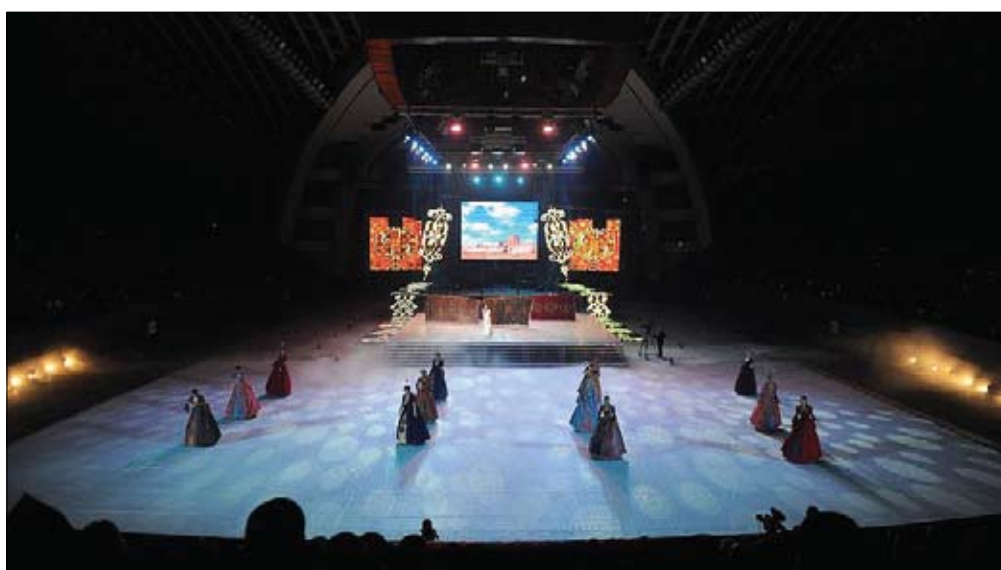
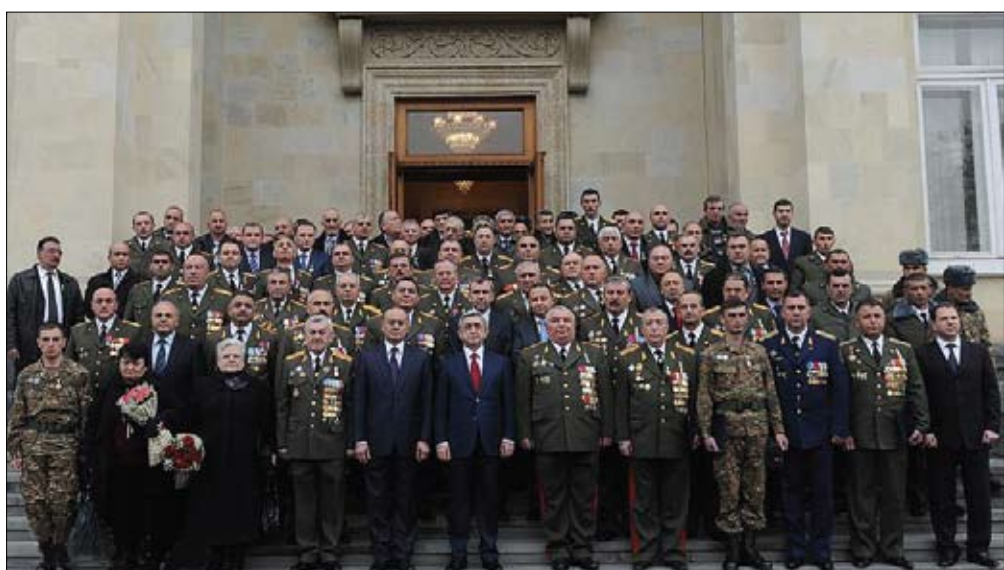
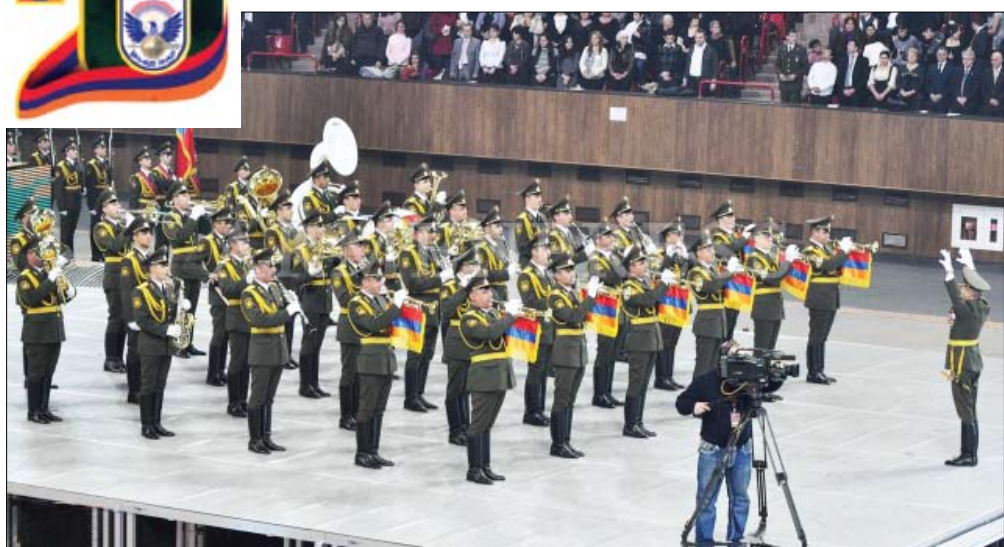


evening on the 28th January 2012. Mr Ian Macdonald is Pipe Major of the Jedburgh Royal British Legion Pipe Band, and will be playing traditional music for guests at the event, while Mr James Leonard Wyse, a Councillor of The Scottish Borders, will be performing the cutting of the haggis with a special speech in Scottish. The event will offer guests the chance to try the local delicacy of haggis, indulge in some Scotch whisky, and enjoy the traditional music played by the Scottish piper. bmi is flying the two special guests from Edinburgh in Scotland to Yerevan, providing the Armenian audience with the opportunity to enjoy authentic Scottish traditions at the celebrations.

This is the fifth consecutive year bmi has flown Scottish guests to Yerevan to support the annual charity event.



Armenia marks 20th anniversary of formation of Armed Forces: Photo series




Photos by Armenpress



**ARMAVIA -
MORE THAN A
NATIONAL CARRIER**

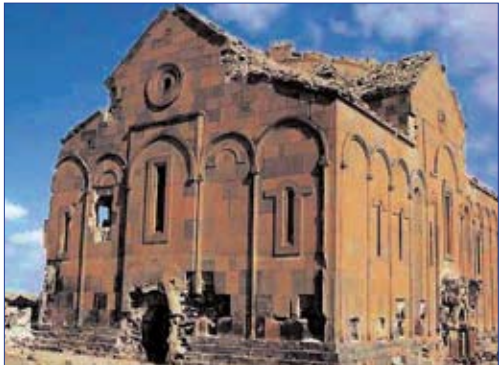
www.armavia.aero

Armavia
Արմավիա



"Ani-Tour"

Anitour historical cultural tour agency organizes the following tours from May to October:



3-days tour to Kars, Ani, Ardahan, Lake Chldr.
7-days tour to the capitals of historical Armenia: Kars, Ani, Van, Tigranakert.
10-days tour to Iran (Tavriz, Urmia, Salmast, Church Tade, Maku). Western Armeni (Van, Mush, Erzurum, Kars, Ani, Tbilisi).
15-days tour to Western Armenia (Ani, Kars, Van, Tigranakert), Cilicia (Hromkla, Mount Nemrut, Ayntap, Mousaler, Adana, Sis, Anarzaba, Korikos, Kharberd, Erzurum), Cyprus.
Special tour:
Upward to the top of Biblical Mount Ararat /7 days/

For more information please call: 519226, 094203206, 091203206
Or visit Isaakyan 28, first floor, room 20
Website: www.anitour.org, E-mail info@anitour.org

**Don't miss this exclusive opportunity!
Make your dreams reality!**



Handmade Crafts
by Armenia's skilled artisans

**Made In
Armenia
Direct**

Marriott Armenia Hotel
Shopping Arcade
(off the main lobby)

Best Western
Congress Hotel,
Lobby



Handmade Jewelry, Leisure Items
Holiday Specialties, Home Décor
Accessories & much more

✂️
10% discount for any purchase, in both shops
Valid throughout 2010 and 2011

Online Shop: www.MadeInArmeniaDirect.com



WEB STUDIO

Programming Design, Hosting

(010) 56 59 65 (093) 46 20 37 Republic of Armenia
web@nt.am web.nt.am 0009, Yerevan, Isahakyan str. 28

Noyan Tapan Photo Studio

- Portfolio (for professional models and for those needed stylish photos)
- Pictures (high quality, beautiful pictures in different images)
- Photo sessions
- Advertising and image photography
- Reporting photography (events, presentations, parties, etc.)



Address: 28 Isahakyan street, Yerevan, Armenia
Tel. (010) 56 59 65 ; (091) 32 12 16

The newly-opened Kaissa chess school

**organizes paid training courses for
schoolchildren and announces admission.**

The courses start on March 15.
Applications will be accepted starting February 1, 2012.



Famous grandmasters will teach children in the school.

Tigran L. Petrosian, Olympic champion
Zaven Andriasian, world champion (under-20)
Elina Daniellian, the only Armenian female grandmaster
Gevorg Harutyunian
Tigran Nalbandian, Olympic champion, coach

Yerevan, Nor Nork 2nd Micro-District,
Moldovakan St., 53 Building
Tel.: 636513; 634009; 585094; 098-871967

Armenian government continues liberalization of taxation and customs

By Haroutiun Khachatrian

The Armenian Government has published the names of 2386 companies which will be checked by the State Revenue Committee (SRC) in 2012. Such a move and the introduction of computer technologies are aimed at decreasing contacts and tension between the tax authorities and businesses.

The main direction of the tax reforms undertaken by the administration of President Serzh Sargsyan has been to simplify the bureaucracy, a process supported by international financial institutions. Along with measures to simplify the taxing process, such as wider use of simple taxes for small companies, measures are taken to implement the practice of electronic accounting and electronic communication between taxpayers and tax authorities.

These works started in 2008, and on May 18, 2011, Sargsyan signed a new decree to approve the Strategy of Reforming Tax and Customs Administration for the next three years. To that end, a system of electronic signatures was introduced earlier in 2011, and the taxpayers are encouraged to present their documents to the SRC without visiting the offices. An important consequence is that the taxpayer will not need to contact tax officers directly, in turn decreasing the risk of corruption. In addition, halls for taxpayer servicing are being opened throughout the country with ten such halls already operative, in which a taxpayer can get any information and make any payment concerning his/her tax or customs liabilities without visiting the tax authorities.

Terminals for payment have been installed outside the service halls as well, e.g. in any tax or customs office, and all terminals are linked to the nationwide network which al-

lows any taxpayer to make any payment in any region. The software placed in the system can also identify errors in accounting, for example when a controversy is detected in the data presented by two partner companies. As a result, all taxpayers in Armenia will be freed from unexpected inspections which previously caused many complaints. The SRC declared in 2011 it will "conduct fewer controls but will not tolerate if you hide the taxes." Moreover, the software allows ranking companies according to their risk, i.e. to identify businesses which are more risky from the point of view of their taxing. Such cases become the first basis for controls, making inspections more balanced and warranted.

In parallel, an automatic system of returning the value added tax (VAT) to exporters was introduced early in 2011, whereby exporters' VAT payments are compensated from the state budget after 90 days. Also, more than 10,000 cash registers are linked to a central server by the GPRS links, which has enabled the authorities to read their data without visiting the site. In parallel, around 50 paper reports were deemed unnecessary and removed during 2011. The Armenian tax authorities claim that the introduction of this system will greatly improve the tax administration in the country and will improve Armenia's position in World Bank's Doing Business Index according to which Armenian businesses spent too much dealing with the tax authorities. According to the latest data from May 2011, Armenia is ranked 55 among 183 countries studied by the criterion Ease of Doing Business.

The tax authorities also claim that from now on, refusal to present electronic reports can only be legitimate if the businessmen do not have access to the Internet or have no

computer. A process of introducing electronic signatures has started in 2010, and for now, only 12 percent Armenia's 80,000 businesses present their reports in electronic form but this number is expected to grow rapidly in the near future. Persuading all businesses to use electronic forms for accounting will be one of the important tasks of the SRC in the near future. This is quite possible since over 40 percent of Armenia's population now has access to the Internet. Starting in 2012, the SRC of Armenia plans to receive all reports about VAT in electronic form only. This means that the majority of large companies including all importers will present electronic reports. The SRC has reported that it will enhance the use of information technologies. It will also have a permanently functioning school in the resort of Dilijan for training of tax and customs employees.

Another measure in the reform of the tax and customs system is the creation of a joint customs system between Armenia and Georgia, a process supported by the European Union. In particular, the three major border checkpoints between the two countries will be modified according to European standards. This process includes the construction of new buildings for border crossings as the old ones had not been built for that purpose (there were no state borders between the two countries during Soviet times). The works have already been started. In parallel, both countries are members of the EU Eastern Partnership programme and will start negotiations with the EU about Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements, and if these talks are successful, the countries will have access to freer trade with the EU as well as with each other.

(01/11/2012 issue of the CACI Analyst)

Armenia and EU to start negotiations on visa regime facilitation in late February

The eighth round of negotiations on signing the Association Agreement between Armenia and European Union was held in Brussels on January 25-26.

According to the statement of the Armenian Foreign Ministry, "the negotiations resulted in substantial progress in terms of the main goals and principles of the future Agreement as well as the political dialogue, foreign and security policy and cooperation in the sphere of justice".

22 chapters of the future Agreement concerning the cooperation in the economic and financial spheres are already discussed and temporarily closed.

The sides expressed the confidence that during the next plenary session, it'll be possible to start the negotiations on the chapters of the Agreement concerning the establishment of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Zone.

During the negotiations, the

sides also reached an agreement to start the negotiations on the visa regime facilitation for the Armenian citizens in late February.

The next round of negotiations will be due in Yerevan in late March.

The Armenian delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister, Chief Negotiator Zohrab Mnatsakanyan and the European - by Director for Eastern Europe of EEAS, Chief Negotiator Gunnar Wiegand.

Armenia registers economic growth in all spheres

The construction sphere has declined during past years but it may again develop in 2012, economist Tatul Manaseryan told a news conference Friday, January 27. He said it may be agreed with the regional processes - inflow of businessmen to Armenia, acquiring of real estate. "According to the National Statistical Service, growth has been registered in all the spheres,

except construction. We have registered growth in the sphere of agriculture agreed with favorable weather conditions," Manaseryan said. He noted that a farmer must be ensured with anti-hail stations, necessary consultation. The economist said increase of the volume of trade turnover has also been recorded and steps must be taken to turn them into regularity. The in-

dustrial market has also developed. According to the statistical service, 5.9% economic growth has been registered in 2011.

"The crisis continues in the whole world, Armenia may get use of it and appear in beneficial condition. Being a transition country, it is able to register progress in 2012 in case of conduction of correct policy," Manaseryan said.

Grant Thornton's IBR: Confidence on a knife edge heading into 2012

Global business confidence is balancing on a knife edge heading into 2012 according to new figures from Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR). With the global economic outlook dominated by the crisis in the eurozone, fears are increasing that business growth will become even more difficult than in 2011.

The latest research shows that global business optimism in the fourth quarter of 2011 stands at net 0%, indicating a balance between those business leaders feeling optimistic about their economies in 2012 and those feeling pessimistic. It represents a further deterioration from 3% in Q3 2011 and 31% in Q2 2011.

The regional picture is, however, more nuanced. Optimism levels in the BRIC economies (up from 25% to 34%) and North America (up from 3% to 6%) have shown significant improvement over the last quarter. However, at the global level, this has been offset by a large drop in Europe where optimism fell from 0% to -17% in Q4. In the eurozone optimism fell from 2% to -16%.

Ed Nusbaum, CEO of Grant Thornton International, said: "Heading into 2012, we're seeing a polarisation of business confidence between Europe and the rest of the world. However, the threat of total meltdown in the eurozone means business leaders remain uncertain about the year ahead - they simply do not know how things will turn out. That uncertainty is sapping confidence and choking business growth prospects."

The business optimism results mirror the perilous position of the

global economy; stronger results for key markets such as Brazil, China and the United States being offset by the lack of a clear resolution to the sovereign debt crisis in Europe."

The research also suggests global trade is suffering. Having risen by 10 percentage points in Q3, the proportion of businesses citing a shortage of orders rose again in Q4, up five percentage points to 37% globally. This result was largely driven by an increase of nine percentage points across the eurozone, but businesses in North America (up seven) and the BRICs (up four) are also suffering.

Ed Nusbaum added: "Around the world, prospects for growth are mixed. Businesses are having to work harder than ever to maintain margins and competitiveness in the face of powerful economic headwinds. Vital to the situation improving or deteriorating is the fate of the eurozone."

This threatens to undermine business prospects around the world, not just in Europe. Businesses in the higher growth economies such as China and Brazil remain positive for now but Europe is the world's largest single market and consequently a key trading partner. The effects of a further downturn will resonate even in these high growth markets and beyond.

"Policymakers in Europe have some job on their hands in 2012. The concern for businesses is that a focus on austerity rather than economic growth is damaging their own growth prospects. Certainly, the resolution of the crisis and securing the future of the euro is top of their New Year's wish list."

Global economy 'in danger zone'

The world's economy is "deeply into the danger zone" because of risks from the eurozone, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said, Armenpress reports citing BBC.

The IMF predicts the global economy will grow by 3.25% in 2012, down from an earlier forecast of 4%.

The growth forecast for the UK economy has been cut to 0.6% from 1.6%.

But the Eurozone is set for a "mild recession" in 2012, with GDP expected to shrink by 0.5%, compared with a previous forecast of 1.1% growth.

Growth estimates have been reduced for the main Eurozone countries, including Germany, which is widely seen as the powerhouse of the region.

Germany is forecast to grow 0.3% in 2012, down from the 1.3% originally predicted in September.

France is expected to show 0.2% growth in 2012, down from 1.4%.

However, the IMF stands by its

1.8% growth prediction for the US, based on recent strong domestic data on jobs and manufacturing.

Emerging markets, such as central and Eastern Europe and Asia, could also be hit by the Eurozone crisis.

The IMF said: "While these markets have been quite resilient to shocks and developments in major economies in the past year, recent indicators have weakened significantly and the general business climate has deteriorated."

The IMF said Europe's most pressing challenge was to restore confidence and put an end to the crisis in the euro area.

It added that world economies needed "decisive and consistent policy action" to improve the current financial environment.

"There are three requirements for a more resilient recovery: sustained but gradual adjustment, ample liquidity and easy monetary policy, mainly in advanced economies, and restored confidence in policymakers' ability to act."

US Department of State on Iran: Just saying that you are open for talks does not meet the criteria set

Iran's statements about its readiness to resume talks on the nuclear program are not enough, the Iranian authorities need to let the world know of the details of their nuclear program and prove their claims that it is for peaceful purposes, said Victoria Nuland, spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Thursday that Iran, which is feeling the economic price of deepening international sanctions, would not be opposed to returning to the negotiating table.

"Just saying that you are open for talks does not meet the criteria that we (NT: the members of the "six" on Iran – Russia, Great Britain, Germany, China, the United States, and France) have set, which is to be ready for talks and to be serious about letting the world know

all of the details of your nuclear program and proving your claims that it is for peaceful purposes," Victoria Nuland said at a briefing.



According to her, Iran could prove its readiness to return to talks by formally replying to the letter which was sent to the Iranian authorities in the autumn by the European Union's foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton.

We heard Ahmadinejad's comment, but we did not hear any answers to the proposals laid down in the letter, V. Nuland added.

On behalf of the "six" international mediators, Catherine Ashton in October 2011 sent a letter to the press secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Saeed Jalili. In the letter, she confirmed the negotiators' readiness to resume dialog on condition that Iran proves that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes and has no military intent. The Iranian authorities declared that they would soon send a letter to C. Ashton informing her about the format of negotiations, to be followed by new negotiations with world powers. On January 23 Lady Ashton stated she still hoped to get an affirmative answer from the Iranian authorities.

Armenia should work more to neutralize Azerbaijani falsification-Paskaleva

Armenia yields Azerbaijan on information war, Bulgarian journalist and author of Nagorno-Karabakh war documentaries Tsvetana Paskaleva said at a press conference on Friday.

"Being right and having documentary certification on who launched the war, how the military actions were conducted and how it ended, having historical and legal

basis of the truth, the Armenian side is more passive," Paskaleva said adding that all the Armenians believe that the world knows the truth.

"It is necessary to use all the resources especially abroad to inform the world community," the journalist said. "Political space is not a vacuum and it perceives the truth, which is proved by the recent bill criminalizing denial of genocides

adopted by the French Senate."

Azerbaijan is making up falsification and repeats it every day. Daily repeating of untrue facts affects those who are not aware of the true facts.

"They are not aware of the other viewpoint and are inclined to trust Azerbaijan. Hence, it is necessary to work purposefully and carefully," she concluded.

US ready to continue cooperation with Armenia on Millennium Challenges

The U.S. will continue assisting Armenia's development, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs Erik Rubin told on Friday at the meeting with Armenian PM Tigran Sargsyan.

The sides discussed wide range of development issues on Armenian-American relations.

Rubin said the U.S. is ready to continue cooperation with Armenia on implementing the second stage of the project within Millennium Chal-

lenges Corporation.

"As the first stage was a success in Armenia, we should do everything for the works to continue," he said.

As for the regional issues, Rubin said that the U.S. in public or private meetings will continue persuading Turkey to normalize Armenian-Turkish relations, open border and establish communications. Besides, they also touched upon economy, fight against corruption in the state, cooperation in educational and IT spheres.

OSCE Mission to hold scheduled monitoring of the Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijani armed forces' contact-line

On January 26, in accordance with the earlier agreement with the authorities of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, the OSCE Mission held scheduled monitoring of the Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijani armed forces' contact-line in the Tartar direction.

NKR MFA Press Service told Noyan Tapan that from the positions of the NKR Defense Army, the monitoring will be held by Field Assistants of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-

in-Office Imre Palatinus (Hungary), Antal Herdich (Hungary) and Marius Puodziunas (Lithuania).

On the opposite side, the monitoring group will comprise Field Assistants of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office William Prior (Great Britain), Christo Christov (Bulgaria).

From the Karabakh party, the monitoring mission will be accompanied by representatives of the NKR Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense.

The working visit of the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs to Latvia

On January 25 took place the working visit of the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandian to Latvia. In Riga Minister Nalbandian was received by Andris Berzins, the President of the Republic of Latvia. Welcoming Edward Nalbandian, President Andris Berzins mentioned that Latvia is interested in the further deepening and strengthening of the relations with friendly Armenia, and his country is committed to exert additional efforts towards that direction.

Edward Nalbandian conveyed the greetings and wishes of the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan to Latvia's President.

In the course of the meeting, the maintenance of continuation of high-ranking visits, the steps to be undertaken towards promoting of bilateral cooperation in various spheres and regional issues were touched upon.

The Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs presented to Latvia's President the negotiations over the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, as well as Armenia's approaches on regional issues.

The sides discussed Armenia-EU relations and the cooperation between Armenia and Latvia in that format.

The next meeting of Edward Nalbandian was with his Latvian counterpart Edgars Rinkēvičs.

During the talk Ministers Nalbandian and Rinkēvičs discussed

the implementation of the agreements reached between the Heads of the States. Edward Nalbandian and Edgars Rinkēvičs noted with satisfaction that the relations between Armenia and Latvia have been dynamically developing: the reciprocal visits of the Presidents of the two countries, as well as the Foreign Ministers took place in the recent years, and a number of meetings were held in the frames of international conferences.

The Foreign Ministers described it as a proof of mutual interest to further strengthen bilateral relations.

The Ministers underlined that the regular consultations between their Ministries created a good basis for the further development of the cooperation.

Issues related to supporting the cooperation and mutual candidacies in the frames of international organizations were on the agenda of the negotiations. In that context, the Latvian Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed gratitude for supporting the candidacy of Latvia's representative Nils Muižnieks in the position of the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe.

It was mutually mentioned that recently the legal framework between Armenia and Latvia was more expanded which creates good backgrounds for launching of more intensive cooperation between the two countries in various spheres.

In the context of Armenia-EU

relations, Ministers Nalbandian and Rinkēvičs exchanged views on the implementation of the European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan and the cooperation in the frames of the Eastern Partnership.

The key topics discussed by the Foreign Ministers were about the further strengthening and expanding of economic cooperation.

Ministers Nalbandian and Rinkēvičs talked about cultural exchanges, as well.



Upon the request of Edgars Rinkēvičs, Edward Nalbandian presented the recent developments in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. In that context, the Ministers mutually stressed that there is no alternative to a peaceful solution to the issue.

The interlocutors exchanged views on the regional issues, including Iran's nuclear program. In

this regard, Minister Nalbandian reaffirmed Armenia's position according to which the issue should be solved through dialogue, negotiations and consensus.

Edward Nalbandian invited his Latvian counterpart to visit Armenia, Accepting the invitation; Edgars Rinkēvičs offered to pay a visit in the second half of the year.

After the meeting the Ministers had a joint press conference.

In Riga, Edward Nalbandian

In the course of the meeting with the Latvian deputies, Edward Nalbandian discussed the role of the Parliaments in the relations between the two countries, mentioning that Armenia attaches great importance to parliamentary diplomacy as an essential format for the cooperation between the two countries and peoples.

During the meeting, bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Latvian Saeima Speaker highlighted the positive involvement and role of Latvia's Armenian community in the development of the country.

Edward Nalbandian gave an extensive interview to the Latvian leading newspaper Latvian Avize at the Parliament.

Minister Nalbandian's agenda included the meeting with Latvia - Armenia Inter-parliamentary Co-operation Group, as well. The group is the biggest one existing in the Saeima and consists of around 30 deputies. During the meeting with the deputies, the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs presented the main directions of Armenia's foreign policy, as well as issues related to the Armenian-Latvian relations and the further deepening of bilateral cooperation in various spheres were discussed. Edward Nalbandian answered numerous questions of the deputies, as well.

Concluding the visit, Edward Nalbandian left for Vilnius.

Harut Sassounian: 20 Steps Turkey Could Take to Worsen Relations with France After Genocide Vote



By **Harut Sassounian**
Publisher, *The California Courier*

Turkey's leaders have been threatening France for months with various reprisals should the French government pass a law making it illegal to deny the Armenian Genocide.

Ignoring Turkish threats and blackmail, the French Parliament adopted a bill on December 22, 2011, criminalizing denial of the Armenian Genocide. The Senate followed suit on January 23, 2012, with a vote of 127-86, after a 7-hour debate. The new law, to be signed soon by Pres. Sarkozy, carries a one year jail term and a fine of \$60,000 for anyone denying the Armenian Genocide. Every single member of the French legislature, even those voting against the bill, stated that they had no doubt whatsoever about the facts of the Armenian Genocide.

The hour of truth has now ar-

rived. One wonders if Turkey's leaders have the courage to carry out their bombastic declarations. We would like to ask them two questions: 1) Are you all talk and no action or, as the saying goes, is your bark worse than your bite? 2) Will you be taking short-term face-saving measures or more serious and permanent steps?

Unlike a month ago, the Turkish public will not be satisfied if the Ambassador is withdrawn, only to be sent back in two weeks. Also, Turks may not be too impressed by Prime Minister Erdogan's announcement that he would no longer visit Paris.

While Turkish officials are recovering from the shock of the French vote, we wish to offer some tips on how Turks can make a bad situation even worse. In its fury, the Turkish government may take retaliatory measures not only against France, but also all countries that have recognized the Armenian Genocide. Such extreme, irrational, and self-defeating actions would contribute to Turkey's isolation and hurt its own interests. Below

are suggested ideas on how Turkey could settle scores with France and other perceived adversaries:

1) Withdraw the Turkish Ambassador from France and do not send him back until the French government renounces its acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide and the newly adopted French bill.

2) Expel the French Ambassador from Turkey and shut down the French Embassy.

3) Break all economic, military, cultural, and political ties with France.

4) Collect all French products such as chocolates and wines from store shelves throughout Turkey and dump them in the sewer; and ban French fries and French kissing!

5) Cancel all Turkish Airlines flights to French cities and do not allow Air France flights to Turkey. Place similar restrictions on French ships.

6) Prohibit teaching of French in Turkish schools and shut down private French schools in Turkey.

7) Forbid access to all French websites.

8) Discontinue Turkey's efforts

to join the European Union, in view of the expected submission of similar measures on genocide denial to all 26 EU member countries.

9) Cancel Turkey's membership in the Council of Europe because in 1987 the European Parliament recognized the Armenian Genocide.

10) Withdraw from the United Nations because in 1985 the UN Human Rights Commission adopted a report recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

11) Ban all Turkish official visits to France.

12) Expel all French citizens from Turkey and demand that all Turkish citizens immediately leave the territory of France.

13) Do not allow French tourists and businessmen to enter Turkey.

14) Shut down French automobile factories in Turkey, causing the unemployment of thousands of Turkish workers.

15) Rename all French streets in Turkey to Algerian and North Korean names.

16) Adopt a resolution by the Turkish Parliament accusing France for the so-called Algerian "geno-

cide."

17) Deport all citizens of Armenia working illegally in Turkey. Deprive them of all food and water during their long march from Istanbul to Armenia or, even worse, to the Syrian desert!

18) Withdraw all private and public Turkish funds from French banks.

19) Blacklist all French books, movies, newspapers and TV programs in Turkey.

20) Arrest French citizens in Turkey in retaliation for Turks imprisoned in France for denying the Armenian Genocide.

The French Senate's decision is part of the high price the Turkish government has been paying for the past 100 years for its persistent denial of the Armenian Genocide and the heinous crimes committed by its Ottoman predecessors. Until Turkey acknowledges its guilt and restores the Armenian lands and properties to the descendants of Genocide victims, it will continue to face serious challenges from other countries and will be denied a place in the family of civilized nations.

Did the Poor Cause the Crisis?

By **Simon Johnson**

The United States continues to be riven by heated debate about the causes of the 2007-2009 financial crisis. Is government to blame for what went wrong, and, if so, in what sense?

In December, the Republican minority on the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission (FCIC), weighed in with a preemptive dissenting narrative. According to this group, misguided government policies, aimed at increasing homeownership among relatively poor people, pushed too many into taking out subprime mortgages that they could not afford.

This narrative has the potential to gain a great deal of support, particularly in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives and in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election. But, while the FCIC Republicans write eloquently, do they have any evidence to back up their assertions? Are poor people in the US responsible for causing the most severe global crisis in more than a generation?

Not according to Daron Acemoglu of MIT (and a co-author of mine on other topics), who presented his findings at the American Finance Association's annual meeting in early January. (The slides are on his MIT Web site.)

Acemoglu breaks down the Republican narrative into three distinct questions. First, is there evidence that US politicians respond to lower-income voters' preferences or desires?

The evidence on this point is not as definitive as one might like, but what we have – for example, from the work of Princeton University's Larry Bartels – suggests that

over the past 50 years, virtually the entire US political elite has stopped sharing the preferences of low- or middle-income voters. The views of office holders have moved much closer to those commonly found atop the income distribution.

There are various theories regarding why this shift occurred. In our book *13 Bankers*, James Kwak and I emphasized a combination of the rising role of campaign contributions, the revolving door between Wall Street and Washington, and, most of all, an ideological shift towards the view that finance is good, more finance is better, and unfettered finance is best. There is a clear corollary: the voices and interests of relatively poor people count for little in American politics.

Acemoglu's assessment of recent research on lobbying is that parts of the private sector wanted financial rules to be relaxed – and worked hard and spent heavily to get this outcome. The impetus for a big subprime market came from within the private sector: "innovation" by giant mortgage lenders like Countrywide, Ameriquest, and many others, backed by the big investment banks. And, to be blunt, it was some of Wall Street's biggest players, not overleveraged homeowners, who received generous government bailouts in the aftermath of the crisis.

Acemoglu next asks whether there is evidence that the income distribution in the US worsened in the late 1990's, leading politicians to respond by loosening the reins on lending to people who were "falling behind"? Income in the US has, in fact, become much more unequal over the past 40 years, but the timing doesn't fit this story at all.

For example, from work that

Acemoglu has done with David Autor (also at MIT), we know that incomes for the top 10% moved up sharply during the 1980's. Weekly earnings grew slowly for the bottom 50% and the bottom 10% at the time, but the lower end of the income distribution actually did relatively well in the second half of the 1990's. So no one was struggling more than they had been in the run-up to the subprime madness, which came in the early 2000's.

Using data from Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez, Acemoglu also points out that the dynamics of the wage distribution for the top 1% of US income earners look different. As Thomas Philippon and Ariell Reshef have suggested, this group's sharp increase in earning power appears more related to deregulation of finance (and perhaps other sectors). In other words, the big winners from "financial innovation" of all kinds over the past three decades have not been the poor (or even the middle class), but the rich – people already highly paid.

Finally, Acemoglu examines the role of federal government support for housing. To be sure, the US has long provided subsidies to owner-occupied housing – mostly through the tax deduction for mortgage interest. But nothing about this subsidy explains the timing of the boom in housing and outlandish mortgage lending.

The FCIC Republicans point the finger firmly at Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and other government-sponsored enterprises that supported housing loans by providing guarantees of various kinds. They are right that Fannie and Freddie were "too big to fail," which enabled them to borrow more cheaply and take on more risk – with too little equity

funding to back up their exposure.

But, while Fannie and Freddie jumped into dubious mortgages (particularly those known as Alt-A) and did some work with subprime lenders, this was relatively small stuff and late in the cycle (e.g., 2004-2005). The main impetus for the boom came from the entire machinery of "private label" securitization, which was just that: private. In fact, as Acemoglu points out, the powerful private-sector players consistently tried to marginalize Fannie and Freddie and exclude them from rapidly expanding market segments.

The FCIC Republicans are right to place the government at the center of what went wrong. But this was not a case of over-regulating and over-reaching. On the contrary, 30 years of financial deregulation, made possible by capturing the hearts and minds of regulators, and

of politicians on both sides of the aisle, gave a narrow private-sector elite – mostly on Wall Street – almost all the upside of the housing boom.

The downside was shoved onto the rest of society, particularly the relatively uneducated and underpaid, who now have lost their houses, their jobs, their hopes for their children, or all of the above. These people did not cause the crisis. But they are paying for it.

Simon Johnson, a former chief economist of the IMF, is co-founder of a leading economics blog, <http://BaselineScenario.com>, a professor at MIT Sloan, and a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. His book, *13 Bankers*, co-authored with James Kwak, is now available in paperback.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2011.



Journalism Award for Best Coverage of the United Nations Work in Armenia

UN Country Team in Armenia is pleased to announce the 2012 Award for the distinguished, outstanding, professional and objective journalistic coverage of the UN work in Armenia. This year the contest is dedicated to the 20th anniversary of UN Office in Armenia.

Rules for submitting UN Award entries

From February 1, 2012 to October 14, 2012, the UN Office in Armenia will be accepting media materials about UN work in Armenia from individual journalists (citizens of Armenia) from any print media, broadcast and online media outlet, operating on the territory of Armenia.

The entries can be in all the journalistic formats, including print, radio, television, online, multimedia and images, etc. They must be prepared in 2012 and published, aired and posted by the time of the submission. The journalists should provide proof to this end (e.g., copy

of the published article for print media, DVD of the aired report with TV channel logo evidence and the screenshot or URL of the web site for electronic media).

Each journalist can submit as many entries as he/she wants.

The authors own the copy right to their works.

The entries may be in the Armenian, English or Russian languages.

Materials may be submitted both via email at uno.yerevan@unic.org (subject line "UN Journalism Award 2012"), regular post sent to the UNDPI "UN Journalism Award 2012", UN House, 14 Petros Adamyan Street, Yerevan 0010, Armenia, and in person to the UNDPI/Office at the mentioned address.

Please make sure the submitted photos are of high enough digital resolution (minimum 300 dpi), while the videos are in one of the widely used formats (avi, mp4, mpg, wmv).

Questions regarding the UN

Journalism Award may be directed to uno.yerevan@unic.org

Award

The winner will receive the envisaged Prize and a Certificate from the UN Resident Coordinator in Armenia, Ms Dafina Gercheva, at the Awards Ceremony during the celebration of 20th anniversary of the UN Office in Armenia in October 2012. The best entries, including photos and multimedia stories, will be displayed at the UN House during the Ceremony.

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee consists of the members of the UN Communication Group, which represents all UN Agencies, Funds and Programms based in Armenia. It is left up to the expertise of the Committee members to determine exactly what makes a work "distinguished, outstanding, professional and objective."

A new book for teenagers Edit Print publishes "Transient Age" book

The Edit Print publishing house has released the book "Transient Age" for teenagers. "Transient Age" is the title of one of the short stories, which were written by 12 authors and included in the book. In the words of Hovik Vardumian who has assembled "Transient Age", this title expresses the main idea of the book.

Hovik Vardumian said that the preparation and publication of such selections of literary works will

continue.

"Transient Age" also contains stories by Liparit Sargsyan, an author of children's books. He said that the book is sure to arouse interest of teenagers and, more importantly, it is of an educative nature. "A hungry child will eat any food you put on the table. Today children take whatever we offer them, but we should not forget that children too want to get good things," L. Sargsyan stressed.

Azerbaijanis state of fear, violation and murder of journalists

An atmosphere of fear and violation reigns in Azerbaijan, as the journalists criticizing the state, are threatened to arrest, torture and even kill, German Zeit newspaper reports quoting Azerbaijani Bizim Yol.

"Being former vassal of Moscow, Azerbaijan continues to be an 'unknown land' (Terra incognita) for the West.

Eurovision-2012 song contest

is highly confidential in Azerbaijan. The state rich in oil and gas tries to attract the tourists through the contest," the newspaper reports.

To note, Azerbaijan, hosting the Eurovision-2012, was for many times criticized for extensive violation of human rights. It is on the 152 position on freedom of speech. Besides, Freedom House has condemned recently Azerbaijan for limiting civil rights and freedom.

Armenian Diaspora Studies Center opens in Lebanon

The opening ceremony of the Center for Armenian Diaspora Studies was held on January 25.

The event was attended by Prelate of the Armenian Diocese in Lebanon, Archbishop Gegham Khacharian, Armenian Ambassador to Lebanon Ashot Kocharyan, President of the University of Lebanon, former minister, Dr. Adnan Seyid Hussein, state deputies, as well as representatives of political parties and associations.

The event held at the Heritage building of Haigazian University started with speeches by President of Haigazian University, the Very Reverend, Dr. Paul Haydostian and the event's benefactor, founder of the Erjo Samuelian-Tricolor Fund Erjo Samuelian, followed by a welcoming speech by Professor of the University, Dr. Arda Ekmekj, who welcomed the gathered and presented the program, attaching

importance to the establishment of such a center in Lebanon.

President of the University, the Very Reverend, Dr. Paul Haydostian underlined that the establishment of a Center for Armenian Diaspora Studies "pushes us toward a new stage of resisting challenges". "Lebanon, with its exceptional contribution to culture and with the large presence of Armenians, serves as an impetus, and the Haigazian University is a natural setting for the study of Armenians and the Diaspora in the Middle East," the Very Reverend underlined.

"For more than a decade, the establishment of such a center, which was an issue on the agenda of Haigazian University and was proposed during the conference attended by RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan in September 2011, is now a reality," the Very

Reverend Haydostian said and expressed satisfaction with Minister Hakobyan's congratulatory message.

Haydostian also expressed deep gratitude to the Center's benefactor Erjo Samuelian, "without whom the establishment of this center would be impossible". The Very Reverend Haydostian also thanked Haigazian University's board of trustees, particularly Dr. Harutyun Nigolian for their support and encouragement.

The President of Haigazian University also informed that Dr. Antranig Tagesian had been appointed Head of the Center. In 2010, Tagesian presented his dissertation at Suans University in Cales on the future of Armenians and Kurds in Lebanon.

Then, Haydostian expressed his gratitude to former minister, President of the University of Lebanon, Dr. Adnan Seyid Hussein and

voiced hope for efficient bilateral partnership. In his turn, President of the University of Lebanon, Dr. Adnan Seyid Hussein welcomed the establishment of the center, praised the initiating sides' efforts and pledged to assist the development of this center through partnership.

Director of the Center for Armenian Diaspora Studies, Dr. Antranig Tagesian stressed that the relationship between Armenians and the Arabs in the East traces back to the first century B.C. and that the Sisy family, which was a resident of the Sisy capital of the Armenian Cilician Kingdom, settled in the Lebanese Qalamoon region in 1350 and later in the Zgharta region. Dr. Tagesian listed the Armenian Studies Centers of the University of San Josef (USJ), the Hamazkayin and the AGBU in Lebanon that are aimed at encouraging the new gen-

erations of Armenians to receive higher education. In the meantime, the Department of Armenian Studies was established at Haigazian University in 1955. Dr. Tagesian thanked benefactor Erjo Samuelian, Haigazian University's board of trustees and President, the Very Reverend Paul Haydostian.

Armenian Ambassador to Lebanon Ashot Kocharyan welcomed the establishment of the center and read RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan's congratulatory message for the event in which Hakobyan voiced hope that "the mutual partnership would bring a new sweep to the implementation of research on the Diaspora".

On this occasion, according to tradition, Dr. Paul Haydostian presented special awards to benefactor Erjo Samuelian on behalf of Haigazian University, reports Lebanon's Aztag Daily.

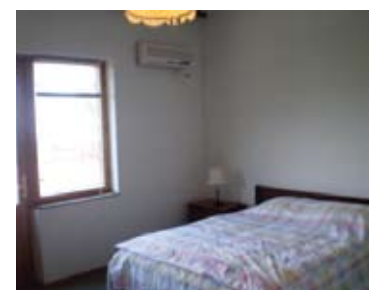
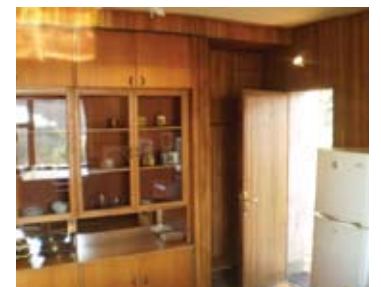
APARTMENT FOR RENT

A comfortable, western style apartment in the center of the city. The second floor of the nice private house with a separate entrance from the street. The apartment has a dining room, two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and two balconies. It has a heating system, permanent cold and hot water, TV satellite, air conditioning system and other facilities. A nice view to Mount Ararat. The house has a nice garden.

Price for a long term: 1000 -1100 USD monthly including gas, heating, electricity and water.
for a short term 60-80 USD daily.

Address: 3 Aygedzor Street, Yerevan.

For more information call (37410). 278-709, mob. 093. 229 570



DID YOU KNOW?



Heading by
Marina Harutunyan
marina@nt.am
Comments are
welcomed!

"If Only Everyone..." film about war and peace



The first showing of "If Only Everyone..." film for mass media representatives was held January 25 in Nairi Cinema. The film tells about the Artsakh war and is dedicated to Armenia's independence and 20th anniversary of the Armenian Army.

Film's General Producer Michael Poghosyan said the film is a unique response to the Artsakh war, to the settled and still unsettled issues originated in its consequence.

According to the producer of "If only everyone", the film proves that there are no winners in war, as very often innocent people die in consequence of wars. "It is easy to get fury, but we have tried to look upon everything objectively, as we fought for what belonged to us," said Mr. Poghosyan. He confessed that the topic of the Artsakh war has always been up-to-date for him, and the main goal of screening of the film is not to tell about war, but about peace, which has been acquired at high price.

In response to the question of correspondent on possibility of showing of the film in Baku, Mr. Poghosyan said it may rouse some difficulties, but that the film will be shown in Stepanakert, Moscow, will be presented at a number of authoritative festivals is a guarantee that many for-

eigners, including the Azeris, will watch it and make up relevant conclusions.

The film has been screened under the high patronage of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, with the support of NKR President Bako Sahakyan, Armenian Ministries of Defense and Culture and National Cinema Center of Armenia - on the initiative of TIM production.

The premiere of "If Only Everyone..." will be held January 26. The Armenian President, high-ranking guests and cultural figures will attend it. The heading of the film is not chosen by chance. According to Mr. Poghosyan, it enables everyone to continue it, ponder over it, to review the merit system, change the attitude toward some issues.

"Charents: In Search of my Armenian Poet"

Hamazkaine Shant Chapter has received the film "Charents: In Search of my Armenian Poet".

The film produced and directed by Shareen Anderson is a detailed look at the life and work of the literary giant Yeghishe Charents.

What is described as "a must-see by all Armenians and non-Armenians", the film will be screened in Hoyts, Chatswood on Sunday February 26 2012, 4:30pm.

A Hamazkaine spokesperson said: "We have only just received the film and at a brief preview I can see that this is a production that must be seen by all members of our community. Students in par-

ticular must not miss out."

"The film is an inspiration for young and old, it is an opportunity to educate our youth through a medium that can appeal to them - film."

Anderson explores the life and work of the great Charents through a literary travelogue from Armenia to the poet's birthplace in Kars, historic Armenia.

Shareen Anderson lives and works in South Africa. For an in depth look into her ideas and inspiration for this film, tune into Sardarabad Radio on Monday 6 February, 7pm-9pm to listen to a live telephone interview by Azniv Ingilizian on FM 99.3.



ARMENIAN POETRY

Sona Van



*Don't be sad
it's not your fault*

*I'm the one who is bored
of being a woman*

*flirtation
décolleté
debauchery
fights
happiness*

*what I need now is
Pasternak's "non-freedom"*

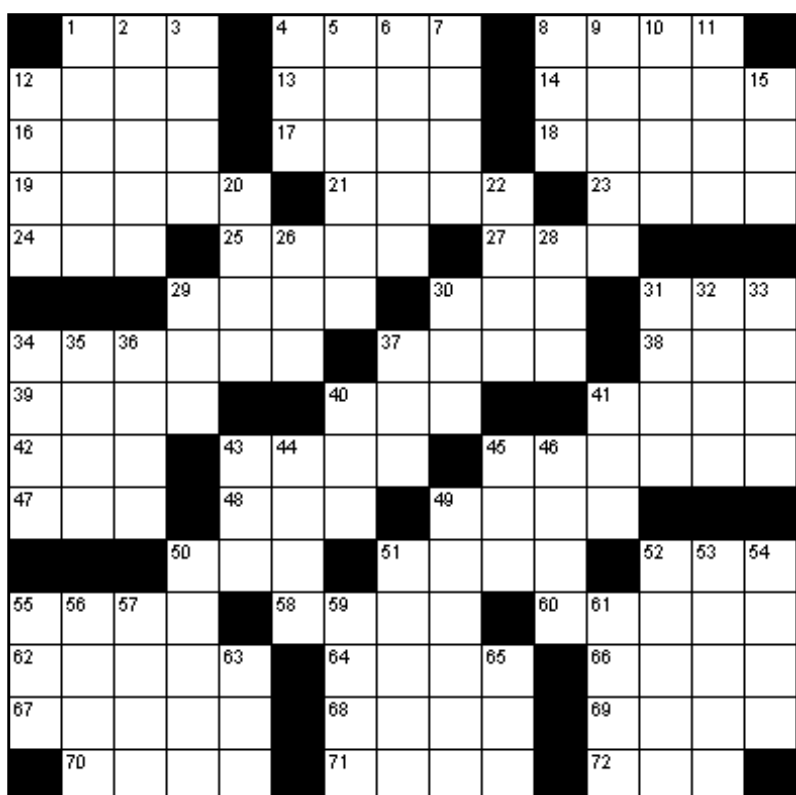
*dependence from the soil . . . where
I will grow new words
like him*

*trust me
my throat is tired
of feminine operatic outpourings
I love you
come back
oh . . . I'm dying!*

*What I need now
is the lotus-style solitude
of an ascetic yogi
and
a glasshouse*

*to grow hands on my soul
and push my body down the mountains*

CROSSWORD



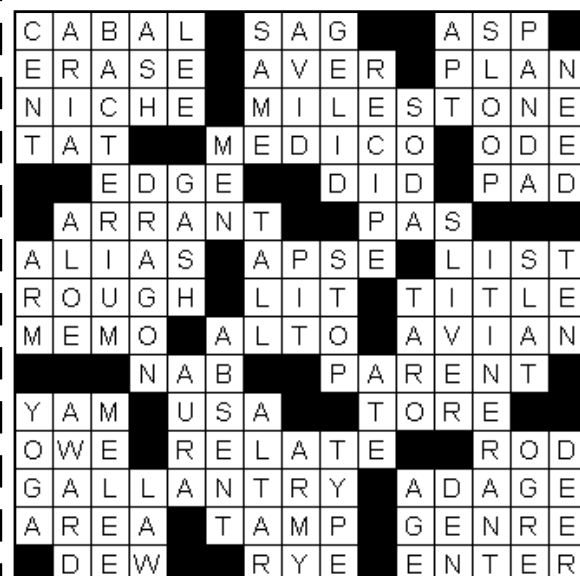
Across

1. Box on a pole handle for carrying bricks
4. Air pollution
8. Group of animals
12. Rescue
13. Rate
14. Relating to birds
16. Kitchen appliance
17. Length by width
18. Subway system
19. Strong suit
21. Attire
23. Necessitate
24. Perform
25. Tibia
27. Consume
29. Whirl
30. Small indefinite quantity
31. In the past
34. Forever
37. Brought into existence
38. Steal
39. Closed

Down

1. Mayhem
2. Open
3. Impression in a surface
4. Health spring
5. Permissible difference
6. Large body of water
7. Cogwheel
8. Amateur radio operator
9. Circumstance
10. Customary observance or practice
11. Challenge
12. Couch
15. Indicate assent
20. Catch sight of
22. Ale
26. Belonging to him
28. Appendage on the bracts of grasses
29. Deplete
30. Enemy
31. Elaborate song
32. Precious metal
33. Comply
34. In addition
35. Cut of meat
36. Had on
37. Public transport
40. Relieve from
41. Liveliness and energy
43. Anger
44. Cattle reared for meat
45. Division of 6
46. Fine grained mineral
49. Account book
50. Echo
51. Greek letter
52. Positively charged electrode
53. Blot
54. Larboard
55. Pouch
56. At the peak
57. Bloodshed
59. Compass direction
61. Assist
63. Moose
65. Pertinent

Answer of previous crossword



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries (Mar. 20 - Apr. 19):



The warrior energy is now in your 6th house of work and health. During the retrograde period you may find it difficult to maintain your usual exercise and diet routine. While Mars is retrograde it is common to plateau on physical goals, such as weight loss, but it is temporary. Do not give up.

Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 19):



Mars is retrograding in the house concerning romance, children, gambling, and playful activities. While this is happening, you may be strongly inclined to "go back" to a former condition in one or more of these areas. Newer relationships may be put on hold for a few weeks.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20):



Mars is retrograding in your territory of home and property. Because Mars rules machinery and tools of all kinds, there may be breakdowns of household equipment. It is generally better to repair items now and replace them after the retrograde. It is best to avoid buying new mechanical items while Mars is retrograding.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21):



Mars is retrograding in the horoscope sector that relates to vehicles, tools, and communication. Mars in this territory may represent the need to make repairs on various objects. It is possible that you are irritated with siblings, roommates, or neighbors. It is OK to respond to them, but do not initiate battle.

Leo (July 21 - Aug 22):



Mars is in the sector related to income and outgo. You may feel absolutely compelled to purchase something expensive and impractical. It is more favorable to wait out the transit and see how you feel about it in late April. Meanwhile there may be more outgo than income, so use cautious judgment.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sep. 22):



Your physical and libidinal energy may go into a dip for a few weeks. You may be surprised to find that you have changed your mind about circumstances and people in your life. Do not worry. You haven't lost your mind. You are needing a rest and will return refreshed if you relax now.

Libra (Sep. 23 - Oct. 22):



While Mars is retrograding, you probably will not have the energy and drive to which you are accustomed. It will do little good to beat yourself up over this issue. Consider that Mars is asking you to slow down, just for a couple of months. Your body needs a rest. Things will ultimately return to normal.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21):



You may be recognizing the need to back off or back out of some of your friendships and community associations during this period. At minimum you will be reassessing why you are involved and whether you wish to continue in the future. Friends and associates from the past may resurface.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 20):



Issues of career and future direction are impacted during this Mars retrograde. Final decisions about your path simply cannot be made at this time. There are too many detour signs. Set your mind to recognize that things will be fuzzy through April. Meanwhile, manage your daily needs and hold your mind to the present moment.

Capricorn (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19):



You likely will experience delays in activities concerning the law, education, and travel. If traveling, you may be going back to someplace where you have previously been. You may have to redo paperwork in order to accomplish the same thing in a different style or format.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 17):



Activities concerning taxes, insurance payoffs, government funding, and loans will likely be delayed, and maybe even denied. This is a good time to talk with your partner about issues concerning joint resources. It is not a good time to attack, but only to discuss and look for mutually favorable solutions.

Pisces (Feb. 18 - Mar. 19):



Mars, the god of war, is in your partnership territory. Therefore it is particularly important not to attack another, verbally or physically. If you have enemies, let them make the first move and you will be assured of ultimate victory over the issue. Your significant other may be seething with the need to make changes, but it is too soon.

Hovhannes Tumanian Museum

Tuesday - Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Address: 40 Moskovian street, Yerevan

Tel.: 56-00-21, 58-12-71



WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

A. Spendaryan National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet

February 2, at 7 p.m.

Traviata

G.Verdi

Opera in 4 acts.

Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall

February 2, at 7 p.m.

Concert of Karin Group

February 3, at 7 p.m.

Program: Schumann: Piano

Concerto

Tchaikovsky: Symphony

N 1

Soloist: Marianna Uzan-
kichyan (piano)

Yerevan State Puppet Theater

January 30 at 7 p.m.

The author's song. Charity
concert "for little Ellen"

Hamazgayin State Theater

February 3, 4, 5 at 7 p.m.

"A Cup of Kundness" W.

Saroyan

Malkhas Jazz Club

January 30 at 9 p.m.

Artoisis group and Shushan

Petrosyan

January 31 at 9 p.m.

Jazz Trio and singer Agh-
van

February 1 at 9 p.m.

A Series of quintet: Saxo-
phone, gitar, instrumental
program

February 2 at 9 p.m.

"Time report"

February 3 at 9 p.m.

Concert Group

February 4 at 9 p.m.

Latino-American Jazz

February 5 at 9 p.m.

"Impression" Band

Club 12

January 30 at 9:30 p.m.

Jazz from Vahagn Hayra-
petyan & Armen Hyusnunts

January 31 at 9:30 p.m.

Chanson from Ruben Eg-
hoyan

February 1 at 9:30 p.m.

Art-voices & Shushan Pet-
rosyan

February 2 at 9:30 p.m.

Soul music from Common
ground

February 3 at 9:30 p.m.

Latino party from Fiesta
Caliente

February 4 at 9:30 p.m.

Retro disco party

February 5 at 9:30 p.m.

Retro disco party

The Council of Europe Office in Armenia announces a tender for the sale of a vehicle.

The technical specifications of the car are:

Car model – **Mitsubishi Pajero**
Engine – **2.8 l turbo diesel**
Mileage – **119000 km**
Transmission - **manual**
Date of production – **2004**
Date of purchase – **2005**

The car is sold with 4 additional tyres.

Specifications of 2 sets of tyres:

4 "Bridgestone all season", mileage – 51500 km
4 "Bridgestone winter", mileage - 4500km

Those who wish to participate in the tender are requested to submit their bids in a closed envelope mentioning the names of the participants as well as two telephone numbers.

For additional information, to see the car and to submit your bids, please address the Council of Europe Office in Armenia, Ms. Nazik Hambaryan, at the following address:

Yerevan, Erebuni Plaza Business Center, 6th floor, Vazgen Sargsyan str. 26/1
Tel: 54 63 22

Please submit your bids by noon (12.00) December 12, 2011.

Bids submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Council of Europe Office in Armenia

A PARIS

A LOUER
QUARTIER CHAMPS-ELYSEES
STUDIOS MEUBLES

Location par mois

écrire YEZEGUELIAN - 34 avenue des
Champs-Élysées - Paris 75008
mail: Gerancia34@wanadoo.fr Tel.: 00-331-43596519



Quote of the week



**Never expect anything.
This way, you'll never be disappointed.**



President of the Noyan Tapan Media Holding:
Tigran Haroutunian

Editor-in-Chief of the Noyan Tapan:

Gayaneh Arakelian

Editor-in-Chief of the Weekly:

Haroutun Khachatrian

Chief Correspondent:

Gourgen Khazhakian

Director of the Weekly:
Marina Harutunyan

Proofreader:
Susanna Mkrtchian

Layout:
David Tonoyan

INFORMATION and ARTICLES
by Noyan Tapan News Agency

PHOTOGRAPHS
by Noyan Tapan TV 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.: (37410) 56-59-65, Fax:(37410) 52-43-18
E-mail: contact@nt.am
URL: www.nt.am

ISSN 1829-0604