

Armenian President partakes in Midem Gala Supper in Cannes



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Armenian President partakes in Midem Gala Supper in Cannes

On the evening of June 6, President Serzh Sargsyan took part in the Midem Gala Supper in Cannes, where he delivered a speech.

Prior to it, the video clip titled "We are Armenians" had been displayed. The five-minute video clip "We are Armenians" presents about 50 well-known diaspora Armenians who have become world-famous for their achievements.

There took place an award ceremony during the event. On the occasion of Republic Day, the Armenian president awarded Rosy Khurshudi Hovannisian (Rosy Armen) the Order of Honor for making a significant contribution to the preservation of national identity and to the strengthening of cultural ties between the homeland and the diaspora. Film director and actor Robert Guédiguian was also awarded the Order of Honor for contributing to the development of cultural ties between Armenia and France and to the preservation of national identity.

On June 7, Serzh Sargsyan attended the concert of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia in Cannes.

Remarks by President Serzh Sargsyan at the Midem international music festival

Dear friends,
Distinguished attendees,

It is a great honor to greet and welcome you at the world-famed MIDEM music festival. It has been for half a century that Côte d'Azur annually unites people of global fame and youth that just entered their careers in culture, for whom it is an honor to perform in this amazing city and its prestigious stages that could be of vital importance for establishing them professionally.

Armenia is the country honored this year by the MIDEM international music festival. It is a great opportunity for our



country to deliver its own culture to the world and to get acquainted with the others' achievements. Armenia's history and culture is among the most ancient, and our nation has been creating, building and establishing values for centuries.

Unfortunately, the early preceding century imprinted its darkest pages in the history of our ancient nation: the Ottoman Empire planned and perpetrated the Armenian Genocide. 1915 is a black wedge driven into our memory, thinking and lives. That was the calamity to which French writer Anatole France reacted at the beginning of the previous century: "We have finally realized that it was our sister dying in the East, who perished for being our sister and for the crime of sharing our feelings, for having liked what we liked, for having thought what we thought, for having believed in what we believed in, for appreciating wisdom, justice, poetry and arts as we did."

Indeed, it was a ruthless extermination of the people that appreciated, cultivated and promoted arts and culture. There had been numerous vivid examples in the very area of music. In Constantinople Armenians had established the first orchestras, musical magazine, opera and operetta theatres. The Turkish press of the time had written: "Tigran Tchoukhadjian is the first composer that attempts to connect the Turkish

music to the European one." Unfortunately, the Armenian ideas and talents had not gone unnoticed, and those were the first targets for annihilation.

It took place at the beginning of the previous century. Today, however, as one hundred years passed since the carnage in the Ottoman Empire was perpetrated, in this utmost symbolic year, when the Armenian Genocide Centennial is being commemorated, we unambiguously register that no brutality could have been able to murder virtues of civilization and morale in the Armenian spirit, its longing to live and create, as well as its spiritual and cultural progress. Both ups and downs have given a potent impetus to our progress. This very outstanding power impelled Armenians to cut churches in the rock, to save books and manuscripts instead of precious gems and golden jewelry while barely surviving the Turkish yataghan, to throw themselves into the fight against fascism while the nation was still recovering from the Genocide, and to go on living and creating.

That outstanding power is first and foremost about passion of spirit that awakes when we got a shared dream, which we would like to make true. That is the same outstanding power that enables us to present ourselves to the world as a nation that embodies values, a nation that lives at the cross-section of cultures and

connects freely and confidently, without any hesitation, to the two worlds of East and West.

These are all qualities undoubtedly build around our culture, which has become the ends and means to assert Armenian existence and identity. Wherever there is an Armenian, he/she does not shy away from keeping up with modernity, does not stagger in this greater world, but assert his/her continued presence and valuable contribution.

It was yet a century ago that the distinguished Armenian composer Komitas presented himself and our national vocal arts and tradition to France. And he was enthusiastically received in France; moreover, the great

French composer Claude Debussy kneeled in front of him, and another great Frenchman, Romain Rolland, wrote after attending the performance by Komitas: "The Armenian is profound, tragic and virile even in his dreams... What a wonderful music! Sooner or later the European art will

be exposed to the impact of that art." Therefore, it is highly symbolic that tomorrow in this very exquisite city, under the auspices of this globally most important music event, in the music hall named after Debussy music works by Komitas will be performed.

There have been numerous instances of the Armenian cultural and spiritual perseverance. Many people that prove our perseverance are now present in this hall. The boats that reached and anchored in Marseille brought many



Armenians, whose descendants today adorn the French culture - Charles Aznavour, Rosy Armen, Alain Terzian, Alexander Siranosian, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Guédiguian. These individuals are full-fledged and distinguished French citizens, but they, meanwhile, cultivate their Armenian heritage, history, faith and culture. The memories of their past and reminiscences of their origin imbue with peculiar allure the works they created, make those works Armenian and, simultaneously, global and universal.

Dear friends,

Today the French soil consolidated us around music, which is the most lucid, most human, most perspicuous and most affecting perhaps of all arts. Today we present ourselves here through a comprehensive language that is speechless. This is exactly the case that renders words unnecessary. This is exactly the case that makes art to emanate from heart and reach other hearts.

That had been the instance from the medieval poet and composer Nerses the Gracious to Komitas, Alexander Spendiarian and Armen Tigranian, and then to Aram Khachaturian and Avet Terterian. And that will

go on eternally. There are gifted people in the current Armenian music culture too. Some of them are here with us, present in this same hall - Hovhannes Chekidjian, Robert Amirkhanian, Aram Satian, Arthur Grigorian. Their talents are with us, and talents will proliferate since their art is infinite, it cherishes and nour-

ishes us.

On coming days, when you will listen to the Armenian music presented in various genres, I believe, you will conceive that our art is inherently national and, simultaneously, boundless and universal. I strongly believe that the national tunes that generated and emanated from the Armenian soil will muffle the sadness, appeal to the ears and hearts, and fill the spirits of the listeners with harmony.

Thank you.

Japan's new Ambassador presents credentials to Armenia's President

Japan's first resident ambassador to Armenia handed his credentials to President Serzh Sargsyan on June 3 more than four months after the opening of the Japanese Embassy in Yerevan meant to facilitate closer relations between the two countries.

Serzh Sargsyan was reported to express hope that Ambassador Eiji Taguchi will contribute to the current "positive dynamics" in Japanese-Armenian ties and help to deepen them "in all areas."

"I will commit myself to further promote the Japan-Armenia relations in a broad range of fields," Taguchi said in a statement posted on his embassy's website this week. "I believe that this long-awaited inauguration of the Embassy marked the beginning of a new stage of our bilateral cooperation," he added. The Japanese government revealed plans to open diplomatic missions in Armenia as well as five other countries nearly two years ago. Some Japanese media reported that the government is keen to counter China's growing influence there.

Japan already had embassies in neighboring Azerbaijan and Georgia at the time. Its ambassadors to Armenia have until now been based in Moscow. Armenia, for its part, opened an embassy in Tokyo in 2010.

Serzh Sargsyan paid an official visit to Japan in June 2012, meeting with Emperor Akihito and then Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda. His talks with Noda touched, among other things, upon nuclear safety. A joint statement issued by the two leaders said the Armenian government will use "Japanese experience" in boosting the safety of the nuclear power plant at Metsamor.

Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Minoru Kiuchi visited Yerevan and met Sargsyan in January just a few weeks after the opening of the Japanese Embassy there. Serzh Sargsyan thanked Japan for its "considerable" economic aid to Armenia provided since independence.

That assistance includes a \$247 million low-interest loan provided by the Japanese government in 2007 through the state-run



Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC). It was used for the construction of a new thermal power-plant in Yerevan. The 242-megawatt facility was inaugurated in April 2010. Later in 2010, Japan donated 28 new fire engines worth \$8 million to the Armenian Rescue Service. Japanese specialists also trained 135 Armenian firefighters to use the new equipment.

According to Armenian government statistics, the total volume of Japanese-Armenian trade rose by 18 percent to \$114 million last year. By comparison, Armenia's 2014 trade with China totaled almost \$590 million.

New Armenian Opposition Party Takes Shape

Opposition leader Nikol Pashinyan pledged to mount a serious challenge against President Serzh Sargsyan as he presided at the weekend over the founding congress of his new party tipped to become one of Armenia's main opposition forces.

The group called Civic Contract formalized its status as a political party about 18 months after being founded by Pashinyan as a movement offering an alternative to both the Armenian government and the mainstream opposition. It mainly unites young civic activists who have previously had no partisan affiliations.

"We are not setting up yet another party," Pashinyan told some 200 delegates of the one-day congress held in Yerevan. "We are setting up a party that does not intend to be in opposition for long and expects to assume power in the Republic of Armenia in the foreseeable future by gaining a popular vote of confidence."

The outspoken oppositionist attacked the current and former Armenian authorities, saying that systematic vote rigging and other abuses committed by them have dealt huge blows to "the people's spine."

Pashinyan also made clear that the party's primary objective is the next parliamentary elections due in May 2017. The vote could predetermine who will govern Armenia after Sargsyan completes his sec-

ond and final presidential term in 2018.

Pashinyan, who turned 40 on Monday, rose to prominence in the late 1990s as editor-in-chief of "Haykakan Zhamanak," the country's best-selling daily newspaper highly critical of successive governments in Yerevan. He played a major role in former President Levon Ter-Petrosian's 2007-2008 opposition movement that nearly scuttled a handover of power from outgoing President Robert Kocharyan to Sargsyan.

Like dozens of other oppositionists, Pashinyan went into hiding following a deadly suppression of Ter-Petrosian's street protests held in the wake of a disputed February 2008 presidential election. He subsequently surrendered to law-enforcement bodies and spent about two years in prison on controversial charges.

Pashinyan, who is popular with many opposition supporters for his tough anti-government rhetoric, fell out with Ter-Petrosian in 2012 before deciding to set up a political group of his own. He has since repeatedly criticized Ter-Petrosian's Armenian National Congress (HAK) and other established opposition parties.

In his latest speech, Pashinyan said the Civic Contract leadership will not repeat their mistakes which he believes are the reason why opposition campaigns for

regime change have not succeeded in Armenia. In particular, he said his party will strive to set up a nationwide network of branches so that it can deploy proxies at all 1,800 polling stations across Armenia on election days.

The Civic Contract congress did not adopt any programs or specify the party's positions on foreign policy issues like the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict or Armenia's relations with Russia and the West. Pashinyan said the party will do that ahead of the 2017 elections.

Pashinyan also promised that unlike other opposition leaders he will not stifle internal dissent and impose his will on his loyalists. This why, he said, he will not become official head of Civic Contract. The delegates elected one of his close associates, Arayik Harutunyan, as party chairman.

Speaking to RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) after the speech, the former journalist stressed the importance of bringing "new faces" into the Armenian political scene. Sasun Mikaelyan, another prominent oppositionist and the sole middle-aged member of the Civic Contract board, agreed.

"Our hope is the youth," Mikaelyan said. "We are here to open the way to the future for young people."

Armenian Governor Questioned Over Assault



Law-enforcement officials have questioned Suren Khachatryan, the controversial governor of Armenia's Syunik province, in connection with a violent attack that was allegedly led by one of his sons, it emerged on June 2.

The May 2 incident in the regional town of Goris reinforced a widely held belief that Khachatryan and his equally violent relatives enjoy impunity thanks to their loyalty to President Serzh Sargsyan. It left two Goris residents severely injured. The 32-year-old Harut Zakaryan lost vision in one eye while his elder brother Mushegh suffered a broken nose after they were attacked by a large group of other men. They claim that they attackers were led by Khachatryan's notorious son Tigran.

Armenia's Investigative Committee, a law-enforcement agency investigating the assault, reluctantly interrogated the 21-year-old on May 16 amid a media and opposition uproar in Yerevan. But he was not detained or charged as a result. Nor have the investigators levelled accusations against anyone else so far.

According to an assistant to a lawyer for Suren Khachatryan, the Syunik governor insisted during the questioning that his son is innocent. "Tigran Khachatryan had no part in the incident. 'He only separated people,' the assistant told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). He refused to give other details.

Khachatryan claimed in the immediate aftermath of the incident that Tigran was not in Goris on May 2.

Meanwhile, the injured brothers' mother, Anahit Galstyan, decried what she sees as a lack of progress in the probe and warned the Investigative Committee against a cover-up. "We won't keep silent," she said, insisting that her sons were beaten up by Tigran Khachatryan and dozens of his "thugs."

Galstyan also reiterated that they received threats from the governor's son over the phone shortly before the incident. She challenged the investigators to listen to the audio recordings of their phone calls.

The beating occurred almost two years after Tigran and his father's bodyguards clashed with a Goris businessman, Avetik Budaghyan, and his brother Artak outside the Khachatryans' local villa. Avetik was shot dead while Artak was seriously wounded in the incident.

Tigran and one of the bodyguards were arrested in the following days only to be cleared of murder charges and set free two months later. Law-enforcement authorities said the gunshots fired by them constituted legitimate self-defense.

Despite denying any involvement, Suren Khachatryan was sacked in the wake of the 2013 shootings. But he was reinstated as Syunik governor a year later.

Chemical plant workers keep up protests



Hundreds of current and former employees of a troubled chemical plant again rallied in Yerevan on Thursday to demand that the Armenian government reactivate it and pay more than one year's worth of their back pay.

The workers have pressed these demands during regular demonstrations that have been held in the Armenian capital for the last several months. Their representatives have repeatedly met with senior government officials, including Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan. The workers received only a fraction of their back wages as a result.

The protesters gathered outside Abrahamian's office in the city's central Republic Square during a weekly session of his cabinet. They briefly blocked an adjacent street after hearing no

reaction from the government.

"We're fed up. We can't wait anymore," said Anush Harutiunyan, one of the organizers of the protest.

Harutiunyan told the protesters moments later that Abrahamian has agreed to meet with their representatives in the coming days. She said that the Nairit workers will start a non-stop sit-in on Tuesday if he fails to present a concrete "timetable for the payment of our wages."

"We will come here with our families," she warned. "We will come with our children. We will come with our grandchildren."

The protesting workers already held a two-day sit-in in Republic Square last month. Energy Minister Yervand Zakharyan said earlier in May that the wage arrears should be cleared by the end of this year. But he stopped short of promising a relaunch of production operations at Nairit, which essentially stopped in 2011.

The Yerevan-based plant, which employed several thousand people in Soviet times, specializes in the production of chloroprene rubber. It has struggled to remain afloat since the early 1990s, repeatedly changing foreign owners and operators in murky deals overseen by successive Armenian governments.

The current government, which effectively controls the plant, dealt a further blow to Nairit workers' hopes when it laid off 1,700 of them in January.

IMF Forecasts zero Growth in Armenia Economy

The International Monetary Fund has slightly improved its outlook for the Armenian economy but still thinks that it will not grow this year, the IMF's resident representative in Yerevan, Teresa Daban Sanchez, said on June 2.

In the most recent World Economic Outlook published in April, the IMF forecast that Armenia's Gross Domestic Product will likely shrink by 1 percent in 2015 due to knock-on effects of a recession in Russia.

According to Daban Sanchez, the fund now expects zero growth in the country. She argued that oil prices stabilized in February, somewhat shoring up the Russian ruble. This should reflect positively on the Armenian economy, she said.

"We have moved from the minus one [growth] to the zero," the IMF official said. She went on caution, though, that even this economic outlook is fraught with "huge uncertainty."

The Armenian government has publicly disagreed with such gloomy projections. Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian last month forecast an economic growth rate of "at least 2-3 percent." He claimed that it could even reach 4 percent.

"This is not the first time we have differences with the government," Daban Sanchez told reporters. "We had them in the past. We have that in other countries. It's OK."

Daban Sanchez reaffirmed the IMF view that the government should seek to offset the fallout from the Russian economic downturn with more aggressive reforms that would significantly



improve Armenia's flawed business environment. "Armenia needs a more dynamic economy," she stressed. "That means more competition, more players, better rules of the game ... a justice system that is fair."

"That's what's working in other countries and what's not working in Armenia," the IMF representative went on. While the situation with the rule of law has seemingly improved over the past decade "we are still below where Armenia should be," she added.

The president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Suma Chakrabarti, also called for such reforms when he visited Yerevan last month. He said the Armenian authorities should boost competition and create a level playing field for all businesses.

Gas Operator To Buy Iran-Armenia Pipeline



A senior Armenian official on June 3 revealed the planned sale of a key section of a pipeline transporting natural gas from Iran to Armenia's national gas distribution network owned by Russia's Gazprom giant.

The 41-kilometer section runs from the Iranian border to the southeastern Armenian town of Kajaran. The rest of the pipeline completed in 2008 is already owned by the Gazprom-Armenia operator.

Deputy Energy Minister Ara Simonyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service that the Armenian government and Gazprom have already signed a "tentative agreement" on the sale of the Meghri-Kajaran section. He refused to disclose its financial terms or specify when a final deal could be signed.

A spokeswoman for Gazprom-Armenia, Shushan Sardaryan, confirmed this information. Sardaryan revealed that the tentative accord was finalized in 2007 with a \$30 million "prepayment" made by the company at the time. She said that

Gazprom-Armenia will likely pay another \$9 million to complete the takeover.

Simonian argued that such a takeover will make an economic sense because the Gazprom subsidiary already owns Armenia's practically entire gas infrastructure. "We believe that private companies are much better than the state at managing such energy facilities," he said.

The Iran-Armenia pipeline was constructed with the aim of easing Armenia's heavy dependence on Russia for energy resources. Critics have long said that Gazprom could exploit its control over the Armenian gas infrastructure to minimize the importance of that alternative source of gas supplies.

Armenia imports roughly 2 cubic meters of Russian gas each year, compared with only 500 million cubic meters supplied by Iran. The Iranian gas is mainly delivered to a thermal-power plant in Yerevan which pays for it with electricity supplies to the Islamic Republic.

Simonian insisted that Gazprom-Armenia will not be able to sabotage gas imports from Iran after buying the Meghri-Kajaran section. He argued that under the terms of its operating license issued by the Armenian government the company is obliged to ensure unfettered transport of gas through its pipeline network.

The vice-minister also stood by government assertions that the Iranian gas will be more expensive than the gas supplied by Gazprom if Armenia increases its imports and pays for them in cash, rather than through the existing barter arrangement.

Armenia currently pays Gazprom \$165 per thousand cubic meters of Russian gas. The Russian giant charges European countries more than \$300 per thousand cubic meters.

U.S. Firm Completes Takeover Of Armenian Power Plants



In a \$250 million deal which Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan called a significant boost to U.S.-Armenian economic ties, a U.S. energy company completed on Monday the repeatedly postponed purchase of Armenia's largest hydroelectric complex.

The New York-based group ContourGlobal thus became the first Western firm to buy a major asset in the Armenian energy sector currently dominated by big Russian corporations.

Under a takeover agreement signed in Yerevan by its chief executive Joseph Brandt, ContourGlobal will pay \$180 million for Vortan Hydro Cascade's equity and invest another US\$70 million in the facility's modernization over the next five years.

The acquisition welcomed by the U.S. government was initially due to be completed by April 2014. Abrahamian put it on hold shortly after he was appointed as prime minister over a year ago. He said that some of its provisions run counter to Armenian law and need to be renegotiated.

The move fuelled media speculation that Russia is pressuring Armenia to sell Vortan to a Russian energy company instead. Armenian officials denied such pressure.

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Yervand Zakharyan announced in January that the Armenian government and ContourGlobal are now close to sealing the renegotiated deal. Brandt signed it with Zakharyan following talks held with

Abrahamian.

A government statement said the Armenian premier described Vortan's sale as an "important step towards strengthening bilateral economic relations" between the United States and Armenia. In that context, Abrahamian also stressed the importance of the U.S.-Armenian Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) that was signed last month during President Serzh Sargsyan's visit to Washington.

Serzh Sargsyan announced the impending competition of the Vortan deal just hours after the signing ceremony in the U.S. capital. "It will be the largest ever American investment in Armenia," he said.

The Vortan Cascade consists of three hydroelectric plants that were built in Soviet times on the mountainous Vortan river flowing through Armenia's southeastern Syunik province. With a combined operational capacity of 405 megawatts, they are nearly as powerful as the Metsamor nuclear plant that accounts for roughly 40 percent of Armenian electricity production.

"We decided to sell [Vortan] not because we needed money," Davit Harutiunyan, the chief of the government staff, told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutun.am) on Monday. "First of all, we are diversifying the [energy] market. The second important factor is proper management."

"The head of the [U.S.] company expressed hope that within the framework of this modernization program Vortan will generate much more electricity than it does now," said Harutiunyan.

Greater output at Vortan would lower the overall cost of electricity production in Armenia. Nearly 40 percent of it is power generated by thermal-power plants mostly using Russian natural gas. It is considerably more expensive than nuclear energy and hydroelectricity.

All but one of those thermal-power plants are controlled by Russia's Gazprom and RAO Unified Energy Systems (UES) giants. The latter also own Armenia's gas and electricity distribution networks.

Council of Europe grants to support citizen participation initiatives in four communities in Armenia



Four Armenian communities - Urtsadzor, Ararat Marz, Vardenik, Gegharkunuk Marz, Akhtala, Lori Marz, and Artik, Shirak Marz signed agreements, on 3 June 2015, with the Council of Europe to receive grants for implementing citizen participation initiatives in their communities.

The four communities have been

selected through a competitive process and will receive coaching and expert support from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

"This is the first time that the Council of Europe will provide grants to its partners in Armenia," stated Natalia Voutova, the Head of Council of Europe Office in Yerevan, congratulating partner municipalities.

Starting from June 2015, the four communities will launch citizen participation processes by involving their residents in identifying, prioritizing and finding shared solutions to urgent community problems, which will then be included in

the following community annual budget.

"These are actually participatory budgeting pilot initiatives, which as a process, practically doesn't exist in Armenia. We are confident that these "pilots" will be successful. We will assist the dissemination of results and lessons learnt to other local governments throughout Armenia," concluded Ms Voutova.

This initiative is implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe as part of the project "Support to consolidating local democracy in Armenia", which is funded by the Government of Denmark.



YOUR DEAL IS OUR DEAL

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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 floorof the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capially repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- 2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

- 2122.**Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.
- 2121.**Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m.,building permits. Price: 2million USD.
- 2013.**Cascade.** 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 460.000USD
- 1402.**Hr. Kochar Str.**, 1100 sq. m.,facade -25 m. Price negotiable.
- 2090.**Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000USD.
- 2406.**Avan**, Mher Mkrtchyan block, 1000 sq.m., electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price: 30USD per sq.m
- 2310.**Monument, Babayan str**, 1000 sq. m, facade-25m, privatized, Price:350 USD negotiable
- 2107.**Monument**, 2400sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: 400 USD per sq.m.
- 2413.**Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable
- 2414.**Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price:750.000 USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 3739.**Nork Marash** Land- 2000sq.m, two separate houses, total bld-600sq.m,capially repaired, swimming pool, sauna, guard house. 2 car parking, garden. Price: 950.000 USD
- 3348.**Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- 3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m.,each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, hjeating system,elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- 3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m,2 storied bld-520sq.m,6 bedrooms,5 bathrooms, capially repaired,heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price:1.350.000 USD.
- 3432.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price:1.000.000 USD
- 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

Azerbaijan Wants New OSCE Minsk Group Format

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) - Azerbaijan believes that the United States, Russia and France must no longer be the only countries spearheading international efforts to end the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the chairman-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said on Wednesday.

"Azerbaijan is proposing an increase in the number of OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs," Ivica Dacic, who is also Serbia's foreign minister, said after talks in Yerevan with his Armenian counterpart Edward Nalbandian.

Dacic, who visited Baku earlier this week, did not specify whether the Azerbaijani government has suggested that particular OSCE member states take over as additional co-chairs of the Minsk Group.

"I don't think it's a new proposal," he told a joint news conference with Nalbandian. "But in order to accept this proposal we need a decision taken by consensus by all participating countries. We may look into this issue in the future."

"But I think that the OSCE Minsk Group must continue to work. Even if one party is not happy with its work, it's the only format where different negotiations and dialogue have been going on and it must be preserved," Dacic said.

In recent years President Ilham Aliyev and other Azerbaijani officials have increasingly criticized the U.S., Russian and French mediators for not helping Baku regain control over Karabakh and surrounding territories. Some of them have accused the West and Russia of pro-Armenian bias.



"In the last 20 years the three countries co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group have not taken a single step to settle the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict," Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov charged last month.

Armenian leaders have repeatedly rejected this criticism, saying that the three mediating powers deserve praise for their joint efforts. Yerevan is therefore extremely unlikely to agree to any change in the negotiating format.

"Armenia believes that the Minsk Group is a fairly effective framework within which it is possible to achieve a settlement," Tigran Balayan, the Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman, told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am), commenting on Dacic's statement.

Brazil Senate Recognizes Armenian Genocide

Brazil's upper house of parliament, the Federal Senate, has joined 23 countries around the world in officially recognizing the 1915 Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire.

The Brazilian Senate described the slaughter of some 1.5 million Armenians as genocide in a "motion of solidarity with the Armenian people" that was approved by 55 of its 81 members on June 2.

The resolution pays tribute to the victims and praises descendants of the geno-

cide survivors who had taken refuge in Brazil for their "economic, social and cultural" contributions to Latin America's largest nation. Brazil is now home to more than 40,000 ethnic Armenians.

The resolution was drafted by two senators representing the main opposition Brazilian Social Democratic Party (PSDB). One of them, Aloysio Nunes Ferreira, reportedly urged Turkey to stop denying that the World War One-era mass killings and deportations of Armenians

constituted genocide.

Armenia welcomed the resolution even before it was formally passed by the Brazilian senators. Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian issued a special statement to that effect on Friday.

"I can reaffirm that Armenia welcomes the decision made by the Brazilian Senate," Nalbandian told reporters on Wednesday.

The Turkish government did not react to the resolution as of Wednesday evening.

It recalled Turkey's ambassadors to Austria and Luxembourg to Ankara for consultations recently after the parliaments of the two European states recognized the Armenian genocide with similar resolutions. The Turkish ambassador to the Vatican was likewise withdrawn in late April in protest against Pope Francis's description of the 1915 massacres as "the first genocide of the 20th century."

The 23 countries that have recognized the genocide also include Brazil's neighbors Argentina, Uruguay, Venezuela and Bolivia as well as another South American nation, Chile.



Hastert should also be investigated on Turkish bribery accusations



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

Federal Prosecutors indicted last week former U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert for:

1) Lying to the FBI on why he had withdrawn nearly \$1.7 million from various banks in the last four years,

2) Evading the reporting requirements of banks for large cash transactions.

Each count carries a maximum penalty of five-years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The indictment charges that in 2010 Hastert secretly met one of his former students and agreed to pay him \$3.5 million to secure his silence for "past misconduct", when he was a wrestling coach at the Yorkville High School in Illinois from 1965 to 1981. Since that meeting, Hastert, 73, paid him \$1.7 million by withdrawing initially \$50,000 at a time from several banks, and after being questioned by bank officials, he reduced each withdrawal to just under \$10,000, to evade the banks' reporting requirements.

In December 2014, when asked by the FBI as to why he had made such large cash withdrawals, Hastert made "materially false, fictitious and fraudulent statements," the federal prosecutors said. Hastert was making these payments to his former student to conceal sexually abusing him decades ago, according to various news reports.

Hastert's indictment is of particular interest to the Armenian-American community because of past accusations that he received large bribes from Turkish entities to quash pending Armenian Genocide resolutions, while serving as Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1999 to 2007. These claims were never fully investigated by the U.S. government. After retiring from Congress,

Hastert worked for Dickstein Shapiro in Washington, D.C., as a lobbyist for Turkey and other clients.

Ironically, at the start of his political career, Cong. Hastert strongly supported recognition of the Armenian Genocide. He spoke on the House floor on April 19, 1984, in favor of a congressional resolution acknowledging the Genocide. On June 5, 1996, he voted for an amendment to cut U.S. aid to Turkey until that country recognized the Armenian Genocide. Furthermore, in August 2000, Speaker Hastert met with Armenian community leaders in Glendale, pledging to bring the pending Armenian Genocide resolution to a vote, despite Pres. Clinton's vehement objections.

However, moments before the genocide resolution was to be voted upon on October 19, 2000, Speaker Hastert yanked the bill from consideration, using the excuse that Pres. Clinton had sent him a letter raising "grave national security concerns." How is it that the Republican House Speaker, who fiercely opposed a Democrat President on almost every issue and supported his impeachment, suddenly decides to agree with him on rejecting the Armenian Genocide resolution? Four days later, the Turkish Sabah newspaper reported that Hastert had agreed to block the resolution on condition that Pres. Clinton made such a request in writing.

Could there have been a sinister reason why Speaker Hastert had a sudden change of heart on the Armenian Genocide issue?

Vanity Fair magazine revealed in its September 2005 issue that former FBI translator Sibel Edmonds had reviewed wiretaps of Turkish phone calls claiming that Speaker Hastert's price to withdraw the Armenian Genocide resolution would be at least \$500,000. The FBI overheard Turkish speakers boasting that they have "arranged for tens of thousands of dollars to be paid to Hastert's campaign funds in small

checks" because contributions less than \$200 do not have to be itemized in public filings. In fact, Vanity Fair's examination of Speaker Hastert's federal filings from 1996 to 2002 showed that his campaign had received close to \$500,000 in un-itemized payments.

Shockingly, rather than investigating Edmonds' credible accusations, the FBI fired her, and the US government did not allow her to testify in Congress or in court, using the "state-secrets privilege" as a cover.

Not surprisingly, Speaker Hastert's visits to Turkey in 2002 and 2004 were funded by the Turkish-US Business Council. Consequently, in July 2004, Hastert issued a blunt statement vowing to block all future Armenian Genocide resolutions - a pledge he kept until his departure from the House in November 2007!

Interestingly, Hastert's personal wealth went from \$270,000 to up to \$17 million during his two decades of service in Congress, at a time when his congressional salary was \$175,000 a year! Where did his millions come from?

Six months after leaving the House, Hastert began to reap the benefits of serving Turkish interests in Congress by joining the firm Dickstein Shapiro as a lobbyist representing the Turkish government, among other clients. He worked jointly with former House Majority Leader Dick Gephardt, sometimes travelling together to Turkey, and splitting millions of dollars in lucrative lobbying fees. Last week, immediately after the federal indictment was issued, Hastert resigned from the lobbying firm.

A full investigation should now be conducted of all allegations against Hastert that have been ignored for far too long. The American public needs to know if he were being bribed, or even worse, blackmailed, by Turkish entities during his tenure as Speaker, the third most powerful office in Washington after the President and Vice President!

US State Department denounces Turkish President targeting journalists, Armenians and gays

The U.S. State Department has criticized Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for branding Armenians as well as independent media and religious and sexual minorities as "representatives of sedition" in Turkey.

Erdogan launched the broadside at "the Armenian lobby, homosexuals and those who believe in Alevism without Ali" during an election campaign rally on June 3. He said they are secretly helping a pro-Kurdish party to prevent his AK Party from scoring a landslide victory in Sunday's parliamentary elections.

Erdogan had earlier voiced similar allegations against Turkish media critical of his government and international media organizations such as "The New York Times," the BBC and CNN. "When it comes to journalists, certainly, the U.S. supports freedom of expression, and we remain concerned about government interference in freedom of expression in Turkey," Marie Harf, a State Department spokeswoman told a news briefing in Washington on Thursday. "We've

said that for a long time."

"As Turkey's friend and as their NATO ally, we urge the Turkish authorities to ensure their actions uphold democratic values, including due process, judicial independence, and freedom of expression, including access to media and information," she said.

Asked by a reporter whether Washington deplores Erdogan's references to Armenians, journalists and homosexuals, Harf replied: "Absolutely."

Erdogan has resorted to anti-Armenian rhetoric throughout the Turkish parliamentary race. On May 27, for example, he listed "the Armenian Diaspora" among forces which he said oppose Turkey's transformation into a presidential republic headed by him. Three days later, he claimed that "The New York Times," which has repeatedly criticized his human rights record, is "close to the Armenian lobby."

Erdogan also came under fire from his domestic and foreign critics last August after what was widely construed as a racist



slur against Armenians. In a TV interview aired just days before a Turkish presidential election, Erdogan complained that the Turkish opposition is carrying out a smear campaign against him by claiming that he is of Armenian descent.

Armenia condemned those remarks as "racist." Nevertheless, President Serzh Sargsyan subsequently congratulated Erdogan on winning the ballot and sent Foreign Minister to his inauguration ceremony in Ankara.

Turks are using terrorism against Syria just as they did against the Armenian people: Bashar al-Assad

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said the Syrian and Armenian people face the same challenges and dangers, SANA reports.

The President's remarks came during a meeting on Thursday with the visiting delegation of the Armenian-Syrian Friendship Association at the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, headed by the Association's President Tachat Vardapetyan.

Drawing parallels between the dangers

facing the people of Syria and Armenia, the President said the Ottomans who committed massacres against the Armenian people a hundred years ago are today represented by Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his government, using the same tools, mainly terrorism, against the Syrian people.

He warned against the expansive threat of terrorism on the entire Middle East region and the world, saying terrorism "knows no border and doesn't stop at the frontier of this or that country."

That's why parliaments, in their position as representatives of peoples, are called upon to take effective action to pressure the international community into adopting an efficacious policy against terrorism and the obscurantist thinking for the sake of not just the Syrian people but also the peoples of the region and the world, the President added.

Vardapetyan, for his part, stressed that the Armenian people stand by the side of the people of Syria in the face of the regionally-backed terrorist war waged on them, voicing confidence that Syria will get over this war and rout terrorism and its backers.

Talks during the meeting highlighted that further developing the relations between the National Assembly of Armenia and the Syrian People's Assembly would help in consolidating the relationship between the two countries.

Chairman of the Syrian-Armenian Friendship Association at the People's Assembly Butrus Marjaneh and Armenia's Ambassador in Damascus Arshak Poladian attended the meeting.



Three Armenians elected to Turkish Parliament



Turkey's Christian minority will be represented in the Turkish parliament in greater number after a long absence as four members of the community will become deputies after the June 7 elections, the Hurriyet Daily News reports.

The results of the parliamentary election, one of the most critical and closely fought in years, ended the Justice and Development Party's (AKP) 13-year one-party rule, while also propelling four mem-

bers of the Christian minority to the legislature.

Markar Esayan, an Armenian-Turkish journalist for the pro-AKP daily Yeni Safak, entered the parliament on an AKP ticket as the 12th candidate from Istanbul's second election area.

Selina Dogan, from the Republican People's Party (CHP), was elected as the first deputy candidate from the second election area of the CHP's Istanbul list. Dogan, who is of Armenian origin, practices law as an attorney.

CHP head Kemal Kilicdaroglu said while introducing Dogan as a candidate that her candidacy was an important message for the world.

"We do not want division in this society. We want to grow and develop together," Kilicdaroglu said in early April.

Two Christians will also enter parliament from the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) ticket, one from Istanbul and the other from the southeastern province of Mardin.

Garo Paylan, who ran for parliament as the second nominee from the HDP's third election area in Istanbul, holds Armenian roots and is listed as a trainer on the Supreme Election Board (YSK) candidate list.

Erol Dora, who is a member of Turkey's Syriac community and a lawyer, was the HDP's third deputy candidate from Mardin and an incumbent in the legislature.

In addition to the four Christians, two members of Turkey's small Yazidi community were also elected for the HDP - Feleknaş Uca from Diyarbakir and Ali Atalan from Batman.

Armenian, Iranian clerics concerned about 'extremism'

Catholicos Garegin II and a visiting representative of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei reportedly expressed concern at the rise of religious extremism in the region when they met in Echmiadzin on June 3.

The meeting between the supreme head of the Armenian Apostolic Church and Ali Ghazi Asgar, a high-ranking Iranian cleric serving as Khamenei's representative for Hajj affairs, underlined close ties between the two neighboring states.

Garegin's office quoted Ghazi Asgar as praising "the exemplary and warm relations between the two nations in the religious political, economic and areas." He said they are "developing year by year."

A statement by the office said the two



men voiced concerns over challenges stemming from "the globalization process, decline in moral-spiritual values, the problem of family protection, and extremist movements that have emerged in the world." It did not elaborate on those movements, saying only that they are having a "devastating impact on the life of the humankind."

It was an apparent reference to the Islamic State (ISIS) militants fighting against the Iranian-backed governments of Iraq and Syria. The Armenian government condemned the Sunni jihadist movement as a "plague threatening the civilized world" last year following the destruction of an Armenian church in Syria.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said "Iran, Armenia and all regional states should join forces to fight terrorism" during talks in Tehran last October with Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan.

It was not clear whether Ghazi Asgar was due to hold talks with Armenian government officials during his trip. No such talks were reported as of Friday evening.

Plaque dedicated to Armenian Genocide unveiled in Marseille

The plaque reading "1915-2015: 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide" was solemnly unveiled on the front of "Maison Blanche" - the administrative building of the 9-10th district of Marseille on June 4.

The event was attended by Armenian Ambassador to Switzerland Charles Aznavour, President of the Urban Community of Marseille Provence Métropole Guy Teissier, Head of the 9-10th district of Marseille, MP Valerie

Boyer, Armenian Consul in Marseille Samvel Laylayan, Deputy Mayors, representatives of the local self-government, heads of Armenian and French organizations, journalists, and representatives of the Armenian community. The speakers at the event attached importance to the importance of commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide for Armenians and the international community and hailed Charles Aznavour's participation and contribution to the process of

international recognition of the Genocide.

Mayor Lionel Royer-Perreaut decorated Charles Aznavour with a memorial medal of the honorary citizen of the 9-10th district. Later on a plaque reading "Centennial Olive Tree from Charles Aznavour" was unveiled in the park of Maison Blanche.

The event was widely covered in French media. The events dedicated to Armenia will continue at the Marseille City Hall for 10 days.

Sotheby's withdraws sale of Aivazovsky painting alleged stolen

The international auction house Sotheby's withdrew from auction on June 2 a painting by Ivan Aivazovsky that Russia's Interior Ministry said last week had been stolen in 1997 from a private collection in Moscow, Reuters reports.

The auction house said "Evening in

Cairo" by Russian artist of Armenian descent Ivan Aivazovsky, had been withdrawn from sale at the request of the consignor, or seller.

Russia's Interior Ministry had asked that British police block the auction.

Sotheby's said last week it had found no record of the painting in the databases of stolen art and would proceed with the sale on June 2, with the agreement of the consignor and the family which said it had been stolen.

In an emailed statement on Tuesday, Sotheby's said: "Ivan Aivazovsky's 'Evening in Cairo', Lot 23, in Sotheby's 2 June 2015 Sale of Russian Pictures has

been withdrawn at the request of the consignor."

It said there was "no further information available".

Russia's Interior Ministry declined immediate comment, saying it would make its position clear later on Tuesday.

The Interior Ministry did not name the complainant but Sotheby's earlier identified them as the Nosenko family, which Russian media said had purchased the painting in the 1940s.

The 1870 painting had been listed as a lot on the website of Sotheby's, with an estimated value of 1.5-2 million pounds (\$2-\$3 million), as part of a collection of Russian pictures due to be sold in London on June 2.

The Sotheby's website had listed the work's provenance as being in the collection of N.I. Dedov.

Sotheby's kept the identity of the seller confidential but said that it had acquired the painting in good faith in 2000.



German Bundestag to hold a final vote on Armenian Genocide bill before the end of July



The German Bundestag is expected to hold a final discussion on the Armenian Genocide bill and put it on a vote before the summer break by the second half of July, historian Ashot Hayruni told reporters on June 8.

It's not yet clear what will be the final shape of the resolution, considering the constant pressure on the part of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the Turks living and working in Germany. As an example he reminded that a German MP

recently quit his party because of his party recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

According to Hayruni, the bill pending at the Bundestag is more favorable than the one adopted in 2005. The current document clearly mentions that what happened to Armenians in 1915 was an example of genocide.

He added, however, that the bill is not 100 percent acceptable. It includes "dark" points, which the Armenian diplomatic corps should work to edit. As for the positive sides of the bill, they range from the preservation of the Armenian cultural heritage to the contribution to Armenian-Turkish dialogue.

Atom Egoyan receives Canada's most prestigious award in arts

Some of Canada's most renowned artists received lifetime achievement awards this year's Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Gala, the country's most prestigious award given for artistic accomplishments.

Oscar-nominated Armenian Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan, known for works such as "The Sweet Hereafter" and

"The Captive," was among the laureates at the award ceremony held Saturday at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

Other award winners included songwriter Sarah McLachlan, actress and director Diana Leblanc, composer and conductor Walter Boudreau, and actor R. H. Thomson.



Gephardt and his lobbying firm have taken \$8 million from Turkish government

As a member of Congress, Dick Gephardt often spoke passionately about the need for the United States to recognize as genocide the mass deaths of as many as 1.5 million Armenians under the Turkish government that began one century ago.

But as a lobbyist for Turkey since leaving Congress in 2005, Gephardt, a Democrat, has taken the opposite side. His behind-the-scenes work has been cited as a factor in the annual failure of Congress to recognize the Armenian genocide, according to St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Justice Department records show that Gephardt's lobbying firm has been paid more than \$8 million since 2008 to fight the declaration and represent Turkey on other contentious issues, including repatriation of Christian holy sites seized over the last century in that Muslim nation.

Now, in the 100th-anniversary year of what Armenians refer to as Meds Yeghern - "great calamity" - two Armenian-American groups are pressuring Gephardt's lobbying firm to drop Turkey as a client, and for companies to drop Gephardt as their lobbyist.

Gephardt, who declined to respond to repeated interview requests, has ignored the Armenian groups' letters. Three companies have ended contracts with the Gephardt Group since the two Armenian-American groups launched a letter-writing campaign in January, although none publicly tied the decision to the letters.

Critics of the former congressman from St. Louis say he is just another example of the revolving door between electoral office and the lucrative lobbying business, where policy positions seem to change based on who's paying

the bill.

In 1998, speaking to frequent applause from the Armenian National Committee of America in a Capitol Hill event, Gephardt called for Congress to "solemnly remember the genocide which occurred many years ago, but which so deeply affected so many families and people in Armenia. We must always keep that fact, those real facts, in our mind."



But after going to work for Turkey in 2007, he told the Post-Dispatch that he was working toward a reconciliation that would avoid a genocide declaration, to "get all the facts on the table and let the chips fall where they may."

In January, as the 100th anniversary of Meds Yeghern approached, two Armenian-American groups began pressuring Gephardt and his clients. "The American corporate community must have a zero-tolerance policy against any action that either covers up past genocides or in any way contributes to future atrocities," declared a Jan. 28 letter to the former congressman signed by leaders of the groups, the Armenian National Committee of America and the Armenian Assembly of America. "To that end, as a courtesy, we would like to inform you that we have reached out to all of your clients ... to educate them about your lobbying on behalf of the Turkish government."

The groups sent letters to roughly 200 clients who had hired either Gephardt or other lobbying firms that represented Turkey, saying the companies had a "troubling relationship" with genocide deniers.

The results of the letter campaign are unclear.

Spokesmen for Google, Boeing and of St. Louis-area companies Ameren, Anheuser-Busch and Peabody either refused to comment or said they had no record of receiving the letter.

But Frederick D. Palmer, Peabody's senior vice president for government relations, wrote back to the Armenian-American groups saying his company would not drop lobbyists just because they represented Turkey.

"The events you describe are tragic indeed, but there is no basis to punish Turkey today, an ally for more than 60 years along with being a democratic and free market example that is rare in the region," Palmer wrote.

The Los Angeles World Airport canceled its \$20,000-a-month contract with Gephardt exactly a month after the letter was sent. Mary Grady, managing director of media and public relations for the airport, declined to say why.

Mike Zampa, communications director for the Port of Oakland, said the port allowed a \$160,000 contract with Gephardt to expire in January but described it as a normal change.

The Human Rights Campaign also canceled its \$10,000 monthly contract, but Fred Sainz, the rights organization's director of communications, said it had "nothing to do with the Armenia letter."

A lobbyist left the Gephardt Group, Sainz said, "and we followed him to his new firm."

Lavish 'Donations' To Armenian Officials Not Investigated

Senior Armenian state officials tasked with combatting corruption have faced no investigations into millions of dollars in financial aid which they and their wives claim to have received from undisclosed sources in recent years.

The officials running the "oversight services" of President Serzh Sargsyan, Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan and the Armenian parliament have reported such lavish financial contributions in their annual asset declarations filed with the state Commission on the Ethics of High-Ranking Officials.

So far none of them has been accused by the commission of using their position to enrich themselves and their relatives. Nor are law-enforcement authorities known to have investigated the origin of the "donations" which Armenia's leading anti-graft watchdog believes carry serious "corruption risks."

Hovannes Hovsepyan, the wealthy head of the presidential Oversight Service, claims to have especially generous benefactors. Hovsepyan's income declarations say that from 2011 through 2014 he received a total of \$2.75 million in dollar donations from individuals or legal entities not identified by him. According to the document, the minimum amount of a single donation to Hovsepyan was \$100,000, while the largest one stood at as much as \$1.6 million.

The presidential service headed by him is supposed to monitor use of public funds by various government agencies and detect possible instances of their embezzlement.

Sargis Grigoryan manages a similar oversight division in the prime minister's office. He has reported no lavish donations and claims to live off his monthly salary of 314,000 drams (\$660). His wife, Armine Kocharyan, is apparently unemployed, having reported no financial incomes to the anti-graft commission.

However, Kocharyan somehow managed to receive \$530,000 in loans from Armenian banks from 2012-2014. She also admitted paying around \$120,000 to buy several paintings last year.

Just how Grigoryan's wife secured the sizable loans is not clear. Armenian banks are extremely unlikely to lend so much money to a regular client who has no well-paid job.

The wife of Gagik Mkrtumyan, a senior official at the parliamentary Audit Chamber, claimed to have received last year \$100,000 in "donations" in addition to earning 180,000 drams (\$380) per month. Karine Mazmanyan too did not disclose the source of the cash.

The wife of Ishkhan Zakaryan, the controversial Audit Chamber chief, reported a single and far more modest donation: \$15,000. Zakaryan's asset declaration says that Gayane Soghomonyan received the money in 2011.

The sum pales in comparison with the conspicuous wealth of Zakaryan. Two years ago he was forced by opposition lawmakers to comment on sources of funding for his newly built



villa in Yerevan reportedly worth millions of dollars. Zakaryan said that the mansion's construction was mainly financed by Albert Boyajyan, an Armenian-American businessman described by him as his "friend."

For the Anti-Corruption Center (ACC), the Armenian branch of the Berlin-based group Transparency International, these financial statements are a cause for serious concern.

"Such donations can be considered to be transactions fraught with high risks of corruption," Artak Manukyan, an ACC expert, told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) on Friday. Manukyan said that they would at least be investigated in many countries that are "really fighting against corruption."

Siranush Sahakyan, the chairwoman of the Commission on the Ethics of High-Ranking Officials, last month could not name a single state official who the anti-graft body believes has enriched themselves through abuse of power. The remarks suggest that the commission has never scrutinized the "donations."

No such investigations have been reported by Armenian law-enforcement bodies either. They declined on Friday to respond to RFE/RL inquiries on the subject.

This stance will only fuel more skepticism about the Armenian government's stated efforts to tackle widespread bribery, nepotism and other corrupt practices.

The government pledged to reinvigorate those efforts in February when it announced plans to set up a new Anti-Corruption Council that will be headed by Prime Minister Abrahamian and comprise several ministers and other top state officials. It also urged the political parties represented in the Armenian parliament and civic groups to nominate their representatives to the council. None of those groups expressed readiness to join the body.

Armenia ranked, along with four African states, 94th of 174 countries and territories evaluated in the Transparency International's most recent Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) released last December. It occupied the same position in the 2013 CPI which covered 177 nations.

Plaque stolen from William Saroyan home in Fresno



A plaque honoring the late William Saroyan has been stolen from his last residence, yourcentralvalley.com reports.

The new owners say they noticed the plaque was taken along with tools in the garage this week.

The plaque has been on the front of the house for 25 years and details some of the work the Pulitzer Prize winning author did the last 17 years of his life in the house.

Neighbor Ernie Baca lives next door and knew Saroyan as a kid. "He gave me my first book when I was five years old and he signed it to read to my little sister," Garza said.

Few neighbors on West Griffith Way have such fond memories of the home. They know it for going into foreclosure, attracting squatters and falling into disrepair.

"We've been broken into. Everyone has been broken into. It's

the times. Everyone is down on their luck," Deborah Robles said.

The new owners say they just want the plaque returned. They are in the process of selling the house to a nonprofit which plans to restore the house and make it a historical place.

"That would be nice if they could do something with that house and raise the property values that would be wonderful. That is the worst house in the neighborhood," Robles said.

Many have speculated it was stolen for the metal. But Baca says it is a piece of Armenian Heritage and Fresno History.

"If the person is watching who took this it should mean nothing to them. You can bring it to my house and put it on the porch," he said.



Kim Kardashian, Kanye West reportedly planning a movie based on their lives



Kim Kardashian has already got her own film - it's one of the best-selling X-rated movies of all time - but she reportedly wants a movie about her life and so does her husband Kanye West, according to a new report, according to the Daily Mirror.

The Keeping Up With The Kardashians star, who is pregnant with

her second child, is reportedly planning to make a movie about their lives with three big studios trying to bag the rights.

A senior executive from Universal reportedly told the Daily Star Sunday: "I doubt we are talking about an Oscar-worthy production with high artistic merit.

"But with almost 45 million Twitter followers between them, they have a worldwide fan base which virtually guarantees box office success followed by strong DVD sales."

Kim has allegedly got her eye on curvaceous stars such as Sofia Vergara and Christina Hendricks who could play her on screen, and is "hyper excited" about the project.

"Kim is fantasizing about who might play her and has Sofia Vergara or Mad Men's Christina Hendricks I mind," an insider told the newspaper.

First guide to Armenian wines published

The first "Guide to Armenian Winemaking and Armenian Wines" has been published with the support of the "Antares" publishing house and the Armenian Association of Winemakers.

The author of the book Anik Petrosyan says it will provide thorough information about Armenian wines to tourists.

The publication consists of two parts. The first one presents the history of Armenian winemaking; the second is dedicated to Armenian wines.

Head of the "Antares" Media Holding Armen Martirosyan says the guide is a considerable achievement for presenting Armenia to tourists.

Five hundred copies of the guide have been published. They will be available in bookstores and will cost 6-7 AMD.

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?**Enjoy your leisure****8 June**

19:00. Traviata. G.Verdi. Opera in 4 acts. Opera | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian
19:00. Dear Pamela. Premiere. Play | H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors

9 June

19:00. Coma Nostra. New performance dedicated to the author's 55th anniversary. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
19:00. Two Suns. World premiere. Ballet | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

10 June

19:00. Two Suns. World premiere. Ballet | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian
19:00. Mrs. Ministress. Premiere. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

11 June

19:00. Victims of Love. Premiere. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan
19:00. Ardalion. Historical mimodrama. Play | Yerevan State Pantomime Theater

12 June

15:00. The Golden Key. Play for kids | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater
19:00. Tagharan Ensemble of Ancient Music. Concert | Chamber Music House after Komitas
19:00. Everything for Sale. Premiere. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski
19:00. Sexual Chaos in the Hotel. Play | State Musical Chamber Theater
19:00. Compensation. Pessimistic Comedy. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

13 June

12:00, 14:00. Goldfish. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
12:30, 14:00, 15:30. Little Red Riding Hood. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater
14:00. Cinderella. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater
15:00. The Adventures of Chipollino. Play for kids | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater
16:00. The Silly Man. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
19:00. Like Gods. Premiere. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski
19:00. Four Reasons for Marriage. Premiere. Play | State Theater of Musical

Comedy after H. Paronyan
19:00. Ah, Women, Women. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater
19:00. It Doesn't Matter With Whom. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

14 June

12:00, 14:00. Three Piglets. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
12:30, 14:00, 15:30. The Kid & Karlsson. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater
13:00. Three Piglets. Premiere. Play for kids | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski
14:00. Beauty and the Beast. Children's Musical Fun Show. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater
16:00. Little Red Riding Hood. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
19:00. Love Rectangle. Comedy in 1 act. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan
19:00. It Doesn't Matter With Whom. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater
19:00. The Dragon. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater
19:00. Yerevan-Barcelona. Comedy. Play | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater
19:00. The Shoemaker's Prodigious Wife. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

A new idea, plan, or introduction that was hatched in March appears to be showing signs of growth. Circumstances change in your favor. It is not necessary to force things or pressure people. You have found the groove. Just follow it. Love and social life are positive.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

You have favorable aspects related to home, property and family matters. You may have a desire to improve the appearance of the environment around you, whether at home or at work. It's fine to purchase small items. But wait until the 11th before you commit to something large.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

You have the opportunity at this time to act as go-between or a bridge between one person and another. This may come by way of negotiation or it might be an introduction. The signs are favorable.

Cancer (June 21--July 21) :

Your path has no planetary challenges this week. Therefore your time will probably be spent doing the routine things of your life. Sometimes it feels really good to have nothing on the stove, no big challenges or new experiences to absorb. Have a peaceful week.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

Venus enters your sign on the 5th and will be with you until July 17th. You always have an interest in appearance and this transit notches it up a couple of pegs. You may "redecorate" yourself with new glasses, clothing, or hairstyle. The goddess of love brings complements, small gifts, romance, or other pleasures.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

Beware the liar. The probability is high you will encounter one this week, someone who believes his own story, thus making it unclear if he is telling the truth. Check out the sources and ask other people who may know something about the situation. Don't accept anything of importance at face value.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

Venus, your ruling planet, travels with you into the territory of friendships, community and organizational affairs. Over the next three weeks she will enhance your presence at any activity in this sphere. It is a good time to plan a party for friends or to meet new people at other gatherings.

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

See the lead paragraph on the home page because it is specific to your sign. You are fortunate this week. Resources increase and you are able to repay loans, whether they be in money, time or energy. A new person entering your life may spark some interest. This might also be a previously known individual who has changed for the better.

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

This is an ideal time to take a trip or plan one. It is also a wonderful period to enjoy both romantic and social life. Your upbeat attitude brings invitations your way. Legal matters are judged in your favor. What's not to like?

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

You want to challenge the rules or the authorities and this is not the time to expect success, regardless of the topic. You will be blocked, no matter which way you present your desired outcome. Save yourself the trouble and settle your mind for the present.

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

This is not your smoothest week. Details may nag your mind and your time like pecking ducks. This is nit-picking and will not serve you now. Shift gears and open your mind to share some quality time with a significant other. This is a good time to discuss issues within a relationship because you are steady of mind and likely to be realistic.

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

You likely will hear favorable feedback from others this week. Giving attention to your health and your home will be satisfying. You might have a new inspiration to experiment with and it likely will flow easily. The routine of life is a pleasure.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Vahan Teryan

LAND OF NAYIRI

(Excerpt from Ergir Nayiri/

"I love my fatherland, but that kind of love
requires another word." —Lermontov

Homer will tell you
how the wanderer feels:
Laertes' son homesick
for the place that he leaves,

always an alien
with loyalties scattered,
crossing sea and mountains
to find every joy flat.

I too have been tempted
by voices, taunts, need,
offers and office
but your name, living seed,

I have kept in a clean heart
to replant, like wheat.

Now consumed with the yearning
only you can cure
I return, my country
for the place to be sure

of hearing the music
I have kept and keep,
our sacred songs, Nayiri,
sweet songs to weep.

ESTONIAN SONG

When you're sated, weighted down and
tired of fate,
you can always turn, turn back again,
to the heart, like yours, that's racked with
pain
but where the walls still echo with your
name.

When good fortune brightens up your
road with light,
and clinging strangers spring up left and
right,
someone will be happy but wary of fickle
fame,
still hoping that you turn, return again.

But if fate hardens your heart and turns
your head
so you cannot feel delight and you forget
what it is to love, someone will mourn
your loss,
but can do nothing more. Do not return.
You're lost.

Yahoo Travel: Road trip to Tatev Monastery in Armenia

By Greg Keraghosian

There's a certain irony in riding a five-year-old tramway to reach a 1,200-year-old monastery. Kind of like Snapchatting the Mona Lisa to your friend. But that's what I did recently, and I couldn't be happier that the technology now exists - it's made an Armenian historical treasure more accessible to visitors, and as you reach the other side, the shiny cable car to Tatev Monastery feels more like a time machine.

Perched dramatically on the edge of a rugged plateau that falls into the Vorotan River Gorge in southeast Armenia, the monastery inspires easy analogies to Game of Thrones. But unlike Winterfell, this place actually lived those stories. Built as far back as 848 A.D., the monastery near the village of Tatev has seen religious prominence, economic influence, foreign invasions, massive earthquakes, an important Medieval university, destruction, and restoration.

These days it's just a tourist site, but a magnificent tourist site at that. You reach Tatev Monastery by taking the world's longest reversible aerial tramway, which floats up to 1,050 feet above the gorge. After that, for some real Instagram street cred, you'll want to capture one of the best photo ops nobody knows about: looking down at the monastery in all its glory as it seemingly teeters on the cliff's edge.

Amazingly, my crew and I were the only visitors enjoying that view, from a vista point that's a 1 kilometer hike away. On a sunny Saturday afternoon in May, tourists stuck to striding around the



monastery's three churches and adjacent grounds. I had come here leading five high-school-age members of my Tumo travel storytelling workshop in the Armenian capital of Yerevan.

And while I was at least 20 years older than my companions, I was probably the most impatient - like a restless kid who just wants to cut past the line at Disneyland, I just wanted to find that shot of Tatev Monastery, the one I'd been thinking about for days.

But we had to save that for last. First, we had to drive four hours from Yerevan to reach the village of Halidzor. From there we had two options to reach Tatev Monastery: drive 40 minutes through the deep ravine with its narrow, switchback-laden roads, or simply float there on Wings

of Tatev, a 10-minute tramway ride away. The latter made more sense for us considering our time constraints, though I would have loved to take the scenic route, which includes a natural crossing called the Devil's Bridge. (A more sensible base of operations for a visit to Tatev would be from the town of Goris, under 20 miles away.)

Plus, at least you can say you rode something in the Guinness Book of World Records. Wings of Tatev launched in October 2010 in an effort to revive tourism in the region, and it cost an estimated \$18 million to build. The tramway extends 3 1/2 miles, with the cable cars reaching 23 mph. These are hardly ziplining speeds and the ride is smooth, though people who fear heights may tense up at times.



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