

## Armenian Group 'Planned Assassinations'



*Armenia - Mikael Hambardzumyan, a senior official from the National Security Service, at a news conference in Yerevan, 27 Nov 2015.*

The ten people arrested by security forces during Wednesday's raid on their alleged hideout in Yerevan plotted to kill senior Armenian officials and carry out other terrorist attacks in Armenia, the National Security Service (NSS) said on

November 27.

Mikael Hambardzumyan, a senior NSS official, claimed that they and 11 other individuals detained in the following days were part of a well-organized armed group. It was neutralized by Armenian

law-enforcement authorities just days before committing "unprecedented" crimes, he said.

"I cannot disclose at this point what crimes they had planned and against

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## Prosecutors order probe into vote bribery scandal

Prosecutors launched on November 27 criminal proceedings against a pro-government election official who has allegedly tried to bribe an opposition colleague into turning a blind eye to fraud in Armenia's upcoming constitutional referendum.

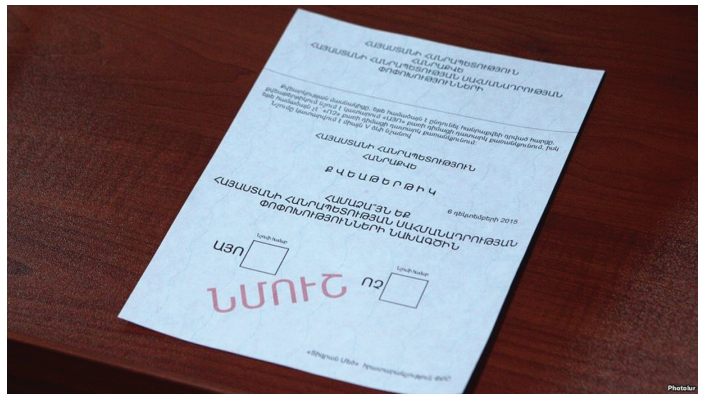
The Office of the Prosecutor-General opened the criminal case in response to a formal complaint lodged by Levon Zurabyan, a leader of the Armenian National Congress (HAK), an opposition party represented in each of the nationwide commissions that will hold the December 6 vote.

Zurabyan said on Thursday that he will send the prosecutors video evidence of an attempt to bribe a member of a precinct commission in Yerevan affiliated with the HAK. He claimed that the HAK representative was offered money by another commission member loyal to the government.

In a statement, the prosecutors said they have ordered the Special Investigative Service (SIS), a law-enforcement body subordinate to them, to detain and question the referendum official. The SIS was also instructed to seek the official's suspension.

The HAK welcomed the development. "It looks like the prosecutors are finally performing their duties in accordance with the law," one of its legal experts, Armen Khachatryan, told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyan.am).

Khachatryan said that the HAK will submit evidence of more such practices to law-enforcement authorities if they properly handle this case. "Unfortunately, there are many such



cases," he said. "There is a pattern of [government loyalists] meeting commission members, offering them financial incentives or influencing them otherwise so that they do not perform their legal duties."

The HAK and the opposition Zharangutyun (Heritage), which is also represented in the referendum commissions, alleged widespread attempts to bribe their electoral representatives in a joint statement issued earlier this week. Both groups claim that the authorities are planning to rig the referendum on controversial constitutional changes put forward by President Serzh Sargsyan.

The authorities deny this, saying that they are committed to a free and fair vote.

## Armenia, Serbia committed to further development of relations

On November 25, Edward Nalbandian, Foreign Minister of Armenia, received Bratislav Gaši?, Defence Minister of Serbia.

Minister Nalbandian emphasized the dynamically developing relations between Armenia and Serbia during the recent years and outlined the need for additional steps towards further development of cooperation. In this context, Edward Nalbandian attached importance to the developing cooperation between the Defense Ministries of Armenia and Serbia.

Minister Gaši? thanked for the reception and ensured that Serbia considers Armenia a friendly country and is interested in the further development and enlargement of relations with the Republic of Armenia. He expressed gratitude for Armenia's principled stance on the Kosovo issue, which has recently been reflected also by the vote on Kosovo's membership in UNESCO.

Edward Nalbandian presented the efforts of Armenia and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs for the exclusively peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

## Turkey has not changed over the past 100 years: Sharmazanov

Vice-President of the Armenian National Assembly Edward Sharmazanov has expressed concern over the downing of the Russian Su-24 jet by Turkey.

"Downing a military jet fighting terrorism means supporting terrorists," Sharmazanov said at a meeting with Russian State Duma Speaker Sergey Naryshkin.

"The downing of an Armenian helicopter by Turkey's little brother Azerbaijan last year created an impression among the Turkish political leadership that such crimes could go unpunished," he said.

"Unfortunately, Turkey has not changed over the past 100 years," Sharmazanov added.

Edward Sharmazanov stressed that "Armenia welcomes the draft bill submitted to the Russian State Duma, which envisages accountability for the denial of the Armenian Genocide, as improper assessment of past crimes bears new ones, including the terrorist acts we are witnessing today."

Sergey Naryshkin said, in turn, that the downing of the Russian jet was a 'stab in the back,' which is peculiar to cowards.

"Definitely, it's the fault of the Turkish political leadership, not the people. The Turkish leadership will still regret that heavy crime," he said.



## Iskandaryan: Turkish prime minister's anti-Armenian statement nothing more than PR move

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's statement is nothing more than a PR move, and Armenia shouldn't worry, Alexander Iskandaryan, the director of the South Caucasus Institute, is quoted by Novosti-Armenia as saying.

According to Kommersant, a Russian newspaper, Davutoglu, in fact, has opened a new front of fighting against Russia and its ally Armenia and has vowed to do whatever is possible to liberate occupied Azerbaijani territories.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu is now in Baku for negotiations with the Azerbaijani authorities.

"A multidirectional PR campaign is being run in Turkey," Iskandaryan said. "As for Davutoglu, his statements contradict each other. They are intended for domestic consumption."

Speaking about fears that Turkey may increase its military assistance for Azerbaijan or induce it to stronger actions in the Karabakh conflict zone, the political

analyst voiced doubt that Turkey has instruments for doing this.

"It is impossible to worsen Armenian-Turkish relations, since they are missing, and relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan follow other logic," he said.

The conflict that sparked between Russia and Turkey after the latter downed a Russian fighter jet continued escalating on Thursday. The two countries' leaders exchanged claims.

Turkish President Recep Erdogan said Ankara has no intention to apologize for the downing the warplane.

Karabakh conflict broke out in 1988 when Karabakh, mainly populated by Armenians, declared its independence from Azerbaijan.

On December 10, 1991, a few days after the collapse of the Soviet Union, a referendum took place in Nagorno-Karabakh, and the majority of the population (99.89%) voted for secession from Azerbaijan.



Afterwards, large-scale military operations began. As a result, Azerbaijan lost control over Nagorno-Karabakh and the seven regions adjacent to it.

Some 30,000 people were killed in this war and about one million people fled their homes.

On May 12, 1994, the Bishkek ceasefire agreement put an end to the military operations.

Talks brokered by OSCE Minsk Group are being held over peaceful settlement of the conflict. The group is co-chaired by USA, Russia and France.

## Armenian Group 'Planned Assassinations'

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whom," Hambardzumyan told a news conference. "I can only say that the crimes were aimed at citizens, political and state figures, and certain branches and bodies of government."

"We could see that they had planned murders [that would have been committed] in a way dangerous to the lives of many people," he said.

Hambardzumyan, who is the deputy head of the NSS's investigative department, compared the alleged conspiracy with the October 1999 attack on the Armenian parliament which left its speaker Karen Demirchyan, Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsyan and six other officials dead.

"I can even draw parallels with what was done by [jailed ringleader] Nairi Hunanyan and his gang," he said. "But while in that [1999] case we dealt with several persons armed with several automatic rifles, can you imagine what would have happened if this group had succeeded in realizing its plans with those explosives and grenades?"

The NSS and the Armenian police claimed to have found a weapons cache when their special forces jointly raided a rented house in Yerevan's northern Nork-Marash district. They said they found, among other things, 10 Kalashnikov rifles, 60 hand grenades, two rocket-propelled grenade launchers and a large amount of explosive materials.

The arrested people are presumably members of an obscure nationalist group led by Artur Vartanian, a 34-year-old Armenian national who is said to have lived in Spain from 1997 until his return to Armenia in April this year. The group announced its existence on social media with a video purportedly shot in Kessab, an Armenian-populated town in northern Syria that was overrun by Islamist rebels in March 2014.

The footage showed a uniform-clad Vartanian making a statement in front of nine other armed men also wearing army fatigues. He declared that they have set up the Armenian Shield Regiment to put up "armed resistance to terrorists" threatening Armenians.

The video message fueled speculation in Armenian media that Vartanian, who was also arrested on Wednesday, might be connected with Islamist militants operating in Syria. According to Hambardzumyan, the NSS is now looking into such a possibility.

"We know that Artur Vartanian was in Syria," he said. "We will work in that direction to find out what exactly he did there, what connections he has and whether organizations known to us have anything to do with this case."

The NSS official added that Armenian security services are also looking for the sources of "tens of thousands of dollars" in funding which he said was received by the militant group. "The money was paid in Armenia but we have yet to establish its origin," he said.

Security in and around key government buildings in Yerevan was visibly tightened following the high-profile arrests. Hambardzumyan said in this regard that the NSS does not exclude that the group has other members remaining at large.

## Security Chief denies political motives behind Yerevan arrests

Armenia's National Security Service (NSS) on November 25 shed no further light on Wednesday's arrests in Yerevan of 12 members of an alleged militant group, saying only that they will not be used against opposition groups.

At least ten of those suspects were detained in a dawn raid on a house in the city's Nork suburb that was conducted by the NSS and the Armenian police. The security forces claimed to have found there large quantities of weapons which they said were due to be used for "grave crimes" planned by the "criminal association." It remains unclear just what the arrested persons, among them four women, planned to carry out.

Security in and outside some government buildings in Yerevan was visibly tightened on Thursday. In particular, police officers armed with automatic weapons guarded the entrances to Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian's office and the Armenian parliament.

Surprisingly, the security forces did not seal the Yerevan house after searching it for several hours, allowing reporters and residents of nearby homes to enter it. They also leaked footage of the raid to media outlets thought to be loyal to the government.

Some of those online news services speculated that the arrested people are linked to the New Armenia Public Salvation Front, a coalition of radical opposition forces that plan to use the December 6 referendum on President Serzh Sargsyan's constitutional changes for trying to topple him.

New Armenia, which plans to launch a "civil disobedience" campaign on December 1, angrily denied those reports. "Opposition representatives have acted and will act within the bounds of the law," one of its leaders, Armen Martirosyan, told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am).

The demonstrative character of the NSS operation also



prompted criticism from the Armenian National Congress (HAK), a more moderate opposition party also campaigning against the proposed changes. Its deputy chairman, Levon Zurabian, blasted a report which noted that one of the arrested men had a poster urging a "No" vote in the upcoming referendum.

"With such dirty tricks, the authorities want to equate terrorism with the No campaign," Zurabian said.

The NSS chief, Gorik Hakobyan, insisted, however, that the authorities will not exploit the high-profile case to bully or pressurize the opposition. "Instead of making strange comments, they should thank the officers who conducted the special operation," he told the Armenpress news agency.

Hakobyan said that the operation neutralized "monstrous dangers" that awaited Armenia. He did not elaborate.

The arrested people are presumably members of the Armenian Shield Regiment, an obscure nationalist group that announced its existence on social media early this year. The group's leader, Artur Vartanyan, said in a Facebook video that its main mission is to "ensure the security of the Armenian nation."

## Russian Deputies Seek Accountability for Armenia Genocide Denial



**MOSCOW (Reuters)**

Russian lawmaker Sergei Mironov said on November 25 that his party had submitted a bill to parliament on holding to account anyone who denies that the 1915 killings of Armenians by Ottoman Turkish forces was a genocide.

"We have just submitted a bill on responsibility for failure to acknowledge the fact of a genocide of Armenians by Turkey in

1915," Mironov, the leader of the opposition Just Russia party, said on his Twitter account, a day after the Turkish air force shot down a Russian jet.

In related news, Russia's State Duma has supported the idea of returning Istanbul's Hagia Sophia Cathedral to the Christian church, RBK reports.

Sergey Gavrilov, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) representative and coordinator of inter-faction deputy group on protecting Christian values, urged this to Turkey. "We expect from the Turkish side a friendly step to return the Hagia Sophia Cathedral to the Christian church. The Russian side is ready to participate materially, and also to engage the best Russian restorers and scientists to the restoration of the ecumenical Christian monument. This step would help Turkey and Islam to demonstrate that the good will is above politics," Gavrilov said.

According to the CPRF, as Russian-Turkish relations are experiencing a strength test after the downing of a Russian jet near the Syrian border, "mutual friendly initiatives and proposals are especially important."

## Armenia condemns Turkey's downing of Russian Jet

In a show of support for its main military ally, Armenia condemned on November 25 Turkey's downing of a Russian warplane, saying that it undermined international efforts to defeat terrorist groups operating in Syria.

Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan at the same time urged the international community to prevent a further escalation of Russian-Turkish tensions which analysts believe would be fraught with major security risks for Armenia.

"I think that at a time when the international community is concentrating its efforts on a fight against international terrorism it can be said that it was a direct blow to those efforts," Ohanian said in what was the first Armenian reaction to Tuesday's incident near the Syrian-Turkish border. The Russian Su-24 bomber was reportedly shot down by a Turkish F-16 fighter jet after attacking rebel forces in a northern Syrian region bordering Turkey. Ankara insists that the warplane was destroyed because of violating Turkey's airspace, a claim strongly denied by Moscow.

Speaking just hours after the incident, Russian President Vladimir described it as a "stab in the back" carried out by "accomplices of terrorists" and said it will have "serious consequences" for Russian-

Turkish relations.

The incident and the resulting recriminations have raised fears that Armenia, which hosts a Russian military base deployed along its closed border with Turkey, could be drawn into a potential military confrontation between the two regional powers. Some Russian pro-government politicians and pundits have called on the Kremlin to reinforce that base with more advanced weaponry as part of its broader response to the Su-24's downing.

The base is already equipped with 18 or so MiG-29 fighter jets, a similar number of attack helicopters and S-300 air-defense systems. A perceived security threat from Turkey has long been the main official rationale for the Russian military presence in Armenia.

According to Armenia's civil aviation authority, Turkish military helicopters twice violated the Armenian airspace in early October, just days after Ankara accused Russian warplanes of straying into Turkish territory from Syria. Yerevan chose not to lodge formal protests with Ankara.

Ohanian would not say whether Armenian army units close to the Turkish border and the Russian troops stationed in Armenia have now been put on high alert. "We have a joint operational and combat

planning with Russia and we carry out joint actions our within the framework of that planning," he said vaguely.

"We are strategic partners with the Russian Federation and that defines the nature of our relationship with the Russian Federation," Ohanyan stressed in the context of the Russian plane's downing. "I think we should wait and see further developments. [World] leaders will make appropriate decisions."

"I think the international community should now also make efforts to prevent escalations," he added at a joint news conference with Serbia's visiting Defense Minister Bratislav Gasic.

The Armenian government has been very critical of Turkey's role in the Syrian civil war. It pointed the finger at Ankara after Islamist rebels, among them members of the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Al-Nusra Front, captured the Armenian-populated Syrian town of Kessab and displaced its 2,000 residents in March 2014. Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian wrote to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the time, claiming that the "terrorist groups" attacked Kessab "from the territory of neighboring Turkey."

The Turkish Foreign Ministry rejected the Armenian claims as "shameful slander."

## Armenian probe of Gyumri family massacre over

Armenian law-enforcement authorities have completed their criminal investigation into last January's gruesome killings of the seven members of an Armenian family in Gyumri which were allegedly committed by a Russian soldier serving there.

Armenia's Investigative Committee said on Tuesday that it has collected "sufficient evidence" to charge Valery Permyakov with murder, armed robbery and an attempt to illegally cross the Armenian-Turkish border. It said it has submitted the findings of the inquiry and the resulting indictment to the Office of the Prosecutor-General.

The prosecutors were quick to announce, for their part, that the high-profile criminal case has already been forwarded to a court in Armenia's northwestern Shirak province, of which Gyumri is the capital.

Permyakov has been kept under arrest at the Gyumri headquarters of the Russian military base in Armenia ever since being arrested near the Turkish border early on January 13, less than one day after six members of the Avetisyan family were found shot dead in their home. The family's seventh member, a 6-month-old baby boy, died of his stab injuries a week later. Permyakov admitted murdering them during his separate interrogations by Russian and Armenian law-enforcement officials.

Officials in Moscow insisted in the weeks that followed the killings that Permyakov can only be tried by a Russian court because Russia's constitution prohibits extradition of Russian nationals to foreign states. This stance caused outrage among many Armenians fearing a Russian cover-up of the massacre. Thousands of them demonstrated in Gyumri on January 14-15 to demand Permyakov's handover to the Armenian side.

The Russian authorities eventually agreed to place the murder case under Armenian jurisdiction. Their change of heart was first announced in late June, coinciding with street protests in Yerevan against electricity price hikes initiated by Armenia's Russian-owned power distribution network.

The Armenian probe of the massacre gained momentum in August after a Russian military tribunal in Gyumri sentenced Permyakov to 10 years in prison on charges of desertion and theft of firearms and ammunition. In his written testimony read out during the brief trial, the soldier said he decided to desert his unit because he had grown homesick and wanted to reunite with his family living in a small town in eastern Siberia. He claimed to have planned to cross into Turkey with the aim of returning to Russia.

Permyakov also told Russian military prosecutors that he randomly picked the Avetisians' modest house as he sought to get money and civilian clothes before crossing the frontier. He said he never intended to kill its inhabitants but somehow opened fire out of fear.

In a statement, the Armenian Investigative Committee similarly said that Permyakov broke into the house early in the morning in order to "steal other persons' possessions." It said he fired 28 gunshots and stabbed the sleeping baby with a bayonet attached to his rifle before stealing clothes, three mobile phones and 6,000 drams (\$13) in cash and fleeing the crime scene.

The law-enforcement body added that the 19-year-old has pleaded guilty to the accusations carrying life imprisonment.

The Shirak court did not immediately announce any dates for the start of what will be one of the most closely watched trials in Armenia's history.

## Moody's: Armenia's weak domestic demand and external vulnerabilities to weigh on 2016 growth

Armenia's (Ba3, negative) low economic diversification, weakened domestic demand, and trade and financial exposures to Russia will lead to lower growth in 2016, Moody's Investors Service has said in a report published earlier this week.

"Armenia's weak domestic demand holds back consumption and investment, while Russia's worsening economic climate has led to sharp declines in remittances. Given that remittances account for around 15% of GDP, Armenia is significantly exposed to the Russian growth cycle," says Evan Wohlmann, Assistant Vice President -- Analyst at Moody's.

However, the rating agency also notes Armenia's credit strengths, which relate to the government's commitment to fiscal prudence, high debt affordability and macroeconomic stability, together with a supportive business environment.

Nevertheless, the rating agency forecasts Armenia's GDP growth to slow to 2.5% in 2015 and 2.2% in 2016. Overall, the country's weak economic performance reflects the slow emergence of new growth drivers in the economy, says Moody's. Business sentiment remains weak, while private sector investment still drags on Armenia's economic performance. However, the rating agency notes that the economy has performed better than it had expected in 2015, given robust performances from the agriculture and mining sectors.

Meanwhile, the agency projects that Armenia's fiscal deficit will increase markedly to 4.2% of GDP in 2015, as a result of expansionary fiscal measures and low revenue growth owing to weak domestic demand. As such, the agency forecasts the general government debt ratio to rise to around 48% of GDP in 2015.

But Moody's expects the fiscal position to improve slightly in 2016, with the deficit decreasing to 3.6%, as the efforts to



improve revenue administration are complemented by tax policy measures in 2016.

However, Moody's notes those economic headwinds owing to external vulnerabilities could continue, which would negatively affect the government's plans to increase tax revenues over the next two years. In addition, Armenia's debt profile remains particularly susceptible to negative growth shocks, and if spill over risks from Russia were to worsen, further debt could accumulate, says Moody's.

The Armenian government's projection of 2015 GDP growth is 4.1%. Inflation is forecast to be 4% ( $\pm 1.5\%$ ). The GDP projection for 2016 is 2.2%.

## Russia's import sanctions on Turkey open new opportunities for Armenia to increase exports of agricultural goods to Russia

Armenian minister of agriculture Sergo Karapetyan said on November 27 Russia's decision to impose import sanctions on Turkey and cancel major investment projects over the downed Russian Su-24 fighter jet in Syria may open up new opportunities for Armenia to increase exports of agricultural goods to Russia.

The ministry said Karapetyan discussed this issue with David Ghazaryan, the director of Spayka company, one of the largest exporters of Armenian agricultural products.

"As we know, Russia has decided to limit the imports of Turkish agricultural products. This is creating new opportunities for Armenian producers in terms of

increasing the volume of exports to the Russian market. Because of upcoming New Year holidays the demand for the products is also increasing, and this is why we need to develop short- and long-term programs to increase production and exports," Karapetyan is quoted as saying in a press release.

According to Karapetyan, Armenian agricultural products, which are of higher quality than Turkish products, could not compete with the latter because of higher cost. He said Armenia can increase exports of fresh fruit and vegetables as well as meat products.

According to the National Statistical Service, Armenia's export in the first 9 months of 2015 declined by 0.9% from



the year before to \$1.095.6 billion. Exports from Armenia to Russia in the reporting period decreased by 27.8% to \$158.5 million.

## Over \$10.3 million raised at Theleton 2015



More than \$10.3 million was raised during the annual Thanksgiving Day Theleton of Hayastan All-Armenian Fund.

This year's flagship ground-breaking project is the construction of single family homes for families in Artsakh who have 5 children or more and lack adequate housing. There are already 466 families identified in Artsakh who fit the criteria and 211 are known to live in unacceptable housing conditions.

The homes that Armenia Fund constructs will have land plots of 10,000 sq. ft. each, where the families can grow fruits and vegetables. Armenia Fund will provide furniture for every room in the house as well as provide household appliances, including water heaters, refrigerators, washers, stoves and vacuum cleaners.

According to the program, priority will be given to low income families, as well as the families of active duty officers of the armed forces, families of veterans of the Artsakh Liberation War and to the survivors of soldiers who lost their lives defending Artsakh.

## Georgia, Armenia to produce European standard in border management



A €4.3 million project promoting more secure and easy traffic between the border of Georgia and Armenia is coming to its end, according to Georgia Today.

On November 25th, a summary conference in Tbilisi will bring together representatives of border management agencies in Georgia and Armenia and also international organizations.

The delegation of the European Union to Georgia, the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Ministry of Finance of Georgia and Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia are completing a project to assist the governments of Armenia and Georgia in reducing the barriers for trade, transit and movements of people accord the Bagratashen-Sadakhlo border.

The project helped the governments of the two countries to tackle smuggling and trafficking, ease people's movement at the border crossing point, equip and train border guards and promote professional cooperation between the border management agencies of Armenia and Georgia.

The European Union and UNDP also assisted the Government of Georgia to prepare and endorse the Border Management Strategy of Georgia from 2014-2018.

The initiative at the Bagratashen-Sadakhlo border crossing point is part of the European Union assistance program to the South Caucasus countries to help introduce Integrated Border Management recognised as one of the most effective tools to maintain open but secure and controlled borders.

A similar project is being implemented at the land border between Azerbaijan and Georgia.

## Qatar Airways to launch flights to Armenia



Qatar Airways will start operating Yerevan-Doha regular flights in 2016. "Armenia" International Airports" CJSC has successfully completed negotiations with Qatar Airways. Recently the negotiations were most active after Etihad Airlines announced its intention to suspend flights to Armenia.

Qatar Airlines has been awarded the Best Airline of the Year for three consecutive years.

Qatar Airways is one of the largest air

companies in the Middle East, with very extensive network operating flights to more than 140 destinations.

Qatar Airways fleet is equipped with more than 340 modern aircraft, including: Airbus A350, Airbus A380-800, Boeing 777-200, Boeing 777-300, Boeing 787-8 (Dreamliner) etc.

Doha International Airport can be a convenient transit point for those who travel to the USA, the Middle and Far East from Armenia.



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## 1 ROOM

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

## 2 ROOMS

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



## 3 ROOMS

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

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

## PREMISES

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

Price: 3.600.000 USD

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

## LANDS

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

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

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

## PRIVATE HOUSES

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

## NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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



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## 1 ROOM

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

## 2 ROOMS

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

## 3 ROOMS AND MORE

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

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



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

## PRIVATE HOUSES

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

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

## PREMISES

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

## Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator: Non-Stop Support to Culture and Rural Population...

**Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosyan and VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian summed up the projects realized in 2015**

The Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosyan and VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian held a press conference at the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia on the jointly imple-

*world by communicating our values. The culture is also a means to present ourselves, our uniqueness, and to share the vision of our development and the national identity. With supporting cultural initiatives, VivaCell-MTS hopes to see the cultural traditions spread to the wider public and to facilitate the aesthetic education of the young generation. Every unique and remarkable event adds a new quality and cultural mark to Armenian society,"* VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** said.

The cultural initiatives supported by VivaCell-MTS embrace a variety of spheres and genres, as well as those shedding light on the pages of Armenian history, particularly, the donation of valuable documents and materials to the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute; support to a number of film and music festivals such as

"Golden Apricot" International Film Festival, "Return" Classical Music Festival, "New Names" festival, "National Gallery" Music Festival, "Fresco" Film Festival, support to musical and dance ensembles, such as "Barekamutyun" Dance Ensemble, "Hover" Chamber Choir, State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, State Academic Choir, Duo "Ars Lunga", the choir of "Unison" NGO; support to organizations realizing cultural projects, such as Aleksandr Spendiarian Opera and Ballet National Theatre Support Foundation, "Response after 100 years" project devoted to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, creation of the Golden Collection of the Public Radio "Masterpieces of Armenian Music", etc. Media projects aimed at increasing the awareness and promotion of Armenian cultural traditions are of special importance to the Company: VivaCell-MTS has supported the "Travelling Overseas" program and a documentary about "Cilicia" ship.

**Gomq community of Vayots Dzor region, has become the tenth community to have been provided with street lighting**

The Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) and VivaCell-MTS presented the outcomes of already the 10th initiative implemented this year in the frames of the joint Alternative Energy Project. A street lighting system

with 37 LED lights has been installed in Gomq community of Vayots Dzor region.

VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian, FPWC Founder Ruben Khachatryan, Head of Gomq community Mkhitar Hovhannisyan and community residents attended the event.

The community is 7 km far from Nakhichevan border and has a population of almost 300. The community is notable for the initiatives of its youth. Due to efforts by various groups a playground and a culture house was built; there's also a child development center and a women cooperative, involved in greenhouse farming, refrigeration, seeds and seedling production.

The outdoor lighting system has always been one of the main problems of this village since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Owing to the project implemented in Gomq, now an area of 1300 meters, almost 60 % of the village, has been provided with energy-efficient outdoor lighting.

*"This is already the tenth community we have visited this year. Social support is the main objective of this project, but the idea behind the implemented initiative is to instill hope and optimism towards the future. More than half of the territory of Gomq has been provided with outdoor lighting. Our efforts have not been in vain, if, lighting the streets of the community, we have also managed to light the fire of optimism in you to at least the half of its amount. Always remember that you are not alone,"* VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** said.



mented projects and the future plans.

The Ministry of Culture continues appearing with numerous musical, theatrical, youth-oriented projects and initiatives: film festivals and premieres organized in all spheres of culture are the vivid example of that. However, these initiatives do grow into realized projects owing to friends truly devoted to the cause, such as VivaCell-MTS. The Ministry of Culture highly appreciates the support VivaCell-MTS manifests in implementing initiatives that promote the Armenian culture in the world.

Speaking about the importance of cooperation, Mrs Minister said: *"Our friendship is already ten years old. The involvement of the Company in the fields of contemporary art and cultural heritage preservation is significant. It should be noted that each project realized in cooperation with VivaCell-MTS has recorded high quality and success."*

Throughout years culture has always remained within the focus of the Social Investments Program activities of VivaCell-MTS. AMD 2.512.000.000 is the volume of financial investments made by VivaCell-MTS into projects implemented in the frames of Social Investments Program during 2015, out of which AMD 894.500.000 (35.6%) have been invested into cultural initiatives.

In total, during 10 years of operation VivaCell-MTS has invested AMD 23.6 billion into Social Investments Program, out of which AMD 7.912.600.000 (34.4%) were directed towards implementing cultural projects.

*"VivaCell-MTS' support to the culture aims at keeping cultural dialogue with the*



The environmentally friendly and energy efficient LED street lights will reduce energy consumption by 80%. The timeframe for lighting in summer will be 22:00 PM till 01:00 AM, and the winter timeframe is 18:30 PM till 12:00 AM. On holidays, the lighting will be provided all night long. LED lights are energy-efficient, durable and last much longer than regular ones.

The Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) and its General Partner VivaCell-MTS attach great importance to the use of innovative technologies in the environmental protection initiatives that promote nature conservation, energy efficiency, as well as community development.

## Yerevan threatens PACE boycott over Karabakh text



Armenian lawmakers may boycott sessions of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) if it adopts a pro-Azerbaijani resolution on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict criticized by international mediators, deputy parliament speaker Hermine Naghdalyan warned on November 24.

The draft resolution hailed by Azerbaijan but strongly condemned by Armenia demands Armenian withdrawal from Karabakh and the territory's return to Azerbaijani rule. It also says that the United States, Russia and France should

"consider reviewing" their peace efforts accordingly. In a joint statement issued on November 12, senior diplomats representing the three mediating powers effectively spoke out against the resolution's passage at the next PACE session scheduled for January. They warned the Strasbourg-based assembly against "disrupting the negotiation process." The criticism raised hopes in Yerevan that the PACE leadership might yet put the controversial document on hold. But there have also been suggestions that Armenia will boycott the 47-nation assembly if it

fails to thwart the resolution's passage.

Naghdalyan, who heads the Armenian parliamentary delegation at the PACE, admitted such a possibility. "We may make our decision even before that time [the PACE's January session,] depending on developments," she told journalists.

Naghdalyan stressed at the same time that the Armenian leadership has not yet "discussed" a possible boycott. "It is now trying to find [political] reserves that could ... allow us to achieve a breakthrough at the PACE's plenary session," she said. "Other kinds of decisions will be made only if we see that we have no such reserves."

Naghdalyan and other pro-government members of her delegation have been facing strong criticism from the Armenian opposition and independent media for their failure so far to block the pro-Azerbaijani resolution.

Levon Zurabyan, an opposition member of the delegation, on Tuesday blamed not only Naghdalyan but also President Serzh Sargsyan and the Armenian Foreign Ministry. He said they have failed to coordinate their efforts in Strasbourg.

## Putin, Hollande, urge coalition against Islamic State



French President Francois Hollande told Russia's Vladimir Putin on November 26 world powers must create a "grand coalition" to combat Islamic State militants who control swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq, Reuters reports.

Hollande is on a diplomatic offensive to build a common

front against the militant Islamist group that has claimed responsibility for the attacks in Paris on Nov. 13 that killed 130 people.

Islamic State has also said it downed a Russian plane on Oct. 31 over the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, killing all 224 people on board.

"Our enemy is Daesh, Islamic State, it has territory, an army and resources, so we must create this large coalition to hit these terrorists," Hollande said in televised remarks at the start of bilateral talks with the Russian leader in the Kremlin.

"I'm in Moscow with you to see how we can act together and coordinate so that we can strike this terrorist group, but also reach a solution for peace," Hollande said.

Putin said Moscow was ready to unite with Paris against a "mutual enemy" following the downing of the Russian airliner and the attacks in Paris.

"You're paying big attention and putting a lot of efforts into the emergence of a broad antiterrorist coalition," he said at the start of his emergency summit with Hollande in the Kremlin, according to TASS.

"What's more, we think this coalition is absolutely necessary and that's where our positions are the same," Putin said.

## Sergey Smbatyan Directed Legendary "Moscow Virtuosi" Orchestra Concluding VIVACELLO Festival



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**  
Chief Correspondent

On 26 November the Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra

of Armenia **Sergey Smbatyan** led a world renowned "Moscow Virtuosi" Orchestra at P.I.Tchaikovsky Concert Hall.

It should be reminded that "Moscow Virtuosi" Chamber Orchestra was established in 1979; the Founder, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor is a world famous musician and philanthropist Soviet Union People's Artist Professor **Vladimir T. Spivakov** who is a great friend of the Armenian people and Armenia.

Sergey Smbatyan directed the closing concert of the VIVACELLO Festival. The mentioned concert was dedicated to 175th Anniversary of the great Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

During the event the participants of Tchaikovsky Competition performed. Together with the laureates of the previous years **Ivan Monighetti** and **Boris Andrianov** the winner of this year 17-year-old virtuoso cellist **Jonathan Rouzman** performed as well.

The concert program included works by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Robert Schuman and Alexander Rosenblatt. In fact, Rosenblatt's Jazz Variations on a Rococo Theme written for Cello and Orchestra was performed for the first time. Alexander Rosenblatt is famous for his jazz arrangements of classical composers. Especially for this occasion he created his own versions of Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme.

Notably, the grateful audience impressed their emotions by non-stop "Bravo!", "Encore!" and, finally, a stormy ovation.

### Alexandra Soumm, Alexander Romanovsky and the Youth Orchestra Performed in Memory of the Great Svyatoslav Richter

On 21 November a concert of Khachaturian International Festival was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the great Soviet/Russian pianist **Svyatoslav Richter**.

During the evening the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia



performed with renowned musicians **Alexandra Soumm** (violin / France) and **Alexander Romanovsky** (piano / Ukraine / Italy). The audience enjoyed "Coriolan" Overture and Violin Concerto by Beethoven as well as Piano Concerto No.1 by Tchaikovsky conducted by **Sergey Smbatyan**.

Violinist Alexandra Soumm says that to play with the SYOA gives her quite different emotions: *"They are of my age, charged with positive emotions. I am from Paris, and what happened a week ago, is very painful for me. I asked the musicians to give me strength, and I felt a lot of love and support from them"*. Alexandra Soumm is a versatile musician who is equally brilliant both with chamber and symphonic repertoire. She has collaborated with such orchestras as Los Angeles Philharmonic, National du Capitole de Toulouse, Zurich Chamber Orchestra, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and with many others. Over the last 10 years Alexandra is actively involved in activities of Seiji Ozawa International Academy (Switzerland).

The pianist Alexander Romanovsky pointed out that he regularly visited Armenia with concerts. *"Frankly speaking, here I feel myself at home. Every time Sergey Smbatyan says to me "Welcome home!" - there is some truth in those words... In Armenia people are very kind and honest, this is a great wealth. I am happy to play with this wonderful Orchestra. When the*

VII Международный Виолончельный Фестиваль

VIVACELLO

Заккрытие 26.11-19:00

Играют лауреаты Международного конкурса им. П.И. Чайковского: Иван Монигетти, Борис Андрианов, Джонатан Роузман  
Камерный оркестр "Виртуозы Москвы". Дирижер: Сергей Смбалян

musician steps on the stage, in fact he is naked but he should not hide; audience feels everything. And backed by Sergey Smbatyan and by support of the orchestra musicians, we can see a birth of something wonderful at the stage which is called Music. No matter how many times I visit Armenia, every time I find something unique and mysterious”, - Alexander Romanovsky said.

One should note that Romanovsky won the 1st prize at Busoni Competition (Italy) at the age of 17. Since 2007 he has released 3 CDs with Decca Recording Company (Schumann, Brahms and Rachmaninoff) which acclaimed high assessments of musical critics. Since 2013 Romanovsky is the Artistic Director of Krainev International Competition for Young Pianists. Recently he has per-



formed as a soloist with Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, under **Valery Gergiev** as well as with **James Conlon** and Chicago Symphony Orchestra, with **Alan Gilbert's** and New York Philharmonic, with London's Barbican Centre and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

To remind, the organizer of the 3rd Khachaturian Intl Fest is the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (General Partner Arjmenia's leading telecom operator company VivaCell-MTS), it is held under the patronage of RA President **Serzh Sargsyan**. The Festival is realized by with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture. The festival is sponsored by "Pyunik" Charitable Foundation, "Luding" and "Jermuk Group" Companies and "Ani Plaza".

### **Vahagn Papyan: "I've Seen an Obvious Growth of the Orchestra Musicians' Professional Level..."**

On 26 November a world recognized pianist and conductor **Vahagn (Vag) Papyan** (Israel) performed with the SYOA both as a soloist and conductor. During the concert held within frames of the Khachaturian Fest Overture from the W.A.Mozart's "Magic Flute" opera, Concerto for Piano N21(soloist V.Papayan) and Symphony N3 for Organ by K.Saint-Saens (soloist Hovannes Manoukyan) were performed.

In his interview with the impressive crowd of mass media reps Professor **Suren Zakaryan**, the Head of the Piano

chair at the Komitas Yerevan State Conservatory said in particular: "...In my opinion, **Vahagn Papyan** is a great phenomenon in our music life, really, a serious and deep phenomenon in our performing art, and we should preserve suvh our artists – our natl treasure...And, no doubt, this is a really world unique thing when the same musician is a wonderful pianist and a conductor at the same time. So we must be proud of Maestro Papyan".

As to Papyan himself, he said that he was happy for existence of such a Festival as Khachaturian Fest was as he was very actively interested in music life of Armenia. As to the SYOA musicians, Maestro Papyan stressed he noted "a serious growth" of their professional level, and, "importantly, the way they've crossed already..."



## Armenian Genocide documents from Vatican archives published in 7-volume set

On November 21, presentation of unique series of seven-volume set of books by Father Georges-Henri Ruyszen was held in the Pontifical Oriental Institute of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome. The event was organized by the Embassy of Armenia in the Holy See.

Rector of the Pontifical Oriental Institute David Nazar, founder of the Community of Sant'Egidio Andrea Riccardi, president of the Community of Sant'Egidio Marco Impagliazzo, clergymen of Armenian Apostolic and Catholic churches, representatives of public and political sector, members of Armenian community in Italy were among the participants of the event.

The publication presents all the documents on the Armenian Genocide from the period of the Hamidian massacres till the post-Genocide years of Kemalist rule, which were preserved in the Vatican closed archives, and gives a full picture of all the stages of this crime, from planning to implementation of the genocide.

During his speech Ambassador of Armenia to the Holy See Mikael Minasyan particularly stressed the fact that this seven-volume set is a significant achievement for Genocide studies and is a history which also that of the Turks. "The work by Father



Ruyszen helps us to trace back the facts. It helps us to read the past thus learning the lessons for the future."

At the event Ambassador Minasyan handed over to Father Georges-Henri Ruyszen the Order of Honour awarded by the President of Armenia for the development of the Armenian studies and for his significant contribution to dissemination of spiritual values.

## Turkey Threatens Paraguay for its Recognition of Armenian Genocide

Turkey suspended bilateral relations with Paraguay and threatened to boycott trade with the country after the Senate unanimously approved on October 29 an official recognition of the Armenian Genocide, Agencia Prensa Armenia reports.

Turkey's ambassador in Argentina, Taner Karakas, concurring in Paraguay and Uruguay, met with Senator Victor Bogado, of the ruling Colorado Party, who is Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Affairs. According to local reports, Karakas expressed "disagreement and concern on the declaration."

After that meeting, Victor Bogado said on Thursday November 19 that he would present "an alternative project as a way of rectifying the position of the Senate. "Turkey was deeply concerned about the term 'genocide', given that this happened before the creation of the same Turkish state," said Bogado.

Bogado also said that "the Senate declaration is nonbinding with the government's position."

Alfonso Tabakian, director of the Armenian National Committee of South America, emphatically said to Agencia Prensa Armenia that "the Turkish state, through its concurrent Ambassador to Paraguay, exerted unprecedented pressure bordering on blackmail on Paraguay, brutally exposing the authoritarianism of the government of Recep Tayyip Erdogan."

On November 24, the politician Rafael Filizzola Serra published on ABC newspaper an article titled "The Armenian Genocide and our dignity as a sovereign country," in which he stressed that the decision of the Senate of Paraguay was "a sovereign decision consistent with the history of our country."

"The unfortunate thing is that our diplomacy, rather than defending the sovereign authority of the Senate to speak, has



taken steps to reverse the parliamentary statement," he added. "Our diplomacy shows a supine ignorance of the current international position on the Armenian Genocide and historical facts found by the intellectual community."

"The dignity of a country that suffered the extermination and that has a moral obligation to speak out against acts like this and many others, to ever happen again. And for justice, because crimes against humanity must not only be reported but also repaired. Armenia deserves a fair compensation for everything it suffered, as well as our country."

"I sincerely hope that Paraguay will not kneel once again to pressure and blackmail, and that our diplomacy is worthy of a sovereign country," concluded Rafael Filizzola Serra.

## Dresden Symphony recalls Armenian genocide

*Recalling the genocide on Armenians perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire a century ago, an orchestra of German, Turkish and Armenian musicians is performing world premieres in Berlin, Deutsche Welle reports.*

The mass execution of Armenians in 1915 is considered the 20th century's first systematic extermination of an ethnicity, with massacres and death marches resulting in the death of approximately 1.5 million persons.

As a sign of reconciliation, the Dresden Symphony Orchestra launched a project titled "Aghet." Deriving from the Turkish word "ağz," the word translates as "catastrophe" and is synonymous of the century-old genocide. The playbill for the concerts on November 27 and 28 at the "Radialsystem V," a venue in Berlin's Friedrichshain district, includes works by Zeynep Gedizlioğlu (Turkey), Vache Sharafyan (Armenia) and Helmut Oehring (Germany).

### Guitarist's initiative

Conducted by Andrea Molino, the Dresden Symphony is joined by musicians from Turkey and Armenia as well as members of the "No Borders Orchestra." The latter, consisting of instrumentalists from the former Yugoslav states, was formed after the civil wars in the region in the 1990s and is itself a reconciliation project.

"Aghet" was initiated by Marc Sinan together with the orchestra from Dresden. Sinan's Armenian grandmother lost her parents in the events following the deportations that began on April 24, 1915. The guitarist of German, Armenian and Turkish heritage performs the solo part in Helmut Oehring's piece "Massaker, hört ihr MASSAKER!" (Massacre, do you hear MASSACRE!) for guitar solo, voice, women's chorus and strings.

On his compositional approach, Oehring writes: "The score

is meant to depict a force field that transforms the injuries and devastation suffered into a new energy, a kind of emotional reserve for those who come afterwards."

Also given its world premiere is "İsimsiz / Notes for the Silent One" for strings. This is not the first work written by the young Turkish composer Zeynep Gedizlioğlu on the subject; her string quartet titled "Susma" (Don't Be Silent!) was dedicated to the Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, murdered by a Turkish nationalist in broad daylight in Istanbul, in January 2007. Gedizlioğlu, who had been nearby, heard the shot.

### The duduk, or the 'Armenian flute'

At the "Aghet" concert project, a work by the Armenian composer Vache Sharafian is given its first performance in Germany. In "Surgite Glorïae," a double concerto for viola and duduk, Armenian duduk soloist Araik Bartikian and German violist Matthias Worm play solo. Known as the "Armenian flute," the duduk is considered the country's national instrument.

Sharafian, who lives as a music instructor in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, has attracted worldwide attention for his compositions, including works for the Silk Road Ensemble, a much-noted intercultural project by American cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

Following "Hasretim" and "Dede Korkut," "Aghet" is the third and final installment in the Dresden Symphony Orchestra's trilogy dealing with the history and culture of Anatolia and the Caucasus region.

Following the performances in Berlin, the concert will be repeated on April 29, 2016 in Dresden before going on tour to Belgrade, Yerevan and Istanbul later in the year. The latter performance is certain to spark controversy, as the genocide of Armenians is still denied in the official reading of history in Turkey.



## Armenia seeks to make best use of EEU membership, develop cooperation with EU

On November 26, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian participated in the Eastern Partnership Informal Ministerial Dialogue in Tbilisi, attended by Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Helga Schmid, Deputy Secretary General for the External Action Service.

Addressing the meeting, Minister Nalbandian said:

*The European Neighborhood Policy has played a substantial role in promoting and deepening the cooperation between Armenia and the EU. We highly appreciate the EU's continued support and assistance provided to our country over the years, which has been instrumental for the effective implementation and sustainability of the reform process and institutional capacity building in Armenia.*

*Armenia welcomed the European Neighborhood Policy review process. We highly appreciated the initiative of High Representative Mogherini and Commissioner Hahn to engage the partner countries in this process. We are pleased to note that the outcome of the EU Council deliberations of the last week duly reflected the principle of differentiation to be applied to the partners, taking into account the progress made in implementation of their commitments in the areas of democratic reforms.*

*I would like to use this opportunity to thank you, Johannes, and ask you to convey my gratitude also to Federica for your joint letter on the ENP review process that I have received a week ago and assure that we share the ideas contained therein.*

*Dear colleagues,*

*Since our last meeting in Minsk some important developments have taken place. I would like to note with satisfaction, the decision of the EU Council authorizing the European Commission and the High Representative to open negotiations on a new agreement with Armenia.*

*The negotiations will be launched in coming days and I am hopeful that*



*through the active process of deliberations we will be able to reach an agreement on a new framework document that will reflect the essence and depth of our bilateral relations and set new guidelines for mutually beneficial cooperation.*

*Following the successful negotiations of last month, we look forward to signing in coming days the agreements on Armenia's participation in a number of EU programs, such as "Horizon 2020", and the Program for Competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises (COSME). In the area of transport, the Government of Armenia has expressed its readiness to conclude a common aviation agreement, following the liberalization of the aviation market through the Open Skies Policy.*

*We attach great importance to people to people contacts, and view enhanced mobility of our citizens as an important prerequisite for bringing our societies closer. It is almost two years now that the EU-Armenia Visa Facilitation and Readmission agreements are being implemented. We do believe that it is high time to move further and launch a dialogue on visa liberalization with an understanding that this is a reform oriented process.*

*Dear colleagues,*

*The Government of Armenia is committed to advancing the reforms aimed at development and consolidation of the democratic institutions and good governance, protection and promotion of human rights, strengthening the rule of law and the independence of judiciary. With this in mind, the President of Armenia has initiated the process of con-*

*stitutional reform. If approved in referendum on December 6 it will transform Armenia's semi-presidential model of governance into the parliamentary one.*

*According to the opinion of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe "the work carried out by the Constitutional Commission of Armenia is of extremely high quality and deserves to be supported and welcomed". It also stated that the draft text of the Constitution is in line with international standards.*

*Dear colleagues,*

*Armenia well recognizes the importance of inclusive cooperation in different formats. We hold the view that it is possible to make best use of various integration frameworks employing more visionary approach. Since our joining the Eurasian Economic Union, and even before, we have been advocating for a rationale that builds on opportunities provided by different integration formats while avoiding undue creation of new dividing lines in the larger neighborhood. We want to make best use of our participation in the Eurasian Economic Union and at the same time develop mutually beneficial possible cooperation with the European Union.*

*Dear colleagues,*

*We look forward to advancing our efforts in the framework of both Eastern Partnership and European Neighborhood Policy and we are confident that we will continue to proceed in the right direction, based on shared values and respect of each other's decisions and choices.*

*Thank you.*

## Armenian Genocide holds lessons for Canada, Atom Egoyan says



CBC News

The Armenian genocide has lessons for Canadians as they come to terms with trauma inflicted on indigenous people, Atom Egoyan says.

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights is marking the centennial of the Armenian genocide with a visit from the acclaimed Canadian filmmaker on November 25.

Egoyan, whose parents are Armenian, explored the genocide in his 2002 film *Ararat*, which starred Arsinée Khanjian, his wife. Egoyan and Khanjian will both speak at the museum Wednesday evening.

Egoyan spoke with Information Radio's Marcy Markusa about the Armenian genocide and the treatment of indigenous people in Canada on Wednesday morning. Read highlights of their conversation below.

**Marcy Markusa: You, I know, are personally connected to [the Armenian genocide].**

Atom Egoyan: On my father's side, my grandparents were survivors. My grandmother really was found in a village at the age of about six, so we don't really know where she's from, and that's where the family tree sort of ends on that side. So, it was something I was always aware of ...

When we came to Canada, I was raised in Victoria, B.C., where there wasn't really an Armenian community to speak of, so it was something that wasn't really talked about a lot until I went to Toronto, and I realized that there was this whole history.

It's a pretty grim history but the amazing part is that Canada had a huge role in actually welcoming Armenian refugees at the time to Canada and has actually acknowledged this officially as genocide, which has been a real bone of contention because the perpetrator, Turkey, has never

really come to terms with this. It's always denied the Armenian genocide.

**MM: Have you ever come [face] to face with someone who's denied it?**

AE: Oh, yeah. It's an odd situation because we take it for granted when something has happened historically that there will be some sort of reckoning at some point, but this is still very much an open wound and ... one of the things that I'll be talking about tonight is how that's happened and how it's been possible ... unlike let's say the Holocaust, where after the Second World War there were the Nuremberg trials and Germany was really made to acknowledge this and it was irrefutable, of course, because of all the documentation.

The Armenian genocide happened at this moment where it was possible because of various political pressures for Turkey to actually walk away from any acknowledgement.

It's not usually someone who says, "It didn't happen." It's someone who basically says, "Well, there have been exaggerations," or "I'm sure there are two sides to the story." There's usually some way of equivocating. Of course when you meet someone who's actually adamant about the denial, it becomes even starker than that. It's a little surreal to be honest, it's quite surreal.

You have to also understand when you meet someone who's a young person who was raised in Turkey that they weren't schooled with this.... A lot of them aren't even aware of the history.

**MM: Here in Canada a lot of people [are] not aware of the history either. So, 1.5 million Armenians died. What happened?**

AE: Armenians were living in towns and villages all over the eastern part of Turkey.

There was a large community in what is present-day Istanbul. In 1915, the Turkish government, a "Young Turk" government at the time, decided to move large parts of the population into the deserts of what is present-day Syria.

Armenians were trying to assert their rights in terms of they were being over-taxed and they were being, there were all sorts of pressures. The basic political issue was that the Ottoman Empire at the time

was crumbling.

The Young Turk government blamed the Armenians for a lot of what their problems were.... They were considered to be the root cause of why the empire was crumbling. The Turks thought that there was a possible coalition with certain Armenians with Russia, so they basically evacuated all these villages and what seemed to be at first ... a forced relocation became an organized genocide. People were marched into deserts, where they were basically left to die. There were of course massacres and killings along the way, but our killing fields were in a place called Deir ez-Zor in Syria, where there are large crevasses in the mountains where Armenians were basically thrown into at the end of their journey.

When you're bringing up history being forgotten and you're talking about how when you go to Turkey you realize the education was never there ... people didn't have a chance to learn, [I can't help] thinking about Canada as we come to terms with our own history with residential schools and treatment of aboriginal people. What have you learned about confronting denial that might shed some light on that?

The natural human tendency, unfortunately, is that if you can deny and get away with it, you will. This idea that there is a moral core that somehow prevents us from denying atrocity or crimes or wrongdoings that we do against fellow human beings, we tend to actually become quite lax.

**MM: But at what point is there no excuse for ignorance?**

AE: Well, in the case of being able to understand someone else's suffering. That's what it comes down to; it's this question of compassion. It's this understanding that we're dealing with other human beings.

I think that one of the reasons that we're dealing with the residential school issue is that we're seeing the effect of this on present-day populations. We're seeing the trauma. We understand that this is not just something that happened that we can sweep under the rug. This is a responsibility that we have as a society and we have to hold ourselves up to the very high standards of being able to address the wrongs that we have done.

## Columbia University Researchers Confirm Turkey's Links to ISIS



*By Harut  
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The  
California Courier*

A team of Columbia University researchers from the United States, Europe, and Turkey have confirmed that the Turkish government has provided to ISIS military cooperation, weapons, logistical support, financial assistance, and medical services. This detailed investigation was headed by David L. Phillips, director of the Program on Peace-building and Rights at Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights. He had previously served as senior advisor and foreign affairs expert for the U.S. Department of State.

Here are brief excerpts from the extensive research documenting the direct links between Turkey and ISIS:

### 1) Turkey Supplied Military Equipment to ISIS

- An ISIS commander told the Washington Post on Aug. 12, 2014: "Most of the fighters who joined us in the beginning of the war came via Turkey, and so did our equipment and supplies."

- Kemal Kilicdaroglu, head of the Republican People's Party (CHP), disclosed on Oct. 14, 2014, documents from the Adana Office of the Prosecutor revealing that Turkey supplied weapons to terrorist groups. He also produced transcripts of interviews with truck drivers who delivered the weapons to the terrorists.

- According to CHP Vice-President Bulent Tezcan, Turkish agents drove three trucks loaded with rockets, arms, and ammunition to ISIS in Syria on Jan. 19, 2014.

- Cumhuriyet newspaper quoted Fuat Avni as stating that Germany and the United States had audio tapes confirming that Turkey provided financial and military aid to terrorist groups associated with Al Qaeda on Oct. 12, 2014.

- Documents made public on Sept. 27, 2014, revealed that Saudi Prince Bandar Bin Sultan financed the transportation of arms to ISIS through Turkey.

### 2) Turkey Provided Logistical Assistance to ISIS Fighters

- According to a June 13, 2014 article in Radikal newspaper, Turkish Interior Minister Muammer Guler issued the following directive: "Hatay is a strategic location for the mujahidin crossing from within our borders to Syria. Logistical support for Islamist groups will be increased, and their training, hospital care, and safe passage will mostly take place in Hatay."

- The Daily Mail reported on Aug. 25, 2014 that many foreign militants joined

ISIS in Syria and Iraq after traveling through Turkey.

- Britain's Sky News obtained documents showing that the Turkish government stamped passports of foreign militants seeking to cross the Turkish border into Syria to join ISIS.

- A senior Egyptian official indicated on Oct. 9, 2014 that Turkish intelligence is passing to ISIS satellite imagery and other data.

### 3) Turkey Trained ISIS Fighters

- CNN Turk reported on July 29, 2014 that in the heart of Istanbul, places like Duzce and Adapazari have become gathering spots for terrorists.

- Turks who joined an ISIS affiliate were shown on July 28, 2014, at a public gathering in Istanbul.

- A video showed an ISIS affiliate holding a prayer-gathering in Omerli, a district of Istanbul.

- According to Jordanian Intelligence, Turkey trained ISIS militants for special operations.

### 4) Turkey Extended Medical Care to ISIS Fighters

- An ISIS commander told the Washington Post on Aug. 12, 2014, "We used to have some fighters-even high-level members of the Islamic State-getting treated in Turkish hospitals."

- On Oct. 12, 2014, Taraf newspaper reported that Dengir Mir Mehmet Firat, a founder of President Erdogan's ruling party (AKP), divulged that Turkey supported terrorist groups and still supports them and treats them in its hospitals.

### 5) Turkey Supported ISIS Financially Through Purchase of Oil

- On Sept. 13, 2014, the New York Times reported on the Obama Administration's efforts to pressure Turkey to crack down on the extensive network of oil sold by ISIS.

- Fehim Tastekin wrote in Radikal on Sept. 13, 2014 about illegal pipelines transporting oil from Syria to Turkey.

### 6) Turkey Assisted ISIS Recruitment

- Kilicdaroglu announced on Oct. 14, 2014 that ISIS offices in Istanbul and Gaziantep are recruiting fighters. On Oct. 10, 2014, the mufti of Konya stated that 100 men from his city had joined ISIS four days ago.

- OdaTV reported that Takva Haber served as a propaganda outlet for ISIS to recruit Turkish-speaking men in Turkey and Germany.

- Minister of Sports Suat Kilic, an AKP member, visited Salafi jihadists who are ISIS supporters in Germany. These jihadists recruit supporters by distributing free copies of the Quran and raising funds to sponsor suicide attacks in Syria and Iraq.

- OdaTV released a video showing ISIS militants riding a bus in Istanbul.

### 7) Turkish Forces are Fighting

### Alongside ISIS

- American investigative journalist Seymour Hersh asserted in the London Review of Books that "Prime Minister Recep Erdogan was known to be supporting the al-Nusra Front, a Jihadist faction among the rebel opposition, as well as other Islamist rebel groups."

- On Sept. 20, 2014, Demir Celik, a member of parliament representing the People's Democratic Party (HDP), stated that Turkish Special Forces had joined ISIS in the battlefield.

### 8) Turkey Helped ISIS in Battle for Kobani

- Anwar Muslim, mayor of Kobani, revealed on Sept. 19, 2014 that trains full of Turkish forces and ammunition were delivered to ISIS. On Sept. 30, 2014, a CHP delegation visited Kobani, where locals declared that everything from the clothes of ISIS militants to their guns comes from Turkey.

- A Nuhader video showed on Sept. 25, 2014 Turkish military convoys, carrying tanks and ammunition, moving freely under ISIS flags in the Jarablus region of Syria and the Karkamis border crossing.

- Salih Muslim, PYD leader of Kurdish fighters, reported that 120 militants had crossed into Syria from Turkey from Oct. 20-24, 2014.

- According to an op-ed written by a YPG Kurdish commander in the New York Times on Oct. 29, 2014, Turkey regularly allows ISIS militants and their equipment to pass freely over its border.

- Diken reported on Oct. 1, 2014: "ISIS fighters crossed the border from Turkey into Syria in full view of Turkish soldiers."

### 9) Turkey and ISIS Share a Worldview

- RT reported on Oct. 3, 2014 on U.S. Vice President Joe Biden's remarks detailing Turkish support to ISIS.

- Hurriyet newspaper quoted a Turkish civil servant on Sept. 26, 2014: "I was shocked to hear words of admiration for ISIL from some high-level civil servants."

- An AKP council member posted on his Facebook page: "Thankfully ISIS exists... May you never run out of ammunition."

- Erdogan's son Bilal and Turkish officials met with ISIS fighters, according to Sariyer Gozlem.

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It is absolutely unacceptable that while ISIS is committing mass murder in Paris and other European cities, our NATO "ally," Turkey, is continuing to aid and arm these terrorists. It is high time that Turkey is expelled from NATO and its leaders are indicted and brought to justice for their role in these heinous crimes.

## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

**Aries****(March 20-April 19)**

You are thinking fast and the wheels are rolling forward in your life. Others like your ideas and want to help you manifest them. This is a good time to study any material because your thoughts are flowing. You and your partner(s) can work together to create harmonious solutions to one or more nagging problems.

**Taurus****(April 20 -- May 20)**

Circumstances at work or in your daily life are far from easy at this time. Co-workers or employees are unable to help due to their own problems so you are the one who shoulders the load. Rest as much as you can and take your vitamins. This kind of situation can interfere with your personal health.

**Gemini****(May 20-June 20)**

The Full Moon on the 25th brings illumination on your closest relationships. Somehow you can "see" the shadow side of these beings. And this bright light may bring a fuller awareness about your relationship. Depending upon the past, this may be considered good or bad. You will now operate with eyes more open.

**Cancer****(June 21-July 21)**

You are asking spiritual questions that for the moment, offer no good answers. Table those concerns for now and focus your energy on some kind of project, such as preparation of a Thanksgiving dinner. Keeping your hands busy and helping others will help you get beyond rough spots in this spiritual dilemma.

**Leo****(July 22-August 21)**

This is not the time to display your work or your goals. You may not be feeling your best and that makes it hard to present things in the finest possible light. You need some extra rest during this period. Beware the temptation to step into a grand savior role now. People will not be impressed by the effort.

**Virgo****(August 22-September 22)**

You have been concerned with the welfare of family members, particularly those who are older than you are. Your Significant Other may evaporating from the scene. Perhaps the reality is more than he/she can absorb, or he doesn't know how to support you in this time of need. Ask what the problem is. Don't assume she doesn't want to help until you are told.

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

Your mind has been truly busy in recent weeks. If you have not yet resolved an issue, set it aside while you take a break. Even a short time away can help your mental nerve endings synapse more easily. Clear the cobwebs from old, non-working solutions so that a fresh perspective can emerge.

**Scorpio****(October 23-November 21)**

An opportunity for a job crosses your path. It would be favorable for you to inquire about it. Watch your attitude for signs of self-importance which will not be well accepted. An earthy humility along with believable assurance that you can accomplish the work may do wonders for your chances.

**Sagittarius****(November 22-December 20)**

This is a week of intense feelings, whether up or down. For many, prevention of depressed feelings can be handled by gently bringing ourselves back from a super-high. When we allow the highs, it is inevitable that a fall must happen. None of us can remain up, so a down must balance it. Concentrate on an even keel.

**Capricorn****(December 21-January 19)**

You are in a somber frame of mind this week. Decisions in front of you have long term consequences, so you do not want to make mistakes. Yet the present path does not seem at all clear. Don't thrash yourself because you do not have the decision finalized already. Be still and leave it with your unconscious to sort out the solution.

**Aquarius****(January 20-February 17)**

This season you may have discovered that somehow your material security has slipped a notch or two without your notice. This will pressure you to pay more attention to your financial matters in order to prevent further erosion. The Waterbearers are very intelligent, but not necessarily practical.

**Pisces****(February 18-March 19)**

Developments in your career or life direction may cause you to feel ineffective during this season. Don't allow this one experience to alter your sense of self. That creates paralysis. You are an intuitive person who can repackage what you have learned about the psyche so the world will see you as different, from fresh eyes.

## Tesco Wine Fair in Yerevan

Celebrating New Year with good wine is not a problem for Armenian capital's population any more.

It is first time that Tesco Wine Fair is held in Northern Avenue: Sweet smell of the divine drink spread along the street. Armenian enterprises and individual winemakers' wine selection, made with best traditions of Armenian wine-making, can be found in 23 booths. One can learn about wine quality and taste of wealth.

"The Tesco Wine Fair is passed in Yerevan for the first time: We try to give an available opportunity to our residents for tasting good wine and make purchases," Yerevan Deputy Mayor David Ohanyan said during the Wine Fair, as "Armenpress" reports.

He added that it is already a year that Yerevan Municipality and Ministry of Agriculture organize fairs for



agricultural products which purpose is to support the realization of agricultural product and the reduce of sales volumes.





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