

EU Parliament Urges Turkey To Recognize Armenian Genocide



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Armenia welcomes EP Resolution on Genocide centenary

Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian on April 16 denounced Turkey's furious reaction to the European Parliament's latest calls for an official Turkish recognition of the 1915 Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire.

Nalbandian also said that a corresponding resolution adopted by the European Union's legislative body as well as a similar statement made by Pope Francis show that Ankara is finding itself "increasingly isolated on the sinking ship of denialism."

"Turkey is trying to exert pressure on and, I would even say, blackmail numerous countries and international structures," he said in comments to RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "But it will hardly succeed on this issue."

Nalbandian welcomed the European Parliament resolution shortly after its overwhelming passage on Wednesday evening. By contrast, the Turkish Foreign Ministry

accused EU lawmakers of "mutilating history" and being driven by a "religious and cultural fanaticism."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan added his voice to the strong condemnation on Thursday. "Such decisions are nothing but an expression of enmity against Turkey by exploiting Armenians," "Hurriyet Daily News" quoted him as saying. Ankara reacted just as strongly after Pope Francis referred to the slaughter of 1.5 million Armenians as "the first genocide of the 20th century" during a Sunday mass in St. Peter's basilica. It recalled the Turkish ambassador to the Vatican in protest. "It's good that Ankara was prudent enough not to recall its ambassadors from the 28 [EU] countries," quipped Nalbandian. "Otherwise, the Turkish ambassadors there would have faced a serious problem of unemployment." The European Parliament resolution was also praised by representa-



tives of Armenia's leading political parties. Artak Zakaryan, the pro-government chairman of the Armenian parliament committee on foreign relations, said EU parliamentarians acted in good faith. "Nobody was under the influence of aggressive Armenian propaganda," he told reporters. "Turkey is losing on not only the diplomatic but also international public opinion front," said Giro Manoyan of the opposition Armenian Revolutionary Federation. "This will definitely have an impact on the Turkish society."

Gazprom Chief Visits Armenia

Gazprom's chairman, Alexei Miller, received an Armenian state award from President Serzh Sargsyan on April 16 during a visit to Yerevan that came amid continuing negotiations over the price of natural gas supplied by the Russian monopoly to Armenia.

Sargsyan gave Miller an Order of Friendship in recognition of his "remarkable contribution" to Russian-Armenian economic ties and the work of Armenia's gas distribution network owned by Gazprom. Serzh Sargsyan "highly evaluated" the Gazprom-Armenia network's track record, the presidential press office said in a statement.

According to the statement, Miller, who is regarded as a key member of Russian President Vladimir Putin's entourage, thanked the president for the award and presented Gazprom's "forthcoming programs" in Armenia.

The statement gave no other details. Neither Miller nor Sargsyan spoke to reporters when they broke ground later in the day on a \$50 million educational and sporting complex which Gazprom will build in Yerevan.

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Yervand Zakharyan said last week that the Armenian government is negotiating with Gazprom in hopes of securing a greater discount on Russian natural gas deliveries

to Armenia. "We should succeed," he said.

Armenia currently pays Gazprom almost \$190 million per thousand cubic meters of Russian gas, a price which is well below international market levels. The discount was agreed upon in late 2013 shortly after Armenia decided to join the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

Zakharyan spoke as the Armenian parliament ended three-day heated debates on Russian-Armenian gas dealings and the domestic retail prices of gas. Opposition lawmakers questioned the veracity of financial losses posted by the Gazprom-Armenia operator and said the company's profit margins are disproportionately large.

The medal awarded by Sargsyan to Miller underscored the government's rejection of the opposition allegations.

Meanwhile, the head of the Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC), Robert Nazaryan, said that the ongoing tariff negotiations with Gazprom will determine, in large measure, whether the price of electricity in Armenia will rise soon.

That the energy tariffs may well go up was again acknowledged by Zakharyan on Thursday. "I don't exclude that," he said without elaborating.

The PSRC sanctioned a 27 percent surge in the electricity price in July 2013, pointing to the increased cost of Russian



natural gas, which accounts for more than one-third of Armenia's power supply. The state regulator raised the price by another 10 percent in July 2014. It cited the need to end mounting losses incurred by Armenia's power distribution network owned by another Russian energy giant, RAO UES.

The tariff hikes did not reverse the losses, however. The Electricity Networks of Armenia (ENA) operator currently has over \$250 million in outstanding debts to Armenian power plants and banks.

Opposition politicians and other government critics strongly object to the authorities' apparent readiness to make electricity even more expensive for households and corporate consumers. Vahagn Khachatryan, a senior member of the opposition Armenian National Congress, argued on Thursday that Armenians must not be made to pay what he sees as the ENA's inefficiency and mismanagement.

International community annoyed by Turkey's inadequate stance: Alexander Arzumanyan



Expert of international law Vladimir Vardanyan says the European Parliament's Resolution on the Armenian Genocide Centennial was of moral, rather than legal importance.

"The bill may have no legal influence,

but will create a serious moral-political atmosphere for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and condemnation of its denial not only in Turkey but also the world, at large," Vardanyan told reporters on April 17.

He hopes the EP Resolution and the Pope's statement will positively affect the European Court's decision in Perincek vs. Switzerland case.

MP from the "Heritage" faction Alexander Arzumanyan said the document included important highlights. According to him, the Pope's remarks on the Armenian Genocide had a role in the adoption of the EP resolution. As for Turkey's reaction, "it was inadequate," he

said.

"The international community is annoyed by this inadequate position of Turkey. Turkey does not want to accept it's no longer an important role-player in the region," Arzumanyan said.

"We should be aware that we won't get up in the morning of April 25 and see that the world has recognized the Armenian Genocide. This is a process, and step by step we should reach the point where Turkey will face its own history," he said.

Arzumanyan is more than confident that Turkey will reconsider its stance, but also considers that a lot of time and effort is needed.

EU Parliament Urges Turkey...

The European Parliament on April 15 urged Turkey to recognize the Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire and unconditionally normalize relations with Armenia, in a resolution dedicated to the approaching 100th anniversary of the mass killings.

The resolution strongly condemned by Ankara "pays tribute the memory of the one-and-a-half million innocent Armenian victims who perished in the Ottoman Empire." It says that the European Union's legislative body "joins the commemoration of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide in a spirit of European solidarity and justice" and calls on the EU's executive bodies to follow suit.

The European Parliament stressed that Turkish-Armenian reconciliation is impossible without "truth and remembrance." Accordingly, it urged Turkey "to come to terms with its past, to recognize the Armenian Genocide and thus to pave the way for a genuine reconciliation between the Turkish and Armenian peoples."

In that context, the Turkish government should also "conduct in good faith an integrated inventory of Armenian and other cultural heritage destroyed or ruined during the past century within its jurisdiction," added the EU legislature.

The European Parliament has repeatedly recognized the World War One-era Armenian massacres as genocide in the

past.

Its latest the resolution also urges Armenia and Turkey to unconditionally implement their 2009 protocols that commit the two neighboring states to establishing diplomatic relations and opening their border.

Turkey has made parliamentary ratification of the U.S.-brokered protocols conditional on a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict that would satisfy Azerbaijan, its closest ally.

Official Ankara was quick to condemn the resolution in unusually strong terms, saying that the European Parliament is "mutilating history" and repeating "the anti-Turkish clichés of Armenian propaganda."

"This selective and one-sided approach of the European Parliament with regards to the 1915 events has the potential to harm the relations between Turkey and EU and falls far behind from bringing a solution to the issue between Turkey and Armenia," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"Naturally, this resolution cannot merely be explained away by either lack

of knowledge or ignorance. Unfortunately, what lies behind it is a religious and cultural fanaticism and indifference towards others regarded as different," it said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan shrugged off the resolution just hours before its overwhelming approval by EU parliamentarians. "Whatever decision the European Parliament takes on Armenian genocide claims, it will go in one ear and come out of the other because it is not possible for Turkey to accept such a crime, such a sin," Erdogan said, according to "Hurriyet Daily News."

Predictably, Armenia's reaction to the resolution was highly positive, with Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian praising the European Parliament for sending an "important message" to the Turks ahead of the centenary of the genocide that will be officially marked on April 24.

"With this resolution, the European Parliament once again reaffirmed its commitment to protection of human rights and universal values," Nalbandian said in a special videotaped statement.

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Yerevan explores deals with Italian defense firms

Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian and top executives of several Italian defense firms have reached tentative agreements on a joint manufacturing of military equipment, Armenia's Defense Ministry said on April 13.

According to a statement released by the ministry, Ohanian toured the offices of those firms during a visit to Italy late last week. "Given the mutual interest in developing cooperation in the area of defense industry, understandings were reached on the implementation of a number of joint projects," it said.

According to the statement, it was also agreed that the two sides will exchange visits of "specialized groups" that will visit each other's defense enterprises and then submit "proposals regarding production, modernization and maintenance of weapons and military hardware."

No other details of the talks were reported. Nor did the Defense Ministry name the Italian companies visited by Ohanian.

Still, one of the photographs of the talks released by it features a banner displaying the name and logo of Selex ES, an Italian-British company specializing in the production of hi-tech electronic equipment for defense systems. Those include radars, radios, fire control systems and night vision devices.

Selex also manufactures small but sophisticated unmanned aircraft. One of the publicized photographs showed Ohanian, who flew to Rome together with President Serzh Sargsyan, familiarizing himself with such drones.



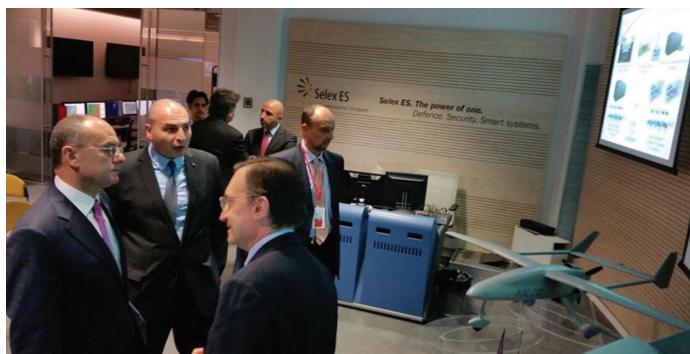
The deals explored by the Armenian defense chief would stem from an agreement on bilateral military cooperation that was signed in Yerevan in 2012 by Ohanian and then Italian Defense Minister Giampaolo Di Paola. The deal committed Armenia and Italy to coordinating defense policies, training military personnel, jointly participating in multinational peacekeeping missions and forging links between their defense industries. Ohanian emphasized the latter component of the accord at the time.

Armenian-Italian military cooperation deepened in November when Armenia sent 32 soldiers to Lebanon to join a United Nations peacekeeping mission led by the Italian military. Sarkisian and Ohanian had a video conference with them at the end of their talks with Italy's current Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti in Rome on Thursday.

"I am proud of the fact that the Italian military ... is content with your service," the Armenian president told the troops.

Meeting with Pinotti, Sargsyan described the Armenian deployment in Lebanon as a "successful start of Armenian-Italian cooperation in this area." He also thanked Italy for training Armenian military personnel at its military academies.

Incidentally, Ohanian proceeded to Lebanon from Rome and met there on Saturday with an Italian army general leading the UN mission. He also visited the Armenian contingent deployed near the country's borders with Syria and Israel.



German President could use the word 'genocide' on April 23

German President Joachim Gauck could use the word "genocide" at a memorial service at the Berlin Cathedral on Thursday, April 23, according to the German Tages Spiegel.

According to the paper, for weeks, the centre-right alliance and the Social Democratic Party (SPD) have debated whether to clearly define the 1915 Armenian Genocide committed by the Ottoman Empire as genocide. At the invitation of Christian churches in Germany, Gauck will participate in an ecumenical service on 23 April in the Berlin Cathedral, in remembrance of the "genocide perpetrated against Armenians, Arameans and Greeks of Pontos".

Following the ceremony, the German President will make a brief speech. In coalition circles, his acceptance, alone, has been interpreted as a clear sign that Gauck will call the genocide by name, without respect for diplomatic considerations.

In that case, the centre-right alliance and SPD will face the threat of disgrace. On the following day, the 100th anniversary of



the genocide, the coalition plans to introduce and discuss the toned-down version of its request in the Bundestag. Shortly after, the Green and Left parties will accuse the coalition of moral cowardice and opportunism, in all probability referring to the President's words in the same breath.

Yerevan Urged To Evacuate Aleppo Armenians



Ethnic Armenians remaining Aleppo are calling on Armenia to help evacuate them from the war-ravaged Syrian city where deadly fighting between Syrian government troops and rebels intensified in recent days.

Rebel forces reportedly shelled late last week Aleppo's western Suleymaniya district mostly populated by Armenians and other Christians. News reports from Syria spoke of severe devastation and heavy casualties among civilians caused by shells and rockets.

The fighting made life even more unbearable for thousands of Syrian Armenians remaining in what has for decades been the center of their once prosperous community in the Middle Eastern state. A growing number of them now seem desperate to take refuge in Armenia or other countries. Some have appealed to the authorities in Yerevan directly or

through their relatives living outside the war zone.

"We are only asking the Armenian government to help transport us to Yerevan," said Hranush Arakelian, a middle-aged Armenian woman trapped in Aleppo with one of her daughters and three other family members, including a toddler.

"We came under heavy fire the day before yesterday," Arakelian said in a phone conversation with her second daughter living in Yerevan. "The Christian district was shelled and all people went underground. They are now pulling dead and injured people out of the rubble.

"There are no Armenians among the dead. But quite a few of them were wounded," she added.

"They just can't stay there anymore," the Yerevan-based daughter, Narine Sargsyan, told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am.) "Only God knows how they survived this winter."

Arakelian said that both her family and many other Aleppo Armenians want to flee the besieged city but have no money to pay for a journey to safer parts of Syria controlled by President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

"Many people would like to get out but they have no money for doing that," con-

firmed Nazik Tatoyan, another Armenian woman from Aleppo, who took refuge in Armenia together with her family last year. She said the family had to sell its car to flee the city.

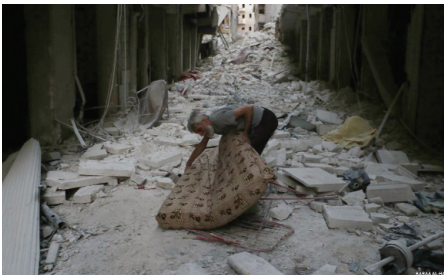
Responding to the appeals, a senior official at the Diaspora Ministry in Yerevan dealing with Syrian Armenian refugees said Armenia's government cannot move to evacuate people from Aleppo en masse without a decision officially made by community leaders in Syria.

"The wishes of several individuals are not enough," Firdus Zakarian told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "We need a decision by the majority [of community members.]"

Zakarian revealed at the same time that Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian has instructed the government to prepare for the evacuation of Armenian children from Aleppo. But he did not go into details.

Syria was home to an estimated 80,000 ethnic Armenians, most of them descendants of survivors of the 1915 genocide in Ottoman Turkey, before the outbreak of the bloody conflict four years ago. The community is thought to have shrunk at least by half. Some 13,000 Syrian Armenian refugees currently reside in Armenia alone.

Syrian Armenian Leaders Against Aleppo Evacuation



Some leaders of the beleaguered Armenian community in Syria on April 16 spoke out against a mass evacuation of its members remaining in the war-torn city of Aleppo where the security situation has deteriorated further in recent weeks.

Armenia's government is facing growing calls to help them flee one of the epicenters of deadly fighting between Syrian government troops and rebel forces. Many Aleppo Armenians are apparently ready to take refuge in their ancestral homeland.

"We are not intent on dissolving the community," said Zhirayr Reisian, the spokesman for the Aleppo diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, a key community structure. "We are obliged to help those who are having difficulties, which is

what we have been doing. But we have nothing to do outside Aleppo or Syria."

"We are busy preserving the community," he told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) by phone.

Reisian said the church faithful are free to leave Aleppo. But he made clear that the diocese leadership will not give them financial and logistical assistance for that purpose. Instead, he added, it will continue helping remaining Aleppo Armenians with free food and other essential goods.

Some Syrian Armenians who have taken refuge in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh in recent years criticized this stance. "I can understand that policy but they just can't sacrifice innocent people for the sake of community stability," said Hripsime Katanian, a Karabakh resident who has relatives in Aleppo. She said that like many other Aleppo Armenians they would love to get out but cannot afford a journey that has become very expensive because of heavy fighting in and around Syria's largest city.

"If people die what community will they be talking about one month later?"

Katanian told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "I am asking, begging the [Armenian] state and all Armenians around the world to wake up and save those poor people."

Katanian also said that she is ready to accommodate several Syrian Armenians in her Karabakh home. Some Syrian nationals of Armenian descent living in Yerevan also expressed such readiness.

"Let them come to Armenia and each Aleppo Armenian families here will take care of them," one of them commented on Facebook. "They will have shelter and be safe. I think that we all are ready to help."

"We hope that Armenia' government will quickly bring Aleppo Armenian families to the homeland," wrote another Syrian Armenian user.

A senior official in Yerevan said on Wednesday that the government would move to evacuate Aleppo Armenians only at the request of local community leaders.

Syria had an estimated 80,000 ethnic Armenians before the outbreak of the bloody conflict there four years ago. Around 13,000 of them currently reside in Armenia.

IMF expects recession In Armenia

The Armenian economy will likely contract by 1 percent this year due to spillover effects of Russia's economic troubles, the International Monetary Fund has said in a sharp downward revision of its growth projections for Armenia.

"Armenia and Belarus are projected to enter into recession in 2015, and Georgia's growth will slow. In all three economies, the downward turns reflect spillovers from Russia," the IMF said in its latest World Economic Outlook released on April 14.

Mark Horton, the head of an IMF mission visiting Yerevan likewise predicted last week that economic growth in Armenia will be "close to zero" in 2015. He too cited the fallout from the recession in Russia, the South Caucasus state's leading trading partner and the main source of multimillion-dollar remittances.

Both the IMF and the World Bank forecast a 2015 growth rate of 3.5 percent as recently as last fall. The bank cut its outlook late last month, saying that Armenia's Gross Domestic Product will at best increase by 0.8 percent in real terms.

The Armenian government recorded a GDP increase of 3.4 percent in 2014 and expected faster growth this year. The slowing growth is putting at risk its tax revenue and spending targets.

Apparently anticipating the downturn, the government sold about \$500 million in dollar bonds in international markets late last month. It is due to spend \$83 million of the Eurobond proceeds on covering the 2015 state deficit projected at roughly \$250 million. Another \$200 million is to be channeled into a government "stabilization fund" for special budgetary expenditures.

The IMF expects the Russian economy to shrink by 3.8 percent this year and another 1.1 percent in 2016 mainly because of recent months' sharp fall in oil prices.

The Russian recession has already dramatically slashed the dollar value of remittances from scores of Armenia migrant workers in Russia. The resulting depreciation of the Russian ruble is hitting hard Armenian agribusiness firms and beverage manufacturers oriented towards the Russian market.

The IMF report said that Armenia and other ex-Soviet states dependent on

Russia should "if necessary" further depreciate their national currencies. "Tighter monetary policy may be needed to address inflation pressure resulting from currency depreciation," it said.

The Armenian dram weakened by roughly 17 percent against the U.S. dollar in November and December but has been largely stable so far this year. Its current exchange rate appears to have been bolstered by a 15 percent rally in the ruble's value registered in the first quarter.

The looming recession coincided with Armenia's recent accession to the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). President Serzh Sargsyan and his political allies have said all along that EEU membership will improve the country's economic prospects.

But critics are already seizing upon the worsening macroeconomic situation to dismiss those assurances. "In the past three months we have had a fairly serious drop in trade [with other EEU member states,]" Vilen Khachatryan, a Yerevan-based economist, said on Wednesday. "This means that the EEU is still unable to function properly as an economic cooperation structure."

More Funding Secured For Armenian Highway Upgrades

A development bank founded by Russia and Kazakhstan provided the Armenian government on April 14 with a \$150 million loan that will finance the ongoing reconstruction of Armenia's main highways stretching more than 550 kilometers to neighboring Georgia and Iran.

The chairman of the Almaty-based Eurasian Development Bank (EDB), Dmitry Pankin, signed a corresponding agreement in Yerevan with Armenian Transport and Communication Minister Gagik Beglaryan after talks held with Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan.

In a statement issued after the signing ceremony, the EDB said the loan repayable in 20 years will finance work on a 20-kilometer highway section encompassing Armenia's highest mountain pass close to the Iranian border.

The Kajaran pass situated over 3,000 meters above the sea level is frequently closed to traffic in winter months because

of snowstorms and ice. The Armenian government did not explain just how the tortuous road, where serious accidents have not been uncommon, will be upgraded.

The EDB-funded work will be part of the government's ambitious North-South project meant to facilitate the landlocked country's access to the Georgian and Iranian ports. Another aim of the project worth an estimated \$1.5 billion is to enable Iran to use Armenian and Georgian territory for large-scale freight shipments to and from Europe.

In 2009, the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) lent the government \$500 million for the first phase of the planned road upgrades. But it was not until 2012 that a Spanish construction firm contracted by the government began expanding and repaving two highways running south and northwest of Yerevan.

The total length of the two roads exceeds 90 kilometers. Their \$280 million

reconstruction is due to be completed by next year.

Pankin stressed the importance of the biggest road project in Armenia's history in an interview with the Armenian news agency Arka. He said the reconstructed roads will reduce the cost and increase the speed of cargo transport through the country.

Armenia joined the EDB in 2009, three years after the bank's establishment by Russia and Kazakhstan. Its government and business enterprises have obtained about \$130 million in loans from the bank since then.

Pankin told Arka that the EDB will soon disburse a \$40 million loan for the rehabilitation of Armenia's irrigation networks. He revealed that the authorities in Yerevan are also seeking a separate budgetary credit and that the EDB is considering the request. "It is still too early to speak of our response," he said.

The reasons behind reduction of U.S. assistance to Armenia

The U.S. Embassy would like to announce some anticipated changes to its assistance budget for FY2015, which would take effect October 2015.

The assistance budget of the United States is a reflection of our ongoing and emerging national security challenges, President Obama's signature policy and development initiatives, our security commitments to allies and partners, and our conflict prevention, nonproliferation, and peacekeeping activities around the world. Because of new global priorities and developments over the past year (including the Ebola crisis, ISIS, Syria and Ukraine), some difficult decisions had to be made regarding our assistance programs globally. These new priorities meant that assistance funding to many countries all over the world, including in Europe, was significantly reduced. It is within this context that a reduction was made to the amount of assistance funds for Armenia. These reductions in funding for certain of our assistance programs in Armenia were necessitated by budgetary demands and additional global

priorities, and in no way reflect the quality of the programs that have been implemented, or the strength of the U.S.-Armenia relationship.

The reduction in the amount of assistance funds to Armenia will affect both USAID and the U.S. Embassy's Office of Public Affairs. The exact figures will not be confirmed for some time, but the Embassy is proactively planning for a reduction in some new programming and an early phase-out of certain other programs.

Despite these reductions, USAID Armenia remains actively engaged and will continue to focus on the highest priorities outlined in its 2013 country strategy for Armenia, which reflected input from the Armenian government, civil society, and our Armenian partners. These priorities include economic growth in rural development, tourism, water and energy security and management, development of human capital, municipal reform, anti-corruption, and child protection.

The Embassy's Office of Public Affairs will continue to support Track II programs

that promote reconciliation with Armenia's neighbors, and will continue to implement the Democracy Commission Small Grants program, which aims to promote civil society, foster democratic processes, and increase respect for human rights in Armenia.

U.S. Government assistance to Armenia supports many other areas of bilateral cooperation as well, including: our continuing support for the development of procedures that ensure the safe operation of the Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant and greater energy security for Armenia, strengthening the justice sector and the ability of law enforcement to combat corruption, and training the police to build the capacity of the new Police Domestic Violence Unit. The Department of Defense also continues to work closely with the Ministry of Defense on increasing the capability of Armenian peacekeepers and supporting defense reform.

The United States has provided over 2 billion dollars in assistance to Armenia since 1992.

Despite falling exports, processing industry set to purchase agricultural produce "in full measure"

By Sara Khojayan

Against the background of mainly negative trends in Armenia's industrial output the government in advance try to take steps to remedy the situation for the rest of the year. For promoting the production and sale of agricultural goods and the food processing industry since February 2015 the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture has visited processing companies to get acquainted with the preparations for purchasing grapes, other fruits and vegetables, deputy minister Robert Makaryan told media, noting that they are doing their best to preclude obstacles during the procurement.

"Our farmers can be sure that the companies processing their products will purchase them in full measure. We are capable of having an unlimited purchasing especially in case of tomato. Grapes purchases will also be done without any obstacles," Makaryan said. He said that unlike 23,000 tons of tomatoes purchased last year, this year processing companies have a demand

for 60,000 tones of tomatoes, besides the demand for other varieties of fruits and vegetables has grown by 30-50 percent in contrast to last year. Recently Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan has also referred to tomato demand, giving assurances that the government is ready to support the processing companies for purchasing the entire tomato crop. "The demand for tomatoes is huge and the government is ready to fund this program. I expect more results in the field of agriculture in 2015, because more financial investments are expected this year," he said on March 21.

Some processing companies told media during a Tuesday meeting that they are willing to purchase the goods in spite of the losses they had since the Russian ruble depreciation. Some time ago many purchasing-exporting plants even applied to the government appealing for compensation of their damages. Armen Gasparyan, the head of the Proshyan Brandy factory, said that another problem is the agreement for the price between the purchasers and the

farmers. He empathized that the only problem is connected with the farmers who either cannot satisfy the producer's demand or want to purchase goods above market price, while the farmers themselves complain of the low prices offered by the producers and payment delays. Pledging to do this year's purchase in full measure, the head of the Ararat food factory Yervand Tarverdyan said that export measures will be increased regardless the emerging problems. "As to the ruble depreciation, it will not affect the exports," he said. Although in February exports increased by 15 percent against January, a negative dynamic is still noticed compared with the same period of 2014. Exports have fallen by 28 percent, the National Statistical Service reports.

Tarverdyan said although the exports fell last year, grapes will be purchased in full measure. "Our company has reduced wine and brandy exports by 25 percent, but this year we will try to export them also to new markets like China and Vietnam," he said.



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- ♦1715- **Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- ♦1680- **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- ♦1674. **Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor,70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- ♦1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

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

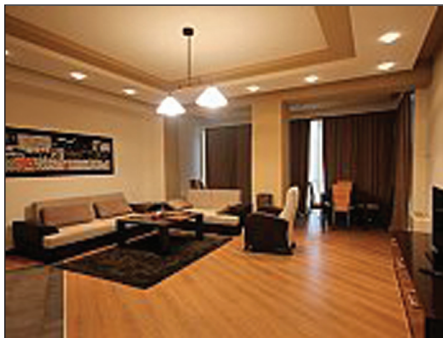
3 ROOMS

- ♦3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m.,with-out divisions. Price:Negotiable.
- ♦3012.**Aram str**, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price:300.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2998.**North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- ♦2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built,13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capially repaired,heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building,4 bedrooms,capially repaired,heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,capially repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- ♦2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built,8/4, 166sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,capially repaired, central heating,AC,security system. Price:320.000 USD.
- ♦1104.**Komitas Ave., Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m,stone bld, h-2.75m.,3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- ♦2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4,5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.

- ♦2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- ♦1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m,5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m.,basement, capially repaired, parkings. Price:4.000.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant,1st line, capially repaired. Price: negotiable.
- ♦1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m.,zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- ♦2035.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m.,1st line, facade-55m.,capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m.,1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m.,window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses,parking. Price:3.600.000 USD
- ♦2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m,1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m.,each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m,with-out divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price:1.400.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1986.**Cascade.** Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price:1.000.000 USD.
- ♦2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capially repaired. Price: 200.000 USD



- ♦2175.**Tumanyan str**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capially repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- ♦2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦3739.**Nork Marash** Land- 2000sq.m, two separate houses, total bld-600sq.m,capially repaired, swimming pool, sauna, guard house. Price: 950.000 USD
- ♦3348.**Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ♦3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m.,each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, hjeating system,elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- ♦3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m,2 storied bld-520sq.m,6 bedrooms,5 bathrooms, capially repaired,heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price:1.350.000 USD.
- ♦3432.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price:1.000.000 USD
- ♦3576.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 USD
- ♦3606.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m.,3 storied building-750sq.m.,6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD
- ♦3574.**Blur**, Land-779sq.m.,2 storied building-720sq.m.,4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system,sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD
- ♦3590 **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m.,4 storied building-470sq.m.,3bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD
- ♦3651.**Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m.,5 storied building-800sq.m.,4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price:1.700.000 USD.
- ♦3401.**Antarayan str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capially repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD
- ♦3712 **Cascade** Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 storied bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, with or without furniture.

Price: Negotiable.

- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sqm, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, guest toilet, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sqm, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2286. **Sose str.**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sqm, 3 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sqm, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sqm 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish). Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sqm, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable



- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sqm, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitolly repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi, /North Avenue/,** Newly built, 10/3, 124sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave.**, 7th floor, 350 sqm, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

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

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

PREMISES

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

Why the Armenian genocide holds a lesson for Jews

This month is the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

That's right: genocide. That's exactly what Pope Francis said recently - much to the chagrin of the Turkish government, which recalled its ambassador to the Vatican.

Worse: Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said calling the wholesale slaughter of Armenians "genocide" is tantamount to "Islamophobia," which wins this week's prize for "the most irresponsible playing of the Islamophobia charge."

Why should Jews be talking about this? Because when we look at the Armenians, it is as if we are looking in the mirror, Jeffrey Salkin writes in an article published by the Washington Post.

Here's how it happened. In the waning days of the Ottoman Empire, the Armenians were seen as a foreign element in Turkish society - and, in this sense, they occupied the same place as the Jews of the Ottoman Empire.

Like the Jews, the Armenian Christians challenged the traditional hierarchy of Ottoman society.

Like the Jews, they became better-educated, wealthier and more urban.

Like "the Jewish problem" that would be frequently discussed in Germany, Turks talked about "the Armenian question."

The Turkish army killed a million

and a half Armenians. Sometimes, Turkish soldiers would forcibly convert Armenian children and young women to Islam. The Turks delved into the records of the Spanish Inquisition and revived its torture methods. So many Armenian bodies were dumped into the Euphrates that the mighty river changed its course for a hundred yards.

In America, the newspaper headlines screamed of systematic race extermination. Parents cajoled their children to be frugal with their food, "for there are starving children in Armenia."

In 1915 alone, The New York Times published 145 articles about the Armenian genocide. Americans raised \$100 million in aid for the Armenians. Activists, politicians, religious leaders, diplomats, intellectuals and ordinary citizens called for intervention, but nothing happened.

The Armenians call their genocide Meds Yeghern ("the Great Catastrophe"). It was to become the model of all genocides and ethnic cleansing. It served the Nazis as a model - not only the act of genocide, but also the passive amnesia.

"Who talks about the Armenians anymore?" Hitler quipped.

In 1915, in the small town of Kourd Belen, the Turks ordered 800 Armenian families to abandon their homes. The priest was Khoren Hampartsoomian, age 85. As he led his people from the village, neighboring Turks taunted the priest:

"Good luck, old man. Whom are you going to bury today?"

The old priest replied: "God. God is dead and we are rushing to his funeral."

After the Shoah, Jews cried aloud to God: "O God, how could You do this to us, the children of Your covenant?"

After the genocide, Armenian theologians cried: "O God, how could this have happened to us - for we were the first people to adopt Christianity as a state religion?"

Some Armenian Christians referred to the story of Sodom and Gomorrah and asked: "Were there not even 50 Armenians who could have been saved?"

After the Shoah, Jews cried: "We must have sinned. God has used the Nazis as a club against us." Armenians cried: "God used the Turks as a club against us."

Is it chutzpah to speak of this, as Jews mark Holocaust Remembrance Day, and the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the camps?

Some Jews have wanted to hoard the concept of genocide: "What happened to the Turks wasn't as bad as the Holocaust!" True, but that's an extremely high and ghastly bar to set. No genocide has approached the scale of the Shoah. And not all genocides are created equal.

Moreover, the very nature of the Armenian catastrophe was different.

Jews were killed wherever they lived in Europe; by contrast, Armenians outside of Armenia were relatively safe.

Anti-Semitism is a deep, pervasive moral illness; by contrast, there is no such thing as "anti-Armenianism" in the collective psyche of the world.

But, if Jews do not allow the world to compare the Holocaust to other genocides, then its relevance to the world will wither.

And when that happens, Jews would be inflicted by moral laryngitis, losing their ability to speak truth to the world.

Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin is the spiritual leader of Temple Beth Am of Bayonne, N.J., and the author of numerous books on Jewish spirituality and ethics, published by Jewish Lights Publishing and Jewish Publication Society.



PHOTOLURE

Why Pope Francis was right to call the Armenian massacres 'genocide'



A century after the genocide began, Turkey still refuses to accept the truth. Yet for the sake of today's persecuted Christians, the past must not be forgotten, Lela Gilbert writes in an article published by the Catholic Herald.

In March last year reports emerged of a nightmare unfolding in the Armenian town of Kassab in northern Syria. A horde of al-Qaeda affiliated terrorists descended on the city, forcing the Christian residents out of their ancestral homes. It was widely reported that the Turkish army had helped them or, at best, had turned a blind eye.

One of the eyewitnesses, a Kassab resident, reported that "before sunrise, we woke up to the horror of a shower of missiles and rockets falling on our town" and that thousands of extremists poured into the city, which was defended only by residents with hunting weapons.

One local man told reporters: "We had to flee only with our clothes. We couldn't take anything, not even the most precious thing - a handful of soil from Kassab. We couldn't take our memories."

For the people of Kassab the new attack had a haunting historical echo, bringing back memories of one of the worst mass murders in history - the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

In Jerusalem's Armenian quarter the following month, the annual commemoration of the genocide was followed by an emotional demonstration in solidarity with Kassab in front of the Turkish consulate. I watched as protesters sang, chanted and demanded the repatriation of Kassab's populace.

The expulsion in Syria was particularly terrifying for the Armenians I spoke to, because Kassab had suffered more than a few brutal attacks in the past at the hands of the Turks. The earliest was the Adana bloodbath in 1909, in which some 160 residents lost their lives. In the Armenian genocide six years later 5,000 people from the area died. Tragically, some of the 21st-century residents who fled Kassab were the offspring of survivors; they remember their forebears' story all too well.

On April 24, 1915, several hundred Armenian intellectuals were rounded up and later murdered by the Turkish authorities.

The word "genocide" is no exaggeration. As John Kifner wrote in the New York Times: "The University of Minnesota's Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies has compiled figures by province and district that show there were 2,133,190

Armenians in the empire in 1914 and only about 387,800 by 1922", following what the newspaper had described a century earlier as a "policy of extermination directed against the Christians of Asia Minor".

After the arrest and subsequent slaughter of Armenian professors, lawyers, doctors, clergymen and other elites, widespread terror gripped the community. The Turks began house-to-house searches for weapons, on the pretext that the Christians had armed themselves for a revolt. Most homes had rifles or handguns for self-defence, and this served as sufficient excuse to arrest huge numbers of Armenian men, who were beaten, tortured and killed.

Those who survived - mostly women, children and the elderly - were given short notice to embark upon what has been described as a "concentration camp on foot".

Informed that they were being "resettled" in remote areas for the protection of their Turkish neighbours, they were driven like animals - with whips, cudgels and at gunpoint - and offered little or no food or water. The very old and very young were the first to die along the way. More than a few mothers lost their minds watching their babies and toddlers suffer and die. There were many suicides. The eyewitness accounts and photographs are heartbreaking.

In a haunting essay in the New Yorker Raffi Khatchadourian described the brutality of the forced marches. "Whenever one of them lagged behind, a gendarme would beat her with the butt of his rifle, throwing her on her face, till she rose terrified and rejoined her companions," he wrote. "If one lagged from sickness, she was either abandoned, alone in the wilderness, without help or comfort, to be a prey to wild beasts, or a gendarme ended her life by a bullet."

One of the most vivid accounts comes from *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*, a historical novel written in the 1930s by the Austrian Jew Franz Werfel.

His meticulously researched saga - a true story - is about a community in Musa Dagh that defied the Turkish government's orders to be "relocated". Instead they armed themselves with obsolete weapons and fought for their lives. Almost miraculously they survived; eventually French ships caught sight of their cross-adorned banner and rescued them.

The book is a portrait of an extraordinary place and time, as well as a tribute to human courage, resourcefulness and vision. Indeed, *Forty Days of Musa Dagh* is widely credited with having encouraged the embattled Jews in Polish ghettos to resist - to the death - the Nazis who were determined to exterminate them. Not surprisingly, Franz Werfel's books were burned by the Third Reich.

It is against this blood-smeared backdrop that today's Armenian successors refuse to let the world forget their nation's near-annihilation. On April 24, 2015, they will commemorate the centenary of the genocide, during which the Turkish government slaughtered not only 1.5 million Armenian Christians, but also a million Greek and Assyrian Christians.

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Why Pope Francis was right to call the Armenian massacres 'genocide'

From page 11

It was very much a Christian genocide. As the German historian Michael Heselmann makes clear, these innocents were killed for explicitly religious reasons. "In the end, Armenians weren't killed because they were Armenian, but because they were Christians," he told the Catholic news agency Zenit. "Armenian women were told they would be spared if they converted to Islam. They were then married into Turkish households or sold in slave markets or taken as sex slaves into brothels for Turkish soldiers, but at least they survived. A whole group of Islamised crypto-Armenians was created by this offer to embrace Islam. But at least it shows that the Armenians were not killed because they were Armenians, but because they were Christians."

Just as now, news of the massacres was reaching western audiences but few spoke up until it was too late, the exceptions being Henry Morgenthau, the American ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, and Pope Benedict XV, who had tried and failed to bring the European powers to the table. In Heselmann's words, the pope "could not remain silent and protested three times, twice in personal letters to the Sultan and once in his speech during a consistory".

Indeed, his attempt to stop the Armenian genocide is an impressive example of the Vatican trying everything humanly possible to save innocent victims of one of the biggest crimes in history. At the same time it shows that, frustratingly, Vatican diplomacy cannot change the minds of fanatical ideologues.

How familiar this all seems today. Through news reports, videos and documentaries, we know a lot about the intentional expulsion and extermination of the Middle East's Christians, not only by the Islamic State (ISIS) but also such al-Qaeda affiliates as al-Nusra - who struck Kassab. These groups have practised forced conversions, extortion and murders not only in Syria, but also in Iraq's Nineveh Plain, a Christian heartland since the second century. There some 60,000 Christian residents have

been killed or expelled, their churches desecrated and all symbols of their faith and history destroyed.

Beginning in June 2014, ISIS ordered Nineveh's Christians to leave their homes immediately. Young men who resisted ISIS's edict of "convert, pay jizya tax or leave" were shot or worse. The elderly and infants did not fare well on the long, hot trek that followed, since most of those who fled weren't allowed to carry food or water with them. The survivors were stripped of everything they owned. They eventually limped into Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan's capital city.

When I visited the Christian refugees in Erbil's Christian enclave, Ankawa, I heard the same story repeated again and again. The residents of entire Christian cities, towns and villages were given little notice - less than 24 hours, and sometimes just minutes - to leave their homes. Their possessions, and more, were stolen.

The refugees lost their personal history, their identity. They were stripped of passports, birth and baptismal certificates, diplomas, national identification papers, commercial licences and deeds of property. They handed over or left behind personal treasures like inherited jewellery, trophies, photographs and family memorabilia. The terrorists took their cars, cash, mobile phones, computers, and business and personal files. By the time they arrived in Erbil, collapsing in exhaustion in churchyards and on pavements, they had lost everything. Their Christian faith was bruised and battered. In some cases, all hope was lost.

Today in Israel, Jews ask me - some of them offspring of Holocaust survivors - "Why aren't you people doing anything about the persecuted Christians in the Middle East?" In many ways it's a good question. A divided global Christendom seems incapable of paying close attention, much less protesting or mobilising. They could learn much from the success of focused Jewish activism during the suppression of Soviet Jewry. One of the only countries offering asylum to the displaced Assyrian refugees has been

Armenia, although the logistics of reaching the country are extremely difficult. Other Christian countries, which have the means to help, are unwilling to do so, fearful of appearing to engage in a crusade and enraging Muslim opinion.

Even official commemoration of the Armenian genocide is muted, lest it provoke a Turkish state that has always been in denial of the atrocity. Yet this refusal to recognise the first genocide of the 20th century has only made future atrocities more likely. From 1918 onwards the genocide was largely ignored in public discourse, not least by Germany, which wished to remain silent about the behaviour of its wartime ally, and its implicit guilt-by-association and silence. Such was this widespread denial that in 1939, as he planned his "Final Solution" for the Jews, Hitler notoriously said: "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

Pope Francis has not failed to speak out. Last Sunday the Holy Father referred to the 1915 mass killings as the "first genocide of the 20th century", provoking a furious response from Turkey, which under the leadership of the increasingly Islamist President Tayyip Erdoğan refuses to recognise the genocide as a planned annihilation.

Yet to the Christians of the Middle East, for whom 1915 is not simply a historical record but a continuing nightmare, the Pope's words will have been of great comfort. Recognition of the millions of Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians who lost their lives in the 1915 genocide is not just a way of recording history but of offering hope for those suffering persecution today.

The Christian world - Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant - must persist in memorialising the Armenians and others who perished. And we must insist on recounting the brutality suffered by today's Christians, in the Middle East and beyond, who also face expulsion and extermination. With God's help, we will never forget. Nor will we be silent.

Lela Gilbert is co-author of Persecuted: The Global Assault on Christians

Recall of Turkish Envoy Publicized Pope's Affirmation of Armenian Genocide



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

Given the candidness of Pope Francis, it was not surprising that he clearly acknowledged the Armenian Genocide during the Pontifical Divine Liturgy at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on April 12.

The only person who was clueless about the Pope's true intentions was Mehmet Pacaci, Turkey's Ambassador to the Vatican, who had bragged to the Turkish press two weeks ago that he had convinced the Pope to reject all Armenian requests for the Genocide Centennial.

The Turkish Ambassador claimed that he had managed to:

- Cancel the Pope's April 24 visit to Yerevan;
- Convince the Pope not to celebrate Mass at the Vatican on April 24;
- Eliminate the words 'Armenian Genocide' from the Pope's address during the April 12 Vatican Mass.

The Turkish and Azerbaijani media reported Amb. Pacaci's contentions as a major victory for Turkish diplomacy and a devastating defeat for Armenians.

Amb. Pacaci's false claims were simply intended to impress his superiors in Ankara about his 'good work.' The truth is that the Pope had neither planned to visit Yerevan on April 24 nor celebrate Mass at the

Vatican on that date. The Turkish Ambassador's third claim that the Pope would not use the term 'Armenian Genocide' during his April 12 address, but would only offer "prayers for all those who

lost their lives during the tragic events of 1915," also turned out to be false!

Contrary to Amb Pacaci's real or imaginary pressures on the Vatican, the Pope made an explicit and lengthy reference to the Armenian Genocide at St. Peter's Basilica on April 12 which was broadcast worldwide on TV networks, the radio, newspapers, and the internet. In attendance were Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan, Catholicos Karekin II, Catholicos Aram I, Patriarch of Armenian Catholics Nerses Bedros XIX, and thousands of worshippers from dozens of countries. Here are excerpts from the Pope's remarks:

"In the past century our human family has lived through three massive and unprecedented tragedies. The first, which is widely considered 'the first genocide of the 20th Century', struck your own Armenian people, the first Christian nation, as well as Catholic and Orthodox Syrians, Assyrians, Chaldeans and Greeks. Bishops and priests, religious women and men, the elderly and even defenseless children and the sick were murdered. The other two were perpetrated by Nazism and Stalinism. And more recently, there have been other mass killings, like those in Cambodia, Rwanda, Burundi and Bosnia. It seems that humanity is incapable of putting an end to the shedding of innocent blood. ... Dear Armenian Christians, today, with hearts filled with pain, but at the same time with great hope in the risen Lord, we recall the Centenary of that tragic event - that immense and senseless slaughter - whose cruelty your forefathers had to endure. It is necessary, and indeed a duty, to honor their memory, for whenever memory fades, it means that evil allows wounds

to fester. Concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it!"

Pope Francis had repeatedly spoken about the Armenian Genocide as a Cardinal in Argentina, and had included three references to that issue in his 2010 book, "On Heaven and Earth." On June 3, 2013, shortly after his election, Pope Francis described the Armenian Genocide as "the first genocide of the 20th Century."

The Vatican had first referred to the Armenian mass killings on Sept. 10, 1915, when Pope Benedict XV sent a letter to Sultan Mahomet V, asking him to stop the wholesale massacres of innocent Armenians. Twice, on Nov. 9, 2000, and Sept. 27, 2001, Pope John Paul II and Catholicos Karekin II issued joint statements acknowledging the Armenian Genocide.

Not surprisingly, the Turkish government reacted angrily to the Pope's latest reference to the Armenian Genocide, and immediately recalled its Ambassador from the Vatican. Amb. Pacaci may now get fired for having falsely claimed that he had succeeded in silencing the Pope on the Armenian Genocide issue. Meanwhile, the Turkish government's overreaction and the Pope's refusal to apologize for his remarks made international headlines on TV networks, websites and newspapers around the world.

The long-planned Turkish efforts to undermine the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide have been drowned out by the extensive media attention to the Kardashians' maiden visit to Armenia and the Pope's courageous reaffirmation of the Armenian Genocide right before April 24.

Turkish-Armenian official quits after genocide remark

An ethnic Armenian senior adviser to Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu announced his resignation on April 14 just days after describing the First World War-era massacres of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey as genocide.

"If accepting that what happened in Bosnia and Africa were genocides, it is impossible not to call what happened to Armenians in 1915 genocide too," Etyen Mahcupyan said in an interview with Karar.com published this week.

Mahcupyan, who became last year the first-ever member of Turkey's Armenian community to hold such a post, effectively defended Pope Francis for calling the 1915

mass killings a genocide during a Sunday Mass. The Vatican has thus "thrown off a 100-year-old psychological burden," he said.

The remarks reportedly infuriated some within the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP). Turkey's minister for European affairs, Volkan Bozkir, said they were "inappropriate" for a Turkish government official.

The AFP news agency quoted an unnamed Turkish official as saying that Mahcupyan, 65, has retired because of having reached the age limit for all Turkish civil servants. The official denied any link between the departure and the approaching

100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Mahcupyan gave the same explanation in comments to the Turkish daily "Hurriyet." He claimed to have tendered his resignation on March 9, just over one month before the pope's statement.

"At this stage I continue with my work voluntarily. The only change is that I am not getting a salary anymore," he said.

In an interview with AFP in December, Mahcupyan said 2015 will be a "tough year" because of the genocide centenary. He said the priority for the future should be establishing relations with Armenia as well as the millions-strong Armenian Diaspora.

Uruguay Parliament Holds Special Session for Genocide Centennial

MONTEVIDEO (Agencia Prensa Armenia)-The House of Representatives of Uruguay held a special session on April 15 to commemorate the Armenian Genocide Centennial. All parliamentary parties recalled the crime against humanity and reiterated the country's commitment in the fight against impunity, according to the Armenian National Committee of Uruguay.

With a large public attendance, Representatives Susana Pereyra, Jorge Guekdjian, Guillermo Facello, Daniel Radio, Eduardo Rubio, Jose Luis Satdjian, Conrado Rodriguez and Antonio Zoulamian gave speeches about the Armenian Genocide and the contributions of the Armenian community in Uruguay, as well as issues concerning the present and future of the Armenian nation.

Deputy Susana Pereyra stressed the importance of the "exemplary memory" of the Armenian community and the history of their struggle for justice in Uruguay. She referred to the friendship and respect that the Armenian people had for the country for having received the survivors of the Genocide and being the first State to recognize the crime committed by the Turkish State through Law No. 13,326 in 1965. As an example of that brotherhood, she recalled an anecdote about her experience as an international observer of the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, when in a remote rural circuit in the mountains of Karabagh, voters spontaneously came to embrace her after hearing that she was Uruguayan.

Deputy Jorge Guekdjian analyzed the crime of genocide and its application to the Armenian case from a legal perspective. "My own mother, as a child of only eight years, saved her life by hiding in a desert cave, after several days without food," recalled the Deputy of Armenian origin, integrating his family history with the review of the testimony of the lawmakers in 1965 that passed the law establishing the "Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Martyrs."

Referring to the fight against Holocaust denial, Deputy Guillermo Facello condemned the attitude of Turkey stating that "Switzerland has passed a law where the denial of the Armenian Genocide is punished and France has discussed a similar law. However, some countries prohibit the use of the word genocide," referring to the historical distortion and limitations on freedom of expression imposed by the Ankara regime.

Deputy Daniel Radio responded to the statements of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who asked the Armenian Diaspora to show evidence of the genocide. "The Armenian nation doesn't need propaganda in a football shirt, because it has



the Uruguayan Parliament to remember. And we do it without guilt, without complexes and without hesitation, because we know that the hands that today are showing solidarity, as they did fifty years ago, are not stained with oil," emphasized Radio, awakening the spontaneous applause of the audience. Radio called to "resist the generous gifts and powerful lobbies that approach suspiciously to our country," and honor the historical brotherhood between the peoples of Armenia and Uruguay by taking new steps to support the Armenian Cause in the legislation.

Deputy Eduardo Rubio, emphasized the heroism of the Armenian people throughout their history, acknowledging the contribution of the Armenian community in Uruguay and separated the Turkish denialist policy attitude from the broad sectors of the Turkish people who join the recognition of the historical truth in their country.

Deputy Jose Luis Satdjian expressed the gratitude of Uruguayans of Armenian origin to the country that welcomed their ancestors. At the same time, he recalled that the direct consequence of denial is the continuing siege exerted by Turkey and Azerbaijan on the Republics of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, and invited the Uruguayan authorities to promote dialogue and peaceful resolution of conflicts that threaten the stability of the region.

Deputy Conrado Rodriguez appreciated the contributions of the Armenian community in Uruguay and its integration into all areas of society.

Finally, Deputy Antonio Zoulamian denounced the current occupation of the historically Armenian regions by Turkey, where the Armenian Genocide was committed, and called for their return to the Republic of Armenia.

Aznavour, Caballé, Spivakov to feature in a video dedicated to Armenian Genocide centennial

World-famous celebrities will feature in a video "Millions of Lives" to be released on the threshold of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, April 17. Three friends Karen Margaryan, Tigran Petrosyan and Grisha Aghakhanyan together with KMSounds Production have

initiated the project to once again remind the world about the verity of the Genocide.

The video has been shot in different countries of the world, including the US, Russia, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Germany, etc.

The lyrics are about the destiny of a lit-

tle girl, who lost her family and stayed alone in this world.

The video features outstanding Armenian and international artists, who are friends of the Armenian nation and who share the sorrow of the little girl and mil-

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A Crash Course in Armenian History: The New York Times



In an extended article published by the New York Times Seth Kugel tells about the two days he spent in Yerevan, Armenia.

Everything I did and everywhere I went seemed suffused with the past; my trip turned, unexpectedly and unintentionally, into a crash course in Armenian history. I ate and made friends and drank beer and listened to music, and didn't spend much doing it.

But what I'll remember most is not what happened during my trip, but what had happened before. Perhaps that was inevitable in a region that has seen so much dramatic and often tragic turmoil over the centuries.

Before my two-week trip to Georgia and Armenia, I could tell you very little about the past of this landlocked Caucasus nation a quarter the size of Pennsylvania. I didn't even know Yerevan was the capital; when I memorized every sovereign nation's capital as a kid, the city was still part of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic.

I was, of course, broadly familiar with the Armenian genocide of 1915 (ceremonies marking its 100th anniversary are set for April 24) and the ensuing diaspora that created large Armenian-American communities in Los Angeles and near Boston, where I grew up with a handful of children whose last names ended in -ian. But that was it.

Here are a few places I went that gave me, by the end, a much deeper, yet still quite superficial, understanding of a complicated country. Needless to say, lingering in museums and discussing national identity makes for a very inexpensive way to travel. (Not to mention reading: Vasily Grossman's "An Armenian Sketchbook," is highly recommended.)

Genocide

You would have to be a centenarian to have firsthand memories of the Armenian genocide, during which Ottoman Turks massacred 1.5 million Armenians and drove out many more.

And yet it seems even young Armenians have absorbed a collective memory, perhaps in part thanks to the Armenian Genocide Museum and adjoining Tsitsernakaberd Memorial, my first stop in Yerevan. Several members of the Kardashians, one of the most prominent Armenian-American families, visit-

ed last week. Alas, the museum was undergoing a major overhaul, leaving only a temporary exhibition open.

Small though it was (and largely in Armenian), the exhibition's English-language telegrams and newspaper articles were more than enough to provide a sobering introduction to what happened in Western Armenia, then part of the Ottoman Empire, in 1915.

"Reports from widely scattered districts indicate systematic attempts to uproot peaceful Armenian populations," read a telegram from the American embassy in Constantinople to the State Department in Washington, "and through arbitrary arrests, terrible tortures, wholesale expulsions and deportations from one end of the Empire to the other accompanied by frequent instances of rape, pillage, and murder, turning into massacre, to bring destruction and destitution on them."

I was equally riveted by the story of Musa Dagh, a mountain at the edge of the Mediterranean, where, in 1915, hundreds of Armenians holed up and fought off Ottoman attacks for over a month before being rescued by French warships. I later found out that the 1933 fictionalized novel version of the story, "The Forty Days of Musa Dagh," was inspirational and influential to European Jews living in ghettos during the Holocaust.

The memorial adjoining the museum consists of a nearly 150-foot-tall stele rising to a sharp point and cleft to symbolize the splitting of Western and Eastern Armenia, and 12 massive slabs representing the former provinces of Western Armenia that tilt inward over an eternal flame.

At first, I thought I had happened upon a major memorial service; three buses had disgorged soldiers bearing banners and carnations, and they marched in groups to the eternal flame. Yet no Armenians I spoke to, including a museum official, considered it extraordinary; apparently this was just an average Armenian day.

(Note that the temporary exhibit is now closed until April 24; the museum will open to the public on the 25th, at about two and a half times its original size.)

Syrian Influx

Armenian cuisine is not widely celebrated, but in recent years the restaurant scene in Yerevan has gotten a boost from an unlikely source. Not all Western Armenians who fled the genocide made it as far as now-vibrant Armenian communities of Los Angeles, Moscow or Marseille. Many sought refuge in Aleppo, Syria - and many of their descendants have since fled the current war and returned to their ancestral homeland. (Or at least the eastern side of it.)

The resulting Syrian-Armenian restaurants have taken Yerevan by storm, providing an uptick in spice and complexity with a mix of Syrian classics and Western Armenian dishes. I ate in three. The first and most obscure was a tiny lunch spot called Halepi Chasher. (That spelling might be inexact; the sign and the menu were only in Armenian script, but it means "Dishes from Aleppo." The restaurant is tricky to find even by address, because it's not on a street: this is its approximate location.)

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A Crash Course in Armenian History: The New York Times

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Many dishes sounded familiar when the waitress read them aloud: falafel, for example, and fattoush, a traditional Levantine salad. But mante did not. Luckily, I went for it, and it turned out to be a devastatingly delicious soup of broth, tomato and sour cream studded with crispy, tiny boat-shaped meat dumplings. I later ate with Armenian friends-of-friends at Derian Kebab, a far livelier spot with an English menu and glorious meats. My final night in Yerevan I went alone to a higher-end place called Anteb. (All these meals were cheap; "higher end" means I spent about 4,850 dram, about \$10.)

I had to be told that Anteb referred to Gaziantep, Turkey: and that the city had been a center of the Ottoman Armenian population. My mind started whirring. I had been to Gaziantep four years ago on a mundane but wonderful mission to write about pistachios. I had never even considered that the conservative Muslim city had once been largely Armenian Christian. I still think about that trip often; now I will think about it more.

Soviet Armenia

More than drab Soviet architecture and a corny amusement park in Victory Park, it was a curious museum that brought Soviet-era Armenia into sharp relief - a museum

about a filmmaker whose exhibitions had little to do with film. The Sergei Parajanov Museum celebrates the Armenian director whose best-known work is "The Color of Pomegranates," released in 1969 and well-received around the world. (Obviously, I hadn't heard of it.) His life span (1924 to 1990) mirrors, almost precisely, the existence of the Soviet Union (1922 to 1991), and his successes and struggles - ably explained by an English-speaking guide for 2,500 dram - seemed intimately associated with it. An Armenian born in Georgia and trained in Ukraine, his films were regularly censored and he was apparently jailed for them from 1973 to 1977, though the unrelated official charges included homosexuality. Our guide explained that Parajanov channeled creativity that was stifled in his films toward his collages, which he made out of just about anything from hairpins to dolls to ladies hats to religious items. If you value creativity and mold-breaking over technique, you'll like this place. Parajanov even used nails and foil yogurt caps to make portraits of his fellow inmates in prison, and they're darn good. His life story also reminded me of another tragedy of Armenian history, the devastating 1988 earthquake. The house the museum sits in was to have been Parajanov's retirement home; construction stopped because of the earthquake, and he never moved in.

Long History

History museums in small countries are often fascinating but esoteric (so that's what ancient Cyprus was like!). Perhaps that what I was expecting when I visited the History Museum of Armenia, but I soon realized the world, or at least Eurasia, is reflected through this country's tortured story.

Even its collection of ancient objects is world class; Armenia has yielded rich archaeological findings. Hey, it's the world's oldest surviving leather shoe, a right-footed moccasin dated to 3500 B.C.! There are astonishing wooden burial chariots found when Lake Sevan receded and a stone hearth with "circular depressions for ritual bloodletting."

But things start to get really good in the last two millennia, as Armenia becomes the first officially Christian nation (A.D. 301) and invents its own alphabet a century later (405), but then succumbs to a mind-boggling array of outside powers.

Name an imperialistically inclined Eurasian people, and they've probably have taken over at some point: Persians, Arabs, Mongols, Byzantines, Ottoman Turks, Russian Bolsheviks. Which makes it all the more miraculous that the Armenian culture, religion and alphabet have survived to this day.

Aznavour, Caballé, Spivakov to feature in a video dedicated to Armenian Genocide centennial

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lions of families whose dreams vanished in the desert sand.

Involved in the project are Charles Aznavour, Montserrat Caballé, Armen Jigarkhanyan, Patrick Fiori, Vladimir

Spivakov, Sebu Simonian, Dmitry Kharatyan, Garik Martirosyan, Mariam Mehrabova, Erna Yuzbashyan and others.

We can't let the history be repeated. We don't want any other nation to experience the horror the Armenians went through.

KMsounds Production and each artist in the video address their message to the World: "The violence of 1915 was Genocide. It must be recognized by the whole world to prevent the repetition of the history."



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

After a long period of general drama, things are looking better for your sign now. Activities requiring physical energy are accented and favored. You have a need to get out and about to refresh your spirit. It is possible that you will overextend your financial limits. Leave the credit card at home if spending is an issue.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

Refresh your memory on Shakespeare and repeat the old adage three times per day: "Neither a borrower nor a lender be...." This needs to become your byword for the next two years. Do not lend resources if you can't do without them. Focus primarily on getting out of debt. This may seem like general advice, but it is specific to you at this time.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

You and partner are in a difficult place. One or both of you is "shoulding" on the other. Put the critic out of the relationship and work on making improvements together. Maybe you will need to agree to disagree and give each other some space until there is better energy between you.

Cancer (June 21--July 21) :

Your romantic side is cooperating well with your nurturing side at this time. This is especially good for female friendships. Make a date for lunch and reconnect with people you like. Meanwhile, you may find that travel plans are not what you expected. They might even be disappointing.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

You may be experiencing a limelight moment in which you are presenting a bright idea or even a finished product. Your enthusiasm will be palpable. However, it is important to plan what you want to say carefully, lest you go overboard with promises. The tendency to be impulsive is with you now.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

You may be overloaded with ideas, plans, and inflated expectations at this time. Talk over important changes with a trusted friend or a counselor. Take your time and make careful plans. Virgo is a sign that ordinarily does this, but just right now it appears you need a little reminder.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

It is possible you will feel a sense of fatigue this week. Maybe something has caused you to be disappointed with yourself. Beware the Critic, whether that is internal or external. This part of your mind exaggerates. It takes small things and makes them bigger than they are. You have overcome many disappointments in your life. You can get past this one, too.

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

It appears that one relationship is emerging the victor from your inner turmoil over a significant other. Your mind is settling into a solution. Since you are more at peace, you have a lot of energy to share and likely will be involved in activities that help you burn up some of that excess.

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

You and a partner (business or personal) are experiencing conflict. First you need to know that this is a misunderstanding from the beginning. If the issue is just too hot, take a breather from it and return later when the heat has cooled. You are likely to be leaning on the judgmental side.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

See the lead paragraph which particularly speaks to you. This is a time to believe your dreams and make that push toward success. The Force is with you now. Activities requiring strength and/or endurance are favored. A transformation is at hand and available if you will reach for it.

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

Necessary expenses (those not of the "fun" type) may develop this week. If not that, you could be just having a little blue mood. It is one of those times when we operate better in solitude. In fact, you may feel better if you do withdraw. Notice a tendency toward paranoia and don't take action until the reason is verified.

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

It is imperative that you monitor your communications at this time. Telling the absolute truth, as you see it, could ruffle a lot of feathers and tarnish your reputation. Remain flexible and avoid opinionated attitudes. Keep a balanced focus. Say nothing if you must, to avoid damage.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Sayat Nova

The youth and the streamlet

Down from yon distant mountain
The streamlet finds its way,
And through the quiet village
It flows in eddying play.
A dark youth left his doorway,
And sought the water-side,
And, laving there his hands
and brow,
"O streamlet sweet!" he cried,
"Say, from what mountain
com'st thou?"
"From yonder mountain cold
Where snow on snow lies
sleeping,
The new snow on the old."
"Unto what river, tell me,
Fair streamlet, dost thou flow?"
"I flow unto that river
Where clustering violets grow."
"Sweet streamlet, to what
vineyard,
Say, dost thou take thy way?"
"The vineyard where the
vine-dresser
Is at his work to-day."
"What plant where wilt
thou water?"
"The plant upon whose roots
The lambs feed, where
the wind-flower blooms,
And orchards bear sweet fruits."
"What garden wilt thou visit,
O water cool and fleet?"
"The garden where
the nightingale
Sings tenderly and sweet."
"Into what fountain
flow'st thou?"
"The fountain to whose brink
Thy love comes down
at morn and eve,
And bends her face to drink.
"There shall I meet the maiden
Who is to be thy bride,
And kiss her chin, and
with her love
My soul be satisfied."

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?**Enjoy your leisure****20 April**

19:00. Operation Nemesis, References: French historians Gerard Chalian, Ives Ternon, Jacques Derouge Based on "All Rise, the Court is in Session" by Perch Zeytuntsyan. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

21 April

16:00. David of Sasun. Author: Hovh. Tumanyan. Staged by David Hakobyan. Musical arrangement: Armen Margaryan. Play | State Musical Chamber Theater

19:00. The Forty Days of Musa Dag. Author: Franz Werfel . Heroic novel, 2 acts. Staging: Armen Elbakyan. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

19:00. The Curtain of Time. Premiere. Hasmik Ter-Karapetyan's mono-performance. Staged by Garnik Seyranyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

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

21:30. 100 Year Memory. Join the "100 Year Memory" Concert in Paris to be broadcast live at the Opera and Ballet Theater on April 21 at 21: 30 pm. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

22 April

19:00. Operation Nemesis, References: French historians Gerard Chalian, Ives Ternon, Jacques Derouge Based on "All Rise, the Court is in Session" by Perch Zeytuntsyan. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

19:00. The Forty Days of Musa Dag. Author: Franz Werfel . Heroic

novel, 2 acts. Staging: Armen Elbakyan. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

19:00. Spartacus. Aram Khachaturian. Ballet in 3 acts. Ballet | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

19:00. Yearning. Premiere. H. Kochar's "Yearning" is dedicated to Henrik Malyan's memory. Directed by: Grigor Babayan. Play recovered by: Narine Malyan. Play | H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors

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

23 April

19:00. Anoush. A. Tigranian. Opera in 3 acts. Opera | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

19:00. Compensation. Pessimistic Comedy. Based on Ara Yernjakyan's "Armmagedon" . Author and Director of the Play: Ara Yernjakyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19:00. Sheranik. Historical Mimodrama in 1 act. Staging: Zhirayr Dadasyan . Director: Yuri Kostanyan. Play | Yerevan State Pantomime Theater

20:30. System of a Down: Wake up the souls. Concert | Republic Square

24 April

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

19:00. Operation Nemesis, References: French historians Gerard Chalian, Ives Ternon, Jacques Derouge Based on "All Rise, the Court is in Session" by Perch Zeytuntsyan. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

00:0. Antouni. Edgar Hovhannisyan.

Oratorio from the 2nd act of the ballet. Concert | Freedom Square

25 April

12:00, 14:00. Goldfish. Author: Alexander Pushkin.

Director/Producer: Tigran Zahalyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

12:30, 14:00, 15:30. The Adventures of Buratino. Alexei Tolstoy Director: Armen Elbakyan. 4+. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

16:00, 18:00. Du-Dum the Wise Man and the Ignorant. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

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

19:00. Compensation. Pessimistic Comedy. Based on Ara Yernjakyan's "Armmagedon" . Author and Director of the Play: Ara Yernjakyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19:00. Gayane. A. Khachaturyan. Ballet in 3 acts. Ballet | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

19:00. Shekhonts Mihran. Author: M. Kheranyan. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater

19:00. Love Mess. H. Berger. Crazy hallucination, in 2 parts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

19:00. All Rise, the Court is in Session. Author: Perch Zeytuntsyan. Drama in 2 acts . Staging: Tigran Gasparyan. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

19:00. The Emperor. Levon Shant. Drama. Play | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater

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

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

26 April

12:00, 14:00. The Tailless Fox. Author: Hovhannes Tumanyan. Staging: Ruben Marukhyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

12:30, 14:00, 15:30. The Real Friend. Ruben Marukhyan. Musical performance. Staging: Anna Elbakyan. 3+. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

14:00. Beauty and the Beast. French folk tale. Children's Musical Fun Show. Director: Armen Margaryan. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater

15:00. Princess With a Mustache. A. Grigoryan. Based on Ernst Amadeus Hoffman's "Nutcracker". Play for kids | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater

16:00, 18:00. Little Red Riding Hood. Author: Charles Perrault. Director/Producer: Arpi Maghakyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

19:00. The Dragon. Yevgeyi Svarts. Staging: Karen Khachatryan. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater

17:00. The New Adventures of The Three Piglets. Directed by Samson Stepanyan. Choreographer: Sevag Avakian. Painter: Andre Asatryan. Musical | State Musical Chamber Theater

19:00. Eastern Dentist. Authors: Artemi Ayvazyan, Hakob. Paronyan. Stage Director: Yervand Ghazanchyan. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

19:00. Fish Without Water or Suicide. A. Khandikyan, L. Mutafyan. Tragicomic fantasy without a break. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

19:00. Scotch & Whisky. Optimistic comedy. Director of the play: Arshaluis Harutiunyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19:00. Coma Nostra. Author: Narek Duryan. Staging and music design

by Narek Duryan. Producer: Kristine Hovhannisyan. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

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

19:00. Armenians in Operas of World Composers. Concert performance. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

20:00. The Beautified Project: Aragil. The first full band concert of the year before the European Tour of 2015. It is also the premiere of the "Aragil" CD which will be released to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Concert | Kami Club

27 April

19:00. I've Come to Call Only. G. Marquez. Staged by N. Grigoryan, N. Tsaturyan. Play | Student Theater

19:30. ANPO & Maria Guleghina. Soloist: world famous soprano Maria Guleghina. Program: Exerpts form operas by Verdi, Puccini and Giordano. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

28 April

12:00. The Silly Man. Based on Hovhannes Tumanyan's tale. Small Hall. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

16:00. Anush. Drama. Author: H. Tumanyan. Director: Davit Hakobyan. Play | State Musical Chamber Theater

19:00. State Dance Ensemble of Armenia. Dance | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

19:00. From Here and There. Premiere. Sergey Danielyan's monoplay. Author and Staging Director: Sergey Danielyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19:00. Tales. Author: H. Tumanyan. Staging: Henrik Malyan. Play for kids | H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors

20:00. As a Beginning. Hrachuhi Utmazyan. Artur Utmazyan. Poetry, Evening of literature and music | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

29 April

19:00. Morgan's In-Law. Author: Alexander Shirvanzade. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

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

19:00. Zhanna. Film-Comedy. Erkat Production, 2015. Movie | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19:30. Kronos Quartet. The concert of the world famous Kronos Quartet. In the framework of "Yerevan Perspectives" International Music Festival. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

30 April

16:00. David of Sasun. Author: Hovh. Tumanyan. Staged by David Hakobyan. Play | State Musical Chamber Theater

17:00, 19:00. 3-4. Children's Interactive Show. Play for kids | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

19:00. Jesus of Nazareth and His Second Disciple. P. Zeytuntsyan. Drama in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

19:00. Money is Your God. Premiere. G. Sundukyan. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

19:00. Amnesia. Melodrama. Staging: Gor Margaryan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

Serj Tankian raises genocide awareness in '100 Years' video

Serj Tankian and his fellow Armenian-American rockers in System of a Down have dedicated their current Wake Up the Souls tour toward raising awareness of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 and forcing Turkey to take accountability.

As an extension of the Toxicity group's current trek, Tankian and composer John Psathas have teamed up for the somber composition "100 Years," which juxtaposes Tankian's harmonizing with images of the atrocities from the genocide that, to this day, the Turkish government refuses to acknowledge, according to the Rolling Stone.

"This video is dedicated to all those fighting for truth, recognition and justice for the first genocide of the 20th Century and all subsequent genocides," a note at the beginning of "100 Years" reads.

"In 1915, at the height of World War I, the government of Ottoman Turkey began the



systematic eradication of its Christian population within their borders. By the end of the war, over 1.5 million Armenians, Greeks and

Assyrians suffered gruesome annihilation through massacre, hunger, rape and deportation at the hands of the Ottoman Turks in what is now called the first genocide of the 20th century."

The Armenian genocide has long been a subject of System of a Down's music, and Tankian recently spoke to Rolling Stone about why it was vital for the band to tour on the massacre's 100th anniversary. "I think for us it's important for Turkey to know its own history in a truthful manner. It's not just about the genocide of the Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians, but what's going on now," Tankian said. "There are no executable international agreements that have to do with stopping the genocide. Irrespective of a number of great U.N. bodies and even U.S.-based bodies in terms of genocide prevention, there's no binding resolution on any genocide or holocaust occurring. We still see them happening."

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