

Minister claims rising investments in Armenia



Armenia - Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan (C) and Economic Development Minister Suren Karayan (R) visit a textile factory in Yerevan, 19 June, 2017.

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Armenia, Cyprus interested in the deepening of bilateral relations

Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan received on June 19 Commissioner for Humanitarian and Foreign Affairs of the President of the Republic of Cyprus Fotiu Fotis.

The Premier stressed that Armenia attaches great importance to the development of bilateral relations based on historical friendship with Cyprus in both bilateral and multilateral formats. Appreciating the role played in this matter by the vibrant Armenian community in Cyprus, Karen Karapetyan welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia and the Office of Presidential Commissioner for Humanitarian and Foreign Affairs of Cyprus.

Pointing to the need for boosting bilateral economic ties, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of tapping the existing potential, promote business contacts, develop tourism and deepen cooperation. The head of the Armenian government spoke about the further development of EU-Armenia relations and Armenia-Cyprus cooperation within the EU frameworks.

Mr. Fotis said that the relations between Armenia and Cyprus are more than friendly as they are based on deeply rooted historical, cultural and religious bonds. Noting that the government of Cyprus has been implementing numerous programs aimed at supporting the Armenian community in Cyprus, the Presidential Commissioner high-



lighted the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, which will boost cooperation between Diaspora organizations in the two countries.

Fotiu Fotis emphasized that his country is interested in furtherance of EU-Armenia cooperation and will support this process as much as possible. Mr. Fotis said that there are all the necessary prerequisites for developing cooperation in economy, trade, tourism and other fields of mutual interest.

Armenia, ADB interested in expansion of cooperation

Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan received on June 23 the delegation of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) led by Sean O'Sullivan, ADB Director General for Central and West Asia.

The Prime Minister said the cooperation with ADB is 'impressive' and noted that 25 programs with a total value of 1 billion 190 million USD have been implemented in Armenia within that framework.

Karen Karapetyan assured of the Armenian government's willingness to implement projects in the fields of communication, energy, capital market development and others, and its interested in the expansion of ADB's cooperation with the private sector.

Sean O'Sullivan, in turn, hailed the process of infrastructure improvement in Armenia and noted that they're working towards implementation of new programs. He added that "the ADB is ready to cooperate in the fields of education, digitization of governance and others.



A wide range of issues related to bilateral cooperation was discussed at the meeting.

Azerbaijan loses four troops as Artsakh rubuffs a fresh infiltration attempt



The Azerbaijani Special Forces undertook an infiltration attempt on the nights of June 22, the Artsakh Defense Ministry reports.

Divisions of the Defense Army were quick to spot the advancement of the subversive group and rebuff the attack.

The rival lost four troops and was forced back to its initial positions. The Azerbaijani forces left personal items in the neutral zone between the parties.

The Armenian side has not incurred losses. The Artsakh forces keep the situation at the frontline under control.

U.S., EU urge Karabakh “de-escalation”

The United States and the European Union have expressed serious concern at the latest deadly fighting around Nagorno-Karabakh, saying that the parties to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict should urgently take measures to bolster the ceasefire regime there.

“The United States is deeply concerned over the recent violations of the ceasefire, which have resulted in multiple casualties on the Line of Contact over the last week,” the U.S. State Department spokeswoman, Heather Nauert, said in a statement issued on June 21.

“We urge the sides to avoid escalation and encourage immediate consideration of measures to reduce tensions along the Line of Contact and the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan,” she said.

“The European Union expects de-escalation and restraint in deeds as well as in words,” read a separate statement released by an EU spokesperson on June 22.

The EU statement came shortly before Karabakh’s Armenian-backed Defense Army claimed to have killed four Azerbaijani soldiers while thwarting an overnight commando attack on its frontline positions at an unspecified section of “the line of contact.” It said its troops suffered no casualties.

There was no immediate reaction to the claim from the Azerbaijani military.

The Karabakh Armenian army promised a “targeted and disproportionate” retaliation after three of its soldiers were killed by Azerbaijani forces on June 16. Another Armenian soldier was killed at a different frontline section the following morning.

Earlier on June 16, the Azerbaijani Defense

Ministry reported that one of its soldiers was shot dead by the Armenian side.

The warring sides blamed each other for the escalation that coincided with the latest visit to the conflict zone by U.S., Russian and French diplomats co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group.

In a joint statement issued at the end of their regional tour on Monday, the three mediators said they “appealed to the leadership of Azerbaijan to avoid further escalation.” “The Co-Chairs are sending the same message to the leadership of Armenia and de facto authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh,” they added.

The co-chairs also urged the sides to take confidence-building measures that would reduce tensions on the frontlines. The U.S. and EU statements called for “immediate consideration” of such safeguards.

The Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents agreed to let the OSCE deploy more field observers in the conflict zone and work out a mechanism for investigating truce violations there at their face-to-face talks held a year ago. Baku has been reluctant to implement those agreements, saying that they would cement the status quo in the absence of progress towards a resolution of the Karabakh conflict.

The U.S. and the EU also echoed the mediators’ calls for the conflicting parties to “re-engage in negotiations on substance, in good faith and with political will.”



Minister claims rising investments in Armenia

The Armenian government has already secured more than a third of around \$850 million in investments which it promised to attract into the domestic economy this year, Minister for Economic Development Suren Karayan claimed on June 23.

Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan repeatedly gave such promises during campaigning for last April’s parliamentary elections. He said the sum equivalent to over 7 percent of Armenia’s Gross Domestic Product will come from foreign and local private investors as well as the state budget and foreign loans extended to his government.

Karayan insisted that “approximately 37-40 percent” of the promised investments are already in progress. But he declined to specify their sources.

“We can’t publicize names, it’s a commercial secret,” he told reporters. “I can only specify the sectors where those investments have been made.”

The minister stated earlier that at least 10,000 new jobs will be created in Armenia, mostly in the manufacturing sector, in the course of this year.

The government’s political opponents and other critics are skeptical about these pledges. Speaking in the Armenian parliament earlier this week, Edmon Marukyan, a leader of the opposition Yelk alliance, pointed out that Karapetyan has not visited any western European country since he became prime minister in September.

“What is being done to attract those investments?” Marukyan asked. “Who is supposed to go [to Europe,] meet those

people and bring the investments?”

Karayan dismissed that argument, saying that “many” potential European investors have visited Armenia in recent months. “Just a few days ago, French partners were visiting,” he said. “They are going to invest in our light industry and place production orders. And on Monday our partners from Denmark will arrive.”

The Armenian economy was essentially stagnant last year amid a continuing recession in Russia, Armenia’s leading trading partner. Karapetyan’s cabinet expects that it will grow by at least 3.2 percent in 2017. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have forecast slightly lower growth rates.

By Nane Sahakyan

President Sargsyan attends EPP summit in Brussels



President Serzh Sargsyan, who is paying a working visit to the Kingdom of Belgium, attended on June 22 the enlarged summit of

the European People's Party (EPP) in Brussels, which was chaired by EPP President Joseph Daul.

The summit was attended by President of Council of Europe Donald Tusk, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and President of European Parliament Antonio Tajani, as well as the heads of State and government representing the political parties of EPP- and Eastern Partnership-member States.

The summit reviewed preparations for the meeting of the European Council, which is set to focus on the imperative of addressing the fundamental causes behind migration. In addition to key agenda items, the EPP summit discussed the situation in the Western Balkans.

President Serzh Sargsyan delivered a speech at the summit with reference made to the parliamentary elections in Armenia, the progress made so far, the cooperation between the European Union and Armenia and the need to ensure stability and security in the South Caucasus region.

Iran, Armenia ink MoU for educational cooperation

Iran's Industrial Management Institute (IMI) and Gladzor University of Armenia have signed an MoU in Tehran for expansion of training and consultation collaborations, Mehr News Agency reports.

The newly-sealed Memorandum of Understanding aims at strengthening and expanding cooperation in providing advanced and professional education as well as improving quality and quantity of various fields of education internationally.

Other provisions of the agreement include establishment of a department of industrial management at Gladzor University in Yerevan and opening of a bureau of the Armenian university at the Industrial Management Institute in Tehran, exchange of professors



and students at DBA, MBA and professional doctorate levels in addition to holding scientific and educational conferences and complementary courses for graduates.

Moreover, cooperation between the two sides for introduction of IMI students to the

scientific community of Armenia and Europe, introduction of activities of consulting department of IMI to Armenian industry owners and tradesmen and holding of joint graduate courses in English are among other axes of the agreement.

The memorandum was exchanged between the two sides with the signature of Mohammad Ali Mohammadi, Head of Industrial Management Organization, and Rector of Gladzor University Zhora D. Jhanguiryan.

In the previous Iranian calendar year, Iran exported 179,103,000 dollars of goods to Armenia and imported products worth 20,892,000 dollars from the Caucasus region country.

Czech Ambassador hopes Armenia, EU will sign new deal in November

The Czech Republic fully supports EU's relations with Armenia, Czech Ambassador to Armenia Petr Mikyska told a press conference at the National Press Club.

The Ambassador said he hopes Armenia and EU will sign the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement during the Eastern Partnership summit in Brussels.

"We support EU's relations with Armenia. We also support a new agreement expected to be signed during the Eastern Partnership summit in Brussels. We support the European Commission and External Action Service in their programs here in Armenia, and we are trying to get involved actively



in these programs," Ambassador Mikyska said.

Speaking about the recent escalation at the

Line of Contact and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, the Ambassador said "we are totally against any armed conflicts, any attacks on international borders." "We are rejecting any violations of ceasefire not only on an international border, but also the Line of Contact," he added.

The conflict in Nagorno Karabakh is dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Group and this is the only format acceptable to the international community, Mr. Mikyska said.

"Negotiated solution is the only one. We are living in the 21st century and all conflicts must be solved by peaceful means," he added.

Government allocates funds to solve housing problems of families of fallen soldiers

The extra-budgetary funds collected from fines paid for traffic rule violations will be redistributed with a view of improving the housing conditions of the families of soldiers fallen or handicapped in action. The decision was made at the government sitting on June 23.

For that purpose the government ruled today to amend the decision of December 29, 2016 on determining the directions where the extra-budgetary funds of Road Police Department should be used.

Next year the funds will be allocated to solve the housing issues of families of soldiers with second-degree disability.

The executive also decided to provide 8,323,400 AMD from the government's reserve funds to organize Mher Petrosyan's treatment in Germany. Petrosyan received a gunshot wound while on military duty.



American businesses interested in Armenia's green energy sector – Ambassador



Armenia has a potential of developing green energy – hydropower, wind power, solar power. And there is a lot of interest among American firms to come here and help develop that potential, US Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills told reporters in Yerevan on June 21.

During a meeting with Armenian Minister of Energy earlier this month the Ambassador was briefed on two projects – one for garbage energy waste system, the other for hydropower development. “These

could be attractive to American and other foreign investors. The proposals are now being presented to two American businessmen,” he said. He said American businesses could invest largely if the markets were fully open, there was free competition and no barriers to exporting energy to Georgia and Iran.

“The infrastructure needs to be in place for doing that. If there were energy exports to Turkey, that would open up the market, as well and create real opportunities for investment,” Amb. Mills said.

Speaking about the issues American businesses face in Armenia, the Ambassador said “companies face a range of issues in Armenia – from protection of property rights to fair competition and the feeling that their contracts can be enforced in the courts.”

“The Armenian market is a small market. So it’s important for American businesses that they be able to move their product out to the broader region – to Georgia, to Europe and maybe even to Russia. Easiness of crossing the border, moving the product, paying the import-export duties are also issues for American businesses,” he added.

“I’m pleased we have seen progress in these areas, especially in customs area, we have seen improvements in the fairness of customs duties and I salute the government for that,” Ambassador Mills stated.

Armenian Government approves 5-year action plan

The Armenian Government approved a five-year program at a special meeting chaired by Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan on June 19. The document will now be forwarded to the National Assembly.

Minister of International Economic Integration and Reforms, Deputy Prime Minister Vache Gabrielyan presented the 2017-2022 action plan, which is based on large-scale reforms and guarantees consistent development.

The vision of the Government program is based on the principle so having a secure, fair, free and clever Armenia.

The document outlines the priorities and vision connected with foreign and security policy, including the deepening ties between independent Armenia and Artsakh, and Armenia’s security as a guarantee for economic development.

“I think the Government has put forward an ambitious action plan. We have fixed the goals we aspire to reach in the fields of economy, unemployment, minimum salary, export volumes, as



well as taxes-GDP ratio. Besides, we have outlined the necessary actions, reforms and steps we have to take to achieve those goals,” Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan said.

India “open” to closer defense ties with Armenia

Armenia and India are continuing to discuss ways of forging military ties based on the existing “excellent” relationship between the two states, the Indian ambassador in Yerevan said on June 22.

“The two sides are discussing cooperation in this area,” Yogeshwar Sangwan told RFE/RL’s Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). “I don’t have a clear timetable [for Indian-Armenian defense cooperation] but it will happen in due course on the basis of bilateral negotiations.”

Sangwan said India is interested in deepening relations with “friendly” Armenia “in all areas.” “Even in the area of defense, we are open to cooperation with Armenia,” he added. “The issue has already been discussed by the Armenian and Indian governments and we will move forward. Whatever is possible we will definitely do.”

Visiting Yerevan in late April, India’s Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari said that military cooperation is on the agenda of Indian-Armenian intergovernmental dealings. He said the two sides intend to “further our cooperation in the areas of common interest.”

Just three weeks later, an Armenian Defense Ministry delegation travelled to India for talks with senior Indian defense officials which a ministry statement said were aimed at “exploring opportunities and reaching agreements.” The delegation was headed by Levon Ayvazyan, head of the ministry’s defense policy department.

According to the May 20 statement, the two sides affirmed their “mutual interest in utilizing as the great potential for cooperation in the area of defense.” It said they reached unspecified agreements on “military-technical” cooperation and joint training programs between the two militaries.

While in India, the Armenian delegation also visited a number of Indian army bases and defense enterprises. It familiarized itself with

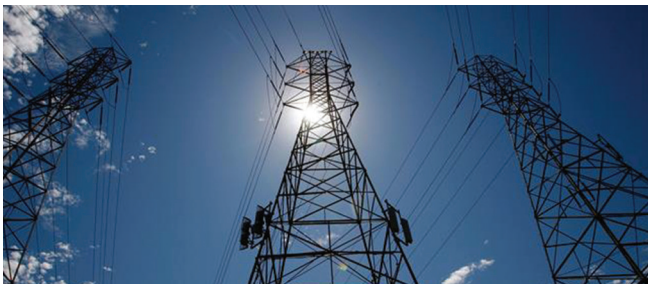


items manufactured by them and discussed with Indian officials “mutually beneficial variants of developing cooperation in this direction,” according to the Defense Ministry in Yerevan.

India’s arch-foe Pakistan staunchly supports Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, refusing to not only establish diplomatic relations with Armenia but also formally recognize the latter as an independent state. Speaking after talks in Baku with Pakistan’s Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif last October, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said they agreed to boost defense ties between their nations. In particular, Azerbaijan would like to buy sophisticated Pakistani weapons, Aliyev said.

Sangwan insisted that Pakistan is not a factor behind India’s desire to reinforce its already “very strong” rapport with Armenia. “Our relationship with Armenia is independent of any outside influence,” the Indian ambassador said. “We don’t allow third parties to influence our relations.”

Armenia planning to become a regional energy hub by 2019



Armenia plans to put into commission two power transmission lines by the end of 2019. Under the government’s five-year action plan, the country will construct Iran-Armenia and Armenia-Georgia power lines, thus linking the energy systems of Iran, Georgia and Russia. Yerevan hopes the completion of the projects will turn the country into a regional energy hub.

The construction of the 400 kW power transmission line between Iran and Armenia has

already started; the installation of poles and wires, as well as the construction of a substation is expected to be completed during 2017-2018. The project will ensure a triple increase in transactions with neighboring Iran.

The construction of another 400 kW power line linking Armenia and Georgia is expected to be completed by 2019. An international tender has been announced, and the contractor organization is expected to be chosen by September 2017.

37 doctors from the US to provide care to rural areas of Armenia



A Fresno doctor is heading to Armenia with several other medical professionals to help people in need of health services, KFSN reports.

The 37 doctors and medical professionals will be providing routine and emergency level care to rural areas of the country.

For Dr. John Garry, it's a chance to serve and return to Armenia nearly 30 years after a devastating earthquake and to revisit his families roots.

Armenia, then part of the Soviet Union, was rocked by a devastating earthquake in 1988. Emergency medical personnel from around the world rushed in to help, including Garry of Fresno.

"In 1988, during the Armenian earthquake, I was lucky enough to be among the first group of rescue people allowed into Armenia by the Soviet Union," he said.

Dr. Garry volunteered not only because he wanted to help, but because he felt an obliga-

tion to his ancestors. His grandparents came from Armenia.

"You have to remember from whence you came," he said.

Dr. Garry is a surgeon, and in the aftermath of the quake, he performed emergency procedures on those who sustained trauma from the quake and illness in its aftermath. This trip the treatments will be different.

"Just about everything but mainly there's a lot of diabetes there's a lot of hypertension, people smoke a lot in this part of the world, drink a lot, and so there's a lot of related diseases. Almost anything is there."

Dr. Garry notes the people in rural Armenia do not have access to regular medical care, and these annual trips by doctors from the Armenian Medical Mission are the only times they see a doctor.

"There is a big shortage of medical personnel and facilities and so whatever we can do to give back to an underserved area is important and for me personally drives me to want to help my own heritage to help improve their lot," he said.

Among the patients he expects to see are Syrian refugees of Armenian heritage who fled from Isis in Syria. The medical mission will be for 10 days.

ANCA urges Trump Administration to ensure Erdogan's bodyguards stand trial

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) welcomed, as a meaningful step toward justice, Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser's and Police Chief Peter Newsham's in-depth investigation that led to 18 arrest warrants — including a dozen against Turkish President Recep Erdogan's bodyguards — in connection to the May 16th attacks on peaceful protesters outside the Turkish Ambassador's residence.

"We commend the efforts of Mayor Bowser, Chief Newsham and all the law enforcement agencies involved in taking this step toward bringing the perpetrators to justice, and look forward to continuing to work with the relevant authorities to identify all involved," said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. "Law enforcement is doing its part; now it's time for the Trump Administration to take action and demand that Turkey lift any claims to diplomatic immunity for those involved in this crime, so that criminal proceedings can move forward and justice can be served."

During a June 15th press conference, Mayor Bowser stated "I condemn this attack. It was an affront to our values as Washingtonians and as Americans and it was a clear assault on the first amendment." DC Police Chief Peter Newsham announced the names of the dozen members of Turkish President Erdogan's security detail who have been charged with the attacks. Two Turkish-Americans have already been arrested for assault, and two Turkish Canadians have also been charged.

In response to a question from The Armenian Weekly, Chief New-

sham acknowledged that investigators are looking into the role of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the May 16 attack, but indicated that, despite the available video and other evidence, there is not yet sufficient probable cause to seek his arrest.

"We have dignitaries that are in and out of this city on a daily basis. Rarely have I seen, in my almost 28 years of policing, the type of thing that I saw on Sheridan Circle on that particular day," said Chief Newsham. "You had peaceful demonstrators that were physically assaulted and the message to folks who are going to come to our city either from another state or from another country is that's not going to be tolerated in Washington, DC."

Turkey spends \$2.6 Million to Hire Two New Lobbying and PR Firms



*Harut
Sassounian*

Last week, I wrote about a dozen public relations and lobbying companies the Turkish government had already hired. In recent weeks, the Republic of Turkey added two new such firms: Ballard Partners and Burson-Marsteller.

Turkish officials don't seem to realize that having more than a dozen lobbying firms not only is a waste of money due to unnecessary duplication, it is also a waste of the valuable time of several Turkish Embassy officials in Washington, D.C., spending a lot of their time on a daily basis to give detailed instructions to these lobbying firms, read their reports, comment on them, meet with them, forward their reports to the Foreign Ministry with lengthy explanations, and take corrective action based on Ankara's reaction. Unless such an intense and elaborate effort is made in working with so many lobbying firms, Turkish officials are simply wasting their country's money!

I am happy that the Turkish government has decided to waste more of its money by agreeing to pay Brian Ballard's firm, Ballard Partners, \$1.5 million from May 15, 2017 to May 14, 2018. According to Ballard's registration with the Justice Department, the firm will provide the Turkish government "with advocacy services relative to US-Turkey bilateral relations." The lobbying activities include "advising, counseling, and assisting [Turkey] in communications with US Government officials. Maintaining US relations with this important NATO partner."

Brian Ballard is the longtime lobbyist for Pres. Donald Trump as the representative of the Trump Organization in Tallahassee, Florida. He raised \$16 million for Trump's presidential campaign while serving as his state finance chairman and later as vice chairman of the President's inaugural committee. Ballard issued a statement asserting that he "still speaks to Trump on occasion." Susie Wiles, who was introduced by Ballard to Trump during the campaign, served as Trump's Florida campaign manager. She is now working for Ballard Partners. Ballard also hired former Congressman Robert Wexler (Democrat-Florida) to be in charge of the Turkish lobbying account. As co-chair of the Congressional

Turkey Caucus, Cong. Wexler actively lobbied and voted against a proposed House Armenian Genocide resolution on Oct. 10, 2007. His new job is his reward for staunchly supporting Turkey in Congress for years!

According to the Tampa Bay Times, Ballard's first interaction with Trump occurred several years ago when he wrote a letter to Trump after reading his book, *Art of the Deal*, and Trump answered. Ballard wrote back stating: "if you ever have any issues in Florida, please don't hesitate to call." Trump called him after purchasing Mar-a-Lago in 1985, and paid Ballard at least \$460,000 from 2013 to 2015 for lobbying work. Trump personally called Ballard asking for his help when he launched his presidential campaign. Ballard is now organizing a fundraising banquet for Trump on June 28. The cost is \$35,000 per person and \$100,000 to join the host committee.

Ballard makes no secret of his special connections with Pres. Trump. "I would imagine if Hillary Clinton were elected I wouldn't be here," he told the Tampa Bay Times. Ballard said "he doesn't discuss how he works or his contacts with the president. He's been spotted at the White House, however, and Trump maintains phone relationships with allies."

In addition, the Turkish Embassy in Washington D.C., signed a contract with Burson-Marsteller for \$1.1 million for the period May 1-Dec. 31, 2017. Ironically, from 2012 to 2015, Burson-Marsteller was doing lobbying work for the Alliance for Shared Values, a group tied to the Turkish Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen whom Erdogan opposes and seeks his extradition from the US to Turkey. The Turkish government reportedly threatened Burson-Marsteller's operations in Turkey if the firm continued to lobby for Gulen.

Burson-Marsteller is supposed to provide "integrated public relations services to support the [Turkish] Embassy's communications objectives in the United States. Activities include media outreach, monitoring and analysis; event support; stakeholder engagement; social media counsel; and support for Turkish consulates in Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami and New York."

It is noteworthy that despite the millions of dollars spent by Turkey on more than a dozen high-powered lobbying and public relations firms, they could not counter the large number of news articles and TV coverage critical of the Turkish government for the attack on peaceful protesters by Pres. Erdogan's bodyguards in front of the Turkish Ambassador's residence in Washington, D.C., on May 16. This fact reinforces my firm belief that Turkey is wasting millions of dollars annually trying to cleanse its image in the U.S., which is further tarnished by the Turkish government's brutal policies both at home and abroad!



By
**Gourgen
Khazhakian**

**Chief
Correspondent**

International Association of Genocide Scholars slams SBS for appeasing Armenian Genocide denial



The International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) has written an open letter to Head of Australia's Special Broadcasting Corporation (SBS), Michael Ebeid, slamming his mischaracterisation of the Armenian Genocide during Federal Senate questioning last month.

This letter, from the foremost global historical authority on genocides, pours cold water over SBS's editorial policy not to refer to the Armenian Genocide as "genocide", saying: "Genocide denial is not history: it is ideological. And we are disappointed that a reputable organisation, such as SBS, has chosen this route."

During Australian Parliament's Senate Estimates in May 2017, Ebeid was grilled on the broadcaster's unacceptable editorial position on the Armenian Genocide during an Australian Parliament Senate Estimates hearing by Greens Senator, Scott Ludlam.

Ludlam, who is the Foreign Affairs spokesperson for the Australian Greens, asked Ebeid to shed light on a May 15th article in *The Australian*, which claimed: "...SBS News and Current Affairs has a specific policy on referring to the Armenian genocide that prohibits its reporters from naming it as such. Instead reporters are instructed to

refer to the event not as a genocide but as a 'mass killing of Armenians considered by many to have been a genocide, which Turkey denies'."

Ebeid responded: "We at SBS refer to it as 'mass killing of Armenians considered by many to have been a genocide' and I think that way we make sure that our viewers understand that this is a matter of contention that historians the world over dispute..."

The IAGS open letter, signed by its President, Professor Andrew Woolford says: "During this hearing, you were asked by Greens Senator Scott Ludlam about SBS's policy regarding the naming of the Armenian genocide, which you called the 'Armenian situation'. This is akin to calling the Holocaust the 'Jewish situation'."

"The Armenian genocide is also referred to as 'mass killings', which, of course, was the intent of the genocide, but framing any genocide in terms of the perpetrators' intent, ignores the people that Senator Ludlam argues you are offending: the survivors and generations of victims. Genocide is about destruction, which continues for decades after the event, especially if the genocide is continually denied."

"Your reasoning behind SBS's policy is threefold: that a) the Australian gov-

ernment does not recognise the genocide, b) the UN does not recognise it and c) that historians "world over dispute" the genocide and there is a "lot of debate" regarding the existence of the genocide."

"The sticking point for SBS is a) – that SBS would probably "change our stance" if the Australian government officially recognised the genocide. Does this apply to all Australian government policy, such as the difference between migrants and refugees, which the Australian government often muddles for political purposes?"

"The sticking point for us as genocide studies scholars is your argument that academically recognised historians dispute the genocide. This is a falsity. There are a handful of historians who deny the genocide who are not recognised as scholarly academics by the majority of genocide studies scholars."

"We enclose the official IAGS policy on the Armenian genocide to counter SBS's damaging denial claims and ask you to reconsider your policy. We also thank Senator Ludlam for his recognition of the genocide."

Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU) Managing Director, Vache Kahramanian thanked the IAGS for their support.

"Denial of the Armenian Genocide is based on the myth that historical consensus has not been achieved on this matter," Kahramanian said. "There is no greater global historical authority on genocides than the International Association of Genocide Scholars, and SBS will recognise that they have erred in their judgment when determining this offensive editorial position."

Kahramanian added: "We hope SBS can admit this error by correcting it, and we will continue to make that case on behalf of Armenian-Australians and all who have suffered from genocide."

Memorable Celebration of 300th Anniversary of Abbot Mekhitar's Entry to St. Lazarus Island in Venice

On Saturday evening at the St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Catholic Church of Toronto, the Mekhitarian Alumni Association of Toronto (MAA-T) organized an unforgettable celebration of Armenian monk, Mekhitar, and the 300th anniversary of his entry on San Lazzaro Island, situated near Venice.

Present were high ranking representatives of various religious and political organizations, representatives of various Embassies, the representative of Cardinal Thomas Collins, Reverend Timothy MacDonald, the Italian Consular Educational Advisor Maria Cristina Mignatti, the representative of the Armenian Embassy, Berdj Richard Sevaizian, and the Eparch of the Armenian Catholic Diocese of North America and Canada His Grace Bishop Michael Mouradian along with former students of the monastery at San Lazzaro.

The church was filled by the congregation and the members of the Armenian community who were present to celebrate the legacy and accomplishments of Father Abbot Mekhitar of Sebaste, the Armenian monk, scholar, theologian and founder of the Mekhitarist Order in 1701. Abbot Mekhitar's main objective was to raise the educational and intellectual level and the spirituality of Armenian people. The Order was founded in Constantinople, but to escape persecution, the congregation relocated first to Methone in Greece, and then eventually to San Lazzaro in 1717. Since then, over the past 300 years, the congregation of Mekhitarist monks have produced over 2,000 titled books, and have established a library of over 200,000 books published in Armenian and several European languages. Similarly, the Mekhitarian Congregation of Vienna has also published over 2,000 titled books and has itself a library containing over 300,000 volumes in several languages. Both congregations established schools throughout the Middle East, Europe and Latin America, and possess large archival collections containing priceless manuscripts, works of art and maps.

These achievements would not have happened without the vision of Mekhitar who provided the vision, the mission and the spiritual leadership in chartering the path and setting the objectives of the congregation, all reflecting his unwavering Christian faith and his endeavor for educational excellence.

The honourable keynote speaker for the evening was Father Mesrob Sulahian, a Mekhitarist monk, the Superior General of the

Mekhitarist Mission in Lebanon and the Vicar General of the Armenian Catholic Diocese in Armenia, Georgia, Russia and Eastern Europe. Father Mesrob spoke passionately on the religious order's leader, history and his own personal experiences as a monk in the congregation. He delivered his speech in Armenian, English and Italian to ensure that all guests are participants to the exceptional celebration. He promised to do everything in his power, to continue building on the Mekhitarist legacy to ensure the sustainability and flourishing of the congregation for the next 300 years. He emphasized that this would be possible under the leadership of Archbishop Levon Zekian, the faith of the Armenian people in the congregation, but especially the continuous support of the Mekhitarist alumni worldwide.

Father Elias Kirijian, founding pastor of St.



Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Catholic Church and the host of the event, shared his words of praise to the congregation and the Alumni Association for their dedication and hard work in making the event an exceptional evening. He acknowledged that the alumni have been able to create a small but vital Mekhitarian community in Toronto. He welcomed all the guests, the congregation representatives and the alumni to St. Gregory Armenian Catholic church.

The Vice-President of the M.A.A.-T, Mr. Harout Mardirossian, delivered his message on this 300th jubilee by captioning the Armenian word "HASTZE", which translates to ADDRESS, in English. In fact, after years of desperate search for Abbot Mekhitar, at the age of 41, he finally discovered a secure permanent address, in the serene Venetian lagoon, on the island of San Lazzaro. It took decades of transformation, from dilapidated buildings this island became a respectable address of Armenian enlightenment and renaissance, propagating to the entire Ar-

menian nation, during the dark ages of the Ottoman rule.

Maria Cristina Mignatti, the Italian Consular Representative, expressed her joy and happiness for her country's contribution to the protection to this highly praised congregation in San Lazzaro, and expressed her pride in the order's intellectual and spiritual accomplishments during the past 300 years on Italian soil.

Reverend Timothy, the Cardinal Collins' Representative, drew parallels between the Mekhitarist order and his own congregation, both experiencing persecution in the past. He praised the amazing and outstanding achievement of the congregation over the past 300 years. He then added that now that he knows about the congregation, he has all the motivation to visit San Lazzaro and pay homage to Father Mekhitarists on his next trip to Italy.

The evening was electrified by the 3 students (Michael Golendukhin, Purak Safarian, Daniel Movsessian) reciting the poetry written by one of the Mekhitarist monks, Father Alishan, in mid 1800's. The poem's title was "Hye Hanjar" in which the Poet concluded that the Armenians are not gone and that they are alive and will continue to flourish, despite all obstacles on their path.

The biggest surprise of the evening was the performance by the "Aydenian Choir." This was organized under the leadership of Yessai Sarkissian, a former Mekhitarist student who dedicated 10 years of his life preparing to be a monk himself. The choir was accompanied by pianist Lena Yozgadlian-Nahas, herself a former student of a Mekhitarist congregation of the Hazmieh school in Lebanon. Consisting of 22 volunteer singers, both amateurs and professionals, the choir performed liturgical songs from the Armenian mass composed by Abbot Arsen Aydenian in 1877 before the Yegmalian and Gomidas.

A separate small ensemble composed of 6 youth, in their 20's, under the leadership of Armenia Sarkissian, (Karoun Chahinian, Maria Mardirossian, Gabriel Chahinian, Taniel Tanielian, Jivan stepanian) also performed without physical instruments, continuing the electrifying environment of the entire evening. The songs they sang were composed by Abbot Mekhitar himself.

The entire event was an evening of pride and joy for the community, for the alumni and was a renewal to the monks and the servants of Christian faith and Armenian culture.

City Spa, one of the founders of Aesthetic medicine in Armenia, that was established 14 years ago, is still following the main principles that were implemented since the launch: to use only clinically and scientifically approved, highly effective and safe with FDA approval products and equipments imported mainly from UK and Europe.

Depilation: Last year City Spa launched a very safe, painless and fast acting new machine for permanent hair removal. It is the “Primelase” produced by Cocoon Medical. The machine has an innovative



international leading brands such as ZO Skin health (Beverly Hills US), GLO therapeutics (ColoradoUS). Skin Ceuticals (US) etc.

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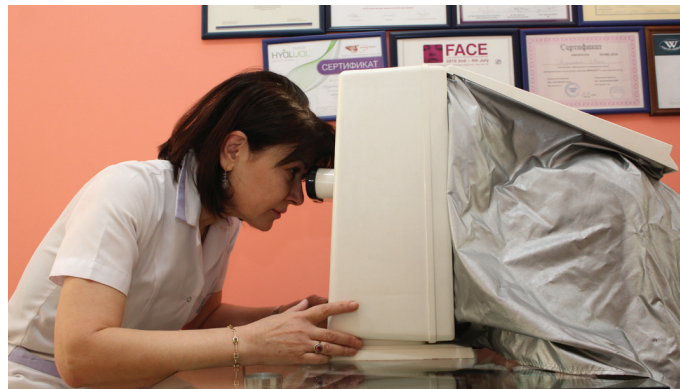
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method (dynamic mode) which allows to treat very large areas of the body within few minutes.

Localized fat removal: In Armenia the first cryolipolysis method was implemented by City Spa in 2016. Cooltech is an innovative machine that acts as a none surgical liposuction, with a new method of cryolipolysis for permanent localized fat removal and body reconturing. It is safe, painless and very effective. City Spa is equipped also with the Wellashape machine for anti-cellulite treatment.



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The address:
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Aznavour to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame



Legendary singer and performer Charles Aznavour is among several entertainment professionals in the categories of Motion Pictures, Television, Live Theatre/Live Performance, Radio and Recording who have been selected to receive stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, it was announced on June 22 by the Walk of Fame Selection Committee of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

Aznavour will join Lin Manuel Miranda, the creator and star of the hit Broadway musical "Hamilton" in the Live Theatre/Live Performance category.

These honorees were chosen from among hundreds of nominations to the committee at a meeting held in June and ratified by the Hollywood Chamber's Board of Directors. Television Producer and Walk of Famer

Vin Di Bona, Chair of the Walk of Fame Selection Committee for 2017, announced the new honorees with Leron Gubler, President & CEO for the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce who is also the emcee of the Walk of Fame ceremonies.

"The Walk of Fame Selection Committee is pleased to announce our newest honorees to the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Committee looked carefully at each nominee and we feel that we have selected an eclectic group of talent that will appeal to the tastes of many fans around the world," said Di Bona. "As a Walk of Famer myself, I know these honorees will remember the dedication of their stars with great memories and will be proud that they are part of Hollywood's history now and forever. We look forward to

their big day as the Walk of Fame Class of 2018 becomes cemented one by one on the most famous sidewalk in the world!"

Last October, Aznavour was awarded an honorary Walk of Fame plaque for his contributions to the Arts and the global Armenian community.

The plaque was presented by Senator Kevin de León, who represents Little Armenia in Hollywood, in honor of the world-renowned artist's arrival to the United States and his upcoming performance at the Pantages Theatre on October 28.

"Humbled and elated, we welcomed world renowned Charles Aznavour to Hollywood and presented him with honorary Walk of Fame plaque as well as the historic 101 Hollywood Freeway Little Armenia sign," said de Leon. "The plaque and welcome ceremony launched what will be Aznavour's permanent recognition and presence in Hollywood in months to come."

Among those receiving the a star on the Walk of Fame are Kirsten Dunst, Jeff Goldblum, F. Gary Gray, Mark Hamill, Jennifer Lawrence, Gina Lollobrigida, Minnie Mouse, Gillian Anderson, Lynda Carter, Simon Cowell, Taraji P. Henson, Eric McCormack, Ryan Murphy, Shonda Rhimes, Mary J. Blige and Sir Richard Branson.

The Walk of Fame is a tribute to all of those who worked diligently to develop the concept and to maintain this world-class tourist attraction. The Walk of Fame is open to the public. No paid admission or assigned seating at star ceremonies.

No date has been set for the Aznavour's award ceremony.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

Going off on your own might make your life easier for the next few days. However, give more attention to the roles played by the important people in your life. The

reward might be longer term peace and harmony. You have to decide which is more valuable: short term freedom or the support of a longer term relationship.



Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Circumstances will work in your favor as you deal with travel, legal interests, higher education, religious activities, and/or publishing matters. In some situations, it is a matter of good will from others. In other situations, it may just be your good

fortune that the rule of the Powers that Be helps things flow in your direction



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Your ruling planet, Mercury, moves into the sign of Cancer for the next two to three weeks. Your attention will be drawn to organizing your financial picture. Be open to a realistic check on this area. If there

are issues, leave the credit cards at home on the weekend. You will be prone to overspend.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

On June 21, 2017, not only will you have the solstice but also Mercury enters your sign. You may need to think out loud about whatever you are pondering. If there is no one to listen, satisfy that need by making outlines

or lists. Your mind is flowing with good ideas. Perhaps you need to diagram how all these things fit together. Your mind is working fast. You will need to find a way to bring order out of the apparent chaos.

Leo (July 22–August 21)



It is normal to feel somewhat lethargic during the month just prior to one's birthday. At this time the sun is figuratively at its darkest and we experience a natural low in our personal annual cycle. Don't take the dip too seriously. It is meant to happen this way, so that you can rest

before your new year begins. Take a vacation if possible.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

You are finishing a work project and shifting gears into new territory this week. You will be focusing on communications with friends, acquaintances, and building your network. Near June 27, 2017, you are

tempted to speak about things that are better left unsaid. Avoid the temptation to gossip.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

Aspects favor collection of debts and small gifts or favors from others. All you must do is be present and open to receiving them. Communi-

cations with family and friends is a large part of your weekend. You have a lot of energy to share and likely will be involved in activities that help you burn up some of that excess. Keep your opinions to yourself unless asked.



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

Take yourself outdoors this week and enjoy the summer weather. Go somewhere or do an activity that soothes your nerves and offers peace of mind. Things are improving in

your primary relationship. Perhaps you are using better diplomacy, so exchanges go more smoothly.



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

You are especially interested in paying off debts and organizing your finances. In less than a year you will make some big changes and you

don't want to be encumbered by bills or financial promises that might slow your forward motion. Time with family and home interests are rewarding to you now.



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

The bells of romance may be ringing this week. You are unusually open and friendly, which attracts people to you. If you have wanted to ask someone for coffee, now is the

time. You are also especially creative. That does not imply that you should do something artistic, but you may have a good time with any type of media.



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

This is an unusually quiet week for the Waterbearer. Your avatar planets are Saturn and Uranus. During this week neither of them is sending you

new messages. Chill. Take a week's breather. Go on a vacation. Read some books or watch good movies.



Pisces (February 18–March 19)

This is a fine time to enjoy books and/or TV, meditate and journal. Give yourself time for self-exploration and even just "diddling around" and relaxing. Your dreams are meaningful and your intuition

strong. Romance is on the horizon if you are interested. Allow your intuition to be your guide.

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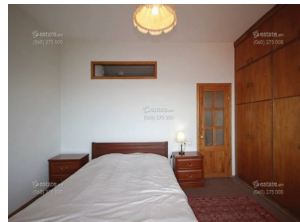
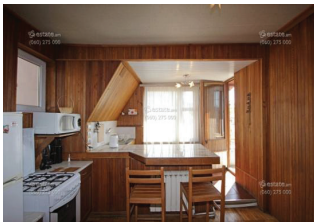
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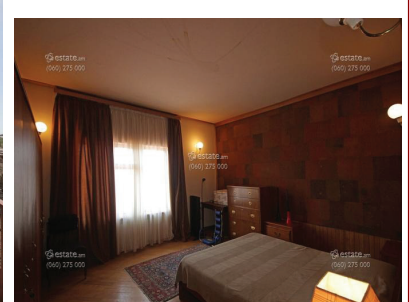
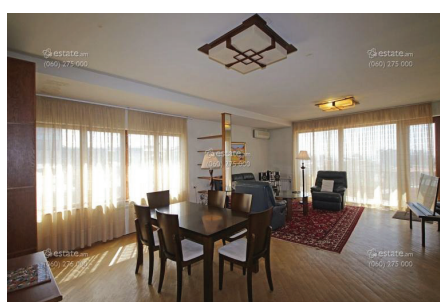
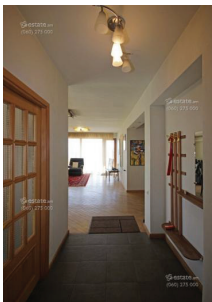
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Tigran Harutyunyan
 Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding:
Gayaneh Arakelyan
 Director of the Weekly:
Marina Harutyunyan
 Chief Correspondent: **Gourgen Khazhakian**
 Proofreader: **Susanna Mkrtchian**
 Layout: **Diana Grigoryan**
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E-mail: contact@nt.am
 URL: www.nt.am
 Address in Armenia: 28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009, RA.
 Tel.: (+374 60) 35-11-23
 (+374 60) 35-11-22
 Address in France: Masion De L' Armenie, Paris 17e - 95
 Bld. Gouvion, France.
 Tel.: (+33) 01 43 59 66 72
 Address in USA: 1146 E. Lexington Dr., #112, Glendale,
 CA, USA, 91206.
 Tel.: (+1 818) 646 10 72
 Հասցի՝ Բախակյան 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009