

# Tsarukyan calls off rally, commits to peaceful solutions



Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK) leader Gagik Tsarukyan has signaled his readiness to settle problems "through peaceful, lawful and political means" after reportedly meeting with President Serzh Sargsyan on February 17 in a bid to mend

fences following an acrimonious exchange of accusations over the past few days.

Serzh Sargsyan, apparently enraged by Tsarukyan's "ultimatum" to give up the constitutional reform process or face large-scale street protests, lashed out at the BHK

leader at a meeting of senior members of his ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) on February 12. In a speech full of derogatory descriptions of Tsarukyan,

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## Armenia, Sweden willing to reinforce bilateral ties

Martina Quick (residence in Tbilisi), the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Sweden to the Republic of Armenia, today handed over her credentials to President Serzh Sargsyan, President's Press Office reported.

The President congratulated Ambassador Quick on her appointment, wished her success and expressed the hope that Mrs. Quick would use her experience and professional abilities to the maximum extent possible in order to strengthen Armenian-Swedish relations. Serzh Sargsyan underscored that Sweden was one of Armenia's reliable partners in the Scandinavian region, and both the historical connections between the two peoples and the high-level relationship between Armenia and Sweden established since independence bore testimony to that fact. "Our desire is to reinforce bilateral ties with the friendly state of Sweden in political, economic, cultural and in a number of other areas, as well as to boost cooperation within the framework of international organizations. Armenia is ready to put the necessary effort into multiplying the present dynamics of our relations and into exploiting our full potential," said Serzh Sargsyan.

The Armenian President and the Swedish ambassador agreed that the establishment of the diplomatic missions in the two countries capitals, as well as the recent senior-level visits have given new life to the Armenian-Swedish cooperation agenda.

At the meeting, the parties touched upon the present situation



in the region and the current challenges, as well as upon the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process. In this context, Serzh Sargsyan noted that Armenia appreciates the fact that Sweden has been maintaining a balanced position over proceeding with the peace process within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group.

The President also placed great value on the 2010 resolution of the Swedish parliament recognizing the Armenian Genocide and talked to Ambassador Quick about the events to be held in Armenia and abroad, as the country is marking the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide this year.

Serzh Sargsyan and Ambassador Quick also reflected upon the cooperation between Armenia and the European Union.

### Withdrawal of Armenian-Turkish protocols from Parliament a logical step: Alexander Arzumanyan

The withdrawal of the Armenian-Turkish protocols from the National Assembly was a logical step, ex-Foreign Minister, MP Alexander Arzumanyan told reporters today.

He said Turkey continues its hostile actions, and maintains the blockade of Armenia. "Perhaps, this served as a reason for raising the issue on the threshold of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, as the interests that exists today will not be as big next year," Arzumanyan added.

The ex-Foreign Minister reminded about the recent unacceptable steps by Turkey, namely the decision to mark the Gallipoli anniversary on April 24. He noted that the Armenian President's response to Erdogan's invitation and the pan-Armenian Declaration on the Genocide Centennial contain rather posi-

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### Armenian President recalls Armenian-Turkish protocols from Parliament

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan has addressed a letter to the Speaker of the National Assembly Galust Sahakyan, informing about his decision to recall the Armenian-Turkish Protocols from the National Assembly. The letter reads, in part:

"Respected Mr. Sahakyan,

When launching the process of normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations without preconditions, we were fully aware of all possible scenarios of future development. We were ready for both comprehensive normalization of relations through ratification of the protocols and their failure. We had nothing to conceal, as it would become clear to the world which party was guilty of missing the chance to open the last closed border in Europe.

Almost six years have passed from the signing of the Armenian-Turkish protocols. Throughout this period Armenia has consistently backed the realization of the protocols.

However, we cannot but stress the lack of political will on the part of Turkey, the distortion of the letter and spirit of the protocols and the continuous attempts to pose



preconditions. Parallel to that, on the threshold of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the policy of denial and revision of history gains new momentum.

I have said on many occasions that time is not inexhaustible. I last did it from the podium of the UN General Assembly in September 2014. It's a pity that this call failed to reach the Turkish leadership.

Therefore, I have decided to recall the protocols on the "Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey" and "Development of Relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey" from the National Assembly."



## U.S. 'Cares Deeply' About Its Partnership With Armenia



America cares deeply about its partnership with Armenia, Victoria Nuland, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, said in Yerevan on February 18 on the third leg of her South Caucasus tour that also included stops in Azerbaijan and Georgia.

"We have for more than 20 years supported democracy, independence, economic growth, prosperity and peace here. And we want to continue to do that and to deepen and broaden that relationship," the senior U.S. diplomat added.

"We care deeply about Armenia's ability to grow stronger, more prosperous, more independent, and to represent a strong democratic image in this part of the world and to protect the rights of all Armenians to live freely. So, it's important to us."

Considering a vibrant civil society to be one of the greatest strengths of Armenia, the U.S. assistant secretary of state said that the United States is starting a new initiative with the Armenian government to promote anti-corruption goals and create a level-playing field for investors.

"We'll be starting a new initiative of the embassy with the government to promote anti-corruption goals like e-governance, transparency and procurement, improving the climate for investment, closing the space for dirty money, a level-playing field for all Armenians and all investors to compete equally here that not only protects the investment environment and protects the country's democracy, but also closes the space for outside interference in your economy," said Nuland.

After meetings with the leaders of Armenia in Yerevan and previously with the leaders of Azerbaijan in Baku the sen-

ior U.S. diplomat said she felt "we did make progress in both capitals."

"I spoke to both [Azerbaijani] President [Ilham] Aliyev and [Armenian] President [Serzh] Sargsyan on this trip about ending the bloodshed which serves nobody. I felt that we did make progress in both capitals on this visit, and I hope to see peace in coming days and weeks in the interest of all of the soldiers serving and all of the parents, and in the interest of peace and stability in the region," she said.

Speaking at a press conference in Baku on February 17, Nuland said she would talk in Yerevan about the release of



two Azerbaijani nationals convicted and jailed in Nagorno-Karabakh for crimes, including a teenager's murder.

Addressing the case in Yerevan on February 18, the U.S. official described what the two Azerbaijanis did as a "terrible crime". At the same time, she repeat-

ed her appeal for their handover to Azerbaijan. "I did speak about the terrible crime that was committed, it was obviously a crime. That said, we do call on relevant authorities to make the kind of humanitarian gesture that I spoke of at my previous press event," Nuland said.

The U.S. assistant secretary of state also addressed the issue of the 2009 Turkish-Armenian protocols on normalization of ties between the two nations that Armenian President Sargsyan decided to recall from the parliament earlier this week.

In doing so, the Armenian leader stressed that "the Turkish government has no political will, distorts the spirit and letter of the protocols, and continues its policy of setting preconditions."

Despite this decision, Nuland said, it is important for Washington that Armenia has not withdrawn from the process.

"From an American point of view we believe that the normalization between Armenia and Turkey remains important for both countries and remains important for the region as a whole and for regional

peace and stability. So, we will continue to promote it," Nuland said. "I think that what's important to note is that Armenia has not withdrawn from the process and that's also important to us that the process can continue."

Earlier on Wednesday the U.S. assistant secretary of state visited Yerevan's Tsitsernakaberd memorial to some 1.5 million Armenians massacred during the Ottoman-era genocide in Turkey. Just like former U.S. Secretary of

State Hillary Clinton in 2010, Nuland described her visit as a "private" one.

"It was a very moving stop today at the memorial. I have never personally had a chance to go, and it was obviously an important part of my visit here today," Nuland said.

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## Armenian authorities reject allegations over Permyakov handover request

The Prosecutor's Office in Armenia has brushed aside recent media reports alleging that no request has been formally submitted to Moscow for the transfer of a Russian soldier accused of murdering seven members of an Armenian family in Gyumri to Armenian custody.

Prosecutor-General Gevorg Kostanyan's office announced on February 3 that he had sent a letter to his Russian counterpart, Yuri Chayka, saying that the high-profile case should be transferred to Armenian jurisdiction.

The office said Kostanyan invoked a 1997 Russian-Armenian treaty regulating the presence of a Russian military base in Armenia. Valery Permyakov, a 19-year-old conscript serving at the base in Gyumri, was charged with committing the murders on January 12. He is currently kept in Russian custody at the military base. Moscow says he will be tried by a Russian military court in Armenia.

Hundreds of angry residents staged protests in Gyumri last month demanding that Permyakov be tried by an Armenian court and in accordance with Armenian laws. On January 15, Prosecutor-General Kostanyan promised to the protesters that he would write a letter to his Russian counterpart over the matter, something that his office said he did about two weeks later.

The Zhoghovurd newspaper reported on Wednesday that it had inquired about whether the Russian Prosecutor-General's Office received the request from the Armenian side regarding the transfer of Permyakov. It said it got a negative reply.

In its statement today the Prosecutor's Office of Armenia called such reports "absurd" and refused to further comment on the matter.

At the same time, it said that considering the importance of the criminal case and the great public attention to it, the Prosecutor-General's Office will provide information on it in case of any new development.

## Karabakh mediators on new regional tour

International mediators from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) continued their efforts to promote a peaceful solution to the protracted conflict around Nagorno-Karabakh as they paid fresh visits to Azerbaijan and Armenia this week.

On the second stop of their regional tour in Yerevan on February 17, the United States, French and Russian co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group met with the country's leadership, including President Serzh Sargsyan and Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian.

While the mediators appeared to have brought no new proposals with them to the region, Ambassador James Warlick, the American representative in the group, told RFE/RL's Armenian Service that their tour was "another opportunity to talk".

A statement released by the Armenian Foreign Ministry said that during the meeting with the visiting mediators Minister Edward Nalbandian drew their attention to "continued gross violations of the ceasefire regime by Azerbaijan". He also accused Baku of aiming to torpedo the peace process.

"When agreement is reached around the fundamental principles of settlement and Nagorno-Karabakh also agrees to them, at that time it will be possible to start negotiations among Azerbaijan, Artsakh [Karabakh] and Armenia on a comprehensive peace accord," Nalbandian said.

The Armenian minister also insisted that the guilt of the two Azerbaijani citizens who were last year tried in Nagorno-Karabakh and convicted by a local court on charges of committing murder and



other crimes was fully established.

Azerbaijan did not recognize the legality of the trial in which its citizens, Dilham Askerov and Shahbaz Quliyev, were sentenced to life and 22 years in prison, respectively.

The case was also addressed in Baku by visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland. At a press conference on Tuesday she said she would talk about the release of the two Azerbaijanis held in Nagorno-Karabakh during her meetings with Armenian officials in Yerevan on February 18.

Armenia and Azerbaijan fought a bloody war in the early 1990s over the control of Nagorno-Karabakh, a mainly ethnic Armenian-populated region that was part of Soviet Azerbaijan.

Despite the ceasefire agreement signed in 1994, dozens of soldiers on both sides have been killed in border skirmishes every year since then.

Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh have reported more than a dozen casualties since the beginning of 2015. Azerbaijan also says a number of its soldiers were killed in skirmishes in the mentioned period. The conflicting sides have routinely accused each other of ceasefire violations.

## Armenian opposition leaders in crisis talks

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tive approaches that should be taken into consideration. "We'll see what happens in the future."

Speaking about the crisis in Ukraine, Arzumanyan welcomed the signing of the agreement, but voiced doubt that it would be maintained. He considers there will be a ceasefire, but not a lasting one.

"There are some points in the agreement, which will make one of the parties refuse from it at some point".





## Tsarukyan party still demands snap elections, spokesman says



The Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK) will continue to seek early elections despite the conciliatory note struck by its leader Gagik Tsarukyan in a statement earlier this week following his reported meeting with President Serzh Sargsyan, a spokesperson said on February 19.

After several days of a dramatic row between Sargsyan and Tsarukyan that included mutual accusations in emotionally charged language as well as pledges to "oust" each other from the political arena, the BHK leader appeared to have bowed to alleged government pressure that included detentions of his loyalists and inspections of their businesses.

President Sargsyan also ordered tax audits of the businesses owned by Tsarukyan himself as well as a probe into his alleged criminal connections. The BHK leader was thrown out of the National Security Council and the National Assembly leadership began to consider kicking him out of the legislature as well.

Apparently enraged by Tsarukyan's "ultimatum" to give up the planned constitutional reform or face large-scale street protests, Sargsyan told his ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) on February 12 that the BHK leader was "evil" for Armenia and had to be excluded from the political process. In response, Tsarukyan and two other opposition leaders agreed to hold a joint rally in Yerevan on February 20 to demand Sargsyan's resignation.

On Wednesday, however, Tsarukyan issued a statement signaling his readiness

to settle all disputes through "peaceful, lawful and political means". His party, meanwhile, called off the Friday rally that many observers had feared could potentially lead to bloodshed.

Neither Tsarukyan nor Sargsyan have yet confirmed the unofficial reports about their meeting on Tuesday, but subsiding domestic political tensions appear to be a strong indication that such a meeting did take place.

Talking to RFE/RL's Armenian Service (Azatutyun) on February 19, BHK spokesman Tigran Urikhanyan ratcheted up the political temperature by reiterating calls for the resignation of the current government.

"Has the rate of outmigration from Armenia slowed down? Isn't there poverty in Armenia anymore? Is there a fast growing economy? Is there not unemployment anymore?" Urikhanyan said, stressing that

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## Tsarukyan calls off rally...

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including his infamous "Dodi Gago" nickname, Serzh Sargsyan described the man as "evil" for the country and effectively ordered his exclusion from the local political process.

Dozens of Tsarukyan loyalists were detained and their businesses were inspected in the following days in what the BHK and its opposition allies, the Armenian National Congress (HAK) and Heritage, said amounted to political reprisals. Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan, meanwhile, ordered officials to probe allegations that Tsarukyan, who owns large companies in Armenia, owes large sums to the state budget in back taxes.

The three opposition parties known as the trio responded by scheduling a joint rally for February 20 to demand Sargsyan's resignation.

Given the degree of antagonism existing between the government and opposition camps, many observers in Armenia did not exclude the possibility of political upheavals if the government, on the one hand, continued its crackdown on the opposition and the opposition, on the other hand, pressed ahead with its plans for "nonstop" rallies.

Amid the tensions on Tuesday news came about the Sargsyan-Tsarukyan meeting during which, according to some sources, the two decided to deescalate the situation. But, judging from statements by senior HHK members, Sargsyan still appears to be uncompromising as far as Tsarukyan's political future is concerned.

In a statement disseminated by his spokesperson on February 18, the BHK leader indicated that he wanted things to return to the political domain.

"We need not wage wars against each other in order to solve problems that exist in our country, what we need is to work calmly without insulting each other, to point out all existing shortcomings, to find solutions and implement them," Tsarukyan said. "Only this way it is possible to end the situation that we have in our country today." The BHK leader also voiced concern about possible "bloody" scenarios, stressing that "no goal can justify the blood of a single innocent person".

"It is the task of both the government and the opposition not to cross the reasonable limits. All issues should be resolved through peaceful, legal and political means," Tsarukyan concluded. Meanwhile, citing the "tense emotional state of socie-

ty", the BHK political council said today that in avoidance of "possible provocations and clashes" it had decided to call off the opposition rally slated for February 20. Earlier, the Yerevan municipality refused to approve the holding of the gathering.

Meanwhile, the HAK issued a statement, saying that it treated the decision of its embattled ally to call off the February 20 rally with "understanding". The opposition party again condemned the government crackdown against the BHK. At the same time, it urged its supporters to gather for a rally in Yerevan on March 1.

Heritage leader Raffi Hovannisian told reporters on February 18 that his party will make a decision on further actions later this week. In any case, he invited everyone, including media, to Yerevan's Liberty Square where he plans to present the decision on Friday. Hovannisian again criticized President Sargsyan's policies and demanded his resignation.

Talking to RFE/RL's Armenian Service, Tsarukyan's spokesperson Iveta Tonoyan said that the BHK leader does not intend to quit politics or give up his seat in parliament. She was vague on whether Tsarukyan will continue to demand a change of government.

## World Bank, Armenian Gov. agree to assess the technical and financial viability of Nairit chemical plant operation

Armenia's future economic growth highly depends on the development of a vibrant modern knowledge-based economy, foreign direct investments, and several other factors, including addressing adequately the legacy of economic activities in the previous era, the World Bank Yerevan Office said in a statement. "We understand that in this regard critical discussions are underway within the Government of Armenia regarding the best options available to resolve long-standing challenges in the energy and industrial sectors," the statement reads. To support the Government in this process, the World Bank has agreed to identify and bring on board a highly respectable and globally-experienced consulting firm to assess the technical and financial viability of Nairit chemical plant operation. The anticipated technical and financial analyses, as well as a basic environmental assessment, will be provided to the Government in order to make important choices about the future of the plant.

"We have agreed with the Government to mobilize grant resources of more than \$110,000 from within the World Bank for the proposed expertise that will ensure the quality of analyses the counterpart needs from internationally recognized experts," clarified Laura E. Bailey, World Bank Country Manager for Armenia. "We had hoped to have the work begin in early February, but it took some time to ensure that we selected the best possible experts".

Throughout the first phase, which is scheduled to begin on 25 February and take two and a half months, the consulting firm will specifically review four elements:

- An overview of the global market for the main products that could be produced by the plant;
- An assessment of the technical feasibility of production based on the existing plant;
- An assessment of the financial viability of production given current cost structures; and



- A strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats (SWOT) analysis.

In the second phase, a basic environmental review of Nairit operations will be undertaken.

The World Bank will provide close monitoring and quality review for this analysis of Nairit, however we would like to clarify that this analytical work will be conducted under the leadership of the Minister for Energy and Natural Resources as part of the cooperation between the Government of Armenia and the World Bank.

## Hayastan All-Armenian Fund constructing a community center in Mushkapat, Artsakh

The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund is building a community center in Mushkapat, a village in Artsakh's Martuni Region. The project is co-sponsored by the fund's French affiliate and the government of Artsakh.

"In 2010, our old community center, which housed the mayor's office, a health clinic, and a club, was destroyed in a fire," said Mushkapat mayor Hrazdan Asribabayan. "Today, thanks to our French-Armenian friends, a new and beautiful building is being constructed on the same site, and within months it will enable us to address several needs of our community."

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## Armenian government to set up new anti-corruption body

A new body fighting corruption will be set up in Armenia, it emerged at a government meeting on February 19.

Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan will head the Anti-Corruption Council that will also involve other members of the government, including justice and finance ministers, the prosecutor-general and others.

Also, each opposition faction in the Armenian parliament will be given an option of having a representative to the body. Besides the chairman of the president-affiliated Public Council and a representative of the Union of Communities of Armenia, the Council will also include two civil society representatives.

Under the government decision, a "committee of independent experts" will be affiliated with the Council.

According to the regulations of the Council, it will discuss and approve the anti-corruption strategy implemented in Armenia, will coordinate anti-corruption measures implemented by various government bodies, will organize hearings,



debates, discussions as well as prepare recommendations for the government on how to effectively fight corruption in Armenia.

A similar body with the identical name has existed in Armenia since 2004. It is to be dissolved before the new council is established. To the question why the government needed to establish a new anti-corruption body, Justice Minister Hovannes Manukyan said: "The fight against corruption should be carried out more efficiently and more actively, and for that purpose besides institutional solutions, of course, it is important and necessary to have the political will, because if there is no such political will no ideal institutional solution can help make progress."



## Ter-Petrosyan appeals for 'moral support' to his embattled ally



Opposition leader Levon Ter-Petrosyan has called for "popular assistance and moral support" to his embattled ally in the wake of a massive government crackdown on tycoon Gagik Tsarukyan and his political party. After several days of a tense standoff with President Serzh Sarkisian and his ruling Republican Party of Armenia (BHK), on Wednesday bowed to apparent government pressure that included detentions of his loyalists and inspections of their businesses. In a statement released that day he publicly called for a "peaceful way" of settling disputes. Before that Tsarukyan, along with his two opposition allies, including Ter-Petrosyan's Armenian National Congress (HAK), planned to hold a joint rally in Yerevan to demand Sargsyan's resignation. The rally that was not sanctioned by the city authorities was eventually called off by the BHK and the HAK said it approached the decision of its ally with "understanding".

In an article that was published on the ilur.am news website late on Thursday, Ter-Petrosyan, who served as independent Armenia's first president in 1991-1998, attributed Tsarukyan's "political mistakes" also to the activities of "a bunch of troublemakers inside the BHK". Ter-Petrosyan argued that the example of another Armenian businessman, Khachatur Sukiasyan, who experienced the same kind of government pressure for supporting him

in the 2008 presidential campaign, was sufficient proof that Tsarukyan had made a deliberate choice when he decided to take an opposition stance. Among the mistakes made by Tsarukyan the former president singled out his decisions not to go ahead with planned nonstop rallies in April and October last year, as well as choosing the wrong timing for beginning to form movement chapters and holding a conference of "non-governing" forces.

"Some of these mistakes reflect Tsarukyan's lack of political experience, but the greater part of them were made because of a small group of troublemakers inside the BHK that are guided from a different center and pursue a different program," Ter-Petrosyan claimed, without naming names. The ex-president concludes his article entitled "My Heart's Duty" by saying the following: "The Armenian National Congress and I have never forgotten the merit of any person or organization that have done even a little service to the nation and the state no matter how our relations with them turned out to be later on. So, I expect that "my heart's duty" that I've expressed in this article will become "the duty of the hearts" of all healthy political forces and all honest citizens."

In his latest article Ter-Petrosyan made no reference to his "open letter" to President Sargsyan on a matter not concerning domestic politics that he first decided to withhold amid the change of the political situation in Armenia last week, but then decided to release it at the peak of the Sargsyan-Tsarukyan standoff on February 17. In that original article Ter-Petrosyan was essentially offering a meeting to Sargsyan to discuss ways of elaborating the "pan-Armenian declaration" released ahead of the centennial of the Armenian genocide. But in his addition released along with the original text this week the first president of Armenia regretted that it was impossible to realize his idea "in conditions of the political revenge and fierce violence unleashed against Gagik Tsarukyan, the Prosperous Armenia Party and the opposition in general."

Levon Zurabyan, the leader of the HAK parliamentary faction, argued in an interview with RFE/RL's Armenian Service on Thursday that the letter was an attempt to put pressure on Sargsyan to end the crackdown against Tsarukyan and his political team.

## Hayastan All-Armenian Fund constructing...

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The three-story structure, consisting of the mayor's office, a health clinic, a library, an events hall, and a computer room, will serve the 380 residents of the village. Currently crews are installing

doors and windows as well as decorating the facility's interior spaces.

"Multifunctional community centers such as the one being built in Mushkat help bring wonderful improvements to the life of rural communities in Artsakh,"

said Ara Vardanyan, executive director of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund.

Today the fund is building nine community centers throughout Artsakh, with one more such project planned to be launched soon.

## Tsarukyan party still demands snap elections...

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all the social and economic woes that were the reason for the BHK to quit the governing coalition in 2012 are still there.

"It is obvious that we should continue to make our demands and that within the limits of our possibilities and sometimes even trying to do the impossible we should continue our struggle for changes in the country," Urikhanyan said.

Vahram Baghdasaryan, the leader of

the HHK parliamentary faction, stressed that the BHK leader is still responsible for what members of his political team say.

"For that very reason I again urge them [BHK members] to agree their statements and speeches with their leader," Baghdasaryan said, implying that it may not be the position shared by Tsarukyan.

The senior HHK member said that if such statements are actually agreed with Tsarukyan, "then one should expect fur-

ther developments."

Meanwhile, BHK spokesman Urikhanyan acknowledged the "change of the political situation" when asked whether the party is going to participate in rallies that its opposition allies may be holding later this month. "Indeed, there is a lot of rethinking to be done, there is a need to develop a plan of actions," he said, declining to talk more specifically about the party's immediate plans.



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- 2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building, 4 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, security system. Price: 320.000 USD.
- 1104.**Komitas Ave., Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m., stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- 2950.**Aram str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 176 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, office, zero state, Price: 310.000 USD
- 2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4, 5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- 2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

## PREMISES

- 1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598.**Komitas, Nairi Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capitally repaired. Price: negotiable.
- 1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- 2035.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- 2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- 2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- 2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking. Price: 3.600.000 USD
- 2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m, without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable
- 1986.**Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.
- 2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- 2175.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor 300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m., - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m.
- 2172.**Isahakyan str.**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

## LANDS

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

## PRIVATE HOUSES

- 3348.**Blur, Barbysus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- 3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.

- 3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.
- 3432.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD
- 3576.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD
- 3574.**Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, gar-



- den. Price: 2.000.000 USD
- 3590 **Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-450 sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD
- 3651.**Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 1.700.000 USD.
- 3401.**Antarayan str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capitally repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD
- 3712 **Cascade** Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 storied bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 USD

## NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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





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## 1 ROOM

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

## 2 ROOMS

- 2302 **North Ave**, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2295 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 16/15, 173sq.m., 2bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 5000 USD
- 2290 **Bayron str.**, Newly built, /5th floor, 220sq.m, 2bedrooms, study, open kitchen, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, parking. Price: 4000 USD
- 1780 **Amiryan str**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942.**Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD
- 1950.**Buzand/Mashtots area**. Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535.**Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 2089.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- 1738.**Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951.**Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406.**Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2187.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9/5, 120 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2.200 USD
- 2109.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 2243.**Buzand str**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

## 3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2286.**Sose str**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD

- 2257.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021.**Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981.**Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heat-



- ing system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793.**Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, climate control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261.**Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084.**Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252.**Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

## PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathroooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323.**Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- 999.**Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capially repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- 1094.**Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- 1195.**Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD

negotiable.

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

## PREMISES

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

## OSCE MG to do its best to reduce tension in Karabakh conflict: Pierre Andrieu



The OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmen James Warlick (US), Igor Popov (Russia), Pierre Andrieu (France) will do everything to reduce tension in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, French co-chairman Pierre Andrieu told Trend.

"We hope that the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia will continue meeting in the future," he said. "We

would like the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to meet at the latest during the summit of the UN General Assembly in September. In the end, a final decision is made by the presidents. We are trying to play the mediation role. It is not easy, but we continue this."

The diplomat said that the Minsk Group co-chairmen will soon visit other member-states of the Minsk Group, including Belarus, Serbia and Italy.

"We have been recently to Helsinki at the invitation of the Finnish foreign minister," he said. "The main purpose was to inform the Finnish side about the current situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement. We will also visit Minsk, Belgrade because Serbia chairs in the OSCE this year, and Italy."

"One of the positive moments following the meeting of the presidents of

Armenia and Azerbaijan in Paris was that the sides agreed to exchange information on those missing during the war under the auspices of the Red Cross," Andrieu said.

"As part of the current visit to the region, we will hold meetings with representatives of the Red Cross in Baku and Yerevan," he said. "We would like the Red Cross to start working over this issue as soon as possible because thousands of families want to know about their relatives. This is a sensitive topic, which is included in the measures for rapprochement and understanding."

"This is a small step forward," the French diplomat said.

As for the conflict in Ukraine, Andrieu said that this situation does not affect the coordination of the OSCE Minsk Group.

"We are working as before," he said.

### Turkey Says Armenian Step...

Ankara will remain committed to protocols signed between Turkey and Armenia aiming to normalize bilateral relations, a Turkish Foreign Ministry representative has said after Yerevan recently decided to withdraw the 2009 protocols from the Armenian Parliament.

In a statement issued on February 16, Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian said he had asked Parliament Speaker Galust Sahakian to send the protocols on the normalization of ties and the establishment of diplomatic relations with neighboring Turkey back to him since "the Turkish government has no political will, distorts the spirit and letter of the protocols, and continues its policy of setting preconditions."

Sarkisian also said that on the eve of commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey during World War I, "the policy of denial and rewriting history" is getting a renewed impulse in Ankara.

Tanju Bilgic, a spokesman for Turkey's Foreign Ministry, told reporters on Tuesday that Yerevan decided to withdraw the protocols "to create a reason to accuse Turkey" ahead of the 100th anniversary of

*continued on page 11*

### Karabakh rules out release of jailed Azerbaijani nationals

Nagorno-Karabakh's ethnic Armenian authorities have refused to consider the release of two Azerbaijani nationals who were convicted and jailed last year on charges of committing a number of crimes, including a teenager's murder.

Azerbaijan did not recognize the legality of the trial in which its citizens, Dilham Askerov and Shahbaz Quliyev, were sentenced to life and 22 years in prison, respectively.

United States Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland addressed the issue during her visits to Baku and Yerevan earlier this week.

In the Armenian capital on February 18 the senior U.S. diplomat called on "relevant authorities" to make a "humanitarian gesture".

"I did speak about the terrible crime that was committed. It was obviously a crime. That said, we do call on relevant authorities to make the kind of humanitarian gesture that I spoke of at my previous press event," said Nuland at a news conference in Yerevan.

Talking to reporters in Stepanakert on February 19, Nagorno-Karabakh's Defense Minister Movses Hakobyan said

that the matter was not subject to discussion. He stressed that no one should be telling the Karabakh authorities what to do.

"It is not subject to comment and consideration," he said. "She [Nuland] expressed her thought, and we [simply] took note of that," he said.

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian also insisted that the guilt of the Azerbaijani citizens was proved during a trial in Karabakh as he met with the American, French and Russian co-chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Minsk Group in Yerevan on Tuesday.

In an interview with the Karabakh-based Artsakhpress news agency on February 18 the U.S. co-chair of the group, Ambassador James Warlick expressed a view that the release of the two Azerbaijani nationals could be a positive step for the peace process.

"In the past, the sides have generally found a way to return prisoners as a humanitarian gesture. With tensions as high as they are, such humanitarian gestures can lead to a more positive environment for negotiations to take place," the mediator said.



## Who is responsible for turning Erdogan into a fanatical tyrant?



*By Harut  
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The  
California Courier*

When the Justice and Development Party (AKP) came to power in 2002, its founder, Recep Tayyip Erdogan appeared like a devout Muslim seeking to eliminate corruption and improve the standard of living of Turkish citizens.

During the last 13 years, Erdogan gradually turned into a corrupt despot, assuming the airs of a modern-day Ottoman Sultan. Was he a wolf in sheep's clothing to start with, or was he spoiled by the international community's blind support and lavish praise? Notably, Pres. Obama had called Erdogan one of five world leaders with whom he felt especially close. Obama and other heads of state have finally realized that the monster they created is out of the bottle and out of control! The primary victim of misplaced trust in Erdogan was none other than Syria's President Bashar al-Assad.

To show how arrogant Erdogan and Turkey's top leaders have become, here are excerpts from their recent public pronouncements, as documented by The Middle East Media Research Institute:

In a speech on January 21 at the Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries in Istanbul, Erdogan, sounding like an ISIS leader rather than President of a NATO member state, urged Muslim countries to "unite and defeat the successors of Lawrence of Arabia who seek to disrupt

the Middle East." He went on to accuse the West of plotting against the Islamic world and causing Muslims to kill one another.

During his recent visit to Djibouti, Erdogan boasted: "Turkey is a powerful country. If you [European Union] still see Turkey as a country that would beg at your [EU's] door, Turkey is not a country to beg." In response to earlier European criticism of media crackdowns in Turkey, Erdogan told EU leaders to "keep your insights to yourselves," and added: "Take the trouble to come to Turkey, so that Turkey can teach you a lesson in democracy."

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus, while accompanying Erdogan on his African trip, shamelessly played the race card, telling the locals: "For the first time since the Ottomans left, Africans are seeing a white hand that does not exploit, enslave or punch them in their heads; a white hand that does not exploit their mines, eliminate their values, assimilate them or see them as subhuman. They are seeing the white hand of Turkey, which sees them as equals and as brothers.... We are trying to help the rebirth of these black-skinned but warm-hearted people." Kurtulmus was probably hoping that his African listeners would be unaware that Erdogan frequently uses the derogatory and racist term 'zenci'(black) to describe lower class people!

Not to be outdone by Erdogan and Kurtulmus in arrogance or religious fanaticism, Prime Minister Davutoglu told a large Turkish gathering in Zurich last month: "Islam is Europe's indigenous reli-

gion, and will continue to be so. Despite the roadblocks, prejudices and many provocations, Turkey will continue to walk on the road to EU membership.... With Allah's grace, we will never bow our heads. We are the grandchildren of the heroes who fought at Gallipoli, who never bowed their heads. In 2002, when we came to power, they [EU] said that Turkey was too poor, too weak a country that would become a burden on Europe. Thank Allah, today Turkey is the rising power of the world.... We are not a burden for Europe. Turkey is the cure for Europe! Turkey is the cure for their disease of racism. We are the cure to their economic slowdown. We are the cure to their loss of power.... From Andalusia [Spain] to the Ottomans, and, half a century ago with the holy march of our people who came here from every corner of Anatolia, the sound of the azan [Muslim call to prayer] brought these heroes to Europe. The domes of the mosques with which they dotted this continent will be protected; we will continue to fight against the hands that reach out to harm them. I kiss the foreheads of my brothers who carried the Tekbir [the prayer call 'Allahu Akbar'] to Zurich.... How holy those people were who came and sowed the seeds here which will, with Allah's help, continue to grow into a huge tree of justice in the center of Europe. No one will be able to stop this!"

Davutoglu persisted in making absurd and arrogant statements last week, this time in Ankara, telling minority representatives: "We will teach a lesson to racists in Europe."

## Turkey Says Armenian Step To Withdraw Protocols 'Wrong And Unfortunate'

*From page 10*

the massacres of Ottoman Armenians, which Turkey does not recognize as genocide. "Turkey disagrees with the attitude taken by the Armenian side," the official said, as quoted by the Hurriyet Daily News. He described Yerevan's step as "wrong and unfortunate."

According to the Turkish periodical, Bilgi said that the move displays Armenia's "incoherent and insincere" stance, adding that "Turkey will remain

loyal to regional normalization process which is the fundamental goal of the protocols." The protocols signed between Armenia and Turkey in Zurich, Switzerland, on October 10, 2009 aim to restore diplomatic ties between the countries as well as reopen the common border, which has been closed since 1993.

Recalling the protocols from the parliament does not mean that Armenia cancels them. Some political groups in Armenia and its worldwide Diaspora, notably the



Armenian Revolutionary Federation, have, however, urged Sarkisian also to recall Armenia's signature from the accords.

## VivaCell-MTS Recently: Helping the Youngest and Advising the Young Compatriots to Get Closer to Their Roots...

### Neonatal care equipment to Hrazdan medical center

On 12 February VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** and neonatologist Dr **Arshak Djerdjarian**, of “BirthLink” NGO (UK) visited the maternity department in the Hrazdan medical center today. More than 1,000 babies are born at this hospital every year; therefore it is essential they have the facilities to manage premature or sick newborns. The hospital has received equipment for immediate reanimation and warming of sick and small babies, nasal high flow therapy for newborns with breathing difficulties, respiratory monitoring, management of jaundice and the provision of intravenous fluids. The provided equipment will help support sick and low birth weight babies after delivery, with provision to stabilize babies before transfer to Yerevan, if necessary, but also enable the hospital to take care of some babies without transferring, and staying close to their mothers. By improving facilities, transfer of some babies can be avoided. In addition to the equipment being provided, education, training and support for the medical staff continues.

To remind, this is now the seventh year of cooperation between the “BirthLink” and VivaCell-MTS within the course of this cooperation twelve neonatal departments in Yerevan and twenty-three departments in seven regions of Armenia have received neonatal care equipment and training for the medical staff. VivaCell-MTS has donated about AMD 535 million to the project.

*“One of the meanings of life is in having an heir to whom you pass your values, give guidance, and have contribution in making your children a valuable member of the society so that they pass on all these to their offspring. It is the biggest dream of every family, and it is not hard to imagine the feelings the parents have when their newborn child is sick. In such cases, much depends on timely medical aid. Yet, even the most qualified doctor can be helpless if he does not have the necessary equipment at his disposition. It will be terrible if the doctors fail to save the child's life just because of the lack of equipment. It is the decreasing these risks that the joint program with “BirthLink” NGO is targeted at,”* commented VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

And....

### High-quality medical equipment provided to the maternity hospital in Armavir

*The next stage of the project aimed at improving the neonatal care in Armenia will include 9 maternity departments in 5 regions and 5 departments in the capital*

In 2015, in the frames of joint project by VivaCell-MTS and the “BirthLink”, state-of-the-art medical equipment will be provided to 14 maternity departments, encompassing Ararat, Aragatsotn, Kotayk, Armavir, Lori regions and Yerevan. Owing to the equipment provided at the beginning of the year, notable results have been recorded in Kotayk region and in one of the maternity departments in the capital. The re-equipment of the other materni-



ty departments is currently underway.

The hospital has received equipment for immediate reanimation and warming of sick and small babies, nasal high flow therapy for newborns with breathing difficulties, respiratory monitoring, and the provision of intravenous fluids, which is essential for quality healthcare in case of complications around the time of birth or complications due to prematurity. The provided equipment is necessary not only for adding to the efficiency of efforts of specialists, but also for increasing the percentage of saved lives.

### Volunteers from the Diaspora visited VivaCell-MTS

*VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian met young volunteers of Birthright Armenia and encouraged their initiative to get closer to their roots*

On 20 February VivaCell-MTS hosted

a group of young Diaspora Armenian volunteers from different countries aged between 20 and 32 years, who serve as volunteers for an average of 6 months each, and are ready to apply their professional skills in the regions of our country. VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian presented the volunteers with key aspects of VivaCell-MTS' operation, the key values guiding the Company, as well as its strategy in the sphere of corporate responsibility and key areas of intervention. Ralph Yirikian also presented the young people from the Diaspora with the Company's activities aimed at increasing awareness on the genocide and its recognition. In particular, the Company supported the initiatives of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in publication of several important monographs by eyewitnesses of the genocide, acquisition of books from different collections in Armenia and outside the country. The Company's staff participated on voluntary basis in tree-planting activities and cleaning on the territory of the monument.

VivaCell-MTS pays particular importance and attention to programs aimed at inviting more young Armenians from the Diaspora to the Homeland for engaging in volunteer activities and integrating with the country's culture. VivaCell-MTS finds that the best way to learn about Armenia is not just to consider

Armenia as a touristic destination where one can familiarize himself with numerous cultural and historical sites but also as an opportunity to work in the professional area or just contribute through volunteering in projects aimed at improving areas of the society. Discovering Armenia means getting to know it from inside by becoming a member of the society, feeling the pulse of the country, enriching own personal experience through communicating and getting in touch with the daily lives of different people, and much more. It is also important to engage in friendly relationships with peers and create personal connections with potential for future professional and business relationships.

*“Your decision to get to your roots is one of the greatest decisions of your life. It is self-rewarding in that your embrace the essence of your identity in the country of your ancestors, your grand grandfathers,”* VivaCell-MTS General Manager

*continued on page 14*



## SYOA, Al Bustan Intl Fest (Lebanon) official orchestra to present a concert dedicated to the Armenian Genocide 100th anniversary ...and Sergey Smbatyan to conduct the Korean Chamber and the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestras

For the second time in a row the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Dr **Sergey A. Smbatyan**) has been invited to perform in Lebanon as the official orchestra of the Al Bustan International Festival to be held this year from February 17 to March 22. For about 300 artists and 22 performances are expected within the framework of the Festival.



Notably, over the past few years this prestigious intl Fest has hosted more than 4000 artists from all over the world. Its program includes opera, symphonic, choral, chamber music, also jazz, oriental music, dance and theater performances, master-classes and seminars. The Al Bustan International Festival is a member of the European Festival Association (EFA) and the International Artist Managers' Association (IAMA).

At the Festival the SYOA will present the audience five concerts. Jointly with the world renowned soloists SYOA will perform a quite interesting concert program of classic pieces.

Conducted by Sergey Smbatyan, the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia will present a special concert dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on March 10.

*Since the Al Bustan Festival was founded in 1994, it has established in Lebanon a unique and unprecedented tradition of a music season in winter. The founders wished to revive the cultural life of a country reemerging after seventeen years of war. The Festival has indeed reached its objective, presenting each year more than thirty performances over a five week period in*



*February and March. With a predominance of chamber music, the Festival also includes opera, orchestral concerts, choral concerts, dance, marionettes and theater. The Festival takes special care in presenting each year a rich and homogeneous programme focused around a special theme, celebrating the culture of a country or a city, or exploring a special subject. The Festival likes to be daring in its choice of artists, works and performances.*

From Beirut (tireless) Sergey Smbatyan flies to Moscow for a concert Korean Chamber Orchestra on Feb 27, with the soloists Pinchas Zukerman, violin Amanda Forsyth, cello, Ksenia Kogan, piano.



**Sergey Smbatyan with Maestro Penderecki**

**Program of the concert to be held at the Big Hall of Moscow Conservatory includes:**

J.C.F. Bach - Symphony in D Minor for Strings; A. Vivaldi - Concerto for Violin, Cello and Strings in B-flat Major, RV 547; W.A.Mozart - Concerto for Violin and String Orchestra in A Major No.5, K.219 "Turkish"; A.Schnittke - Concerto for Piano and String Orchestra; F. Schubert - Symphony No.5 in B-flat Major, D.485.

Here we'd like remind The Highlights readers that on January 14 Sergey

Smbatyan conducted the Korean Chamber Orchestra at the Concert Hall of the Seoul Arts Center. That concert has become a part of a magical fusion of classic music and literature. Simultaneously were performed the Concerto for Piano and Orchestra by the Russian (Soviet) composer Alfred Schnittke, one of the most eminent musical figures of the second half of the XX century, and the novel "On Heroes and Tombs" by Ernesto Sabato, one of the most remarkable writers of Latin America narrated by a world-renowned Hollywood actor John Malkovich. During the concert the Korean Chamber Orchestra performed jointly on the same stage with the pianist Ksenia Kogan (Russia) and soprano Yeree Suh (Korea).

**КОРЕЙСКИЙ КАМЕРНЫЙ ОРКЕСТР**  
концерт в рамках мирового турне  
в честь 50-летия оркестра



The SYOA and its Founding Head comes back to Armenia from Lebanon on 11 March where a news conference by Dr Smbatyan is expected.

And The Highlights has got knew that Sergey Smbatyan will conduct the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra at a concert within the framework of the Ludwig van Beethoven Easter Festival with the soloist Leticia Moreno (violin).

Notably, the concert program will include a piece by a prominent Armenian composer Ghazaros M. Saryan (1920-1998), Passacaglia for Symphony Orchestra. Dmitry Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No.1 in A minor, op.77 and Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No.7 in A major, op.92 will be performed as well.

## Ambassador Morgenthau's Story' Named Book of the Month

As the centennial of the Armenian Genocide approaches, the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan has launched a "Book of the Month" initiative. The Museum says it will carefully select a book about the Armenian Genocide to be featured each month.

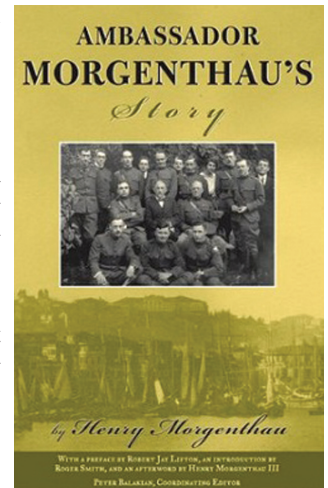
The books must be the memoirs of Armenian Genocide survivors or witnesses, research papers, or other publications of great importance. The aim of this project is to introduce readers to rare and still unknown works related to the topic in order to raise awareness of the subject and provide an in-depth knowledge about the Armenian Genocide.

The Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute (AGMI) selected "Ambassador Morgenthau's Story" to be the Book of the Month for February. These memoirs have the significance of being a unique primary source for the history of the Armenian Genocide, particularly for how it documents the unraveling of the Genocide, determined and planned by the Turkish government, and for how it identifies and explores the thoughts of the Turkish criminal regime of that time. The memoir of U.S. Ambassador Morgenthau is a monumental work indeed, where the represented facts and testimonies undeniably prove that the Armenian Genocide was planned and premeditated.

Morgenthau gives deep analysis of the situation reinforcing it

by information from official sources. Moreover, he describes the process of decision-making, the intrigues of the Young Turks government, as well as introduces the reader to the German propaganda policy, which made Turkey involved in World War I. The story of Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, presented in accuracy of an eyewitness and an analyst, is an important primary source against the policy of denial in Turkish modern historiography.

"When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact. . . I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915," Morgenthau wrote in his memoirs.



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### From page 12

Ralph Yirikian told young Armenians from the United States, the Russian Federation, Syria, Mexico, Lebanon and Canada. *"I would like to quote our patriarch William Saroyan he put in 'The Time of Your Life'. 'Every man is a variation of yourself...' writes the Master. And I urge you to adopt a guiding principle for you while in Armenia – 'Every Armenian is a variation of me'. This is the way, in my opinion, to overcome the natural dissonance and stereotypes in the minds of the Armenians of Armenia and the Armenians of Diaspora, toward each other. I myself walked through that way – full of uncertainties, preoccupations, frustrations, misunderstandings, excitement, understanding and finally, acceptance. We simply need to remember: no country in the world is free from problems. We can succeed if we are optimistic and rely on the concept of personal responsibility for our country,"* added Ralph Yirikian.

From 2004 onwards with the support of VivaCell-MTS, the Birthright Foundation has organized volunteering of 930 individuals from 35 countries in the regions of Armenia. And Ralph Yirikian's story of success was one of the factors triggering the interest among young Armenians from



the Diaspora to visit Armenia and engage in different projects there.

The volunteers shared their impressions on Armenia. The meeting with Ralph Yirikian evolved as a Q&A covering a wide range of issues. The discussion during the meeting also helped the young people make a clearer notion of the business administration and management practices at VivaCell-MTS.

**Editor's note:** ...Well, Mr Yirikian's tremendous success in his ancestors' land (first of all, in terms of being REALLY

UNIVERSALLY BELOVED – from shepherds to the top of society – for bringing and cultivating absolutely unprecedented and long-awaited CULTURE of management and of many other things ("SHNORQ"), - the list could be an endless one... ) for the world-spread Armenian youngsters (and not only them...) might and MUST be the best motivation for returning to their (our common) Hayreniq and to take PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY that is the ONLY WAY to turn Hayastan to a REALLY PROMISED LAND...



# Starbucks to remove offensive posters from stores



While ordering their morning drinks on February 18, many Starbucks customers were shocked to see posters depicting women wearing Armenian traditional costumes under the Turkish Crescent and Star.

After inquiries from Asbarez, a spokesperson said that Starbucks has already begun the removal of the offensive posters and apologized for upsetting their customers.

"Serving as a place for the community to connect is core to our business and we strive to be locally relevant in all of our stores. We missed the mark here and we apologize for upsetting our customers and the community. We have removed this art in our Mulholland & Calabasas store in Woodland Hills and are working to make this right," a Starbucks spokesperson told Asbarez via email. The spokesperson said that the company was "looking into this to ensure this image is not in any other Starbucks locations."

Starbucks did not comment about what prompted the company to display the posters.

The swift response to this matter can also be attributed to a wave of protests on social media from Armenians who were insulted and taken aback by what appeared to be lack of sensitivity from Starbucks, a company that prides itself on social justice and social issues. The Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region immediately launched a social media campaign urging followers to document locations and call Starbucks to complain with

#BoycottStarbucks message.

Starbucks was facing a "Venti" debacle, when angry posts began to circulate on Facebook and Twitter, some calling for a boycott of the largest coffee retailer in the world. This was yet another sign of collective grassroots activism on the part of the Armenian community.

In addressing the issue with Starbucks, Asbarez pointed to many actions by the Turkish government that was in stark contrast to the company's standards of ethics.

"Why would Starbucks promote a country that in the last year was deemed as the largest jailer of journalists; has shut down Twitter and YouTube in its campaign to oppress freedom of speech; has jailed demonstrators for reform; whose president has called for legislation to categorize women as second class citizens; and continues to deny the Armenian Genocide, which killed more than 1.5 million people in 1915 among other things, which include calling Israel a terrorist state," Asbarez inquired from Starbucks corporate communications.

## Spanish La 2 Channel hosts debate on the Armenian Genocide



Earlier this month Spain's Second Television Channel (La 2) hosted a debate on the Armenian Genocide. The guests of the talk show were President of Ararat Armenian Association Ararat Ghukasyan and author of the new book "The Memory of Ararat" ("La memoria del Ararat"), writer, journalist, correspondent for the "El periódico" Daily Xavier Moret.

The discussions focused on the Armenian Genocide, the reasons for, the process and the consequences of that crime against humanity, its recognition and Turkey's state policy of denial.

The program began with the screening of a cognitive documentary film about the Armenian Genocide.

"The 10 million Armenians living in Armenia and abroad definitely feel the trace of the Genocide that will remain an

unhealed wound as long as there is no adequate response and as long as Turkey continues to deny the Armenian Genocide," Ararat Ghukasyan said.

When asked whether time can play a role or not, Ghukasyan said: "Even if 100 years go by, forgetting it will be a sin not only for us - Armenians, but also for the international community, at large."

Writer Xavier Moret noted that he visited Tsitsernakaberd Armenian Genocide Memorial Complex on 24 April 2013 and added: "You definitely have to go there to understand what it is. Armenia is a marvelous country, and the Armenian people are marvelous. You definitely have to visit Armenia to understand their hospitality, their love, their sorrow and all this. I am in love with Armenia."

The hostess of the show Marta Caseres said she had invited Turkey's Ambassador and representatives of the Turkish Embassy, but they didn't even respond to the invitation.

Writer Xavier Moret said it's very important for countries like Spain and Israel to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide so that such crimes are never repeated.

At the end, Ararat Ghukasyan cited William Saroyan's famous words about the Armenians: "For when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a New Armenia."

## The Great Lent starts on February 16

This year the period of Great Lent starts on February 16. It lasts 48 days beginning on the Eve of Great and lasts till the Eve of the Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Easter). This year the Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ is celebrated on April 5.

During the fasting period people eat exceptionally food of vegetable origin.

During the fasting period people not only refuse of certain kinds of food, but also of ill habits - talkativeness, lying, swearing and other sins.

Refusing from food without avoiding of sins is useless. "Satan always fasts, it does not eat anything and however, it does not and is not tired of sinning," says St Gregory of Tatev. During the Sermon on the Mount Jesus says the following about fasting: "Moreover when you fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face; that you appear not unto men to fast, but unto your Father which is in secret: and your Father, which sees in secret, shall reward you openly." (Mt 6:16-18). Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us the way of

fasting. As disease makes influence on the body in the same way sin makes influence on the soul. It is not fasting that atones the sin. It is God that gives absolution to sins. However, fasting is important in giving absolution to sins. Repentance, prayer and confession are the main conditions for receiving absolution of sins.

Forty days of fasting period symbolize Christ's 40-day lasting period of abstinence and repentance in the desert. After His baptism Jesus "was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being forty days tempted of the devil and in those days he did eat nothing" (Lk 4:1-3). Jesus subjected Himself to abstinence for the salvation of mankind, He repented instead of mankind so that penitence of all those who fast should gain sense and be realized by means of His abstinence. Another period of fasting lasting for a week follows the 40-day fasting period. It is the Holy Week. That is why the forty-day called fasting period lasts 48 days.

The period of Great Lent consists of seven remarkable Sundays: Eve of Great Lent, Sunday of Expulsion, Sunday of the Lost (Prodigal) Son, Sunday of the Steward, Sunday of the Judge, Sunday of Advent and Palm Sunday.

The 24th day or the fourth Wednesday



of the period of Great Lent is called Mijink symbolizing that first half of the period of Great Lent has already passed. This year Mijink is on March 11. That day fasting is not stopped. According to folk tradition the housewives bake unleavened cake and put a coin in it while baking. The current year will be successful for the member of the family who will have the coin in his/her portion.

According to ancient traditions marriage and offering sacrifice were forbidden during the period of Great Lent. However, by the pontifical encyclical of Vazken A Catholicos of all Armenians it was permitted in case of extreme necessity to perform the sacrament of marriage during the period of Great Lent and on Sundays except all days of the Holy Week.

## Tigran Hamasyan's "Mockroot" out now

Armenia's future economic growth highly depends on the development of a vibrant modern knowledge-based economy, foreign direct investments, and several other factors, including addressing adequately the legacy of economic activities in the previous era. We understand that in this regard critical discussions are underway within the Government of Armenia regarding the best options available to resolve long-standing challenges in the energy and industrial sectors.

To support the Government in this process, the World Bank has agreed to identify and bring on board a highly respectable and globally-experienced consulting firm to assess the technical and financial viability of Nairit chemical plant operation. The anticipated technical and financial analyses, as well as a basic environmental assessment, will be provided to the Government in order to make important choices about the future of the plant.

"We have agreed with the Government to mobilize grant resources of more than \$110,000 from within the World Bank for the proposed expertise that will ensure the quality of analyses the counterpart needs from internationally recognized experts," clarified Laura E. Bailey, World Bank Country Manager for Armenia. "We had hoped to have the work begin in early February, but it took some time to ensure that we selected the best possible experts".



Throughout the first phase, which is scheduled to begin on 25 February and take two and a half months, the consulting firm will specifically review four elements:

- An overview of the global market for the main products that could be produced by the plant;
- An assessment of the technical feasibility of production based on the existing plant;
- An assessment of the financial viability of production given current cost structures; and
- A strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats (SWOT) analysis.

In the second phase, a basic environmental review of Nairit operations will be undertaken.

The World Bank will provide close monitoring and quality review for this analysis of Nairit, however we would like to clarify that this analytical work will be conducted under the leadership of the Minister for Energy and Natural Resources as part of the cooperation between the Government of Armenia and the World Bank.



# "KAAR-MED"

## PRIVATE CLINIC CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

The Private Clinic "KAAR-MED" has been functioning on the market for medical services for more than 15 years. The Clinic is located in Warsaw (10 Bitwy Warszawskiej street) close to the centre of the city within easy reach of Dworzec Zachodni railway station and other city communications networks.

Our Patients can use a private parking located directly at the entrance to the Clinic with special places for ambulance and disabled people. Clinic is fully adapted and friendly for wheelchair users.

The Clinic specialisation is gynaecology and obstetrics including full pregnancy care, "one day surgery" and aesthetic medicine procedures as well as plastic and cosmetic gynaecology. "KAAR-MED" employs gynaecologists and physicians of all specialisations who have clinical experience gained in leading Warsaw hospitals.

We offer a wide range of laboratory, microbiological and genetic tests, diagnostic imaging techniques (USG) including prenatal tests such as pregnancy ultrasound, prenatal imaging findings, Harmony Prenatal Test, Doppler ultrasonography tests and many others.

The "KAAR-MED" Clinic is fully outfitted with the latest medical equipment used for diagnosis and treatment of the entire range of gynaecology and obstetrics diseases:

- Voluson ultrasound imaging system (pictures)
- Toshiba ultrasound imaging system
- Colposcope
- Cryosurgery machine
- Electrocoagulation apparatus
- ELLMAN Pelleve Unit (radio frequency surgery and wrinkle reduction system)
- Other equipment by "Aesculap" and "Stainless" companies

Our clinic fulfils all the official norms (stated by the Direction of the Health Minister of Poland of 02.02.2011) concerning professional, technical and sanitary conditions for health care organizations.

We are looking forward to see You in "KAAR-MED" Clinic and shall do out best to make You feel comfortable, safe and professionally treated here.

**10 Bitwy Warszawskiej,  
02-362 Warsaw, Poland**

### Information and registration:

**+48 22 823 04 52  
+48 22 201 90 95  
+ 48 50 910 74 05**



## WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

## Enjoy your leisure

20 February

## 23 February

**19:00.** Eyes of a Blue Dog. Gabriel Garica Marquez. Interpretation and Staging by Frida York. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** A Trip with Masha and the Bear. Play for kids | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

## 24 February

**19:00.** A Trip with Masha and the Bear. Play for kids | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

**19:00.** Physiology of Race. Genre: Tragicomedy. Author: A. Ayvazyan. Staging: Narine Malyan. Play | H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors

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

## 25 February

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

**19:00.** Flight Over The City. For adults. Author: Anush Aslibekyan. Director/Producer: Narine Grigoryan. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** Almast. Opera in 2 acts. Staging conductor: People's Artist of Armenia Yuri Davtyan. Opera | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendarian

**19:00.** National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia. Artistic Director and Principal Conductor: Vahan Mardirossian. Concert | Chamber Music House after Komitas

**19:00.** Oh, Those French Things. Premiere. J. Bricker and M. Laseg. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

**19:00.** Sexual Chaos in the Hotel. Author: Ray Cooney. Director: Honored Artist of RA, David Hakobyan. Play | State Musical Chamber Theater

## 27 February

**14:00.** David of Sasun. Author: Hovh. Tumanyan. Staged by David Hakobyan. Play | State Musical Chamber Theater

**16:00.** The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Mark Twain. Stage Director: Hranush Chichakyan. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

**19:00.** A Hundred Years Later. Drama. Author: Perch Zeytuntsyan. Staging: Tigran Gasparyan. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

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

**19:00.** Mama Mia. Comedy in 2 acts. K. Ludwig. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

**19:00.** The Owners of Our House. Comedy in 2 acts. Author: Zhirayr Ananyan. Stage

Director: Yervand Ghazanchyan. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

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

## 21 February

**12:30, 14:00, 15:30.** The Princess and the Pea. Hans Christian Andersen. Musical Performance. Stage Director: Armen Elbakyan. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

**13:00.** Three Piglets. O. Yemelyanova. Director: Nora Grigoryan. Play for kids | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

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

**18:00.** Du-Dum the Wise Man and the Ignorant. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** The Family of Orphans. Gurgen Khanjyan. Lyrical Comedy in 2 acts. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

**19:00.** Karine. Tigran Chukhajian. Operette in 2 acts. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

**19:00.** The Shoemaker's Prodigious Wife. Federico Garcia Lorca. Director: Goharine Trdatsyan. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

**21:00.** Another Story Band. Alternative folk rock and Russian rock. Concert | Stop Club

Birdman wins Best Picture at 87<sup>th</sup> Oscars

"Birdman" was named the best picture at the 87th Academy Awards. The film also won three other honors: directing, cinematography and original screenplay.

Eddie Redmayne won best actor for his performance as the ALS-afflicted scientist Stephen Hawking in "The Theory of Everything." Julianne Moore won best actress for her performance in "Still Alice."

"Boyhood" performer Patricia Arquette won best supporting actress - and made sure that her award was a call for equality.

Full list of winners

Best picture: "Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)."

Actor: Eddie Redmayne, "The Theory of Everything."

Actress: Julianne Moore, "Still Alice."

Supporting actor: J.K. Simmons, "Whiplash."

Supporting actress: Patricia Arquette, "Boyhood."

Directing: Alejandro G. Inarritu, "Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)."

Foreign language film: "Ida."

Adapted screenplay: Graham Moore, "The Imitation Game."

Original screenplay: Alejandro G. Inarritu, Nicolas Giacobone, Alexander Dinelaris Jr. and Armando Bo, "Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)."

Animated feature film: "Big Hero 6."

Production design: "The Grand Budapest Hotel."

Cinematography: "Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)."

Sound mixing: "Whiplash."

Sound editing: "American Sniper."

Original score: "The Grand Budapest Hotel."

Original song: "Glory" from "Selma."

Costume design: "The Grand Budapest Hotel."

Documentary feature: "CitizenFour."

Documentary (short subject): "Crisis Hotline: Veterans Press 1."

Film editing: "Whiplash."

Makeup and hairstyling: "The Grand Budapest Hotel."

Animated short film: "Feast."

Live action short film: "The Phone Call."

Visual effects: "Interstellar."





## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

This month's Venus/Mars alignment brings you face to face with your individuality versus your relationship. You must consciously evaluate how you will manage to meet your personal needs and yet remain connected to the "other" in your life. This is a 22 month project, so it doesn't have to be done overnight. You may be prone to cut ties prematurely. Think carefully.

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

You have a need to be alone and quiet during this period. That is why social life is not going so well. Give attention to your inner life and notice what your thoughts may be manifesting. Is it really what you want in your future? Think carefully. Give attention to your dreams. The new relationship may be with a healer/helper.

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

This is an excellent time to pursue any activity that requires your mental concentration. It is also a fine week to discuss plans with a partner or Significant Other. You can think well together. The week favors education in high tech or theoretical skills.

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

It is possible that the "last chance new moon" on the 18th will cause you to feel as though you want to crawl into your shell and be quiet. The probability is that issues concerning debt and your eventual legacy will require attention soon. You will need to make solid plans.

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

There are occasionally moments in life when we are focused upon contemplation of the deeper topics in life. Why am I here? What is my purpose? Where am I headed? Do I take action based upon my principles or am I adopting the values of someone else? Now is the time to examine these issues because you are being pressured to put more energy into a project that began in Dec. Is it right for you?

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

Your ability to concentrate upon projects that require management of details is strong. Organizing files, closets and cabinets will clear the clutter from your mind. if you focus your mind on a mentally chal-

lenging project that can have an identifiable outcome, things will move smoothly.

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

This is a highly significant period in your primary relationship(s). You have issues to work through and healing to do for both of you. Sidestep the temptation to drill your truth into the mind of another. If you do not share a consensus reality, then search for a larger perspective that can contain both.

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

It's time to take a good look at your self-care habits and beef up your resolve to strengthen your body. If you are already strong, then perhaps you can help others toward self-improvement. You have wanted to make changes in your work life. A new idea or opportunity will likely come to you now.

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

In Dec. you shifted gears and determined a new direction for yourself. This is a time in which you must decide whether or not to pour more resources into the plan or let it go. Though you would rather not have the problem, you probably will choose to see it through.

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

You may be seen as a secondary player at this time. This might have become your place in life for the present. Even so, your production will be practical and useful to those in your vicinity. See yourself as a necessary cog in the larger project.

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

Social and romantic life is favored this week. You may be mixing business and pleasure in a pleasant combination. This is a good time to discuss issues within a relationship because you are steady of mind and likely to be realistic, in relation to yourself as well as others.

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

Pisces is a sign that always assumes it is invisible. Sometimes you can move around without notice, but not at this time. There are strong energies at work in your sign and everyone will be aware of what you do here. Maintain your compassion and you won't go wrong.

## ARMENIAN POETRY

### Varouzhan Khastour

#### Confession

You do exist,  
but time does not  
and the day is an everlasting night,  
a mosaic of dreams.

You do exist,  
and there is the fairy-tale  
and life is ethereal  
and irreversible.

You do exist,  
but I am not with you,  
I am a broken violin  
missing a melody.

#### Rejection

Do not come,  
my dream is silent,  
my words have frozen from sorrow.  
Oh, pain is my only friend,  
my memories are golden.

It is all in the past.  
I am tired, understand,  
fires will not burn for my illusions.  
The street is my only shelter,  
but for you, alas  
there is no space.

Shelter is everywhere.  
There is no life.  
Beer, golden beer,  
achingly I strike my glass.  
I am already in pain.  
Do not come.

#### To sin

Forgive me, forgive if you can,  
and if you can, do not blame me...

My guilt is that of the snow  
when it comes, unforeseen,  
unexpected, white.

And if you can curse my soul's  
whiteness.

Forgive me, forgive -  
my guilt is only being white.

*Translated by  
Lusine Avetisyan*

## UN Armenia and partners commemorate International Mother Language Day

On February 20 43 school-children received awards, gifts and certificates for participation in the online essay contest organized by UN Department of Public Information Yerevan Office (UN DPI) and its partners. The contest was organized within the framework of International Mother Language Day, a UN observance announced by UNESCO, and Book Donation Day, an Armenian observance.

In the ceremony organized at the National Library of Armenia, from the 43 submissions the jury announced four best entries as award winners, two more received acknowledgements. The contest was announced at the beginning of February through an event on the "Friends of UN - Armenia" Facebook group. The school-children from 8th to 11th classes were given a task to interpret in their own words how they see the role of the mother language in the modern world.

Armineh Haladjian, the UN DPI Officer-in-Charge, said: "This is the 15th time that the United Nations celebrates the International Mother Language Day. 70-year-old UN has always esteemed the role of the mother languages at the same time promoting multilin-



gualism". She highlighted the great importance of mother languages as a cultural and identity value of a nation, but she stressed also the growing significance of multilingualism in the modern global world where borders are transparent, cyberspace is boundless and online communication is immeasurable.

Mrs. Haladjian congratulated the winners and thanked the coordinators and the teachers to help the school-children get involved in these events and encouraged the participants to continue their efforts to join similar initiatives through new technologies and social media.

Unlike the three earlier contests where the participation was exclusively from the regions of Armenia, this time Yerevanners were prevail-

ing. But still there was participation from cities and villages of Armavir, Ararat, Aragatsothn, Gegharkunik, Kotayk, Shirak and the remote Syunik regions.

All the contestants received certificates of participation and gifts from DPI, UNICEF and the National Library. The awards were kindly presented by Antares publishers and UNESCO National Commission.

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova has mentioned in her message on the day that education in the mother language is essential for advancing quality education for all and promoting education for global citizenship and sustainable development.

This was the fourth time that UN DPI along with its partners, Helsinki Committee of Armenia, Jinishian Memorial Foundation, Junior Achievements of Armenia, World Vision Armenia, has been organizing online contests and in which the schoolchildren from the network "Friends of UN - Armenia" take part. Established in March 2014, the members of the network are growing each day. Early this year the UNESCO-associated schools network also joined in.

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