

Armenia 'Deeply Shocked' By Paris Attacks

Armenia on November 14 strongly condemned a spate of terrorist attacks in Paris, which left at least 120 people dead, and expressed solidarity with the government and people of "brotherly" France.

"I am deeply shocked by news of last night's unprecedented acts of terror in Paris," President Serzh Sargsyan said in a letter of condolence sent to his French counterpart Francois Hollande. "I strongly condemn those outrageous attacks which have claimed many innocent lives."

"In this difficult time, Armenia stands with brotherly France and is prepared to provide full support ... Our prayers, hearts and souls are with the French people," Serzh Sargsyan said amid a chorus of international condemnation of the worst terrorist attack in modern French history.

Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian issued a special statement in connection with the "barbaric" attacks by gunmen and suicide bombers that targeted a concert hall and several bars and restaurants in the French capital late on Friday.

"We express our condolences and support to the friendly people of France," said



People light candles on French Square in memory of the victims of terror attack in Paris, France

Nalbandian. "The fight against terror is the fight of the whole civilized world."

Serzh Sargsyan, who has repeatedly described Armenia's relationship with France as "privileged," similarly stressed

the need for the international community to fight against "such appalling manifestations of extremism." "We must not allow violence, extremism and intolerance to prevail," he wrote to Hollande.

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Armenian President, Russian FM hail dynamically developing bilateral relations

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received on November 9 Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

President Sargsyan hailed the dynamically developing bilateral relations, which, he said, are enhanced by frequent high-level meetings and reciprocal visits.

According to Serzh Sargsyan, the intensive contacts are an evidence of the interest of the two countries to develop the allied relations and the willingness to discuss joint issues within the framework of the existing formats.

The interlocutors agreed that the Armenian-Russian relations are steadily developing in the economic, military-technical and humanitarian fields.

President Sargsyan praised Russia's role in the process of settlement of the Karabakh conflict and establishment of security and stability in the region.

Sergey Lavrov also hailed the progress registered in all directions as a result of Armenian-Russian cooperation and praised the dynamically developing relations within the framework of integration processes.

According to him, Armenia's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union will certainly have a positive impact from the viewpoint of further deepening and development of economic relations.



Referring to the negotiations on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, Minister Lavrov reiterated that there is no alternative to the peaceful settlement.

During the meeting the interlocutors exchanged views on urgent international issues and challenges.

Yerevan chides Baku for non-constructive stance on Karabakh settlement

The Armenian Ministry of Defense has offered deep condolences to the families of two Armenian soldiers Vahe Vanoyan and Mikael Torosyan killed as a result of cease-fire violation by the Azerbaijani side on November 12.

The Defense Ministry said in a statement it strongly condemns this "act of terrorist nature." "Aware that these actions will not go unpunished and the guilty will be held accountable, the military-political leadership in Azerbaijan once again chose to escalate the situation," the Ministry said.

"At the same time, we draw attention to the fact that the steps targeted at destabilizing the situation in the line of contact intensify day by day after the completion of electoral processes and Azerbaijan and the visit of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs to the region. This is an evidence of the non-constructive stance of Azerbaijani leadership on the settlement of the Karabakh conflict and violation of the norms of international law."

Lavrov chides PACE for resolution on Nagorno Karabakh



Armenia appreciates Russia's efforts to reach a solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian said on November 9 following talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov.

"We discussed the issue of the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement," he said. "Armenia highly appreciates Russia's efforts aimed at resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by peaceful means. We will continue working in this vein."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov noted that Russia is opposed to discussing Nagorno-Karabakh settlement at international venues not

designed for that purpose.

"We, the co-chairmen of the Minsk process - Russia, the United States and France - speak out against the attempts to raise this issue at various international venues, which did not engage in the settlement," he said, when commenting on a report by the PACE Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on the situation around Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Russian foreign minister noted that the co-chairmen of the Minsk group maintain regular dialogue on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. "This is a very complex issue with its own history," Lavrov said.

Nalbandian also expressed condolences over the Russian plane crash over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and thanked Lavrov for the assistance in transporting home the bodies of Armenian citizens who lost their lives in the air crash in South Sudan.

"Today's meeting was another good opportunity to discuss the implementation of the agreements reached at the level of heads of our states," Nalbandian said.

Russia to upgrade joint air defense with Armenia



Russia moved closer on November 11 to setting up a new joint air defense system with Armenia, with President Vladimir Putin formally authorizing his government to negotiate a corresponding Russian-Armenian agreement.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's cabinet confirmed late last month plans for the creation of the Russian-Armenian "united regional system of air defense in the Caucasus region of collective security." In a statement cited by Russian news agencies, the Kremlin said that Putin approved those

plans and instructed the Russian defense and foreign ministries to hold negotiations with the Armenian side.

The deputy commander of the Russian Air Force, Lieutenant-General Pavel Kurachenko, said in September that the Armenian and Russian governments are preparing to sign the agreement. "We have already gone far," he said, expressing hope that the two sides will work out all remaining details by the end of this year.

The Russian and Armenian militaries have been jointly protecting Armenia's

airspace ever since the mid-1990s. Their integrated air defense system was given a "regional" status by the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in 2007.

Top Russian military officials said at the time that Moscow has upgraded Armenia's anti-aircraft capacity and trained Armenian specialists to operate sophisticated S-300 systems. Some Armenian defense analysts suggested that Moscow is keen to extend the geographic span of the joint air defenses to the entire South Caucasus. Those consist of not only Armenian and Russian anti-aircraft weapons but also 18 or so MiG-29 fighter jets that are part of the Russian military base in Armenia.

It is not yet clear how the new "regional system" will differ from the existing one and whether it will operate within the framework of the CSTO.

Russia has already created such systems with Belarus and Kazakhstan and is reportedly planning to sign similar deals with the two other CSTO member states: Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Joint air defense system to grant additional security guarantees to Armenia and Russia



"The document on establishment of a Joint Regional Air Defense System of Collective Security in the Caucasus has been worked out under the decision of the CSTO Collective Security Council," Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Davit Tonoyan said in comments to Mediamax.

"The draft agreement was reviewed by Armenian and Russian Defense Ministries' experts for several times; it passed all the procedures of interstate

synchronization in Armenia and was sent to the Russian side for the same procedure, which was successfully completed," he said.

The draft agreement is ready and the sides will agree on the date and location of its signing.

Davit Tonoyan noted that the agreement regulates bilateral relations but, according to the arrangement of the parties, it will be enforced within CIS and CSTO as well in case of violation of the air space of one of the sides.

Speaking of the new components of the future agreement, Davit Tonoyan said: "The document creates a legal basis for air defense system of collective secu-

rity in the Caucasus region within the state borders of Armenia and Russia. In case of a need for protecting Armenia's air space, it will allow engaging not only forces of the air defense and aviation of the 102nd Russian military base stationed in Armenia but also the air defense and aviation of the South Military District of Russia. It will grant additional guarantees of security to Armenia and Russia".

Can the new agreement be applied in case Azerbaijan restarts military actions in Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone?

"I'm sure there are no grounds for doubting the effectiveness of air defense of the Defense Army of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic," Tonoyan said.

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U.S., Russia, France warn PACE over Karabakh

Mediators representing the United States, Russia and France on November 12 warned the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) against "disrupting" the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process in their joint response to a pro-Azerbaijani draft resolution approved by a key PACE committee.

The resolution demands Armenian withdrawal from Karabakh and the territory's return to Azerbaijani rule and says that the three mediating powers should "consider reviewing" their peace efforts accordingly. It also calls on the Council of Europe's secretary-general, Thorbjorn Jagland, to come up an "action plan" on a Karabakh settlement reflecting its conclusions.

James Warlick, the U.S. co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, criticized the document immediately after it was approved by the PACE's Political Affairs Committee last week. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov echoed the criticism when he visited Yerevan on Monday.

Warlick and his fellow Minsk Group co-chairs from Russia and France -- Igor Popov and Pierre

Andrieu - commented on the PACE move in a special joint statement issued in Vienna. "We share concerns, expressed in the resolution, regarding an increase of tensions along the border of Armenia and Azerbaijan and along the Line of Contact ... We agree that the conflict has lasted too long," they said.

The mediators emphasized, however, that they are "neither judges nor advocates for particular positions." "There are proposals to create new negotiating formats and working groups on the settlement of the conflict," they said. "We believe that in the framework of the Minsk Group there is unique mediation experience. The Minsk Group format is accepted by the parties and has the full confidence of all OSCE participating States."

"Considering the sensitivity of the negotiations, attempts to change the format or create parallel mechanisms can disrupt the negotiation process and impede progress towards a settlement," warned Warlick, Popov and Andrieu.

Peace proposals made by the three mediating powers over the past decade

markedly differ from the Karabakh settlement advocated by the proposed PACE resolution. Their Basic Principles call, among other things, for an internationally recognized referendum in Karabakh in which the disputed territory's predominantly Armenian population would apparently be able to reaffirm its de facto secession from Azerbaijan.

The PACE is expected to debate the controversial resolution at its next plenary session in Strasbourg in January. The three-page text has been drafted by Robert Walter, a pro-Azerbaijani former British parliamentarian.

Armenia has rejected Walter's report submitted to PACE members, accusing him of working for the Azerbaijani government. The Armenian authorities refused to cooperate with Walter even before he drew up the text.

By contrast, Azerbaijan has welcomed the draft resolution. The Foreign Ministry in Baku lambasted the U.S., Russian and French mediators last week, saying that their long-running peace efforts have produced "zero results."



Armenia's Ties with Russia, West 'Not Mutually Exclusive'



Emil Danielyan

Armenia's membership in Russian-led military and economic blocs does not prevent it from forging closer links with the United States and the European Union, the U.S. ambassador in Yerevan, Richard Mills, said on November 10.

In a speech delivered in the Armenian capital, he also commended the Armenian authorities for complying with international sanctions against neighboring Iran "at some cost" to the South Caucasus nation's economy.

Mills emphasized Washington's recognition of Armenia's "strong, historical ties" with Russia as he addressed members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Armenia (AmCham).

"I believe, as I think most Armenians do, that this strong Armenian-Russian relationship, and Armenia's memberships in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), should not and do not preclude Armenia from also pursuing strong, mutually beneficial relations with the United States, the European Union, and other potential partners, as well as with organizations like NATO and the Council of Europe," he declared. "These relationships are not mutually exclusive. It is not a zero sum world."

Armenian leaders have repeatedly made similar statements since President's Serzh Sarkisian announced two years ago his

unexpected decision to join the EEU. The Sarkisian administration will soon start negotiating with the EU over a new agreement meant to deepen Armenia's political and economic ties with the EU.

Official Yerevan is also continuing to seek closer cooperation with the U.S. in various areas, including defense and security. Serzh Sargsyan praised the U.S. role in "maintaining regional security and stability" when he visited Washington in May.

U.S. President Barack Obama spoke of a "dynamic and expanding agenda" between the two countries in a congratulatory message sent to his Armenian counterpart in September. Obama also hailed the recent signing of the U.S.-Armenian Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA).

Under that agreement, the U.S. and Armenian governments have set up a joint Council on Trade and Investment that will meet at least once a year to address obstacles to bilateral trade and explore other ways of deepening U.S.-Armenian economic ties.

Mills announced that the council will hold its first meeting in Yerevan on November 17. "We will discuss key trade topics related to customs, intellectual property rights, non-tariff trade barriers, and government procurement," he said.

In his speech, Mills also addressed Armenia's cordial relationship with Iran, which remains one of its two commercial conduits to the outside world due to the unresolved Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. "The U.S. government recognizes and appreciates how Armenia has worked to respect the international community's sanctions on Iran over the years, at some cost to Armenia and its economy," he said in that regard.

"This was a meaningful sign of how seriously Armenia takes its role in the larger international community," added the U.S. diplomat.

The economic sanctions are expected to be gradually lifted as a result of Iran's recent landmark agreement with the U.S. and other world powers to end a long-running dispute over the controversial Iranian nuclear program. Yerevan has welcomed that deal, saying that it will help to speed up the implementation of more Armenian-Iranian energy projects.

No inconsistency between Armenia's CSTO membership and cooperation with NATO

There is no inconsistency between Armenia's membership in the CSTO and its cooperation with NATO, Steffen Elgersma, representative of NATO's International Staff, said at an international conference in Yerevan on "NATO-Armenia Cooperation: New Objectives and Perspectives."

The event was organized by the Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation (ACGRC) with support from the German Embassy in

Armenia, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation and the NATO Public Diplomacy Division.

"We have good cooperation with Armenia and welcome Armenia's participation in NATO missions both in Afghanistan and Kosovo. We have also launched a successful dialogue in the field of security," Steffen Elgersma said.

Speaking about Turkey's aspiration to play a greater role in the South

Caucasus, he said "it's natural for NATO member Turkey to be interested in the South Caucasus, as it is situated closest to the region."

"We do hope that the relations between Armenia and Turkey will improve over time," he added.

According to Koryun Nahapetyan, the Head of Armenia's delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the relations between Armenia and NATO are developing dynamically.

IMF Executive Board approves US \$16.3 million disbursement for Armenia

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) completed on November 12 the second review of Armenia's performance under a three-year arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The completion enables the release of SDR 11.74 million (about US\$16.3 million), bringing total disbursements under the arrangement to SDR 35.22 million (about US\$48.9 million). The extended arrangement for SDR 82.21 million (about US\$114.1 million) was approved on March 7, 2014.

In completing the review, the Executive Board also approved the authorities' request for waivers of non-observance of the end of June 2015 performance criteria (PC) on net international reserves (NIR), net domestic assets (NDA) of the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA), and the fiscal deficit, as well as the authorities' temporary nonobservance of the PC on non-introduction or modification of multiple currency practices (MCPs). At the same time, the authorities' policy actions have helped forestall a potentially disorderly adjustment and maintain stability and economic growth.

Following the Executive Board's discussion on Armenia, Mr. Mitsuhiro Furusawa, Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair, said:

"Armenia's performance under the program has been adversely affected by weaker-than-expected external conditions and deviations from some program policies. The authorities' policy response has helped mitigate the initial impact of the shocks but the outlook remains challenging. Steadfast implementation of the agreed measures will be necessary to meet the objectives of the Fund-supported program, rebuild buffers and policy space, and unlock Armenia's growth potential.

"Going forward, it is important to return to greater exchange rate flexibility and to limit interventions to preserve and strengthen buffers and to support external adjustment. Monetary policy should be carefully calibrated to maintain price stability. Gradual normalization of monetary conditions through unwinding of the emergency measures introduced in 2014 would also help support a resumption of bank lending and growth. Enhancing communication

with the public, business community and other stakeholders on key policy directions will be important for building consensus on policy responses.

"After a period of fiscal easing to support activity, fiscal consolidation will be needed to ensure debt sustainability. Adjustment should focus on revenue gains to protect and increase capital and social spending and support medium-term growth. The new tax code provides an opportunity to broaden the tax base by eliminating exemptions and addressing gaps and thereby to support both consolidation and increases in growth-enhancing spending.

"The banking sector remains stable, and strengthening crises preparedness and management frameworks will increase the robustness of the financial system. Introducing a financial rehabilitation plan for the electricity sector and pursuing structural reforms to enhance competition, competitiveness and regional and global integration remain critical to reduce vulnerabilities and support broad-based growth."

The future of Russian-Iranian energy ties and the implications for the South Caucasus

The Media Center, in cooperation with the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, held a panel discussion on how the geopolitics of the South Caucasus will be affected by the emergence of new Iranian-Russian ties in the energy sector.

Russia's energy giant Gazprom has been talking to Tehran about potential investments in Iran's natural gas sector in the event the sanctions on Iran are lifted. Possible deals include a swap where Russia would supply gas to northern Iran via pipelines running through Armenia or Azerbaijan and take a share in liquefied natural gas exported from Iran's Gulf terminals in return.

Expert on Iran Sevak Sarukhanyan is not optimistic about the perspectives of this cooperation. He says that "when speaking about joint Russian-Iranian energy projects, one should keep in mind there are more difficulties than opportunities."

"The difficulties first of all come from the economic situation in Russia. The second problem is Iran's legislature, which seriously restricts foreign investments in the oil and gas sector," he said.

The expert added there is another important factor that should be taken into account. "Iran uses its oil and gas factors in its negotiations with the EU and is more interested in seeing European companies investing in the country, as it will reinforce Iran's positions in Europe, accelerate the process of elimination of sanctions and bring high technologies to the country. However, this will not prevent some kind of cooperation between Russia and Iran." Sevak Sarukhanyan added, however, that it's hard to predict how this will relate to the South Caucasus.

A new energy axis between Russia and Iran envisages serious changes for the countries of the South Caucasus, at the same time affecting the political relations

in the region. Sergey Minasyan, head of the Political Studies Department at the Caucasus Institute in Yerevan considers that with absolutely matching problems and interests in the Middle East, Russia and Iran are actually in a "situational military-political alliance."

"It's obvious that the problems and interests of Moscow and Tehran are more than similar. Moreover, a "situational military-political alliance" has been formed in the face of Iran, Iraq, Assad's administration and Moscow," he said.

According to the political scientist, "this geopolitical rapprochement between Tehran and Moscow has contributed to two developments: Russia's decisive role in solving the puzzle around Iran's nuke program and Russia's actions in Syria." However, Sergey Minasyan agrees that speaking of Russian-Iranian economic cooperation, especially in the energy sector, is still untimely.

Iran, Armenia can bolster ties with Eurasian Economic Union: Armenian Minister



Iran and Armenia have serious potential for expanding their bilateral economic ties and also bolstering relations with the Eurasian Economic Union, Armenian Minister of Economy Karen Chshmarityan stated, Tehran Times reports.

The official made the statement at a press conference after his yesterday meeting with Iranian Communications and Information Technology Minister Mahmoud Va'ezzi in Tehran.

The Armenian Minister said: "In my today's meeting with Mr. Va'ezzi, we stressed Iran-Armenia cooperation in the field of information technology and I think that there is huge potential for cooperation in this area."

The Armenian government intends to open the country's doors for economic cooperation with other countries, especially with Iran, he highlighted.

"Today, we [Iran and Armenia] are starting with making serious agreements on economic cooperation and I hope that these agreements will lead to some fruitful results in the future", the Minister noted.

He expressed hope that the old friendship between Iran and Armenia will lead to an expanded economic cooperation between the two countries.

Addressing the same conference, Va'ezzi said: "Given that Armenia is one of the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union, we discussed the ways to export our products to these countries."

The official mentioned telecommunications sector as well as research and development activities as the areas in which the two countries have the potential to deepen bilateral ties.

Speaking about the role of Armenia in the promotion of Iran's trade with the Eurasian Economic Union, the Minister explained: "The cost for the export of products to Russia and other Eurasian states is high for Iran, in a way that the imports of Iranian products are entitled to a tariff of over 20 percent in those countries."

It makes competition difficult for the Iranian private sector, he noted.

"Russian market is a very large one and given that there are many transit routes between Iran and Russia, through roads, railways and sea routes, we could imagine this market as one of our major export destinations. In this regard, I discussed the issue with the Armenian Minister and it was decided that Armenia reduces the tariff for importing products from Iran and also to lower the tariff for transit of Iranian goods to the Eurasian countries, especially Russia", the official added.

ADB, Armenia mark 10th anniversary of partnership

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) commemorated the 10th anniversary of its partnership with Armenia, which aims to boost the country's economy and improve the people's quality of life.

To mark the occasion, ADB's Armenia Resident Mission organized a 2-day event featuring a conference and a workshop on best practices and lessons learned about project management in Armenia and internationally. Project management experts and trainers were invited by ADB to share their experiences with colleagues who are designing and implementing infrastructure and development projects in Armenia.

"I want to congratulate everyone who contributed to the growth and development of ADB's programs in Armenia over the past 10 years," said David Dole, Country Director of ADB's Armenia Resident Mission. "We are looking forward to working with the Government of Armenia and our development partners on many more projects in the future."

ADB is providing loans and technical assistance in the transport, water supply and sanitation, and energy sectors, as well as supporting the government to improve the business environment and to foster entrepreneurship among women. As of October 2015, ADB has loaned Armenia \$1.04 billion, with \$133 million for projects in the private sector and

\$910.03 million for projects in the public sector, according to ADB.

Some of the key public sector projects in Armenia financed by ADB are the North-South Road Corridor Investment Program; Sustainable Urban Development Investment Program; Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project; Solid Waste Management Improvement Investment Program; and the Women's Entrepreneurship Support Sector Development Program. There are also special programs being implemented with private sector financing which ADB is supporting, such as the modernization of the Sevan-Hrazdan Cascade Hydropower system, and the Zvartnots Airport Expansion Project.

In the coming years ADB will continue to help improve Armenia's internal and external transport links, upgrade urban environments, and strengthen the energy and seismic security of the country.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members-48 from the region. In 2014, ADB assistance totaled \$22.9 billion, including co-financing of \$9.2 billion.



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1 ROOM

- ♦1696.**Tumanyan str.**, 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capially 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, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- ♦1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

- ♦3003.**Sayat-Nova str**, 5/3, 105sq.m, 2bedrooms, stone building, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- ♦1560.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built,10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired,climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- ♦2818.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, Ac, furnished. Price: 400.000USD
- ♦1156.**Komitas Ave.**, Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system, AC,parking. Price: 400.000 USD.



3 ROOMS

- ♦3090. **Busand str, /Near Republic Square/,** Newly built, /6th floor,116sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms one in master bedroom, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price:300.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2998.**North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- ♦2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built,13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capially 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, capially repaired,heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaied, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- ♦2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built,8/4, 166sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- ♦2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- ♦1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m,5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m.,basement, capially repaired, parkings. Price:4.000.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant,1st line, capially 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.,capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m.,1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m.,window glasses, capially 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 building1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price:1.000.000 USD.
- ♦2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capially repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- ♦2175.**Tumanyan str**, Ground and 1st floorof the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially repaired, hjeating system,elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- ♦3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m,2 storied bld-520sq.m,6 bedrooms,5 bathrooms, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price:1.700.000 USD.
- ♦3401.**Antarayin str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capially 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.**Antarayin str.**, 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m,available sevice-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable
- ♦131.**Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available sevice-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, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD.
- 2099. **Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600 USD.
- 1972. **Northern ave.**, 8/4, 80sq.m., 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1200 USD
- 2171. **Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sq.m., 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capitally repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2367. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9th floor, 98 sq.m., capitally repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

2 ROOMS

- 2302 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2295 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 16/15, 173sq.m., 2bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 5000 USD
- 1780. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 2089. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 2243. **Buzand str.**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally renovated, furnished, underground parking. Price: 3000 USD negotiable
- 2353 **V. Sargsyan str.** 8/5, Newly built, 98sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitally renovated, furnished, Price 1500 USD
- 2347 **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m,

3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable

•2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.•2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD•2316 **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD•2303 **Hanrapetutyun str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD•2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable•2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.•1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.•1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD•2261. **Hin Yerevantsi, /North Avenue/,** Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD•2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD•2252. **Northern ave.**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

•1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD•1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathroom, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD•1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD•1323. **Monument, Babayan str.**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable•1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

nished, 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD•1312. **Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable•1317. **Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

•2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD•1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.•1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.•1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitally repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.•1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.•1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD•1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD•1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.•2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

"Traviata" Conducted by Gianluca Marciano and Starring Hasmik Torosyan: Absolute Success



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**
Chief Correspondent

This author do not think it is the great exaggeration to say that Verdi's "Traviata"s in fact new staging held on Thursday 12 November at the A.I.Spendiaryan Natl Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre has become AN EVENT in our cultural life that will be talked and mentioned for many times yet...

A round of applause? A number of rounds of applause? No! 'Cause it was a real OVATION to the soloists, choir and indeed the orchestra headed by a young but already a world recognized conductor, currently – the Chief invited conductor of the Opera and Ballet Theatre Maestro **Gianluca Marciano**. To remind, Maestro Marciano conducted, for the very first time, in Armenia on 24 April of this year 24/04 Orchestra, with a GLORIOUS concert in the Opera House. And on 1 September he was in Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic), - to participate in the staging of the Verdi's "Requiem" at the Stepanakert's Main Square, a huge project initiated and led by the First Lady of Armenia Mrs **Rita A. Sargsyan**. (And Gianluca ABSOLUTELY does not care putting him in a "black list" by Azerbaijan!)

...*"I feel myself very connected to this country; this is a land of talents, and I am proud to be invited by Maestro Gegham Grigoryan, a wonderful tenor and a living legend"*, Maestro Marciano, who conducted "Traviata" for the 64th (!) time – according to himself, in a new way, with lot of changes, already has



ent at the performance talked to this author:

Davit Ghazaryan, Professor at the Yerevan State Conservatory after Komitas, President of the Armenian Musical Society: *"If to say in a single word – "Wonderful!", and this is relevant to all – the orchestra and its conductor indeed, the choir and the soloists...I would call this staging an "ensemble performance". I remember very well as a dozen years ago premiere of "Traviata" staged by our world known tenor and director Gegham Grigoryan was held in this very theatre...And today these new artists – talented bariton Arnold Kocharyan as wonderful Germont, a very musical guy having high culture of singing – Liparit Avetisyan as Alfred, and, indeed, Hasmik Torosyan as Violet who created a very*



been saying in his interviews to the Armenian newspress. *"We've been working hard with the Orchestra to present the program comme il faut, and I am enjoying the process...Musicians, the choir and the soloists are very good artists, and in a very short time I must pass to the Orchestra all I have – my ideas, my pace and rhythm as I am responsible for all of them..."*

And he did, NO DOUBT...

So below The Highlights readers could judge themselves reading several high class professionals opinions who were pres-

nice character, performed very nice, really...I've enjoyed Hasmik's Anush (the main character at the Tigranyan's "Anush" opera – edit.), attended her numerous concerts, this time as well she was wonderful...Again, it was very important that we've heard tonight an a brilliant trio, an ENSEMBLE that is a crucial thing for such a performance.

As to the conductor, Gianluca Marciano, I have to praise him for creating such an ensemble sound having only few rehearsals. Congratulations to all the artists, the Theatre and all of us !"



Konstantin Orbelyan, Jr., Principal Conductor of the Caunas Symphony Orchestra, Lithuania at present, invited conductor for several world leading orchestras, founder of intl music festivals. (Maestro Orbelyan headed Russia's State Chamber Orchestra for twenty years, since 1991 when the Orchestra was surviving its hardest times - **edit.**): *"The soloist, Hasmik Torosyan as Violet was very nice, I believe she has very good future, and I know the guys – Arnold Kocharyan who was very good as well and Liparit Kocharyan sung nice – I performed with him at the Moscow Conservatory Grand Hall, his voice is a beautiful one, no doubt..."*

"And what about your colleague, the invited conductor?", - your author asked Maestro Orbelyan who is a world known conductor and a nephew to the outstanding Armenian composer, long time Head of the Armenian Jazz Orchestra, People's Artist of the Soviet Union **Konstantin A. Orbelyan** (1928-2014).

And the answer was the following: *"Well, they played good – for such a short time for rehearsals, and I believe within the short time harmony between the orchestra and the conductor will become perfect...Gianluca's interpretation is a classical one, - I liked it...And indeed he can be very helpful to the singers with the correct Italian pronunciation, no doubt..."*

As to the "Chief", i.e. the Artistic Director of the Natl Opera and Ballet Theatre, People's Artist of Armenia and Lithuania, a world renowned tenor Professor **Gegham M. Grigoryan**, asked whether he was satisfied with the performance' participants, "strict" Chief stated:

"Yes, it was good...Indeed, some of our young singers were too excited, but often such an excitement helps to create a trustful character, you know...Importantly, I've seen a quite good musical taste that is extremely important...Definitely, in the course of time everything will be excel-



lent...I liked the final part of the performance – the soloist Hasmik Torosyan played beautifully".

As to the Conductor, Gianluca Marciano, Maestro Grigoryan said the following: *"Gianluca has mammoth-size knowledge on operas, especially those by Verdi, and he knows very well how to work both with the orchestra and the soloists; within these few days he spent many hours for working hard with the soloists, advising them actively not only on pronunciation but also on the true Italian style...No doubt, we need such a conductor as a real coach for our young performers...And I liked the sound of the orchestra – tonight it was a soft one..."*

And how often the Artistic Director of

the Theatre is ready to invite Maestro Marciano to conduct here in Armenia? *"As much as he can, and we are always happy to see him here"*, Professor Grigoryan said. To remind, on 19 November Maestro Gianluca Marciano will conduct Verdi's "Il Trovatore".

And the last, but not the least, not at all: your correspondent succeeded to interview "The Hero of the Day", i.e. Hasmik Torosyan who played Violet in the eve of her depart to Antwerp where she will appear as Musette in nine performances of "La Boheme" in the Royal Flemish Opera.

Interview's full text with a rising star of the Armenian opera art will be published in one of the Highlights coming issues, by now we put its extracts on the 12 November "Traviata".

-In professionals' opinion with who yours truly talked, you were "wonderful", "nice" and "beautiful"...And what is your personal opinion on your own performance?

-Well, if frankly, I am satisfied with my performance, - in general...But having more time I'd be able to do it better – we have had 6-7 rehearsals only which is not so much for such an opera...

A year ago, when I debuted in "Traviata", I also had 17 days only...

-Maestro Grigoryan's idea was that conductor Gianluca Marciano would be very helpful for Armenian singers for the genuine Italian pronunciation, manners etc...

-Yes, indeed, Maestro Marciano helped us significantly.

- And what about your favorite aria?

-You know, I've never sung something I did not like, but my passion are Rossini's operas...

U.S. Ambassador unveils Armenian cultural preservation projects in Gyumri and Dashtadem



From artistic renderings of the splendor of the Armenian countryside to the stark beauty of ancient fortresses, heritage sites and cultural treasures hold deep meaning for the Armenian people.

On November 9, 2015, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills, Jr. had the opportunity to visit important pieces of Armenian cultural heritage in Gyumri and Dashtadem, where he unveiled two of the latest projects funded by the U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation.

"We are all connected by our shared history, our shared human story. By understanding and respecting Armenian history, we can celebrate our present connections and build our common future," Ambassador Mills said.

This year, work is being completed on three major projects selected by the U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP): the renovation of Rafayel Atoyan's "On the Way to the Watermill" mural, the excavation and restoration of the Dashtadem Fortress complex, and work to safeguard significant archeological finds in the Areni Cave. In total, the AFCP provided almost \$200,000 for all three projects.

"It has been more than a year of painstaking, detailed restoration work at all three sites. Now the Armenian people will see the benefit of this investment," said Ambassador Mills as he unveiled the Atoyan mural and opened the Dashtadem complex. The work at Areni Cave will be unveiled at a later date.

The public presentation of these AFCP sites coincides with Ambassador Mills' month-long focus on rural development. By preserving such sites, he said, tourists will be more likely to visit areas outside of Yerevan and help build a more diverse rural economy.

"There are so many great examples of cultural and historical heritage in rural Armenia. By working with our Armenian partners to preserve these sites and this mural, we are helping to promote tourism in the regions, which will boost economic development," Ambassador Mills emphasized.

"ON THE WAY TO THE WATERMILL"

Rafayel Atoyan's "On the Way to the Watermill" was in dan-

ger of disintegration, as the abandoned building was slowly crumbling around it. Now, thanks to the U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, it has a new home in Gyumri's Youth Palace.

The painstaking restoration and relocation of the mural was conducted by the Minas Avetisyan Cultural Foundation, led by Arman Avetisyan, with the participation of Fabrizio Iacopini, a renowned expert from the Restoration Institute in Florence, Italy.

During the unveiling, Ambassador Mills announced that the preservation proposal for another mural, Hakob Hakobyan's "In the Mountains/Milkmen," won funding in this year's highly competitive AFCP selection process. When complete, that mural will find a new home in Gyumri's Achemyan Drama Theater.

"I look forward to returning once work on that mural is complete," Ambassador Mills said. "Gyumri has such a unique character and flavor, and I think these two artists truly capture what makes this corner of Armenia unique."

DASHTADEM

After unveiling the Atoyan mural in Gyumri, Ambassador Mills traveled to the Dashtadem fortress complex. One of the largest medieval fortresses in the Caucasus, the site has great historical and architectural significance. It is the home to the 7th century Saint Sargis Church, the 12th century Khan Palace, and 9th century Christian gravestones.

The U.S. Embassy partnered with the Government of Armenia, the Ministry of Culture, and the AMAP Human Development NGO to make the Dashtadem preservation project a reality. Thanks to this project, the compound was first cleared of rubbish and the remnants of modern structures, allowing for excavation work on the inner citadel and the surrounding wall. 35 meters of the outlines and foundations of the medieval defensive walls have been uncovered, including two semicircular towers. The excavations also uncovered remnants of late medieval dwellings and items used in commerce, such as ovens.

"Armenian history is rich and long. It is also multi-layered, as different cultural eras came into being, intermingled, and declined," said Ambassador Mills said. "Preserving this Fortress will help future generations understand the story of how the modern Armenian people came to be."

Recognizing that celebrating our shared cultural heritage is a way to bring countries and peoples together, the U.S. State Department established the U.S. Ambassadors' Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) in 2000. Through the fund, the U.S. State Department each year provides financing for a number of projects around the globe that protect unique cultural heritage sites.

The U.S. Ambassadors' Fund for Cultural Preservation has been providing support for Armenian cultural sites since 2005, funding projects such as the mapping and cataloging of items at the Noratus medieval cemetery and its collection of khachkars, preservation of a medieval masonry bridge in the Garni Gorge, and documentation of traditional Armenian music and dance.

Jewish Coalition In U.S. Urges Armenian Genocide Recognition



An influential coalition of Jewish community organizations in the United States has called on President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress to officially recognize the 1915 Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey.

In a resolution adopted at its recent annual conference, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) also urged Jewish advocacy groups to join the Armenian-American community in campaigning for such recognition.

"We suffer greatly from efforts to minimize our own suffering and experience of genocide and we have a moral

responsibility, as Jews, to name it in others' experience," read the resolution. "We must not let the politics of the moment, or the U.S. government's relationship with Turkey, sway our moral obligation to recognize the suffering of the Armenian people."

"We call upon our the Congress and the President to officially recognize what started in 1915 at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, and resulted in the killing and deportation of approximately 1.5 million Armenians, as the Armenian Genocide," added the JCPA.

Jewish-American lobby groups had

for decades opposed U.S. recognition of the genocide in view of Turkey's geopolitical significance to Israel. Some of them even helped Turkey block pro-Armenian resolutions in Congress.

At least two such groups, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the American Jewish Committee (AJC) -- both of them affiliated with the JCPA -- reversed their positions several years ago. Earlier this year, the AJC criticized Obama for failing to use the word "genocide" in reference to the Armenian massacres.

The JCPA statement said Jewish organizations should "consult and work with the national Armenian organizations to further the goal of U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide." It also urged "our congressional representatives" to back corresponding resolutions which Armenian-American groups have been trying to push through Congress.

One of those groups, the Armenian Assembly of America, thanked the JCPA for the "historic resolution." "The unity of millions of Jewish and Armenian Americans in standing up for the truth is an important step along the path of justice," Anthony Barsamian, the Assembly co-chairman, said in a statement released this week.

Baku: Franck Muller Group's CEO placed on Interpol's wanted list for visiting Karabakh



Azerbaijan asks Interpol to find and arrest Swiss citizen Vartan Sirmakes, the CEO of Franck Muller Group, abc.az reports.

According to the source, the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan informs that the national central bureau of Interpol under the Ministry of Internal Affairs has

already started these activities.

"Yesterday, the Nasimi district court of Baku chose for Sirmakes a measure of restraint in form of detention in connection with a criminal case initiated against him under three articles of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan," the Prosecutor's Office said.

Sirmakes is charged under Article 281.2 (public calls against the state), 318.2 (illegal crossing of the state border of Azerbaijan) and 192.2.2 (illegal business). The charges were brought on the fact that Sirmakes, without official permission of Azerbaijan, visited Nagorno Karabakh, where, as the Prosecutor's Office said, he was involved in an illegal business and made open calls against the Azerbaijani state.

Remains of orphaned survivors of Armenian Genocide to make way for a luxury hotel

While we come together to remember fallen soldiers, the remains of orphaned survivors of the Armenian genocide are about to make way for a luxury hotel

*By Robert Fisk
The Independent*

Do we honour the dead or the corpses? I'm not talking about those poppy fashion accessories worn by the BBC's clones, or PR Dave's obscene bit of crimson Photoshopping, but the real, actual remains of the human beings slaughtered in the Great War of 1914-18. And, in this particular case, I'm talking not of the soldiers but of the civilians buried in 33 graves which I looked down upon last week from a windy hilltop beside the old Roman city of Byblos in Lebanon. Beneath those tombstones lie the bones of some survivors of the greatest war crime of that titanic conflict, the genocide of a million and a half Armenian Christians by the Turks in 1915. They died in one of the huge orphanages opened for thousands of children amid cholera and disease by European doctors and NGOs after the Great War ended, and were buried in the orphanage grounds.

Many of them saw their parents slaughtered in front of them, but escaped the massacre only to die in Lebanon. Some lived on to work among the orphans and died of old age. But they are the "honoured" dead, as surely as the soldiers who lie today in the cemeteries of the Somme and Verdun and the graves of those who endured the conflict. Or are they? For these individual Armenian graves, most of them bearing the names of the survivors, are soon to be disinterred and buried - mixed together - in a "common grave" beside the nearest Armenian church. Their names already appear on a marble stone near the hole where their bones will be placed - but their individuality will disappear, skulls and backbones and femurs jumbled together. What is left of their bodies will have lost their uniqueness.

Worse still, their own Armenian church which "protects" the old orphanage site, is to rent the land to a company that plans to construct a beach-front boutique hotel of wooden villas and, while the land

where the graves now stand cannot be used for construction - it is too near the ancient Roman city - it will be landscaped and used, it now seems, for wedding photographs. The brides and grooms will not know whom they have displaced.

But Vartan Avakian will know. He took me to Byblos to show me the tomb of his own great-grandfather Hagop in this very cemetery, and Hagop's remains will be among those disinterred. "Those who escaped the mass graves of our genocide should not be moved into another mass grave," he said bitterly. Vartan and seven other Armenian friends have been hunting through local construction documents and discovered that the exclusive resort will be called the Diplomatic Club. So poor old Hagop, who witnessed but survived the genocide at the age of 21, must make way for the wealthy company that will rent this land from the church for its privileged hotel guests.

The Armenian church can say - justifiably - that the names of the dead will be more greatly honoured, because their cocktail of bones will lie beside an Ottoman building that now houses a magnificent museum of the genocide, containing a photographic record of the Armenian Holocaust - the first holocaust of the 20th century. Pictures of the dead hang in corridors haunted by most beautiful Armenian liturgical church music. "Remember!" it says in Armenian on a nearby wall. "Life is short, death is real, eternity is immortal." Which, I suppose, is the Armenian version of our own remembrance of those who grow not old as we grow old.

But moving the dead worries me. True, in 1918 the Armenian survivors carried some of the bones of their own dead from the Syrian desert to a chapel at Antelias, north of Beirut, where they can be seen to this day. I have myself dug the skulls of dead Armenians from the killing fields of northern Syria - originally left by their Turkish murderers to be covered by the waters of the Khabur river - and given them to the priests of the genocide memorial church at Deir Ezzor. But these bones had been lying unknown, without any Christian grave. They were placed in the crypt amid other remains where, alas, they were discovered by Islamist fighters last year - and hurled into the street before the



church was dynamited.

True, graves of British soldiers on the Somme were removed to another cemetery when a new French motorway route to the Channel was under construction not long ago. But they were reburied with honor under their own individual tombstones and their disinterment was in the interest of a project that would benefit a new generation of humanity. Besides, when tens of thousands of soldiers "known unto God" were simply atomized into the fields of the Somme by shellfire during the war itself, should bones really carry the same power as our historical memory? And didn't we ourselves bring back an "Unknown Soldier" to lie in state for ever in London?

But to stand on the Somme and know that a dead man, often named, lies just below the ground a few feet from us provides a most unique reflection on humanity's cruelty and tragedy. Hagop was a survivor but his bones, albeit unseen, and his tombstone possess an individuality that recovers the dead and brings them back, in our consciousness, to the world of the living. A common grave may be a place of prayer - surely that is what the ash pits of Auschwitz have become - but it cruelly destroys the unique identity of each human being who died there - which, in the case of Auschwitz, was, alas, the Nazis' intention.

Time matters, of course. We do not weep for the dead of Agincourt and Waterloo. They were routinely thrown into mass graves. And our world is for the living, not the dead. Ashes do return to ashes. Yet in the shadow of the last century's Golgotha, I suspect that bodies, corpses, human remains - however decayed - should still be important to us. Their identities are more important than poppies - and certainly more profound than the profits of a boutique hotel.

Iran sees Armenia as a regional strategic trade partner: AI-Monitor



If one thing is certain about Iran's recent move to step up relations with Armenia, it's that it's for very good economic reasons. On Oct. 14, Tehran took the opportunity of impending sanctions relief under the nuclear deal signed in July to send First Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri to Armenia to see about expanding bilateral economic relations. Armenia is the sole Eurasian Economic Union member state that shares a land border with Iran, and could thus be a "gateway for Iranian goods" to the 5 billion-strong markets of Eurasia and Europe, according to Jahangiri, the most senior Iranian official to have visited Yerevan since 2011.

Iran and Armenia have already signed agreements that could keep their ties close for years. For instance, Armenia is providing Iran with electricity in exchange for natural gas imports. The swap is set to continue for the next 15 years, with the electricity generated from power plants built by Iranian engineers on the Armenian side of the border. Under the 2007 gas pipeline contract, Armenia generates and sends to Iran three kilowatt-hours per cubic meter of natural gas. When this contract expires, Iran will get paid for its natural gas exports, and Armenia will be free to use the generated electricity entirely for domestic consumption. It should be noted that Armenia's political disputes with Azerbaijan and Turkey have left it with Georgia and Iran as the best options for meeting its energy needs.

Jahangiri's recent visit was mainly aimed at reviving Iranian projects suspended due to sanctions and a shortage of financing. The delayed projects include a high voltage transmission line, connecting the Armenian power grid with that of Georgia and a third transmission line between Iran and Armenia worth around \$120 million. The latter is set to come on stream in 2018, increasing the transmission capacity from Armenia to Iran from 300 to 1,000 megawatts. Among other matters raised by Jahangiri during his visit was an ongoing project to connect Iran's rail network to that of Armenia, a plan that would provide Armenia with access to the southern Persian Gulf states through the International North-South Transport Corridor.

Jahangiri's call for a focus on bilateral trade cooperation during his stay in Yerevan appears to have been welcomed by Armenian entrepreneurs, as soon after, a group of them announced that they will visit Iran on Nov. 9. According to the Iran Chamber of Commerce's website, Armenia's minister of economy will lead the delegation, which consists of about 50 top managers in banking, IT and agricultural businesses. This could be in line with a proposal offered by Jahangiri to create a trade hub in Armenia, from where Iranian goods could be re-exported not only to Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia, but also to Europe

and the United States.

The head of the Iran-Armenia Chamber of Commerce, Levon Aharonian, believes the new effort to facilitate trade could help curb corruption and cut import duties from Iran significantly. In an article in the leading Iranian Tejarat-e Farda economic magazine, Aharonian argued that Jahangiri's proposal - if accepted by the Armenian government - could be a "great opportunity" for Iranian traders looking for broader markets. However, he wrote, traders and officials from both sides should first help come up with a new trade mechanism to make the idea feasible. Many of the 6,400 items the European Union allows to be imported from Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan at very low tariffs can be supplied by Iranian manufacturers, Aharonian noted.

Iran is currently Armenia's fourth largest trading partner after the European Union, Russia and China. Moreover, the Islamic Republic's annual trade with Armenia is set to increase to \$1 billion in the near future, up from \$300 million now. Earlier this month, Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan agreed with a proposal offered by the Iranian side to revive Armenia's factories built during the Soviet era. Iran says the factories can be used as a base to process semi-finished goods imported from Iran to eventually be exported to third countries.

But the Islamic Republic is not alone in its interest in Armenia. The United States has provided millions of dollars in assistance to Yerevan since its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Moreover, Washington has long been negotiating with the Armenian government to expand bilateral trade and investment relations. Lastly, the United States has - as is also largely the case with Iran - supported the Armenian government in its political and territorial disputes with neighboring states since its independence. These parallel efforts by Tehran and Washington to court Yerevan could end up in a potential clash of interests, even in the aftermath of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which has repaired US-Iran relations to some extent.

The US 2015 budget provides \$24.7 million in assistance to Armenia. Washington has also reached several economic agreements with Yerevan, including the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (2015), Joint Economic Task Force (1999), Investment Incentive Agreement (1992), Agreement on Trade Relations (1992) and Bilateral Investment Treaty (1992) - all of which provide platforms for deeper economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. According to the Armenian National Committee of America, the two countries have several options to improve their trade relations - including adoption of the Double Taxation Treaty, which is needed to replace the outdated US-USSR Double Tax Treaty from 1974. The committee believes this treaty is an impediment to US investment in Armenia and hinders economic relations between the two countries.

Iran sees Armenia as a regional strategic trade partner, while the United States has been investing in the Caucasian country for an extended period. A potential clash of interests between Iran and the United States thus appears as a serious challenge on the distant horizon. However, if this challenge is addressed wisely and in a timely manner, conflict can be avoided and the American market could even be accessible to Iranian manufacturers through Armenia in the medium term.

Harut Sassounian: Met with Israel's President, and spoke at Armenian Genocide conference



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

Last week I spoke at the first conference on the Armenian Genocide in Israel, gave a lecture at the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem, and attended a meeting with Israel's President Reuven Rivlin.

Pres. Rivlin was a staunch supporter of Armenian Genocide recognition while he was Chairman of the Knesset (parliament). As President, he is now more circumspect, not wishing to contradict his government's reprehensible silence regarding the Armenian Genocide. However, during his meeting with the scholars attending the genocide conference last week, Pres. Rivlin left no doubt that his position on the Armenian Genocide has not changed. He even used the term "Armenian Genocide" during the meeting. He also recalled his speech at the UN General Assembly earlier this year in which he specifically referenced the Armenian Genocide.

I reminded Pres. Rivlin that over two dozen countries have already recognized the Armenian Genocide and that Israel should also acknowledge it simply because it is the right thing to do! I expressed the hope that with his continued support Israel would complete 'the missing page' of my book which lists the countries that have recognized the Armenian Genocide!

I then handed Pres. Rivlin my book, "The Armenian Genocide, The World Speaks Out: 1915-2015, Documents & Declarations," a copy of the speech I delivered at the conference, and my newspaper, The California Courier.

The Armenian Genocide conference was organized By Prof. Yair Auron and the Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communication at The Open University of Israel. Among the distinguished speakers were: Jacob Metzer, President of The Open University of Israel; Prof. Yair Auron; Prof. Israel Charny; Prof. Elihu Richter; Prof. Dina Porat, Chief Historian of Yad Vashem; Dr. Stefan Ihrig, author of "Ataturk in the Nazi Imagination"; Ragip Zarakolu, a prominent human rights activist from Turkey; Prof. Ayhan Aktar from Istanbul Bilgi University; Ya'akov Ahimeir, Journalist and Editor of Israel

Broadcasting Authority's weekly international news survey on Channel 1; Benny Ziffer, Editor of the literary and cultural section of Haaretz newspaper; and George Hintlian from Jerusalem's Armenian community.

In my conference presentation, I expressed regret that The State of Israel has yet to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide. Here are excerpts from my remarks:

"I must first draw an important distinction between the position of the Israeli government and the people of Israel and Jews around the world who have been some of the leading voices calling attention to the Armenian Genocide and its recognition:

- Henry Morgenthau, U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, during the Genocide;

- Franz Werfel, the Austrian Jewish novelist, who wrote in 1933 the international bestselling novel, "The Forty Days of Musa Dagh." His book was translated into Hebrew in 1934 and was widely read by Jews everywhere, particularly in the Warsaw ghetto, as a source of inspiration for survival and resistance to the Nazis during the Shoah;

- Raphael Lemkin, the Polish Jewish lawyer, who coined the term genocide. He disclosed during a 1949 interview on the CBS-TV Program Face the Nation: "I became interested in genocide because it happened to the Armenians";

- I would add to these historical figures the name of Yossi Beilin, who spoke out on the Armenian Genocide as Israel's Minister of Justice on April 24, 2000, and as Deputy Foreign Minister in 1994, despite heavy pressures and criticisms from the Israeli government;

- We also fondly remember Minister of Education Yossi Sarid who was the keynote speaker in Jerusalem on April 24, 2000, the 85th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. He declared: "I am here, with you, as a human being, as a Jew, as an Israeli, and as Education Minister of the State of Israel.... Whoever stands indifferent in front of it [genocide], or ignores it, whoever makes calculations, whoever is silent always helps the perpetrator of the crime and not the murdered."

- I must include in this list of Righteous Jews, Professors Israel Charny, Yair Auron, Yehuda Bauer, Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel, and a large number of Jewish scholars

who were the trailblazers in writing articles and books on the Armenian Genocide, even before Armenian scholars.

- I must also commend Knesset members and former Knesset Chairman Reuven Rivlin - the current President of Israel - who staunchly supported Armenian Genocide recognition despite his government's vehement opposition.

As it is well known, the Armenian Genocide was the 'prototype' of the Shoah in view of German complicity in the extermination of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. In the process of that criminal cooperation, the German military learned from its Turkish ally practical evil lessons on how to organize and implement the elimination of an entire race! Hitler was emboldened by the silence of the world while Armenians were getting wiped out, to confidently declare on the eve of his invasion of Poland in 1939, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

Consequently, The State of Israel should have been the first country, and hopefully not the last, to recognize the Armenian Genocide! Who should empathize more with the victims of a genocide than those who have suffered a similar fate?

Those who give Realpolitik reasons to justify Israel's reluctance to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, should answer the following question: Would they accept the denial of the Shoah by another country, simply because it is in that country's strategic interest to do so?

Equally illogical is the claim that now is not the right time to recognize the Armenian Genocide! When is a good time to recognize a genocide? Isn't 100 years of waiting long enough?

Moreover, for years, we were told that acknowledging the Armenian Genocide would ruin Israel's good relations with Turkey. Now, we are being told that Israel cannot acknowledge it in order not to make its bad relations with Turkey worse!

It would be immoral to exploit the recognition of the Armenian Genocide as a bargaining chip between Turkey and Israel. No political, economic or military interest should override the recognition of any genocide!

Israel should recognize the Armenian Genocide for one reason only: It is the right thing to do!"

SARF's 'Save Life' Telethon to aid Syrian Armenians



The Syrian Armenian Relief Fund (SARF) announced its upcoming "SAVE A LIFE" Telethon, which will take place on February 21, 2016 in Los Angeles, California, Asbarez reports.

"The Syrian conflict is reaching its

five-year landmark. Unfortunately, as the war in Syria goes on, cities, towns and villages are being destroyed, homes are being leveled to the ground, families are being shattered, and most sadly, the bloodshed continues and innocent lives are being lost to brutality," SARF said in a statement.

Tens of thousands of families have been dislocated, unsheltered. Hundreds of thousands of civilians lack the very basic necessities of human dignity, water, food, roof and warmth to say the least.

The atrocities have left our compatriots extremely vulnerable. The vast destruction of civic and human infrastructures have turned cities like Aleppo, one of the oldest cities in the world, once

the largest city and economic hub of Syria, and the oldest Armenian community of Diaspora, into devastated and dysfunctional ghost towns.

"Witnessing inhumanity, however, is strengthening our humanness and our commitment to serving our people who are in dire need. Our compatriots in Syria are the brink of perishing every moment. Yet, they are surviving at very high cost, the statement reads.

To extend a helping hand and provide our compatriots in Syria with the light of hope, the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund announced its upcoming "SAVE A LIFE" Telethon, which will take place on February 21, 2016 in Los Angeles, California.

70-year-old Armenian ArArAt brandy sold for \$120,000 at Sotheby's auction

70-year-old Armenian ArArAt brandy was sold at a Sotheby auction in London for 80 thousand pounds-over \$120,000.

The special auction was dedicated to the 50th anniversary of former United Kingdom Prime Minister Winston Churchill's death.

The auction was sponsored by Albert II, Prince of Monaco. The organization of the auction was supported by Monaco's Ambassador to the UK Evelyne Genta, Armenia's Ambassador to the UK and former prime minister of Armenia Armen Sargsyan, and Saudi Prince Al Waleed.



Churchill's favorite drinks, cigars and, clothing brands and various other items were put up for the auction.

During the auction, special attention was paid to Churchill's bust by sculptor Oscar Nemon and 70-year-old brandy from an exclusive collection of the Yerevan Brand Factory, which was donated by Armen Sargsyan.

The amount raised at the auction will be donated in its entirety to charities supporting Prince Albert's initiatives to reduce the impacts of climate change, biodiversity preservation, and combatting desertification.

Serj Tankian's guitar played during Wake Up The Souls tour auctioned off for \$27,000



The guitar The System Of A Down played during the Wake Up The Souls tour has been auctioned off for \$27,000.

"Amazing News!! The one of a kind custom Wake Up The Souls guitar I played on the tour, signed by all band members got auctioned off for \$27,000 in support of the non-profit Orran children's charity," Tankian said in a Facebook post.

Tankian played the guitar in Los Angeles, Yerevan, Moscow and all through the historic Wake Up The Souls tour aimed at raising awareness about the Armenian Genocide.

Christianity 'on course to disappear' in parts of Middle East: Report

Christianity "could disappear completely" within a decade in parts of the Middle East, a report has warned as Isis and other groups continue their violent persecution of the faith, The Independent reports.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), a UK-based Catholic campaign group, has chronicled a dramatic decline in the faith over the last two years largely due to what it called the "religious-ly motivated ethnic cleansing" in Iraq, Syria, Nigeria and other countries hit by Islamist insurgencies.

But researchers found that totalitarian regimes such as in North Korea, and extremism in faiths outside Islam were also playing a part in the 22 nations reviewed.

John Pontifex, the editor of *Persecuted and Forgotten? A Report on Christians oppressed for their Faith 2013-15*, said: "A cultural genocide of Christians is erasing the presence of faithful from large swathes of the Middle East, the very heartland of the Church.

"Far from laying the entire blame for persecution against Christians at

the door of extremist Islam [the report] demonstrates that many of the problems stem from non-Muslim extremist - nationalist - faith groups and historically communist totalitarian regimes."

Researchers wrote that with the faith disappearing from entire regions, including parts of Africa, it was "changing from being a global faith to a regional one".

Iraq was among the 10 countries where persecution is ranked as "extreme", with the charity saying Christianity's future in the country is "in doubt" amid an exodus of refugees pushed out by Isis' violent advance last year.

The ACN warns that Christians could virtually disappear from Iraq within five years "unless emergency help is provided at an international level on a massively increased scale".

Numbers of Christians in the country are believed to be as low as 275,000, while the figure in neighbouring Syria has dropped from 1.25 million in 2011 to as few as 500,000 today.

Isis and other jihadist groups have

targeted religious minorities in both countries, driving them from their homes, kidnapping priests and murdering those who refuse to renounce their faith.

Researchers said that Christians were not only a target because of their faith itself, but because of their "perceived links with the West and a view associating the faithful with colonialism".

The report held Islamism to be the greatest threat but also highlighted attacks sparked by militant forms of Hinduism, Judaism and Buddhism.

The countries where Christians were deemed most at risk were: China, Eritrea, Iraq, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Vietnam.

The Pope sent a message from the Vatican addressing ACN's findings, saying the world must be made aware of the "plight and suffering" of Christians.

"[Pope Francis] prays that those in positions of authority will diligently strive not only to eradicate religious discrimination and persecution in their own nations, but also to seek ever more effective ways to promote international cooperation in order to overcome these offenses against human dignity and religious freedom," a statement said.

Marking the report's launch in the House of Lords, David Cameron said Christians were being "systematically discriminated against, exploited and driven from their homes because of their faith".

Nicola Sturgeon, the Scottish First Minister, also sent a message of support to ACN, saying that the "extent and scale of the problem" must be identified in order for persecution to be properly addressed.



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries

(March 20-April 19)

Your partner may take on an uncharacteristic manner of self-assertion. He or she is not so likely to back down from a fight. Life will be generally more harmonious if you stay off the hot topics. If it is important to tackle them, seek a counselor, a trusted friend, or a negotiator to keep things fair.

Taurus

(April 20 -- May 20)

Follow your instincts about where you need to be, particularly if that includes a new social situation or work environment. A teacher comes along who can be beneficial to your health and work situation. You may be mixing business and pleasure in a pleasant combination.

Gemini

(May 20-June 20)

This is a time in which it is important for you to serve as a healing listener to those whom you love. You are traversing challenging waters and you have what it takes to be the strong one. Your soul is being fed by one who is not involved in the crisis, but who knows you very well.

Cancer

(June 21-July 21)

Your path of growth during this period of your life is to attend to home, hearth, and family members. You are somehow the glue that holds everyone together and smooths out the rough spots. The outer world of business and social life is on hold for a while as you tend to family matters.

Leo

(July 22-August 21)

Your attention continues to be focused on home, hearth, and family. You have ideas to present, but you need to be aware that your thinking is not really objective right now. If others in the family want to offer suggestions, make an effort to take them into account.

Virgo

(August 22-September 22)

Cleave to an optimistic attitude during this period. It will provide you with healing so you can give support to another who needs your support. Aspects favor study, nearby travel, and educational interests. It seems everyone is interested in what you think.

Libra

(Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

Mars, the red planet of war, enters your sign this week and will be traveling with you for seven weeks. This energy is best used to handle physically heavy projects or take initiatives that you might not otherwise tackle. It is healthier to take charge of this assertive energy. If not, the common side effects are irritability and infections.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 21)

Over the next seven weeks life will work more smoothly if you let yourself be led by the "signs," circumstances, and people around you. It will not be a time to attack in anger or initiate new ideas, but mainly to respond to others.

Sagittarius

(November 22-December 20)

You are given help in career development from behind the scene. Listen carefully to your intuition or your hunches. The information is probably accurate. Associates in your community will be supportive and encouraging as you follow your next direction.

Capricorn

(December 21-January 19)

You may be mixing business and pleasure in a pleasant combination. This is a good time to discuss issues within a relationship because you are steady of mind and likely to be realistic, in relation to yourself as well as others. You intend to keep your promises.

Aquarius

(January 20-February 17)

Because you are willing to take on responsibilities within your community, your reputation increases in value. Now is a time that you are able to hold together both the vision and the steps on the path to bring that goal to fruition. Your effort serves as a beacon for the future.

Pisces

(February 18-March 19)

You may have fortunate circumstances related to the internet, travel, and publishing. Help and information comes from those at a distance. Educational activities are favored. Meanwhile you are waiting for a payoff of insurance, taxes, alimony, or some other debtor.

Las Vegas monument pays tribute to Armenian genocide victims

By Ann Friedman
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Growing up in Cairo, Las Vegas resident Mary Rose Simon was raised by her grandmother, a survivor of the Armenian genocide.

"She instilled in me the Armenian values," said Simon, one of 12,000 Armenians who live in Clark County. "And she had no grudges at all."

A monument was unveiled Saturday at Sunset Park to commemorate the about 1.5 million Armenians who were exterminated by the Ottoman Turks from 1915 to 1923.

"When you grow up with a lady who had wounds and you heard about how they happened, it didn't set in until just now looking at this monument," she said. "This is a gift to the community and we're putting Clark County on the map."

The monument is a replica of the one that was dedicated in 1965 in Yerevan, Armenia, a small nation and former Soviet republic just east of Turkey. It's made out of precast concrete and has 12 pillars, which represent the 12 provinces where Armenians were massacred, as well as a bench and dedication plaque on an adjacent boulder.

Members of the Armenian-American Cultural Society of Las Vegas and Adroushan Andy Armenian, honorary consul of the Republic of Armenia in Las Vegas, first approached Clark County Commissioner Marybeth Scow nearly 10 years ago with the idea for the monument.

Scow said she decided to put a policy in place before taking action to construct the monument in her district.

"I wanted to make sure we were doing this in a fair way so having a policy in place would help judge what rises to the level of doing something like this," she said. "The purpose was to establish criteria for guidelines and consideration."

Scow added that she ensured the monument, which is at the eastern part of the park along Sunset Road, was in a location that wouldn't interfere with the recreation purpose of the park as well as that the Armenian organization would be responsible for upkeep and repairs.

"By having it in Sunset Park, a lot of people can see it and it will be a great tool for our community to remember what happened," she said. "I'm really looking forward to having and appreciating it."

The more than 200 attendees also had a moment of silence at



the monument unveiling to pay tribute to the least 120 people who were killed by terrorists in Paris on Friday.

Friday's attack also served as a reminder of why remembering senseless crimes is important, Simon said.

"The timing couldn't have been better," she said. "Terrorism is happening everywhere and while they're working hard to destroy humanity, we're here counteracting what they're doing."

John Dolmayan, a Las Vegas resident and drummer of the Armenian-American rock band, System of a Down, said the Paris attacks hit close to home.

"My friends the Deftones were supposed to play a show tonight at the venue where the attacks happened," he said of Le Bataclan concert hall. "It was just a bunch of kids going to a rock show, what have they done?"

Dolmayan attended the monument unveiling to pay tribute to his heritage, which he said is the most important thing.

"Something like this is for Armenians and non-Armenians to enjoy because it will help people remember about the atrocities that were committed," he said of the monument. "It will also help prevent it from happening again."

Like Dolmayan, Gerard Costantian, an Armenian and Las Vegas resident, hopes the monument serves as an educational tool for years to come.

"I hope people walk through, see it and learn something about this event," he said. "I'm hoping it will bring awareness to one of the most significant events in history."



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