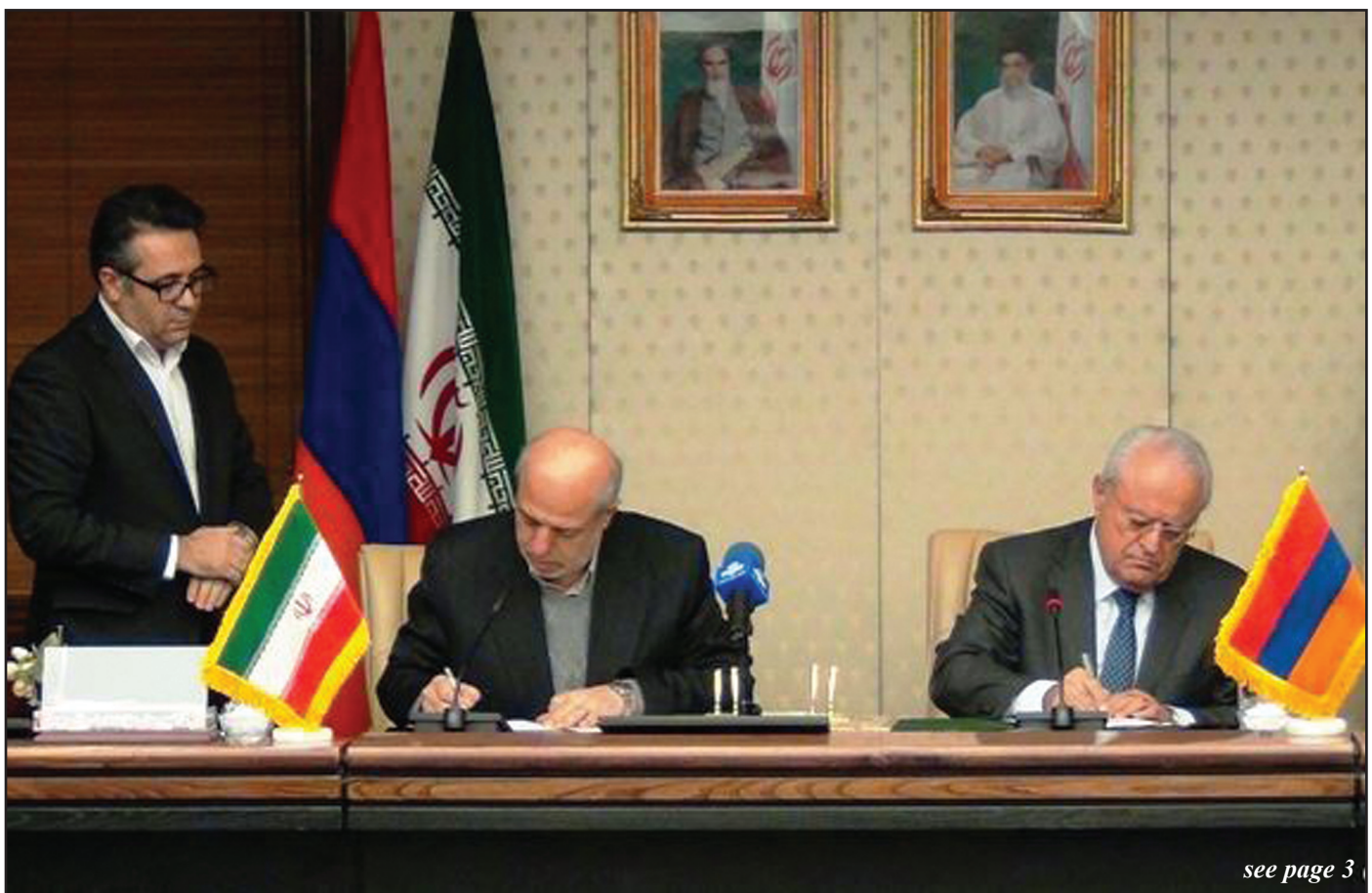


# New date set for Iran-Armenia energy project



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## Armenia hosts international conference on Digital Diplomacy

With the support of the European Union, the Diplomatic School of Armenia has organized an international conference on Digital Diplomacy.

More than 60 participants, Directors of Diplomatic Institutes, Ambassadors and Heads of Department of Ministries of Foreign Affairs from all over the world will discuss the prospects and challenges of digital diplomacy during the two-day event. The program of the conference will cover all aspects of the digitization of diplomacy, from virtual reality and social media over organizational changes in diplomatic services, to best practices in training programs related to e-diplomacy.

"Digital diplomacy creates an additional platform for diplomats to launch their activity and to be accountable to the public," Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said in his opening remarks.

"Widely using the opportunities opened up by information technologies, we should take into account the sensitiveness of accessible information and its advisory nature, as well as the possible influence of the information we provide and the statements we make on interstate relations and human destinies. Therefore, the more opportunities time provides, the more previously unknown challenges emerge," he said.



Addressing the audience, the head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Traian Hristea recalled that the "first objective for the longstanding cooperation between the European Union and the Government of the Republic of Armenia in support of Diplomatic School is to reinforce the institution, empowering the School to offer education and training for Armenian diplomatic personnel."

## Judith Farnworth appointed as Her Majesty's Ambassador to Armenia

Ms Judith Farnworth has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia in succession to Mrs Katherine Leach, who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Ms Farnworth will take up her appointment during September 2015.

Ms Farnworth joined the FCO in 1991 and is currently serving as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic. A specialist in post-Soviet and Central European Affairs, Ms Farnworth began her career at the FCO as a Research Analyst before taking up postings in Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Latvia and the Kyrgyz Republic.

On her appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia, Ms Farnworth has said:



*I am delighted to be appointed as British Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia. It is a great privilege to serve in a country with such a rich history and culture. Building on the achievements of the current Ambassador and the Embassy team, I look forward to working with the Armenian Government to strengthen further the bilateral relationship for the benefit of Armenia and the United Kingdom.*

## Polish, Swedish diplomats in Armenia for consultations ahead of Riga Summit

On May 11 Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian received Political Directors of the Foreign Ministries of Poland and Sweden Jarosław Bratkiewicz and Torbjörn Sohlström, who have arrived in Armenia for political consultations ahead of the Riga Summit.

During the meeting the parties exchanged views on Armenia-EU relations, and the work towards working out new legal bases for them.

The interlocutors discussed issues related to the preparation of the summit.

Minister Nalbandian reiterated Armenia's approach to develop and deepen the cooperation with the EU in different directions, taking into consideration Armenia's commitments in other integration frameworks.

Reference was made to a number of regional issues and the ways of their resolution.

Minister Nalbandian briefed the European diplomats on the events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide taking place in different countries of the world.





## More Details Of Gyumri Family Massacre Emerge

Forensic tests have confirmed that the seven members of an Armenian family in Gyumri were murdered at home in January by a Russian soldier currently kept under arrest, lawyers representing the victims' relatives said on May 14.

Citing DNA samples collected by Armenian investigators from the scene of the massacre, they said that all of the victims were shot or stabbed in their beds and that only one of them, Seryozha Avetisyan, was able to put up some resistance.

The 53-year-old Avetisyan, his wife, unmarried daughter, son, daughter-in-law and 2-year-old granddaughter were found dead in their Gyumri house early on January 12. His second grandchild, a 6-month-old baby, died of stab wounds a week later, adding to a nationwide shock and outrage caused by the mysterious killings.

Police found in the house an assault rifle belonging to Valery Permyakov, a conscript serving at a Russian military base headquartered in Gyumri. Permyakov was caught on the nearby Armenian-Turkish border and handed over to the base's headquarters later on January 12.

Permyakov, who remains in Russian military custody, subsequently confessed to the killings. His motives remain unclear, however.

Speaking at a news conference in Yerevan, the lawyers confirmed that Armenian forensic experts have found traces of Permyakov's DNA on the Kalashnikov rifle, its detachable bayonet and a cigarette butt left in the Avetisians' house.

"DNA traces of Seryozha Avetisyan were also found on the gun barrel, which suggests that he grabbed the barrel," one of them, Lusine Sahakyan, said. "They also found his DNA on the rifle butt."

"This allows us to presume that the shooter also hit him with the butt," she said. "There were injuries on his body which we think were caused by the butt."

"So judging from the forensic examination, the grandfather tried to fight back," added Sahakyan.

Sahakyan and the other lawyer, Yerem Sargsyan, confirmed that Avetisyan and the other members of the family slept in their bed then the gunman broke into their house early in the morning. The 6-month-old baby, also called Seryozha, lay with his mother, Araksia Poghosyan, at that moment. Poghosyan tried to protect her child with her body moments before they both were stabbed by the bayonet, according to the lawyers.

Sargsyan said while it is clear that the murders were committed by Permyakov there is still no conclusive

evidence that the Russian soldier acted alone. Nor is it known why he decided to massacre the family after deserting his army unit shortly before dawn, added the lawyer.

Both lawyers stressed that answers to these and other lingering questions require a single and comprehensive criminal investigation which they believe is still not being conducted. Armenian law-enforcement authorities and the Russian military are holding separate inquiries into the crime.

The Russians have so far refused to hand over Permyakov to the Armenian side, ignoring a corresponding letter that was sent by Armenia's Prosecutor-General Gevorg Kostanyan to his Russian counterpart Yuri Chayka in January. The letter followed angry street protests in Gyumri where many fear a Russian cover-up of the crime.

A spokesperson for Kostanyan told RFE/RL's Armenian side on Thursday that the two sides are still "discussing" the possibility of Permyakov's extradition. The official declined to comment further.

A senior Russian lawmaker visiting Gyumri in late March said that Permyakov will be tried in Armenia but by a Russian military court. It remains unclear whether the court will consider DNA samples and other evidence collected by Armenian investigators.

## New date set for Iran-Armenia energy project

Armenia and Iran will start building next month a third transmission line that will connect their power grids and increase Armenian electricity exports to the Islamic Republic, Energy Minister Yervand Zakharyan said on May 13.

Work on the project has repeatedly been postponed by the governments of the two neighboring states due to financial issues and obstacles resulting from international sanctions imposed on Iran.

An intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation co-headed by Zakharyan and his Iranian counterpart Hamid Chitchian claimed to have cleared all hurdles to its implementation after a meeting held in Tehran in December.

Zakharyan announced at the time that the high-voltage line's construction will

start in March and take 18 months. The new facility will allow Armenia to increase electricity supplies to Iran from the current 1.2 billion kilowatt/hours to up to 7 billion kilowatt/hours, he said.

That electricity is generated by Iranian natural gas delivered to Armenian thermal-power plants.

Zakharan on Wednesday spoke of June as the new date for the launch of the construction. He told reporters that the Armenian government will finance its share of the \$120 million project with a

loan be provided by the Iranian side.

The minister also said that the new Armenia-Iran line will be as powerful as the two existing ones combined.

The sharp increase in electricity exports anticipated by Yerevan will presumably require much higher volumes of Iranian gas supplies. According to government figures, Armenia buys around 500 million cubic meters of gas from Iran annually, compared with approximately 2 billion cubic meters imported from Russia.

### Noyan Tapan Press-Center

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## Israeli speaker calls for Armenian Genocide recognition

The speaker of Israel's parliament, the Knesset, on May 12 described the 1915 Armenian massacres in Ottoman Turkey as genocide and urged the Jewish state to officially recognize it.

"It is no secret that Israel has taken too ambivalent a stance on the Armenian genocide," "The Jerusalem Post" quoted Yuli Edelstein as saying during a special Knesset debate on the issue.

"There are many reasons, diplomatic and otherwise, for the Israeli stance being too hesitant and restrained, which downplayed the magnitude of the historical event. We Jews, who are still suffering from the impact of the Holocaust, cannot minimize the tragedy," Edelstein said.

Israel "cannot afford to remain silent" and should thoroughly examine its official position," he added, according to "The Times of Israel."

Edelstein already publicly called the slaughter of some 1.5 million Armenians a genocide in 2012 when he served as Israel's public diplomacy and diaspora affairs minister and visited Armenia in that capacity. The Ukrainian-born politician laid a wreath at the Tsitsernabakert genocide memorial in Yerevan during that trip.

News reports from Jerusalem said Edelstein's stance was backed by several other Knesset members. "What happened in Armenia was genocide; we have come to the conclusion that after 100 years the time has come for humanity to wake up," said Nachman Shai of the Zionist Union bloc.

Shai and another lawmaker represented Israel at the April 24 commemoration in Yerevan of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Edelstein, who is a member of Prime Minister Benjamin



Netanyahu's Likud party, is not the first Knesset speaker to advocate Armenian genocide recognition. Israel's current President Reuven Rivlin did the same when he headed the Israeli parliament in 2012.

Rivlin reportedly reaffirmed his view on the subject in a closed session with journalists in Jerusalem over a month ago. However, he avoided using the word "genocide" at an April 26 ceremony during which he commemorated Armenians massacred by the Ottoman Turks.

Successive Israeli governments have opposed genocide recognition lest it antagonize Turkey, until recently a major security partner of Israel. "Israel's position hasn't changed," an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman reportedly said last month.

## Russian radio-electronic forces to conduct drills in Armenian mountains

Russian military radio-electronic warfare specialists will conduct radio countermeasures against a simulated enemy during drills in Armenian mountains, the press-office of Russia's Southern Military District reported May 12, Sputnik reports.

"The training of new specialists in radio-electronic warfare started at the Russian military base of the Southern Military District in the Republic of Armenia. During the drills, new recruits will exercise countermeasures against radio networks of a simulated enemy," the report read.

During the three day exercise, participants will undergo a special course on Russian advanced military equipment, its capabilities and operating procedures in extreme conditions in the high mountain region, at an elevation of more than 2,000 meters above the sea level.

Servicemen will also conduct practical tasks, including deployment of radio jamming stations and analysis of gathered information. Finally, they will practice radio countermeasures to disrupt simulated enemy's communication networks.

"During the drills, servicemen will search for over 2,000 cel-



lular and satellite signals within a radius of 30 kilometers. They will have to locate and jam them with automatic jamming stations," the district said.



## Syria's Armenian Community 'Facing Extinction'



With no end in sight to the bloody civil war in Syria, the exodus of thousands of ethnic Armenians remaining there may be only a matter of time, Armenia's Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan acknowledged on May 13.

Signaling a major policy shift in Yerevan, Hakobyan said the Armenian government should now start discussing ways of helping to evacuate Syrian Armenians willing to leave the country and the war-ravaged city of Aleppo in particular.

"Unfortunately, a lot has been lost. What we are hearing now are the last desperate cries," Hakobyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) in an

interview on the plight of the once thriving Syrian Armenian community.

"Of course, it would be very good to see calm and peace restored there, to see the community thrive," she said. "But I am sorry to say I am now more pessimistic about the full-fledged functioning of the community. I think that when lives are at stake they must definitely be saved. There is nothing more important than a life."

Armenia's government has faced growing calls for the evacuation of Syrian Armenians in recent weeks amid a worsening security situation in Aleppo, the community's cultural, religious and economic center. The government has made clear until now that it will not encourage or help them to leave Syria en masse without the consent of the community leadership. The latter remains opposed to such an exodus.

Hakobyan's remarks suggest that the authorities in Yerevan may now reconsider their cautious stance. Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan's cabinet is due to discuss the situation in Syria on Thursday. Abrahamyan said last week that Hakobyan will brief cabinet members on "how we can help" Syrian Armenians.

The Diaspora minister said their evacuation from Aleppo and other trouble spots is fraught with serious logistical problems. "Sending money would be the easiest thing," she said. "The key question is whether anyone would be willing to organize airlifts [to and from Syria] and ensure the security of airplanes. The Armenian Foreign Ministry and the Emergency Situations Ministry should answer this question."

In the meantime, fighting between Syrian government troops and rebels in and around Aleppo is reportedly continuing unabated. Speaking to RFE/RL's Armenian service by phone, George, an Aleppo Armenian, said city neighborhoods are shelled on a practically daily basis. Asked about the dominant mood among local Armenians, he said, "I can say that the majority wants to get out."

Syria was home to up to 80,000 ethnic Armenians, most of them descendants of survivors of the 1915 genocide in Ottoman Turkey, before the outbreak of the bloody conflict in the Arab state. The community has shrunk by more than half in the last four years. Some 13,000 Syrian Armenian nationals currently reside in Armenia.

## OSCE Office in Yerevan helps to develop a guide on social services to promote child rights' protection in Armenia



Co-ordination between different players to prevent crime among youth and children is the main focus of a roundtable discussion organized on May 14 by the Children's Support Centre, the Police and the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

It aims to introduce the newly developed Guide on organizations which provide social services to children and their families and launch a new project to work on the development of juvenile crime prevention strategy. The guide is based on mapping of

all social services in the country and includes information on 236 public organizations, 23 foundations, 3 associations and 10 services provided by 8 church units.

"We very much hope that this initiative will be useful and instrumental for the child protection and welfare specialists in joining and doubling their efforts in strengthening the protection of the rights and best interests of a child, which forms an essential part of the OSCE Human Dimension Commitments acknowledged by the OSCE participating States," said Lilian Salaru, Acting Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. He said that close partnerships including families, schools and communities will be vital in developing juvenile crime prevention strategy in Armenia consistent with child-friendly justice standards.

The event brought together representatives from various state and non-state institutions including police forces, the Ministry

of Labor and Social Affairs, National Assembly Standing Committee on Protection of Human Rights and Public Affairs, Child Protection Units of the municipalities, regional administrations and civil society, which deal with juvenile crimes.

Mira Antonyan, the Executive Director of the Children's Support Center, said: "We would like to call on our partners and all stakeholders to co-operate in the framework of the new project which strives to assist the efforts of the state bodies aimed at development of juvenile crime prevention".

The roundtable follows a series of forums held last year in different regions of Armenia by the Children's Support Center Foundation with the support of the OSCE Office in Yerevan to ensure better co-ordination and closer cooperation among different state and non-state agencies dealing with juvenile offenders.

## EBRD brings modern street lighting to Armenia's capital city

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is providing \$4 million for a pilot project which will enable Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, to modernize its street lighting system by introducing new energy-efficient technologies.

The EBRD's sovereign loan will be on-lent to the Street Lighting Company owned by the city of Yerevan. The loan is expected to be complemented by a capital grant of up to \$2 million from the Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership (E5P). Technical cooperation for project preparation was financed by the TaiwanBusiness-EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund and the EBRD's own resources.

Yerevan has a population of 1.1 million, roughly one-third of the total population of Armenia, and the street lighting network consists of old, inefficient and environmentally polluting mercury-based lights. The heavy-metal based content of the current lighting system contributes to energy waste and is a considerable environmental hazard. Due to the antiquated condition of the current system and the high percentage of lights that are not working, large parts of the city are not sufficiently illuminated.

To overcome this problem the pilot project will introduce new energy-efficient LED lighting, a control and monitoring system, pole replacement and renovation as well as power cable replacement. This will result in better service quality and improved environmental standards due to reduced energy consumption and the minimization of operating and maintenance costs. Lighter streets



will also be safer for pedestrians and motorists alike.

Mark Davis, EBRD Head of Office in Yerevan, said: "We welcome this project and are pleased to support it with financial means as well as technical assistance. The new street lighting will contribute to Yerevan's goal of reducing its CO2 emissions, while at the same time significantly reducing the city's energy bill. In addition, the project will contribute to the comfort and safety of residents."

Since the start of its operations in Armenia in 1992, the EBRD has invested over €900 million in more than 135 projects in the country's financial, corporate, infrastructure and energy sectors, with 87 per cent of investments being in the private sector.

## Participants of 9<sup>th</sup> Bologna Process Ministerial Conference adopt Yerevan Communiqué

Participants of the 9th Bologna Process Ministerial Conference and the Fourth Bologna Policy Forum in Yerevan unanimously adopted the Yerevan Communiqué and the Statement of the Statement of the Fourth Bologna Policy Forum. The final sitting was chaired by Armenian Minister of Education and Science Armen Ashotyan and was attended by Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan.

The Ministers responsible for Higher Education and Heads of Delegation to the Fourth Bologna Policy Forum reaffirmed their cooperation in developing higher education.

"Political instability in many of the countries, a high level of unemployment and migration arising from economic and social crisis and lack of access to higher education are among the challenges that we are facing. At the same time national

awakening in the countries is arising hopes of the people for more democratic and tolerant societies, providing opportunities for personal development, as well as development of quality higher education. Reforms of higher education should further the development of democratic culture and equip our societies with the knowledge, understanding and skills to help address the challenges we face. Protect staff and students in answering the academic freedom, integrity and autonomy of higher education institutions is a key to achieving this," the Ministers said.

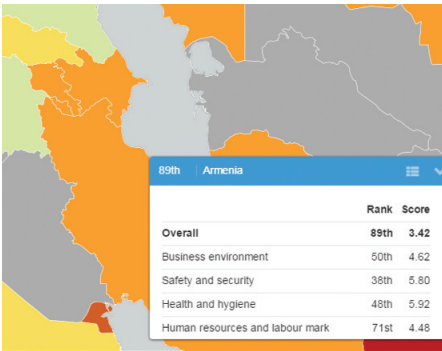
"Mobility of students and staff facilitates exchange and creation of new knowledge and helps to build mutual trust and understanding. The rapid technological developments will impact on higher education and the way in which it will be reformed," the document reads.

The next Bologna Policy Forum will be organized in 2018 in France in conjunction with the Ministerial conference.





## Armenia ranked 89<sup>th</sup> in Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report



Armenia is ranked 89th in the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report released by the World Economic Forum. Spain tops league of most tourist-friendly countries, followed by France and

Germany.

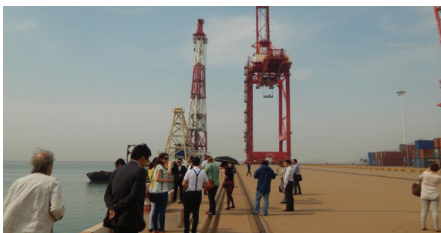
Other countries in the region are placed as follows: Russia - 45th, Turkey - 44th, Azerbaijan - 84th, Georgia - 71st, Iran - 97th.

The theme of year's Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report is "Growing through Shocks." The Report analyzes the performance of 141 economies through the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) and explores how the T&T sector has responded to economic, security and health shocks over recent decades. Understanding the nature and extent of the sector's resilience to shocks is important, as a strong T&T sector is critical for

job creation, economic growth and development in advanced and developing economies alike.

Published every two years, the Report provides a strategic tool for both business and governments: it allows for cross-country comparison of the drivers of T&T competitiveness, for benchmarking countries' policy progress and for making investment decisions related to business and industry development. It also offers an opportunity for the T&T industry to highlight to national policymakers the challenges to T&T competitiveness that require policy attention, and to generate multi-stakeholder dialogue on formulating appropriate policies and action.

## Armenian-Chinese friendship that passes along the Silk Road



A group of Armenian journalists paid a week-long visit to China at the initiative of the Chinese Embassy in Armenia.

"We have a reliable partner in the face of Armenia. The Armenian-Chinese friendship is at the highest level today," Deputy Foreign Minister of China Chen Gopin said at the meeting with reporters.

"I believe the journalists' visit will contribute to the further deepening and reinforcement of business and friendly ties between the two countries and peoples," he added. Speaking about Armenia, the Deputy Minister said "Armenia stands out for its brilliant culture and history. Wise and diligent Armenia is building its own home today. As for our friendship, it dates back to the times of the Silk Road."

Which are the most promising fields of Armenian-Chinese cooperation? "Despite the long distance between Armenia and China, we have managed to establish cooperation thanks to the powerful Silk Road. Both countries have advantages in the fields of industry and economy and can effectively complement each other."

"About ten years ago a successful Armenian-Chinese project was implemented. Here we founded a rubber factory on the basis of Armenian technologies. China, for its part, is ready to support Armenia, particularly in the fields of infrastructure and transport. I should note that some Chinese communities are successfully growing Armenian apricot, which has become another symbol of friendship and cooperation between the two countries," Chen Gopin said.

"Armenia is a unique country and I think the number of tourists wishing to see something special will grow," said an official from the Ministry of Commerce. He said the January issue of the most prestigious tourism magazine in China was completely devoted to Armenia. Commenting on the export of Armenian goods to China, he said "the difficulties are connected with the lack of sea route between the two countries, which results in the increased prices."

"Within the framework of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan's visit to China the leaders of the two countries reached an agreement to intensify the cooperation in building a Silk Road Economic Zone. A corresponding cooperation agreement has been signed between China's Ministry of Commerce and Armenia's Ministry of Economy. We'll help develop your infrastructures. It requires means and efforts, but we hope to solve the issue of transportation in a few years."

## No Barrier to Closer Ties with Armenia: Iran's President

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani called for enhanced economic and political relations between Iran and Armenia, saying that stronger bilateral ties would benefit both nations, according to the President's official website.

"There is no obstacle to the expansion of relations between Tehran and Yerevan, and there is no doubt that promotion of cooperation in the economic, cultural and political fields would benefit the two countries," President Rouhani said on Tuesday, in a meeting with Armenia's new ambassador to Tehran.

He also hailed the "acceptable cooperation" between Iran and Armenia in the international circles, and emphasized the necessity for implementing the joint projects that Iran and Armenia have agreed on.

The president further urged more scientific and academic interaction between the two neighbors.

For his part, the new envoy, Artashes Tumanyan, pledged utmost effort during his tenure in Iran to strengthen cooperation between Tehran and Yerevan.



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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.**, Hambarzumyan 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

- ♦3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m.,with-out 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 repaired, 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,with-out 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 floor of 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
- ♦3576.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 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.**Antarayan 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.**Antarayan str.**, 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m,available seives-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable
- ♦131.**Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available seives-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, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2099. **Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600 USD
- 1972. **Northern ave.**, 8/4, 80sq.m., 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, climate control. Price: 1200 USD
- 2171. **Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sq.m., 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capitolly repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2367. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9th floor, 98 sq.m., capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

## 2 ROOMS

- 2302 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2295 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 16/15, 173sq.m., 2bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 5000 USD
- 2290 **Bayron str.**, Newly built, /5th floor, 220sq.m, 2bedrooms, study, open kitchen, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, parking. Price: 4000 USD
- 1780. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.



- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 2089. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2243. **Buzand str.**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

## 3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished,

parking. Price: 2500 USD

- 2316 **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2286. **Sose str.**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi, /North Avenue/,** Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave.**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

## PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str.**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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,

capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

- 1142. **Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly 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, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

## PREMISES

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

# The Armenian nation has exceptional esteem toward knowledge and education: President

On May 14, at Karen Demirchyan Sports and Concerts Complex, President Serzh Sargsyan took part in the opening of the Ministerial Summit of the European Higher Education Area and the Fourth Bologna Policy Forum.

The Armenian president delivered welcome remarks:

Distinguished participants of the Ministerial Conference of the European Higher Education Area,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to greet you on behalf of the Republic of Armenia on the occasion of this very important event for the European Higher Education Area.

The higher education is, obviously, the pillar upon which the knowledge-based societies are built. In this context, the Bologna reforms transformed the nature of the European higher education ensuring student mobility and establishing wide diversity of educational opportunities. It is also obvious that it is impossible to guarantee a competitive educational system without overcoming systemic problems both in Armenia and in the European Higher Education Area. Armenia had acceded to the Bologna process back in 2005, and by that it designed a new platform of cooperation opportunities with the European area and attained new mechanisms to take advantage of the best international practices.

Current economic and social issues are, meanwhile, serious challenges to the European Higher Education Area, and its common goals presuppose joint efforts and active engagement. For the developing societies, at this stage of advancing information technologies, it is more than important to apply compatible standards in order to address positively the labor market demands, as well as productive cooperation of the beneficiaries in the area of education.

The European education system represented by the Bologna process has made a significant contribution to the reforms carried out in various other regions of the world through numerous education projects, political and institutional dialogue. Assumption of the Bologna Secretariat by Yerevan back in 2012 had been an achievement for the Armenian education system, one that envisaged both responsibility and

privilege. It provided the Armenian higher education institutions with an opportunity to share and practice European education values and get better integrated into this process.

Positive and progressive trends have been registered in our higher education institutions related both with the application of the European quality standards and student mobility. The Armenian culture of education, which originates in the antique times as a part and parcel of our country's ancient history, has always presented itself



to the world with its achievements.

The Armenian nation has exceptional esteem toward knowledge and education. That is, probably, due to its millennial history, throughout which it had been plundered, pillaged and persecuted, and its very knowledge and centuries-long spiritual and cultural heritage had been the only value that illuminated its path, and of which it could not have been deprived of. It is no coincidence that during the most difficult days of the Armenian Genocide Armenians had been saving books. Otherwise, we should have not possessed Matenadaran that is the warranty for the eternal existence of the Armenian nation.

Nowadays the creative talents of the Armenian nation, its contribution to the development of global science, arts, theology is being evaluated anew, and it both serves as a source of great pride and indebts us significantly. The last such wonderful event took place recently, when Pope Francis declared the Armenian titan of medieval thought Divine Saint Gregory of Narek, a Doctor of the Universal Church, one of the 36 greatest thinkers recognized by the Catholic Church throughout its 2000 year-long history.

Dear friends,

To build upon one's own educational traditions today one needs accessible and adequate tools for contacts and communication throughout the whole European Higher Education Area. In that context the Bologna process-driven reforms significantly supported founding of a student-oriented system and efforts that provide the today's younger generation with an opportunity to be well-equipped and competitive to respond to current challenges. Although we have not overcome yet all the obstacles we encountered but the accomplishments registered, and the will to achieve the global goals presupposes new cooperative signals and a more active stage of dialogue.

Education is not an aim in itself, and its vocation is to serve global values and goals. Today, in the 21st century we witness in the civilized world numerous acts of terrorism, violence and war.

Indisposition of human reason and values make such unacceptable manifestations inevitable. Therefore, education based upon spiritual, scientific and cultural content shall be directed at the neat development of the human resources in a broader context.

Dear attendees,

This year has been special for Armenia, Armenians and the whole civilized world: we have marked the Armenian Genocide Centennial, paid tribute to the memory of our innocent martyrs, and attempted to build a more secure environment for people and nations. We declare "never again" not to let such a horrible crime to recur, to preclude formation of an environment conducive to it as such, to transform general notions and precepts of humanity and civil coexistence, to build societies free of xenophobia. It is obvious that here education has a significant role to play, and it is the mission that you, distinguished participants, pursue.

I avail myself of this opportunity to welcome you, and wish you success with this Ministerial Conference of the Bologna process. I believe that important decisions you are going to make in Yerevan will have a positive impact on the millions of the European students, and all education beneficiaries, thus paving the way for new progress, economic development and stability.



## 24 sculpture images of Armenian Genocide survivors stand at Los Angeles Grand Central Park

They stand at 8 to 15 feet tall, surrounding people with their knowing faces. Imposing photographic sculptures of survivors from the 1915 Armenian genocide come to life in California State University, Northridge photography professor Levon Parian's exhibition "iWitness," according to the university's official webpage.

Showcased at Los Angeles Grand Central Park, Parian's 24 mammoth photo sculptures stand out at the epicenter of a maze-like installation. Each of the structures is supported by 2,000 lbs. of cement at the base and 500 lbs. of steel for the frame to be able to withstand 125-mph wind, Parian said.

"The whole point was to make a public

art statement in an environment that is huge," Parian said. "It needed to be something that people would notice. This way people have to actually walk through and around the images."

With this year being the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Parian and his photography partner, Ara Oshagan, and architect Vahagn Thomasian used "iWitness" as a testament to the survivors in their show. The photo structures are part of a much larger project.

Parian began photographing Armenian Genocide survivors in 1989. In 1996 he started to work with Oshagan on what is now called the "Genocide Project," a series of more than 80 portraits and oral

histories from eye witness survivors designed to bring attention to the genocide.

"The reason we pursue this work is to preserve history and to counter the Turkish government's denial of the genocide," Parian said. "The word 'genocide' was coined by Raphael Lemkin in 1944 to describe the events of what happened to the Armenians in 1915, so how can you deny it?"

As both sides of his family have survivors, his work is also a testament to them.

"My mother's parents fled to Jerusalem and stayed in an Armenian convent, and my father's father was an Ottoman cavalry soldier who escaped to the desert and brought thousands of fellow survivors to safety," he said.

The show will be at Los Angeles Grand Central Park through May 31, but Parian said he hopes the park is just the first stop.

"We've had offers from Fresno, Sacramento, New York and even Paris," he said. "There are still a lot of possibilities for the show to travel."

Parian noted that the "Genocide Project" is ever developing. A book will soon be published with stories and images of survivors.

"It's a work in progress; it has been since its inception," he said.



## Chairman Royce, Rep. Pallone welcome US-Armenia Trade & Investment Framework Agreement

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Frank Pallone (D-NJ) were among the first Congressional leaders to welcome the May 7th signing of the U.S.-Armenia Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), a longstanding policy priority for the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

Chairman Royce immediately tweeted "I'm pleased the US and #Armenia have signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement," welcoming the measure which will establish a United States-Armenia Council on Trade and Investment to address bilateral trade and investment and related issues and examine ways to strengthen the trade and investment relationship between the two countries.

Congressman Pallone explained, "The Trade and Investments Framework Agreement signed between the Republic of Armenia and the United States represents our shared commitment to mutual prosperity. With this agreement, I am certain that the United States and Armenia will continue to focus on our shared trade and investment interests. Armenia has always been a proud ally of the United States and I am pleased that we have made progress that will support workers in both of our nations."

The ANCA, which has long worked with the American Chamber of Commerce in Armenia, Armenia-based U.S. businesses and Armenian American community groups, welcomed the move and immediately called for further

*continued on page 12*

# Chairman Royce, Rep. Pallone welcome US-Armenia Trade & Investment Framework Agreement

*From page 11*

expansion of U.S. -Armenia economic relations through the negotiation of a bilateral treaty ending double taxation on businesses and investments.

In a fact sheet shared with Congressional leaders, the ANCA outlined the benefits of a U.S.-Armenia Tax Treaty, as well as the costs of the status quo, an outdated an obsolete Soviet-era agreement. The text of the ANCA Fact Sheet is provided below.

The ANCA has launched an online advocacy campaign to Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, urging him to begin preparations for a U.S.-Armenia Tax Treaty and alerting Members of Congress about the benefits of such an accord. To take action, visit:

<http://www.anca.org/trade>.

ANCA FACT SHEET: U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty

The Administration should support American investors and strengthen mutually-beneficial U.S.-Armenia economic relations by responding favorably to Armenia's longstanding offer to begin negotiations on a Double Tax Treaty.

Benefits of a Double Tax Treaty:

- A U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty would establish a clear legal framework for investors and individuals that have business activities in both jurisdictions, preventing double taxation and facilitating the expansion of economic relations.

- A Double Tax Treaty would help reinforce the friendship of the American and Armenian peoples, anchoring Armenia to the West, and providing Yerevan with greater strategic options and independence in dealing with regional powers.

Costs of not having a Double Tax Treaty:

- The lack of a working U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty hinders the growth of U.S.-Armenia economic relations.

- The lack of a Double Tax Treaty creates legal uncertainty that deters potential U.S. investors, diverts investment flows, and disadvantages American businesses.

- Inaction on a Double Tax Treaty, nearly 25 years after Armenia's independence, sends the wrong message to potential investors and other economic stakeholders.

The 1973 U.S.-U.S.S.R. Treaty is Outdated and Obsolete

- The outdated forty year-old 1973 U.S.-U.S.S.R. Tax Treaty is recognized by the U.S. but not Armenia. Yerevan has repeatedly sought to replace this obsolete accord.

- Even by 1970s standards, the Soviet tax treaty was a limited agreement between two hostile superpowers. Its current legal status remains unclear and its terms are inadequate to the needs of present-day U.S.-Armenia relations. While investors have found ways to adjust to its inadequacies, the existing system of foreign tax credits and deduc-



tions is not consistent with any accepted tax or accounting system.

A Standard Bilateral Economic Accord Among Friendly Nations

- A Double Tax Treaty is a baseline treaty for trade and investment. Other accords may improve aspects of the business environment but are no substitute for this treaty.

- A Double Tax Treaty is not a "benefit/privilege" conferred by either state on the other. It is a basic amenity of global commerce that responsible states adopt to promote predictability, efficiency and transparency in taxation. It represents a hallmark of good, open, transparent government.

- The U.S. has Double Tax Treaties with many small countries, including Estonia, Jamaica, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, and Slovenia.

- Armenia has Double Tax Treaties with many advanced countries, including Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, and the United Kingdom.

A Simple and Straightforward Negotiating Process:

- Negotiating a Double Tax Treaty between the U.S. and Armenia should be relatively straight-forward. It would be, in great measure, an "off the shelf" treaty, not requiring a great deal of time or effort to research, tailor, negotiate or implement.

- A U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty would likely largely follow the U.S. Model Income Tax Convention of 2006, updated by more recent features of U.S. tax treaty policy such as provisions for mandatory arbitration.

- Armenia has broad experience in negotiating tax treaties.

The President's Promise to Foster Armenia's Growth through Expanded Trade

- President Obama pledged during this 2008 campaign to "help foster Armenia's growth and development through expanded trade and targeted aid, and by strengthening the commercial, political, military, developmental, and cultural relationships between the U.S. and Armenian governments." A Double Tax Treaty would represent a meaningful step toward honoring this pledge.



## Turkish Obsession with Armenian Territorial Demands



*By Harut  
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The  
California Courier*

On the occasion of the Armenian Genocide Centennial, Turkish reporters insistently inquired about Armenia's territorial claims from Turkey.

In an interview published on April 25, 2015, in the Turkish *Hurriyet* newspaper, a reporter asked Pres. Serzh Sargsyan if Armenia had territorial demands from Turkey. Below is my translation of *Hurriyet's* Turkish text of Pres. Sargsyan's response:

"Since its independence, the Republic of Armenia has not had any territorial claims from Turkey or any other country. Our government's foreign policy agenda has not had such an issue, and does not have it today. This is clear. We are a full and responsible member of the international community. As a UN member state, we understand our role in the international community; we respect the principles of international law.... If you pay close attention, Armenia's demands for land from Turkey are discussed in Turkey, not in Armenia! As to why this is so, I let everyone draw their own conclusions."

During a meeting with representatives of the Armenian-American community on May 7 in Washington, DC, I asked Pres. Sargsyan to clarify his comments to *Hurriyet* which were misunderstood or misinterpreted by some Armenians and Turks. The President explained that he had not said that Armenia did not have territorial demands from Turkey. He had simply stated that Armenia did not present such demands, and added: "We have no right to say that we have

no territorial demands from Turkey. We also have no right to say that we have such demands." The President went on to say that "Armenian political parties in the Diaspora are free to present such demands."

Pres. Sargsyan is clearly indicating that as a head of state, demanding land from Turkey - a powerful and menacing neighbor - could have serious consequences on Armenia's national security, which is not the case when such claims are made by individuals or organizations.

Earlier that same day, the morning of May 7, during Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian's press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, another Turkish journalist asked the same question about Armenian territorial claims from Turkey. Nalbandian gave the same answer as the President: "Armenia has not made territorial claims from Turkey." He also wondered why is this issue raised in Ankara rather than Yerevan?

Four years ago, on July 23, 2011, Pres. Sargsyan gave a firmer answer when an Armenian student asked him about the eventual return of Mount Ararat and Western Armenia:

"It all depends on you and your generation. I believe my generation fulfilled its task when it was necessary in the early 1990's to defend a part of our homeland - Karabagh - from enemies. We were able to do that.... My point is that each generation has its own task, and it must be able to carry it out, and carry it out well."

The Armenian President's answer created a huge storm of controversy in Turkey and Azerbaijan. Journalists and officials in both countries mounted hysterical attacks on Armenia, accusing Pres. Sargsyan of "urging

Armenian youth to occupy Mt. Ararat and Eastern Turkey." Insulting adjectives were hurled at Pres. Sargsyan by Turkey's then Prime Minister Erdogan, Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc, Minister Egemen Bagis, Pres. Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan, and the Foreign Ministries of both countries. Erdogan even demanded an apology from Armenia's President. To incite the masses, protests were organized in Turkish cities where photographs of Pres. Sargsyan were burned!

It is understandable why Turkish leaders are so apprehensive when the issue of Armenian territorial demands is raised. Knowing full well that their ancestors eliminated the Armenian population from their native lands, Turkish officials are haunted by the fear that Armenians would reclaim their historic homeland of Western Armenia, today's Eastern Turkey!

In order to unite Armenians around the same set of demands, I believe we should adopt the slogan - "seeking justice" - which includes all Armenian claims from Turkey as expressed in the Pan-Armenian Declaration of the Armenian Genocide Centennial adopted in Yerevan on January 29, 2015, by the governments of Armenia and Artsakh, and leaders of major Diasporan organizations. Paragraph 6 of that Declaration calls for "restoring individual, communal and pan-Armenian rights and legitimate interests." Furthermore, the Declaration's preamble specifically mentions "the dispossession of the Homeland," the Treaty of Sevres of August 10, 1920, and Pres. Woodrow Wilson's Arbitral Award of Nov. 22, 1920, which granted Armenia a territory several times larger than today's Armenian Republic.

## Armenia wins Golden Lion at 56th Venice Biennale for best national participation

On Saturday, its opening day, the jury of the 56th Venice Biennale announced the winners of the international art festival. Armenia was awarded the Golden Lion for its pavilion presenting works by the Armenian diaspora on the 100th anniversary of the mass killings of Armenians by Ottoman Turks.

According to the official website of the Venice Biennale, the Golden Lion for the national pavilion goes to Republic of Armenia for forming a pavilion based on a people in diaspora, each artist engaging their specific locality as well as their heritage. The pavilion took the form of a palimpsest, with contemporary positions inserted into a site of historic preservation. In a year that witnesses a significant milestone for the Armenian people, this pavilion marks the resilience of trans-cultural confluence and exchanges.

Other winners included:

Golden Lion for best artist in the International Exhibition All the World's Futures to Adrian Piper. A pioneering artist, Piper has reformed conceptual practice to include personal subjectivity-of herself, her audience and the publics in general. Her presentations invite us to engage in a life-long performance of personal responsibility and calls out attention to ephemeral and transitional character of value systems.

Silver Lion for a promising young artist in the International Exhibition All the World's Futures to Im Heung-Soon for a moving video work that probes the nature of precarity in relation to the conditions of labor for women across Asia. Factory Complex takes the form of a documentary but with a direct, lightly mediated,



encounter with his subjects and their working conditions.

A special mention for artists of the International Exhibition All the World's Futures goes to Harun Farocki, a seminal figure in post-war cinema. This presentation makes his entire body of highly influential work accessible to a larger public.

Another special mention goes to the incredibly brave Abounaddara collective for documenting the current political strife and human struggle for survival in Syria, without taking sides.

A Special mentions goes to Massinissa Selmani for working in a modest medium which has the capacity to act beyond its scale.

## Anoush Opera te be staged in Pasadena, CA

Lark Musical Society continues its 100 commemorative events for the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. In April, UCLA and Lark premiered Ian Krouse's Armenian Requiem at UCLA's Royce Hall. It was a sold out, giant event. Just when you thought it doesn't get bigger than that.

Lark Musical Society will now stage Anoush, the opera based on Hovhannes Tumanyan's immortal ballad and set to beautiful music by Armen Tigranian. Led by Hasmik Papian and Shoushanik Barsoumian, the opera will be staged at the Ambassador Auditorium In Pasadena, California on May 23.


This opera is rightfully known as "the Armenian Romeo & Juliet". It's a tale of Armenian lovers caught up in the tumult of human impulses and social mores. Anoush falls in love with her brother's friend Saro, a shepherd. Mossi and Saro are at a wedding celebration and they are encouraged to have a friendly wrestle together. Mossi becomes enraged when

Saro tries to impress Anoush by pinning Mossi during the match - violating the local code of honor and humiliating his friend. Mossi's boundless rage ends when he shoots Saro. The heartbroken Anoush cannot live without her love, Saro. Her pain ends when she throws herself into

the rivers which flow from the mountains where she met Saro.

On this commemorative centennial year, Lark brings Anoush Opera to help fuel the Armenians' unbroken spirit to live, thrive, and create through the arts in Los Angeles.





Lark Musical Society  
Լարկ Երաժշտական Օճիկապետություն

# anoush

OPERA  
LOS ANGELES

Four performances only  
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7:00 p.m.  
The Ambassador Auditorium  
131 South St. John Avenue, Pasadena, CA



## Evgeny Kissin's concert at Carnegie Hall to commemorate Armenian Genocide centennial

Virtuoso pianist Evgeny Kissin will be leading a special concert at Carnegie Hall entitled "With You, Armenia" in commemoration of the centennial of the Armenian genocide at the hands of the Ottoman Turks. The concert will juxtapose Armenian composers with works by Chopin and will feature the world premiere of a newly composed work by Krzysztof Penderecki, classicalite.com reports.

Tuesday, May 26 at Carnegie Hall marks but the first in a series of concerts around the world, in association with the Yerevan Perspectives International Music Festival. The festival is a year-round celebration that invites top-flight classical soloists and ensembles to Armenia, organizing special events in cooperation with Armenia's own Ministry of Culture.

Kissin, the grand Russian/British/Jewish pianist of our day, is hoping that, with this concert, Armenia and the world can move toward a more harmonious future. He is quick to reiterate that while everyone (save for the anti-Semites) would never condone what Hitler and the Nazis did to the Jewish and Polish people in Poland, no one really discusses the very



real extermination of all the Armenians not too many years ago.

According to Mr. Kissin: "That's why genocides must never be forgotten. That's why I am taking part in the concert in commemoration of the Armenian genocide centennial at Carnegie Hall in New York. Not only to honor the memory of 1.5 mil-

lion innocent martyrs and to mourn together with my Armenian brothers and sisters, but also to make sure that more people will remember the tragedy of the Armenian nation and the hideous crime against it."

A curious blend of Armenian and Polish music, the concert's first half features the Hover Chamber Choir of Armenia and will include pieces by Armenian composers such as Komitas, Vache Sharafyan and the great Tigran Mansurian.

Its culmination, though, will most certainly be the 80-something Penderecki's brand new remembrance, who will be in attendance to hear its premiere-sung by what the composer calls, quote, "the best chamber choir in the world."

The second half will see the stage given over to Kissin, the headliner proper. His performance of select Chopin pieces will be followed by a TBD Armenian encore. Kissin notes further, "people often treat each other badly, but seldom does it happen on the scale of what took place in Turkey 100 years ago-the killing of nearly a million and half people, half of all Armenians in the world, for belonging to their nation."

## Rep. Schiff, Serj Tankian have a lunch, talk about SOAD concert in Yerevan



Rep. Adam Schiff had a lunch yesterday with Serj Tankian from System of a Down.

"We have known each other for years and I greatly admire his music and creativity, as well as his deep commitment to philanthropy and passion for justice," Rep. Schiff said in a Twitter post.

"I had read about the band's electrifying performance in Yerevan during the centennial, and it was a treat to hear about it firsthand. It always rains in Yerevan on April 24 — like tears coming down from heaven, it is said — but nothing could dampen the spirits of the throngs of young people in attendance," the Congressman added.

## Luxembourg envoy to Ankara defends Armenian Genocide Resolution

Luxembourg Ambassador to Ankara Arlette Conzemius has defended the Luxembourg parliament's move to recognize the mass killings of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire in 1915 as genocide by underlining the existence of the democratic system in her country, the Hurriyet Daily News reports.



"There is a democratic system in our parliament and our lawmakers are free to express their opinions as their democratic right," Conzemius told reporters in the eastern province of Erzurum May 8. Turkey condemned Luxembourg and withdrew its ambassador in reaction to the Luxembourg parliament's resolution on May 6 to describe the 1915 incidents as genocide.

"There is a strong relationship between the government of Luxembourg and Turkey. We are planning to continue this strong relationship. As I said earlier, parliament is free to make decisions. I cannot say anything about it because of democracy but Luxembourg does continue to support Turkey's EU harmonization process.

We will continue this support as well. We are also planning to be a facilitator in the Turkish-Armenian relationship," she said.

## Turkish government planning to nationalize the Armenian orphanage

The Turkish government is discussing ways to save the Armenian orphanage in Tuzla from demolition, said the head of the Foundations Department, adding nationalization is the best option, Daily Sabah reports.

The government is planning to nationalize the Armenian orphanage located in the Tuzla region of Istanbul to save it from demolition. The Kamp Armen orphanage will be nationalized before being handed over to the Armenian community. This way, the current owner of the property will not suffer from the transaction.

Foundations Department President Adnan Ertem, speaking to Sabah daily, said some were trying to cloud the issue and attack the government, arguing that everyone needs to understand that the government was doing everything it could.

Some representatives of the Armenian community have called for the return of the property, which Ertem highlighted was impossible without nationalization. The property has changed ownership several times, and the present owner needs to be fairly compensated before anything happens, Ertem said, adding, "The only solution is for the state to nationalize and take over the property. After which we can discuss handing it over to the community." Ertem cited the example of the Madimak Hotel in Sivas where 37 people were killed in 1993, being used as a restaurant for years before being nationalized and turned into a science and culture center.

The state seized the orphanage in 1987 before selling it. It changed hands several times over the years and the last owner, having decided to demolish the structure, faced serious demonstrations and protests. Dozens of demonstrators are currently holding a sit-in to prevent the structure's

destruction.

Hrant Dink, the Armenian-Turkish journalist who was gunned down by a young nationalist in 2007, and his wife, Rachel, are known to have first met at the orphanage. The respected journalist, who was the editor-in-chief of the Armenian newspaper Agos, was known for his efforts to spur reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia.

According to a report by Uygur Gültekin from Agos, the Armenian community is "cautiously optimistic" that the building will be saved. However, he also said that the community does not want the property to be nationalized, but rather totally handed over to the community. However, the orphanage is not covered by the government-initiated law that orders the return of minority foundations' properties seized by the state.

In addition to the discussions over nationalization and the handing over of the deed to the Armenian foundation, the Tuzla Municipality is also expected to revoke the site's demolition license.

Markar Esayan, a prominent Armenian origin Turkish citizen and a candidate for the ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) for the June 7 parliamentary elections, is also involved in the discussions. Esayan, who is also a Daily Sabah columnist, said he knew Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu was involved in the matter, adding it is now impossible to demolish the structure. He accused the current owner of deceiving the municipality by arguing that the structure was close to collapsing, which is how he was able to obtain the demolition license. He said the Armenian foundation was also to blame for not filing the necessary legal claims for the building in time.





## 12 Dersim Armenians baptized to complete return to their identity



Agos – Following a six-month course of church doctrine and basic knowledge of Christian belief, 12 more Dersim Armenians took their first step back to Christianity with a collective baptism ceremony. Two married couples also held religious engagement ceremonies following the baptism ceremony held on 9 May 2015, Saturday at the Yesilköy Surp İsteyanos Church.

The efforts of forcibly Islamised Armenians to ‘return to their identity’ has accelerated in recent years. Such individuals display a desire to live and express their identity openly, which they are forced to conceal in their neighbourhood, at school and at their workplace, and to bring an end to the division of identities sometimes even experienced within the same family.

Dersim Armenians have thus organized collective baptism ceremonies at Armenian churches to officially return to their religion. Following a six-month course of church doctrine and basic knowledge of Christian belief, 12 more Dersim Armenians took their first step back to Christianity with a collective baptism ceremony. Two married couples also held religious engagement ceremonies following the baptism ceremony held on 9 May 2015, Saturday at the Yesilköy Surp İsteyanos Church.

### A new life

Led by Father Dirdad Uzunyan, the baptism ceremony was presided over by Archbishop Aram Atesyan. Nazar Binatli, Pakrat Estukyan, Bogos Çolak, Kamer Karatayli ve Hagop Altinkaya were the godfathers of the Dersimians who returned to Christianity and took the names Karin, Derev, Naira, Lia, Arev, Arsaluys, Kristin, Hovnan, Rupen, Hovannes Minas, Lusin Mane and Minas. The couples Bogos-Sirpuhi Çolak and Hovannes-Lusin Çolak consolidated their marriage ties by repeating their vows in the presence of the Church. Yervant Dink and Kamer Karatayli acted as groomsmen for the couple.

We spoke to some of the Dersim Armenians who were baptized on Saturday at the Surp İsteyanos Church, and asked them about their feelings.

### Arev:

**‘We are returning to our roots’**

‘I am now experiencing the freedom of being able to defend myself against those who insult us. Today, I am the happiest person in the world. For years, Armenians suffered the greatest insults

at my workplace, and I could not speak back, fearing I would lose my job. From now on, I will wear my cross around my neck. We dreamed of this day since our childhood. We are returning to our roots.’

### Hovannes Minas:

**‘We began as three, we ended up as twelve’**

‘This is a very happy day for me. I have been both baptized, and we held our religious marriage ceremony. It is an inexpressible happiness. We never forgot our religion. We can live freely now. I had made a promise to my mother and father to bury them in an Armenian cemetery, I was able to keep that promise as well. We were three of us when we decided to become baptized, and we achieved our purpose as 12. We are very happy.’

### Hovnan:

**‘I will wear the Patriarchate’s cross around my neck’**

‘I am very excited. We all received a course to become Christians. It was a beautiful experience to meet Archbishop Aram Atesyan. The cross presented to us as a gift by the Patriarchate is very meaningful for me, I will wear it around my neck for the rest of my life. In the past, I could not defend myself on this issue, now I can. I feel much freer now, I can express my identity to everyone.’

### Kristin:

**‘I can now freely say I am a Christian’**

‘I feel amazing. I have been waiting for this day for a long time. I no longer have to conceal my identity. I can now freely say I am a Christian. I felt, from time to time, both in the Armenian community and my circle of friends, that I was being excluded because I had not been baptized, but this emancipation will serve as a remedy.’

**WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?****Enjoy your leisure****19 May**

**19:00.** Yearning. Directed by: Grigor Babayan. Play recovered by: Narine Malyan. Play | H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors

**19:00.** Gala Soprano. Opera and Ballet Theater Symphony Orchestra. Conductor: Harutyun Arzumanyan. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

**19:00.** Clown Macbeth. Play | Yerevan State Pantomime Theater

**19:00.** Anush. Author: H. Tumanyan. Director: Davit Hakobyan. Play | State Musical Chamber Theater

**19:00.** Glamorous Chobans. Transparent comedy. Author: Armen Vardanyan. Director: Karo Balyan. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

**19:30.** Predators' Feast. Psychological drama in 1 act. Director: Ashot Hakobyan. Play | Student Theater

**20 May**

**14:00, 16:00.** The Third. Author: Boris Aprilov. Director/Producer: Ruben Babayan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** Pro Semiramis. Dance show for adults. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** Glamorous Chobans. Transparent comedy. Author: Armen Vardanyan. Director: Karo Balyan. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

**20:00.** Dark SHOCKolate. A play with an intermission to think over who is right: the man or the woman. Staging: Suren Shahverdyan. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

**21 May**

**19:00.** Flowers Manuscript. Mimodrama in 1 act. Author and

Director: Zhirayr Dadasyan. Play | Yerevan State Pantomime Theater

**19:00.** Lorkiana - Carmen-Suite. Ballet | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

**19:00.** Royal Concert. Musical-amusing show. Author and director of the play - Ara Yernjakyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

**19:00.** Khanuma. A. Tsagareli. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

**22 May**

**19:00.** Like Gods. Premiere. Yuri Polyakov. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

**19:00.** Marriage. Genre: Comedy. Author: N. Gogol. Staging: Vahan Khachatryan. Play | H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors

**19:00.** Romantic Comedy. B. Slade. Tragicomedy in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

**19:00.** The Maxims of Pantelei Karmanov. Viripaev. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** Yerevan-Barcelona. Comedy. Play | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater

**23 May**

**12:00, 14:00.** Goldfish. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**12:30, 14:00, 15:30.** Brothers Grimm. Staging: Lily Elbakyan. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

**14:00.** Cinderella. Author: Charles Perrault. Staged by: A. Miridjanyan. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater

**15:00.** The Adventures of Chipollino. Based on Gianni Rodari's tale, "Chippolino's adventures". Play for kids | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater

**16:00, 18:00.** Based on Hovhannes Tumanyan's tale. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** Paris Verdict. P. Zeytuntsyan. Drama in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

**19:00.** Irina Allegrova. Encore... Concert | Sports & Concert Complex after K. Demirchyan

**19:00.** Mrs. Ministress. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

**19:00.** Coma Nostra. New performance dedicated to the author's 55th anniversary. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** Compensation. Pessimistic Comedy. Dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

**24 May**

**12:00, 14:00.** Three Piglets. Author: Ervand Manaryan.

Director/Producer: Ruben Babayan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**12:30, 14:00, 15:30.** Gndlik-Bokonik (Gingerbread Man). Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

**14:00.** Tom & Jerry. Children's Musical Fun Show. Staging: Artur Saribekyan. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater

**17:00.** The New Adventures of The Three Piglets. Directed by Samson Stepanyan. Musical | State Musical Chamber Theater

**18:00.** A Tale from the Clouds. Z. Antonyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** You Can't Get Rid Of Me. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

**19:00.** Hollywood... Hollywood. N. Simon. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

**19:00.** Getting Married Is Not Easy. Comedy in 1 act. Staged by Mher Mkrtchyan. Play | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater



## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

### Aries (Mar. 20--Apr. 19) :

The Mercury retrograde focus is specifically on communications, neighbors, siblings, and others who are in your daily environment. Concentrate as much as possible on clear communications and double check what you think you heard. You may need to consider the needs of your vehicle now. Give it a checkup. Make repairs as needed.

### Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

The probability is high that you will discover some error made in the past that must be rectified fairly soon. It may be as simple as finding a bill that was forgotten and left unpaid. Or it could be a little more complicated and involve a previous misunderstanding with a loved one.

### Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

Give attention to the lead paragraph. Mercury is turning retrograde in your sign and will be more likely to affect your daily affairs than many of the other signs. Don't even try to finalize anything while retrograding Mercury is with you. You might even reverse decisions which you have recently made.

### Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

Memories from your life history may surface for examination at this time. Old friends or acquaintances who return for a short time could be the trigger for this life review. It is possible you may have a greater than normal need to reflect, to write, and otherwise give attention to your inner self. For that reason circumstances will slow down in your outer life.

### Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

You are likely to find yourself thinking a lot about old friends and may want to get in touch with one or two of them. This is a time for nostalgia and reminiscence. Others are thinking about you, too, but you are a sign with more initiative than many, so pick up the telephone.

### Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

Your ruling planet, Mercury, has altered directions in the area of career and life direction. This is really more of a tweaked change than a life change. However, if you happen to have applied for a job recently, you may find that you are changing your mind about that particular route. Now is the time to research the best possible choices, but take your time before taking action.

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

Mercury is changing directions in the territory which deals with education, publishing, the internet, travel, public speaking, the law, and philosophy. Therefore any of these activities are subject to shifts, changes, or sudden deceleration due to lack of decision. Maybe the right solution just is not available yet. Have a sense of humor. This, too, shall pass.

### Scorpio (Oct. 23--Nov. 21) :

Old issues concerning the sharing of resources may be up for review again. "Shared resources" include partnership money, insurance benefits, investments, or anything of value held between you and another. The alternative to the material shared resources is the energy shared intimately. Any or all of these are up for reevaluation.

### Sagittarius (Nov. 22 --Dec. 20):

Because Mercury is retrograding in your 7th house, changes will be coming to you through others. A partner may change his/her mind about a previously made decision. Those of you engaged in any kind of contract or promise may feel the need to back off and rethink the situation. Those who are recently separated may want to try the relationship again.

### Capricorn ( Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

This Mercury retrograde experience occurs in the territory of health, coworkers, tenants, employees, and pets. You may find it very hard to move forward with your diet and exercise program. It is a particularly good time to organize and sort closets, records, and files. Coworkers, tenants, and employees may be indecisive.

### Aquarius (Jan. 20--Feb. 17) :

Mercury is turning retrograde in the territory that rules children, creative efforts, and love life. Anything on your radar screen that is related to these territories is subject to turnaround, review, deceleration, rethinking for a few weeks. Maybe you'll want to check out a previous love interest.

### Pisces (Feb. 18--Mar. 19) :

Mercury will be retrograding in the areas related to property, family, and issues of security. You are likely reworking things in one of these territories. Family members may be erratic or indecisive, making it difficult to conclude open agendas. Have patience.

## ARMENIAN POETRY

### Paruyr Sevak

#### The Analysis of Yearning (Garod)

I know the dark need, the yearning,  
that want,  
in the same way the blind man knows  
the inside of his old home.

I don't see my own movements  
and the objects hide.  
But without an error or stumbling  
I maneuver among them,  
live among them,  
move like the self-winding clock  
which even after losing its hands  
keeps ticking and turning  
but shows neither minute nor hour.

And dangling between darkness  
and loneliness  
I want to analyze this want  
like a chemist  
to understand its nature and  
profound mystery.

And as I try  
there is laughter  
from some mysterious tunnel,  
laughter from an undescrivable distance  
from an unhearable distance.

A city sparrow with a liquid song  
changes its ungreen life  
into music from an unechoing distance,  
an unhuntable distance.

And words start hurting me  
as they mock, echo from the  
unhutable distance,  
the merciless distance.

I walk from wall to wall  
and the sound of my steps  
seems to come from far away  
from that merciless distance,  
that impossible distance.

I am not blind  
but I see nothing  
around me, because  
vision has detached itself  
and reached that distance  
that is impossibly far,  
excessively far.

I run after myself;  
incapable of ever reaching or  
catching what I seek.

And this is what is called  
want and longing or "garod."

## Atom Egoyan among 2015 Canada's Governor General Performing Arts Award winners

Canadian Armenian filmmaker Atom Egoyan is among the 2015 winners of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards, CBC News reports.

Five Canadians were named for the country's highest honour for lifetime artistic achievement at an announcement Thursday morning in Montreal, Victoria, Vancouver and Toronto and via live stream.

- Walter Boudreau, C.M., composer, conductor and artistic director

- Atom Egoyan, film and stage director

- Diana Leblanc, actress and director

- Sarah McLachlan, singer, songwriter

- R.H. Thomson, C.M., actor, director, producer and arts advocate

The award is accompanied with a \$25,000 cash prize contributed by the Canada Council for the Arts and a commemorative medallion produced by the Royal Canadian Mint.

The awards will be handed out by Canada's Governor General David Johnston at a special ceremony in Ottawa's Rideau Hall on May 29. The recipients will be celebrated with a star-studded gala featuring special performances and tributes



at the National Arts Centre on May 30.

Founded in 1992, the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards are given to Canadians whose accomplishments are deemed to have inspired and enriched the country.

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### The Noyan Tapan

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993.  
The publisher: NT Holding LTD.  
Circulation: 1500 print copies and  
15.600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format

President of the NT Media Holding:  
**Tigran Harutyunyan**  
Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding:  
**Gayaneh Arakelyan**  
Director of the Weekly:  
**Marina Harutyunyan**  
Chief Correspondent: **Gourgen Khazhakian**  
Proofreader: **Susanna Mkrtchian**  
**ISSN 1829-0604**

Registration certificate and the date: 273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

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