

President Sargsyan visits northeastern defense positions



President Serzh Sargsyan inspected Armenian troops deployed along Armenia's border with Azerbaijan and proceeded to Nagorno-Karabakh on November 19 as his foreign minister, Edward Nalbandian, discussed the Karabakh peace process with lawmakers in Yerevan.

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President meets Dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

President Serzh Sargsyan received on November 19 Dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University James Stavridis and President of the Tavitian Foundation Aso Tavitian.

At the meeting, the parties spoke about the current cooperation between the Tavitian Foundation established by the American benefactor Aso Tavitian and the Fletcher School. Through the scholarships provided by the Tavitian Foundation, gifted young people from the Republic of Armenia are receiving world class education at the Fletcher School. Over 250 alumni of the school have returned to Armenia

after receiving education in the framework of this program and utilize their knowledge and abilities in Armenia.

At the same time, the Tavitian Foundation is sponsoring visits of Deans and prominent faculty members to Armenia, to provide them with the opportunity to

learn first-

hand about the Armenian nation and current geopolitical reality.

Admiral James Stavridis is also a member to the US Council on Foreign Relations. He served for many years in the US navy and occupied high positions including NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, as well as the first commander of the US Center of strategic and

tactical research. He has also served as the executive assistant to the Secretary of the Navy and the senior military assistant to the United States Secretary of Defense. During his tenure, he was decorated with more than 50 US as well as foreign medals and certificates of honor.

At the meeting with the President of Armenia, the parties discussed current international problems and challenges, as well as regional developments.



The US interested in deepening cooperation with Armenia



A senior U.S. State Department official sounded optimistic about the success of ongoing efforts to expand Armenia's commercial ties with the United States at the start of a visit to Yerevan on November 12.

Bridget Brink, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, met with President Serzh Sargsyan and Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian ahead of an annual meeting of the U.S.-Armenia Task Force (USATF).

The intergovernmental body has coordinated U.S. economic assistance provided to Armenia over the decade. It only increasingly deals with problems hampering bilateral trade and U.S. investments in the Armenian economy.

Brink described the USATF meeting scheduled for Thursday as the "primary purpose" of her trip. "It's something that I am actually very optimistic about," she told a news conference. The two sides are committed to "stronger economic ties and more trade and investment," she added.

Richard Mills, the U.S. ambassador in Yerevan, said last week that the meeting will focus on the Armenian government's efforts to combat corruption, improve the domestic investment climate and reform the civil aviation sector as well as Armenia's "future energy strategy." Mills said that a real fight against corruption is critical for attracting more U.S. investment in the Armenian economy.

Brink emphasized U.S. assistance to Yerevan's declared anti-graft efforts, saying that it "helps to protect Armenia from foreign influence as well as helps Armenia build its economy and develop democratically." She did not elaborate on that influence.

Brink began her visit one day after another intergovernmental body, the U.S.-Armenia Council on Trade and Investment, held its inaugural session in Yerevan. The council was set up shortly after the U.S. and Armenian governments signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) in Washington in May. It is tasked with addressing obstacles to bilateral commercial ties.

Serzh Sargsyan stressed the importance of the TIFA when he met with Brink. According to the presidential press service, he also praised "strong partnership" between the U.S. and Armenia.

Ruling Party Confident Of Referendum Win



A senior representative of the ruling Republican Party (HHK) expressed confidence on November 20 that Armenians will overwhelmingly back President Serzh Sargsyan's sweeping constitutional changes in next month's referendum.

"Naturally, I am sure that the people will say Yes," said Vahram Baghdasaryan, the leader of the HHK's parliamentary faction. "You should ask the 'No' camp where it will find itself [after the December 6 referendum.]"

The upbeat statement came amid mounting opposition allegations that the

Armenian authorities are preparing a massive vote-rigging operation to ensure the country's transition to the parliamentary system of government envisaged by the draft amendments. Opposition groups are particularly vocal about the HHK's reported use of its government levers aimed at securing a "Yes" vote in the referendum.

The opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK), the key member of the "No" campaign, claimed on Friday that the violations reflect a lack of popular support for the constitutional reform. "I think the authorities will find themselves

in a very difficult situation because it is already evident that the people reject the authorities, reject the constitutional changes," Zurabyan told a news conference.

"You all know that a 'No' vote has already won ... If the referendum is free and fair, the authorities won't get even 10 percent of the vote," he said.

Baghdasaryan shrugged off Zurabyan's claim. "That is his childhood dream," he told reporters.

The reform proponents and opponents have failed to pull large crowds in their nationwide meetings with voters held so far. Neither Sargsyan nor the HAK's top leader, Levon Ter-Petrosian, has participated in those gatherings.

In Baghdasaryan's words, the Armenian president will discuss his amendments in detail in a televised interview which he will give on the eve of the referendum.

Serzh Sargsyan has already denied opposition claims that the main aim of the reform is to enable him to stay in power after his second and final presidential term ends in 2018. He has pledged not to become prime minister or parliament speaker if Armenia does become a parliamentary republic.

President Sargsyan visits northeastern defense positions

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Photographs released by the presidential press service showed a uniform-clad Sargsyan visiting military bases in northeastern Armenia and shaking hands with soldiers serving there and their commanders. He was accompanied by Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian and the chief of the Armenian army's General Staff, Colonel-General Yuri Khachaturov.

A statement by the service said the commander of an army corps deployed in the area briefed Serzh Sargsyan on the situation along the volatile frontier where serious ceasefire violations have been a regular occurrence this year. It said the president then headed to Karabakh on a "working visit."

Serzh Sargsyan and Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev are expected to meet next month for talks which international mediators hope will help to relaunch

the stalled peace process and ease tensions along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and the Line of Contact around Karabakh.

In Yerevan, meanwhile, Foreign Minister Nalbandian visited the National Assembly to meet with members of the parliament committee on foreign relations and the Armenian delegation at the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE). The meeting held behind the closed doors lasted for about an hour.

"We discussed issues related to our foreign policy," Nalbandian told reporters afterwards. He confirmed that the

Karabakh issue was on the agenda but refused to go into details.

Other participants of the meeting were also tight-lipped. Artak Zakaryan, the committee chairman, admitted only that they discussed with Nalbandian a draft PACE resolution that demands Armenian withdrawal from Karabakh and the territory's return to Azerbaijani rule.

The U.S., Russian and French co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group have warned the PACE against adopting the resolution, drafted by a pro-Azerbaijani former British parliamentarian, at its next session in Strasbourg in January.

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Another Minister accused of Illegal Referendum campaign

The opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK) accused Education Minister Armen Ashotyan on November 16 of forcing the directors and teachers of public schools to promote President Serzh Sargsyan's controversial constitutional changes among voters.

Levon Zurabyan, the HAK's parliamentary leader, claimed that the school administrations are urging students' parents to vote for those changes in next month's referendum in violation of Armenian law.

"This is an extraordinary issue," Zurabyan said during a parliament session. He demanded that parliament speaker Galust Sahakyan seek "explanations" from Ashotyan.

Like Ashotyan, Sahakyan is a deputy chairman of Sargsyan's Republican Party of Armenia (HHK). Not surprisingly, he brushed aside Zurabyan's allegations.

"This is a provocative statement," Sahakyan told the oppositionist. "You cannot show any proof of schoolteachers committing such violations."

Ashotyan, who was present at the parliament session, also denied any pressure on school principals and teachers. Speaking to reporters, he accused the HAK leader of violating the "presumption of innocence."

Zurabyan stood by his allegations in separate comments to the press. "I want those school principals and teachers who carry out Armen Ashotyan's illegal orders to know that there is criminal liability for such actions," he said.

Ashotyan already came under fire from opposition groups last week when he began hosting a new political talk show on Armenian state television. The HAK and other opponents of the constitutional reform claim that the show is part of the Sargsyan administration's intensifying referendum campaign. Ashotyan insisted on Monday he is only acting as an "impartial" moderator of televised debates on various political issues.



Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan has faced similar opposition accusations after urging voters to back the proposed amendments to the Armenian constitution in a video ad that was posted on the Internet last week. Zurabyan and other opposition figures have condemned the ad as a covert illegal order issued to military personnel.

Ohanian dismissed the opposition claims over the weekend, saying that he is campaigning for a 'Yes' vote in the December 6 only as an Armenian citizen. "I think that the criticism is inappropriate especially given that the post of defense minister is a political one and I'm a member of a political team," he told reporters.

Ohanian also insisted that the Armenian military is not and will not be involved in the referendum campaign in any way.

The HAK and its opposition allies likewise cried foul last month after Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan and several other senior government officials, including Ashotyan, were named by the HHK to lead the "Yes" campaign. They said this is a clear indication that the ruling party will abuse of its government levers to push through the amendments. The HHK denies this.

Kocharyan critical of Armenian foreign policy



Former President Robert Kocharyan has again criticized the Armenian government, saying that President Serzh

Sargsyan's unexpected decision in 2013 to abandon a planned Association Agreement with the European Union seriously dam-

aged Armenia's international reputation.

In an interview with Germany's Deutsche Welle broadcaster published on Wednesday, Kocharyan stressed that Sargsyan should not have pursued such a far-reaching accord with the EU in the first place in view of Armenia's close relations with Russia. He seemed to imply that the Russian backlash against that European integration drive is what forced Yerevan to join the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

"I did not support the signing of the kind of an Association Agreement with the EU that was on the table," he said. "Not because it was good or bad, but because some of its provisions were geopolitically sensitive, so to speak, for our other partners. I understood that we have to reckon with that."

Kocharyan argued that Armenia had embarked on association talks with the EU along with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine -- more pro-Western ex-Soviet states that have long had uneasy relations with Moscow. "Therefore, it was certainly wrong to get involved in that process so deeply only to end up in a totally different place," he said, referring to Armenia's subsequent accession to the Russian-led EEU.

Serzh Sargsyan announced his decision to seek membership in the EEU in September 2013, less than two months after his government worked out the key terms of the Association Agreement with the European Commission. The abrupt U-turn is widely believed to have resulted from strong Russian pressure.

Armenia and the EU are expected to start next month official negotiations on a less ambitious deal that would contain some political and economic provisions of their scrapped agreement. The talks will underscore the Armenian government hopes to deepen ties with Europe even after its entry into the EEU.

Kocharyan seemed skeptical about this delicate balancing act, saying that the scope of those ties will now be "scaled-down and incomplete." "We will continue to feel for a long time the damage to Armenia's international reputation caused as a result of that one-day U-turn, which was absolutely unexpected for both the Europeans and the Armenian society," he said.

The ex-president, who governed Armenia from 1998-2008, also asserted that contrary to upbeat statements made by Sargsyan and other Armenian officials the EEU membership has yet to ben-

efit the struggling domestic economy. He cited official statistics showing that Armenia's trade with Russia has actually plummeted over the past year due to a sharp depreciation of the Russian ruble.

Kocharyan, who sits on the board of a big Russian corporation and reportedly spends a large part of his time in Moscow, was at the same time careful not to call for Armenia's exit from the Russian-led bloc. He said more time is needed to gauge the EEU's economic impact on his country.

Once a close ally of Sargsyan, Kocharyan has grown increasingly critical of his handpicked successor in recent years, fueling speculation about his desire to return to active politics. His possible comeback became seriously complicated, however, after Gagik Tsarukyan, a Kocharyan-linked tycoon leading Armenia's second largest parliamentary party, capitulated in February in a bitter standoff with Serzh Sargsyan.

Observers believe that Kocharyan will find it even harder to return to power if Sargsyan succeeds in transforming Armenia into a parliamentary republic through constitutional amendments that have been put on a December 6 referendum.

Speaking to Deutsche Welle, Kocharyan reaffirmed his strong opposition to the proposed amendments. He again claimed that they are meant to indefinitely keep Sargsyan's Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) in power.

HHK representatives have dismissed such claims echoed by many Armenian opposition groups.

Aliyev blasts 'Armenian Terrorism' at G20 Summit



Official Yerevan reacted angrily on November 16 after Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev used a summit of the Group of 20 (G20) nations in Turkey to accuse Armenia of resorting to terrorism in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

"That is an unsuccessful attempt to deflect the international community's attention from direct links that have traditionally existed between Azerbaijan and various terror networks," Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan charged in comments to RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am).

Aliyev was among world leaders, including U.S. President Barack Obama, invited to the summit in the Turkish city of Antalya that was dominated by Friday's deadly suicide bombings and shootings in Paris. They reportedly pledged to tighten border controls, step up intelligence sharing and crack down on terrorist financing after discussing ways of jointly fighting against the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) in Syria and Iraq.

In his speech at the summit, Aliyev said that Azerbaijan has long been suffering from terrorism emanating from the unresolved Karabakh conflict. "That terrorism is an integral compo-

nent of Armenia's policy of occupation against Azerbaijan," Azerbaijani news agencies quoted him as saying.

"More than two thousand citizens of Azerbaijan have died as a result of terrorist acts perpetrated by Armenian terrorist organizations against Azerbaijan," alleged Aliyev. He went on to repeat his calls for a resolution of the conflict that would restore Baku's control over Karabakh and Armenian-controlled territories surrounding it.

Kocharyan rejected the allegations, accusing Aliyev of acting "immorally" in the wake of the Paris attacks. He listed some of "the numerous facts" purportedly proving Azerbaijan's ties with international terrorism.

In particular, Kocharyan pointed to the well-known participation in the Karabakh war of Chechen fighters led by Shamil Basayev, a notorious warlord who claimed responsibility for a 2004 attack on a school in Beslan, Russia. At least 331 people, half of them children, were killed as a result.

"After the 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, American special services recorded 60 phone calls to Baku made by [Osama] bin Laden," said Kocharyan. "In a statement adopted on November 25, 2002, the UN Security Council emphasized the existence in Azerbaijan of groups linked to Al-Qaeda."

The Armenian official further pointed to reports that hundreds of Azerbaijanis have travelled to Syria and Iraq to join the ISIS.

The bitter recriminations come amid continuing efforts by the U.S., Russian and French mediators to organize a fresh meeting between Aliyev and President Serzh Sargsyan. The mediators have said the Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders have agreed to meet next month and try to revive the Karabakh peace process.

More Western Investors 'Interested' In Armenian Energy Sector

Two Europe-based companies have expressed readiness to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in the construction of new thermal power plants in Armenia, according to the Armenian government.

Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian's cabinet approved on November 19 a memorandum of understanding with one of them, the Italian group Renco. The latter is to conduct a four-month feasibility study on a 234-megawatt plant which it is considering building in Yerevan.

Should Renco decide to go ahead with the \$215 million project the government will provide it with a plot of land adjacent to an existing Yerevan power plant. The 242-megawatt gas-fired facility was completely reconstructed in 2010 with a \$247 million loan provided by Japan's government.

According to a government statement, Abrahamian stressed the importance of the would-be project for Armenia's energy security. He argued that the country would boost its power generating capacity without increasing its foreign debt.

Renco has done business in Armenia for more than a decade. It has not been involved in the local energy sector, however, investing instead in luxury housing and hotels. But the company has built, installed or operated power generation and distribution facilities in other parts of the world.

The government gave the green light to the possible deal with Renco less than a



week after Abrahamian met with the visiting chief executive of Grange Holdings, a little-known company based in Britain. Abrahamian's press office cited Assad Sheikh as saying that the company is "prepared to invest some \$400 million in Armenia's energy sector and thermal energy in particular."

The Armenian premier assured Sheikh that his government would welcome such a project. There was no word on possible dates for its implementation.

Earlier this year, energy experts from the World Bank warned in a report that Armenia could face a shortage of electricity unless it builds a new and large power plant by 2026, the anticipated date of the decommissioning of the nuclear station at Metsamor.

With a capacity of 400 megawatts, Metsamor's sole functioning reactor

accounts for around 40 percent of electricity generated in the country annually. Its 30-year design life span ends in 2016. The government plans to modernize the Soviet-era plant and keep it operational for at least 10 more years.

The two possible investments revealed by the government would also further diversify foreign ownership of Armenian energy enterprises. The sector is currently dominated by the Russian energy giants Gazprom and Inter RAO.

In May this year, the U.S. company ContourGlobal completed a \$180 million acquisition of Armenia's largest hydroelectric complex. It thus became the first Western firm to gain major assets in the Armenian energy sector. The three plants making up the Vorotan Hydropower Cascade have a combined capacity of over 400 megawatts.

U.S. vows continued aid to Karabakh



The United States will continue to finance humanitarian projects in Nagorno-Karabakh as part of annual economic assistance allocated by the U.S. Congress, a senior State Department official said on Wednesday.

Armenian-American lobby groups have been instrumental in

at least \$44.5 million in direct aid to Karabakh which has been approved by Congress since 1998 over strong objections from Azerbaijan. It has been mostly channeled into humanitarian demining operations and the reconstruction of the region's water distribution network.

Speaking in Yerevan, Alina Romanowski, the State Department coordinator for U.S. assistance to the former Soviet Union, said the U.S. aid to Karabakh will remain focused on these areas. "We will be continuing our support for demining activities in that region," she said, adding that the safety of Karabakh's population is particularly important to the U.S.

President Serzh Sargsyan, a former wartime leader of Karabakh, thanked Congress for the aid allocations when he visited Washington in September. "That assistance has had a not only humanitarian but, first and foremost, moral significance for the people of Artsakh (Karabakh)," Sargsyan said at a reception held in his honor on Capitol Hill.

Eugene Kaspersky receives Armenian President's 2015 IT Award



On November 17, at the Presidential Palace there took place the ceremony of bestowing the 2015 RA Presidential Award for the global contribution in the area of information technology. After the ceremony, a reception was held to honor the winner of the award, the world famous expert of cyber security, Director General of Kaspersky Lab - one of the leading private companies in that area, Eugene Kaspersky and his spouse Khu Shirong.

The Chairman of the Executive Council of the Award Committee of the World Information Technologies (WIT) Hovik Musaelyan in his speech presented the achievements and dynamics of the IT area in Armenia - one of the most vigorously developing branches which has also

been creating the highest added value. He underscored that in recent years, this sector has grown by 20-25 percent and its specific weight is close to 3% of the GDP. Hovik Musaelyan spoke also about the cooperation of the Armenian government and the private sector which allows to implement initiatives aimed at the further development of the IT area. He presented in detail the prehistory of the RA Presidential Award for the global contribution in the IT area which was established by the executive order of the President, the guiding principles of the award committee and the international selection commission, mentioned the individuals who have already received this prestigious award and introduced the winner of this year's award

Eugene Kaspersky.

President Serzh Sargsyan handed the award to Eugene Kaspersky. At the reception which was held in honor of the winner of the award the President of Armenia made a statement.

During the event, the recipient of the award Eugene Kaspersky spoke the words of gratitude, "I am doing everything I can. I am motivating my employees and my company so that they do everything they can so that we become the best performers of this job in the world. I believe that we do this job better than anyone else in the world. It is my life, my destiny, my mission. I am very grateful to the President of Armenia, I thank the commission which has decided to bestow me with this award, and I am grateful to the sponsors who assisted in the organization of this event. I promise that I will work even better. We must save this world, not just the cyber world but the entire world since there is no longer a difference between the physical world and cyber space. They are intertwined, and we must create working systems and conditions which will allow eliminating cyber-attacks; they are problems that we simply do not need. I will do everything I can to make it a reality. This award is a very serious impetus for such a work. Thank you very much," said the Director General of Kaspersky Lab Mr. Eugene Kaspersky.

Sale of Demirchyan Concert Complex Still Not Complete



The sale of the Karen Demirchyan Sport and Concert Complex has not been completed, David Harutyunyan, head of the Armenian government administration, said Wednesday at a question and answer session in the National Assembly.

The preliminary decision to sell the state-owned complex to NTA Investment Group for \$30 million was approved by the government on August 13.

"The contract has not come into force so far, since it is stipulated that it will come into force only after payment of the entire cost of the deal," Harutyunyan said.

According to Harutyunyan, after the purchase the new owner must invest more than \$100 million in the structure within four years' time.

He said that a hotel, a roofed aqua park, concert halls, restaurants and a casino are planned to be built on grounds of the complex.

Though NTA Investment Group is registered in Armenia, it has not been involved in commercial activities in the country till now. Therefore, strict terms were set in the contract and full payment is demanded. The new owner ought to maintain the name and activity focuses of the complex and to allow conducting events at the Armenian government's request for 10 years.

The decision to sell the complex sparked criticism from experts and the word of intention to open a casino was considered unacceptable and immoral, particularly because the complex is located near the Tsitsernakabert genocide memorial.



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1 ROOM

- 1696.**Tumanyan str.**, 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 160.000 USD.
- 1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m, euro repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1715-**Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- 1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

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



3 ROOMS

- 3090 **Dzorap Newly built**, 190sq.m, 2 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, capitally renovated, parking. Price: 460.000 USD
- 3090. **Busand str./Near Republic Square/**, Newly built, 6th floor, 116sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms one in master bedroom, capitally renovated, open balcony. Price: 350.000 USD negotiable
- 3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m., without divisions. Price: Negotiable.
- 3012.**Aram str**, Newly built, 7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price: 300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998.**North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built, 13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, security system. Price: 320.000 USD.
- 1104.**Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**,

- 5/2, 125sq.m., stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- 2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4, 5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- 2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- 1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capitally repaired. Price: negotiable.
- 1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- 2035.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- 2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- 2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- 2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking.

Price: 3.600.000 USD

- 2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m, without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable
- 1986.**Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.
- 2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- 2175.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor 300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m., - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- 2172. **Isahakyan str.**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

- 2122.**Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.
- 2121.**Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m., building permits. Price: 2million USD.
- 2013.**Cascade**. 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price: 460.000USD
- 1402.**Hr. Kochar Str.**, 1100 sq. m., facade -25 m. Price negotiable.
- 2090.**Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000USD.
- 2406.**Avan**, Mher Mkrtchyan block, 1000 sq.m.,

electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price: 30USD per sq.m

- 2310.**Monument, Babayan str.**, 1000 sq. m, facade-25m, privatized. Price: 350 USD negotiable
- 2107.**Monument**, 2400sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: 400 USD per sq.m.
- 2413.**Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable
- 2414.**Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price: 750.000 USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2358 **V. Sargsyan str**, Newly Built, 7/4, 145sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, one guest toilet, capially renovated, furnished, underground parking. Price: 3000 USD negotiable
- 2353 **V. Sargsyan str.** 8/5, Newly built, 98sq.m, 2bedrooms, capially renovated, furnished, Price 1500 USD

- 2347 **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable
- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD



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

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- 1142. **Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capially repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- 1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

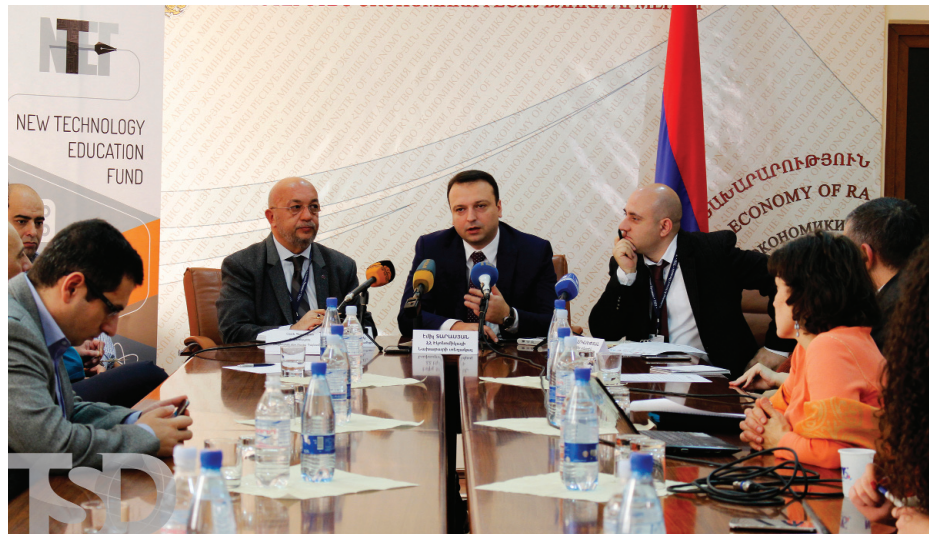
- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement,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

Dr Vahan Chakarian: "I am Proud of the Armenian ICT European Expedition being such a Success..."



By Gourgen James
Khazhakian
Chief Correspondent

For presentation of Armenia's achievements and opportunities in Information/Communication Technology at the international arena, in the wide promotion of cooperation, as well as highlighting new investment projects in the country, the "Armenian ICT European Expedition: AutoRally Across Europe" was initiated. It began on the 4th of October and ended on the 5th of November 2015. This innovative project, held under the auspices of the Prime Minister and supported by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, was carried out by the "Technology and Science Dynamics" LLC and the "New Technology Education



Tarasyan pointed out that the Rally was a new and promising format for presenting not only Armenia's achievements in the field of ICT, but, more importantly, the overall favourable investment climate in Armenia, which spreads to other sectors of the economy. "The most important point here is the wide list of participants, both from the private and the public sectors", he said. And he added: "This is an inspiring and a prac-

effectiveness of the project, to see what success we had".

Mr Tarasyan stressed that various agreements have been reached with Polish and German counterparts. "As a government representative, I participated in the Armenian-Polish business forum held in the city of Katowice where I saw the interest of the Polish side in establishing joint ventures whose products could be exported to the Eurasian Economic Union market - you know that that market is in fact closed for Poland", said Emil Tarasyan and added that such interest is not confined to the ICT, but includes possible joint ventures in industry, agriculture, etc.

"In Germany, when presenting the general investment climate features of Armenia, we have learned that they were in need of creative solutions in the ICT sector and they expressed readiness to give orders to our

Fund".

36 delegates from 26 ICT companies participated in the Rally, its route criss-crossed 18 European countries, and along the way, innumerable official and personal meetings were held in Vienna, Paris, Katowice, Prague, Berlin, Marseille, Zagreb, Milan, Belgrade and Sofia. Preliminary results and the longer-term prospects of the Rally were highlighted by the organisers and participants of the project at a news conference held on the 20th of November at the Armenian Economy Ministry.

We have been told that the innovative format of the roadshow involved numerous conferences and exhibitions, bringing together the private enterprise and the public sector.

The Armenian delegation aimed at not only presenting technology solutions offered by the participant companies, but, in a wider context, the entire hi-tech sector of the Armenian economy with all its capabilities.

Deputy Economy Minister **Emil**



tical step. Such projects serve to solidify the ICT sector; to make them interact with each other with one common idea, one goal in mind. We still need to finally evaluate the

companies to obtain effective solutions", said the Deputy Minister.

Emil Tarasyan said that the road map of the European Expedition had been drawn in

accordance with the interest participating companies had in this or that market, in meeting with this or that company. As a result, the Armenian ICT representatives succeeded in chalking up to 300 preliminary arrangements or agreements with their European hosts.

"I myself was honoured to participate in organisational activities and several meetings in Europe", he said.

Founding President of the "Technology and Science Dynamics" Dr **Vahan Chakarian** said: "When we announced this program one year ago, some people openly doubted that we could possibly carry out such an ambitious project, that we could handle organisational matters properly, but today I can proudly declare that sceptics were wrong and the project was a success! The expedition had three objectives: first, to present the ICT sector of Armenia in Europe, second, to help our specialists to gain experience, and third, to highlight favourable conditions for new investments. The European expedition gave a chance to our IT experts to broaden their horizons, to see how their counterparts in Europe work".

Dr Chakarian said preparations have already begun for the 2016 expedition across the US and Canada.

"We plan to travel to New York,

EU went to Mr **Varos Simonyan**, the RA Trade Representative in the EU.

Executive Director of the "New Technology Education" Fund **Vahan Hovhanissyan** noted that when the idea of the Rally was first mooted it was hard to imagine that it could come to fruition.

"But while presenting this idea in various state institutions, we were pleasantly surprised that all of them were hugely interested in it, and at the IT Development

ect Dr Vahan Chakarian said the following: "... You know the environment in which you live and work has undoubted influence on you... I consider myself lucky as most of the TSD personnel are young, and I am the oldest one among them... Thus, working with youngsters, you become a dreamer, just like them.

Besides, I had experience of organising two similar tours some thirty years ago - one European and one world-wide... So we



decided to do something like that in the 21st century, something really useful for the ICT in Armenia, for economy as a whole. I believe such projects create motivation for our young specialists".

And Deputy Economy Minister Emil Tarasyan was asked by yours truly a similar question: "Was there a kind of scepticism towards the project, as it did require a lot of preparation, a huge workload?"

Mr Tarasyan said that he has got knew about the project at the "ArmTech" 14 held in New York, when Mr Chakarian announced it.

"And the project seemed to me a very interesting, a non-standard one... And I am proud that this is a project implemented by ICT sector; you know, creative approach is seen not only in working out solutions, but also in presenting products to the world... As to scepticism, I myself was convinced that the project will be a success, and such a mood was



to Oregon, Nevada, Texas, Florida, and, of course, California with its Silicon Valley, and then to cross the border into Canada...

At the moment we are negotiating with the project sponsors in the US", explained Vahan Chakarian. He also took the opportunity to thank Armenian Ministries of Economy, Foreign Affairs and Diaspora for unwavering support and expressed gratitude to the National Center for SME Development, Armenian Embassies in Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, Poland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Belgium, and to the representative office of the Central Bank of Armenia in Austria. Special thanks for substantial support in arranging meetings in the

Support Council regular meeting last July we received the high patronage of the Prime Minister and support of the Government. The participant companies were able to participate in expos, conferences, the largest regional education exhibition in Serbia, etc." "Unfortunately, the impression we received is that Armenia as a country with a developed ICT sector is not widely recognised in Europe, so we had to seize the opportunity to present our high-tech industry and to highlight the achievements of the Armenian professionals", stressed Mr Hovhanissyan.

Asked by your correspondent how the idea was born, the driving force of the proj-

shared by the members of the team working for the Project which helped significantly its really successful implementation".

The project was also supported by the Government of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, "Reso", "Altacode" and "Arpinet" companies, and by the World Armenian Congress.

The General sponsors of the project were "LOFT" and "Citymobil" companies, and the General financial partner and supporter was "Technology and Science Dynamics" company.

**Photos courtesy TSD
Acknowledgement: Anna Voskanyan**

Recent News from Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator in Brief

A Dream that Came True

VivaCell-MTS and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia in Aygepar

Through the housing project financed by VivaCell-MTS and implemented by the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia 27 homes were built and/or renovated in Aygepar, Nerkin Karmiraghbyur, Movses and Vazashen villages of Tavush region in 2014-2015.

The Grigoryans live in the borderland village of Aygepar always feeling the danger from enemy but never questioning the place they live and create. The Grigoryans are a small family – the spouses and their daughter. The lack of home kept them back even from thinking of having a second child.

During the visit to Tavush region VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia President Ashot Yeghiazaryan visited the Grigoryans' house and though the house construction is in process the warmth of the hearth is distinctive.

In 2015, for the housing project VivaCell-MTS invested AMD 100 million (in 2014 AMD 55 million) and the

Fuller Center for Housing Armenia has undertaken its implementation. As a result of the partnership from 2007 till the end of the current year the number of the families having their houses renovated or the construction of the half-built houses completed will reach 93.

House Blessing in Lori Region

27 years have passed since the devastating earthquake of 1988, but north of Armenia still keeps the traces of the catastrophe. Many families became homeless years ago. Many of them continue building hoping that one day they will have a home again.

The Margaryans are one of the residents of Lejan village of Lori region who have lost their home as a result of the earthquake and lived in a temporary shelter till now. The small wagon-like tin house without basic living conditions has been the only prototype of house for the two children of the Margaryan family; their daughter is already married, but their son does not get married because of the housing conditions.

The long-cherished dream of the Margaryans to have a home of their own

has become a reality owing to the cooperation between VivaCell-MTS and the Fuller Center for Housing of Armenia. VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian, employees of the Company, and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia team visited the Margaryans to share with them the joy of houswarming.

For the implementation of the housing project, VivaCell-MTS invested AMD 100 million in 2015 (AMD 55 million was invested in 2014), and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia has undertaken the implementation of the project. Through this partnership, from 2007 till the end of this year the number of the families having their houses renovated or the construction of the half-built houses completed will reach 93.

VivaCell-MTS provided "Gugark" Camp with 10 workstations

"Gugark" children's camp located in the village of Vahagnadzor, Lori, first opened its doors 57 years ago. Every year it hosts about 1200 children aged 7 to 16, mostly coming from the borderland villages of the country.

To modernize the camp and to organize computer literacy classes for the children the camp needed a computer laboratory. VivaCell-MTS promptly supported the management of the camp with that and provided 10 work stations, which were installed by the Company's specialists.

VivaCell-MTS has made free higher education available to over 700 students

Students from vulnerable social groups have been at the center of Armenia's leading telecommunications operator VivaCell-MTS' attention since 2011. The beneficiaries of the "Education Fund" program are students with special



needs or from vulnerable social groups with good standing at their universities. To support this target group VivaCell-MTS has allocated around AMD 600 million till now.

Over 700 students are now fully engaged in the learning process, relieved of the burden of the tuition fee which their families otherwise couldn't afford to pay. 53 of them have received Bachelor's degree having received tuition fee four years and successfully graduating from university.

Outdoor lighting has been provided in borderland Vahan village

The Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) and VivaCell-MTS presented the outcomes of yet another initiative implemented in the frames of the joint Alternative Energy Project. The initiative included installation of street lighting system with 37 LED lights in borderland village of Vahan, Gegharquniq region. As a result of the implemented program, outdoor lighting has been provided along a 1,100 meter-area of the village.

The launch of the system was attended by VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian, FPWC founder Ruben Khachatryan, head of Vahan community Guren Balyan and community residents.

Lichq community of Gegharquniq region has been provided with street lighting

Owing to the joint efforts of the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) and VivaCell-MTS, Lichq community of Gegharquniq Region has been provided with street lighting within the frames of the "Alternative Energy" Project. LED street lighting system has been installed in the community. The launching event was attended by VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian, FPWC Founder Ruben Khachatryan, Head of Lichq community Gnel Grigoryan and community residents.

LED lightening system and tree-planting of unique environmental importance in Urtsadzor

FPWC, its General Partner VivaCell-MTS, as well as the employees of the two organizations carried out a series of programs in Urtsadzor community. During the program the employees of both organizations implemented a LED lightening works and tree-planting of unique environmental importance in the community.

The event was attended by the General Manager of VivaCell-MTS Ralph Yirikian, the Founder of FPWC Ruben Khachatryan, employees of the two organizations, head of Urtsadzor community Rafik Andreasyan and community members.

The 50 environmentally friendly energy saving LED bulbs donated to the community will be used to illuminate about 2 km-long area. The program has already been implemented for about 2 km-long outdoor illumination by LED lights, which reduced the community's outdoor lighting costs for up to 60%.

Bardzruni community of Vayots Dzor region has been provided with street lighting

FPWC and VivaCell-MTS presented the outcomes of yet another initiative

implemented in the frames of the jointly implemented Alternative Energy Project. As part of the commitment to support borderland communities, a street lighting system has been installed with 41 LED light spots in borderland village of Bardzruni, Vayots Dzor region. As a result of the implemented program, outdoor lighting has been provided along a 1,250 meter-area of the village.

The launching event was attended by VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian, FPWC Founder Ruben Khachatryan, Head of Bardzruni community Gagik Gevorgyan and community residents.

Khndzorut community of Vayots Dzor region has been provided with street lighting

Owing the joint efforts of FPWC and VivaCell-MTS, another efficient project has been implemented in Khndzorut – a bordering remote community in Vayots Dzor marz. Due to the "Alternative Energy" Project, supporting poles and 60 LED street lights were installed in the community. Now an area of 1800 meters in the central part of the village and two main streets are provided with energy-efficient lighting.

The launching event was attended by VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian, FPWC Founder Ruben Khachatryan, Head of Khndzorut community Jirayr Nazaryan and community residents.



Youth Orchestra/Khachaturian Fest Recent News

State Youth Orchestra of Armenia and Gianluca Marciano Honored the Memory of Terrorism Victims in Paris

On 14 November the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia was conducted by invited conductor **Gianluca Marciano** (Italy) in the framework of the 3rd Aram Khachaturian International Festival. They presented Symphony No.1 "Titan" by Gustav Mahler. Speaking of Mahler's Symphony No. 1, Maestro Marciano commented that it is very beautiful and powerful composition; it's a great story without words but through the music. To remind The Highlights readers, Gianluca Marciano is a great

of Armenians participating in the ceremony commemorating the victims of terrorism in the Square of France, as well as performed the National Anthem of France - "Marseilles" conducted by its Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor **Sergey Smbatyan**.

wonderful. I am grateful to Sergey Smbatyan and to the Festival for they have presented this work." Gianluca Marciano was among the audience.

Speaking about the event, Maestro Marciano said he was satisfied by listening to the concert: *"It was a beautiful evening*



friend of Armenia. He was one of those 4 conductors who led 24/04" World Orchestra on 24 April 2015 concert commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. This year, in September, he visited Artsakh during the Verdi's "Requiem" premiere. As a result, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan included the Italian conductor in the so-called "black list". It should be mentioned that the next concert of 3rd Khachaturian International Festival of November 14 was dedicated to the victims of a terrorist attacks that had occurred in France a day before. During the evening Gianluca Marciano emphasized close relations between Armenia and France. He stressed that we are standing next to French people these days expressing our condolences. In the memory of the victims of terrorism Gianluca Marciano together with Youth Orchestra performed Puccini's several works. Immediately after the concert, the orchestra members came out of the concert hall and joining thousands

The audience was impressed by the works by Stravinsky and Penderecki

The 3rd Khachaturian International Festival continues to represent the audience an unforgettable musical evenings, filled with exclusive concert programs. On November 7 the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia led by its Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Sergey Smbatyan presented Adagio from Symphony No.3 by Krzysztof Penderecki (Armenian premiere) and symphony by Igor Stravinsky "The Rite of Spring". After the concert, the audience, sharing with impressions, noted that the concert was impressive both by the chosen compositions and performing art.

Viola player **Maxim Novikov** said: *"The Great Stravinsky is in Yerevan. This is just*

full of the great music."

The Head of D.Demirchyan Museum **Karine Rafaelian** stressed that every time she listens to the music of Penderecki, she is particularly pleased. *"I feel proud that even abroad we have such powerful artists with Armenian roots. This is why his symphony gives me not only aesthetic pleasure but also stroked my ambitiousness. While listening to Stravinsky's work I imagined that the ballet could have been very nice. I would like to see*

the ballet as well. The Youth Orchestra is known to me, so I am very happy that we got such young musicians. " On the same day, November 7, at the Alexander Spendiaryan Opera and Ballet National Academic Theatre, in the context of the Festival, Aram Khachaturian's "Gayaneh" ballet in 3 acts was represented.

And on 19 November Gianluca Marciano was conductor at the Verdi's "Il Trovatore" opera that was received by the audience very warmly.

It should be reminded that the 3rd Khachaturian International Festival is held under the patronage of RA President **Serzh Sargsyan**. This musical celebration is realized by the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (general partner VivaCell-MTS), with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture. The festival is sponsored by "Pyunik" Charitable Foundation, "Luding" Company, "Jermuk Group" and "Ani Plaza".

"My Armenia" project to support cultural heritage tourism



The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Smithsonian Institution have partnered for an innovative project to support cultural sustainability through cultural tourism in Armenia. The project was launched on November 20 at an official ceremony at the Matenadaran Scientific Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts in Yerevan, which holds one of the world's richest collections of medieval manuscripts and books.

The ceremony included remarks by the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills, Jr., Prime Minister of Armenia Hovik Abrahamyan, and the Senior Advisor of the Smithsonian's Office of International Relations, Halle Butvin. About 100 people attended the event, including representatives of the Government of Armenia, the private sector and the tourism industry at large.

The goal of the four-year project, which is funded by USAID, is to enhance and increase cultural heritage tourism in the regions outside of Armenia's capital Yerevan, through a unique combination of research, scholarship, support for artisan craft, capacity building, and a strong focus on fresh thinking for tourism development.

"The global tourism market continues to grow and touch new destinations. Armenia's rich cultural heritage, unique cuisine, beautiful natural environment and welcoming people make it a special place," said Ambassador Mills.

"The purpose of the 'My Armenia' project is nothing less than to put Armenia on the map as a world-class tourist destination. We intend to not only contribute to the development of the tourism industry in Armenia, but also ensure that the benefits of that growth are widely distributed across the country by promoting tourism to regions outside of Yerevan, thus enhancing the economic prospects of Armenia's rural communities."

The Smithsonian has a long history of working with communities around the world to support efforts in cultural sustainability, whether protecting cultural heritage threatened by human conflict

and natural disaster, or supporting the long-term sustainability of diverse cultural sectors.

Through training, programming, community engagement and documentation, and other methods, Smithsonian curators and project staff from across the Institution will work with partners in Armenia to develop new strategies for sustaining cultural heritage.

This project will support traditional arts, crafts and music in the country and lead to greater benefits for rural communities in Armenia, broader awareness about Armenia in international markets, as well as help protect and enhance Armenia's natural and cultural heritage.



"Tourism can be a driver of economic development by generating employment in hotels and restaurants, as well as increasing business for taxi drivers, those making and selling souvenirs, or those providing goods and services to tourism-related businesses," Ambassador Mills said.

"However, to spread the wealth generated by tourism, Armenia needs to develop anchor tourism sites outside of

Yerevan and link them together in a tourism circuit that spans the length and breadth of the country. This new project will provide technical assistance to develop such a circuit, which will encourage travelers to travel outside of Yerevan and spend more money in the regions. This is just one of the many ways the U.S. Embassy is partnering with the Armenian people to strengthen the economy of Armenia's rural regions."

The Smithsonian has a long history of working with USAID on international programming to support the conservation of biodiversity, museum workforce capacity building, and emerging cultural institutions. Reflecting a renewed partnership between the two organizations established through a 2013 Memorandum of Understanding, the "My Armenia" project signifies a new, collaborative approach to combine the strengths of the two organizations for greater impact.

Only 35% of Americans Are Aware There was an Armenian Genocide



By Harut
Sassounian

Publisher, The
California Courier

For the first time, a prestigious nationwide survey, conducted on November 9 by Zogby Analytics, reveals the extent of the American public's knowledge and opinion on the Armenian Genocide and Artsakh (Karabagh). The survey results, made available exclusively to this writer, have a +/- 3.1% margin of error.

To the question, are you aware that there was an Armenian Genocide, surprisingly only 34.8% of those surveyed answered 'yes'; 49.6% 'no'; and 15.6% 'not sure.' One would have expected that a much higher percentage of U.S. citizens would be aware of the Armenian Genocide, particularly after the large-scale Centennial commemorative events this year. The fact that half of all Americans have never heard of the Genocide of 1.5 million Armenians indicates that a major effort is needed to educate the public.

Zogby Analytics provides extensive information about the background of the participants in the survey. Here are some interesting details:

- While male respondents are evenly divided on the above question, there is a serious imbalance among women - twice as many females are unaware of the Armenian Genocide compared to those who are.

- Around half of all respondents are equally ignorant about the Armenian Genocide, regardless of political party affiliation. Liberals are slightly more knowledgeable than Moderates and Conservatives. Surprisingly, the majority of 'Tea Party' and 'Occupy Wall Street' sympathizers are cognizant of the Armenian Genocide.

- College graduates are more likely to know about the Armenian Genocide than those who are not.

- The age group 25-34 is the most knowledgeable about the Armenian Genocide, while the least knowledgeable is the age group 35-53.

- Hispanics are far more knowledgeable than 'Whites' about the Armenian

Genocide; African-Americans and Asian-Americans are the least knowledgeable.

- Catholics are more aware of the Armenian Genocide than Protestants.

- West Coast Americans are more aware of the Armenian Genocide than their counterparts in the East; while those living in Central and Southern U.S. are the least knowledgeable.

- Americans with the highest income category (\$100,000+) know the most about the Armenian Genocide; those making \$35,000-\$50,000 a year know the least.

In summary, the American most informed about the Armenian Genocide is: male, right or left wing political activist, college graduate, 25-34 years old, Hispanic, Catholic, lives on the West Coast, and makes over \$100,000 a year; whereas the American least informed about the Armenian Genocide is: female, mainstream political party member, not a college graduate, 35-53 years old, African-American or Asian-American, Protestant, lives in the Central or Southern states, and makes \$35,000 to \$50,000 a year.

Here are eight other genocide and Artsakh-related questions that survey participants were asked to answer:

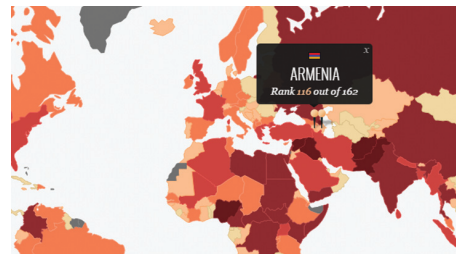
- 46.5% of Americans agree that the United States government should call on Turkey to publicly admit the Armenian Genocide; 16.1% disagree; and 37.4% don't know.

- 39% agree that "the U.S. Congress should pass a resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide... even if it risks destroying diplomatic relations with a key, strategic ally in the Middle East"; 22.5% disagree; and 38.5% don't know.

- 63.2% agree that "if an ally of the United States initiates a program to eradicate, persecute or displace populations within their own country, the U.S. should end economic and/or military aid to that ally"; 10.5% disagree; and 26.3% don't know.

- 20.1% believe that when a country commits genocide, it should pay reparations "in cash"; 11.8% say that it should compensate by returning the occupied "land"; 10.7%, "by other symbolic act"; 9.4%, "no reparations should be paid"; and 48% don't know.

Global Terror Index Ranks Armenia among Safest Countries



2015 Global Terrorism Index published by the Institute for Economics and Peace rates Armenia as one of the safest countries in the world in terms of potential terrorist threats.

Armenia is ranked 116th among 162 countries, where a lower place means less danger in terms of terrorism.

Armenia's neighbors in the region are placed as follows: Georgia - 71th, Turkey - 27th, Azerbaijan - 93rd and Iran - 39th.

Armenia's partners in the Eurasian Economic Union Russia and Belarus are ranked 23rd and 77th respectively, Kazakhstan is 83rd, Kyrgyzstan is 86th.

The Global Terrorism Index provides a detailed analysis of the changing trends in terrorism across 162 countries over the last 15 years. It investigates the patterns of terrorism by geographic activity, methods of attack, organizations involved and national economic and political contexts.

According to the report, the number of lives lost to terrorism increased by 80% in 2014, reaching the highest level ever recorded at 32,658. This compares to 18,111 in 2013. According to the third edition of the Global Terrorism Index (GTI), out today, this increase represents the largest yearly increase in deaths ever recorded. The report also highlights the dramatic rise in terrorism over time, with deaths increasing by nine-fold since the year 2000.

The report, developed by the Institute for Economics and Peace and based on data from the Global Terrorism Database of START, reveals that just two terrorist groups, ISIL and Boko Haram, are now jointly responsible for 51% of all global fatalities from claimed terrorist attacks. Boko Haram, which pledged its allegiance to ISIL as the Islamic State's West Africa Province (ISWAP) in March 2015, has become the world's deadliest terrorist group, causing 6,644 deaths compared to ISIL's 6,073.

"Journalists' Eyewitness Accounts on Armed Conflicts: The Case of Nagorno-Karabakh" hearing held at European Parliament



A hearing on "Journalists' Eyewitness Accounts on Armed Conflicts: The Case of Nagorno-Karabakh" was held in the European Parliament with the participation of a large number of guests, Members of the European Parliament from different political groups and countries as well as Belgian Members of Brussels Parliament.

The hearing was co-organized by the EU-Armenia Friendship Group in the European Parliament and the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy (EAFJD) under the patronage of MEP Dr. Eleni Theocharous (EPP, Cyprus). Dr. Theocharous was in Artsakh several times during the war and volunteered in the hospital of Stepanakert as a surgeon.

Dana Mazalova from the Czech Republic, Tsevatana Paskaleva from Bulgaria and Anna Karapetyan from Armenia presented their eyewitness accounts on the liberation war in Nagorno-Karabakh. All these three journalists were on the ground in Artsakh during the different stages of the war, from the days of the armed conflict to the signing of the cease-fire agreement.

Bedo Demirdjian of the European Armenian Federation responsible for public relations and communications opened the hearing and welcomed the participants. Dr. Theocharous reiterated her support for the people of Artsakh and their right for self-determination. Tatoul Markarian, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary stated that not only the negationist policy of the Turkish authorities but also the official policy of Azerbaijan of distorting facts and reality

needs to be combated. He spoke highly of the role of journalists on the panel as well as their devotion and the professionalism of their work.

During her brief speech addressed to the European Parliament, Tsvetana Paskaleva emphasized that the aggressive policies of Azerbaijan need to stop since it can unleash another war any time. Ms Paskaleva stated that the people of Artsakh won the war at the expense of high sacrifice and claimed their right to peaceful life. Her speech was followed by the screening of one of her documentaries which started with depicting the turbulent days of the armed conflict and ended with the current peaceful life.

Czech journalist Dana Mazalova focused on the events in Khojaly, on the

current misleading propaganda of Azerbaijan, on her interview with the President of Azerbaijan at the time Ayaz Mutalibov as well as on her meetings with Azerbaijani journalist Cengiz Mustafayev. Mazalova also mentioned about the current anti-Armenian and anti-democratic reality of Azerbaijan.

Journalist Anna Karapetyan elaborated on the ceasefire-agreement signed in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in May 1994 where she was present as a journalist. Ms Karapetyan focused on the fact that Nagorno-Karabakh Republic officially co-signed the cease-fire agreement - something that Azerbaijan tries to hide.

The eyewitness accounts of the three journalists were followed by a question and answer session. The MEPs present expressed their support for Artsakh and the right of its people for self-determination.

Kaspar Karampetian, President of the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy, emphasized the importance of such hearings. "The European Institutions as well as various European countries need to be informed appropriately about the truth on the conflict in Artsakh. This is essential in order to combat Azerbaijani state propaganda. Today these courageous journalists raised their voice in the center of Europe against caviar diplomacy," said Kaspar Karampetian.



Armenian Church Service Honors Paris Attack Victims

Senior Armenian clergymen led by Catholicos Garegin II prayed for at least 129 people killed in Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris during a requiem service held at the main cathedral of the Armenian Apostolic Church on Sunday.

Garegin presided over the service in Echmiadzin, attended by France's ambassador to Armenia, Jean-Francois Charpentier, one day after sending a letter of condolence to French President Francois Hollande.

"We strongly condemn the terrorist actions against innocent French civilians," wrote the supreme head of the Armenian Church. "Terrorism knows no nationality and is aimed at all of humanity, at the world's well-being, and at the safe and creative coexistence of people and nations."

Garegin said that Armenians around the world are mourning the victims of the Paris attacks "along with our indebtedness" for thousands of Armenians who were rescued by the French Navy during the 1915 genocide in Ottoman Turkey. Tens of thousands of other Armenian genocide survivors were allowed to take refuge in France in the following years.

In a sermon delivered at the requiem service, Archbishop Yeznik Petrosyan, a member of Garegin's entourage, likewise mentioned Armenians' "gratitude" to France, saying that it makes



them "feel the pain" caused by the multiple suicide bombings and shootings in the French capital. He called the attacks an "act against God."

"Our people are praying for God to open His arms and receive those who were killed on Friday," added Petrosyan.

Scores of people lit candles and laid flowers outside the French Embassy in Yerevan and in the city's France Square on Saturday. President Serzh Sargsyan took part in a candlelight vigil that was held in the square decorated with French national flags on the occasion. Serzh Sargsyan strongly condemned the attack in a message sent to Hollande.

European Green Party adopts resolution on Armenian Genocide

A resolution on the Armenian Genocide has been adopted by a large majority at the 23rd European Green Party Council in Lyon. The text acknowledges that the Ottoman Empire perpetrated Genocide against the Armenian people. It also calls on Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide and work towards reconciliation with the Armenia and its people.

With this initiative the European Green Party calls upon all countries which have not yet done so to publicly recognize the Armenian Genocide. It underlines that doing so will positively impact the normalization of the relations between Turkey and Armenia and help prevent further crimes against humanity.

The European Green Party is a pan-European political party which federates over 45 Green parties across Europe, present also in Eastern Partner countries. In the European Parliament their members sit in the Greens - European Free Alliance parliamentary group totalizing 50 seats.

The European Green Party mourns the destruction of the Armenian cultural heritage and calls upon the Turkish government to respect the Armenian cultural legacy and take strong measures to protect it. The resolution asks the Turkish government to re-evaluate historical and cultural narratives and open its archives to historians, researchers and academics in an effort to come to terms with the past. The logical continuation of this would be to immediately abolish Article 301 of the Turkish penal code, which censors political and public debate on the genocide.

The text emphasizes that everybody has the right to have their history recognized and their culture respected. By acknowledging the Armenian Genocide the European Green Party wants to pay due respect to its victims as a step towards reconciliation and historical reparation.

MEP Michèle Rivasi, who is vice-chair of the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament and member of the European Friends of Armenia Advisory Council, comments:

'As the tragic events in Paris reminds us: the world is in trouble, more than ever. For many years hate speech has not been sufficiently condemned, and helped extremists in spreading their propaganda and raising the level of violence. We cannot continue like this, we have to reverse this vicious spiral with an even more opened democracy and also the duty to recognize the errors and crimes that led to the current situation. The European Green Party resolution on the centenary of the Armenian genocide aims at reminding every country that they have a part to play for a more peaceful world. This is one of the reasons why Turkey has to stop now its state policy of denial. Because denial is the fuel that feeds the engine of hate and prevents us from reaching peace. Turkey will only find advantages in finally recognizing the Armenian Genocide and step into History. There will be no peace without recognition of the Armenian genocide.'

As 2015 marks the centenary of the Armenian Genocide many other European countries, Pan-European institutions and political parties have acknowledged or reaffirmed their recognition of the Armenian Genocide and have urged Turkey to do so as well.

'I am very pleased to see a growing number of European Political families recognizing the Armenian Genocide' says Eduardo Lorenzo Ochoa, director of European Friends of Armenia. 'The European Green Party resolution is especially important because not only pays tribute to the victims of the first Genocide of the 20th century, but also explains clearly the importance of doing so if we want to secure a common future and prevent further crimes against humanity'.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries

(March 20-April 19)

The "rules" of law, justice, and all bodies of authority seem to be demanding more than their fair share of you. What you feel may be exaggerated, but it is clear that something is wrong. It is possible that you may be the victim of false rumors or gossip. Now is the time you may have to pay for any shirked responsibilities of the past.

Taurus

(April 20 -- May 20)

Problems may reveal themselves via any of the following areas: resources that you share with others (partner's income, investments, IRS), issues concerning your estate and/or your inheritance, debtors that won't pay, or debts that you owe. Meanwhile some of those whom you have called friends seem to evaporate.

Gemini

(May 20-June 20)

There are issues in your partnership that require attention. Perhaps your partner has a loss in his/her family and this requires you to take on more responsibility than is the norm. You must be the strong one now. This kind of issue can generate questions about your level of commitment. If the relationship is good, it will survive and become stronger.

Cancer

(June 21-July 21)

Your Faith will be tested in any number of situations over the next few months. Saturn is demanding that you have all your details, files, and requirements in order. It could be called the Reality Police. Your physical strength may be undermined by a long term condition that heretofore has not shown its face. It will require effort, work, and attention to control and repair it.

Leo

(July 22-August 21)

Realities may be coming to light in your romance, creative life, and relationships to children. It is possible that you are reaching the limits of your ability to manage things alone. In some way that may not be clear you are actually losing valuable resources. Partner may not be able to contribute his/her share. This could be simply inflation, or wherever you keep your savings is being charged unfairly. Check your account(s) for deceptive practices.

Virgo

(August 22-September 22)

Demands from family on your time and energy is eroding your primary relationship. Or perhaps it has been slowly degrading over time and now you are forced to recognize the problem. If you want to resolve this issue, more work, effort, and ongoing attention has promise of correcting the issue.

Libra

(Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

The circle of your environment is becoming smaller, perhaps because your physical body can no longer keep up the pace. Give attention to exercise, better sleep, or eliminate addictive patterns that may be draining your energy. Use discernment about whether you are taking over problems that don't belong to you. Don't give away your energy on other people's issues.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 21)

You have needed to keep your financial belt pretty tight for well over a year. It is possible that you fantasized that some kind of help from another source would rescue you. Unfortunately, it is probably not true from now through 2016. You are realizing the illusion of what we call security. You need a paycheck of your own.

Sagittarius

(November 22-December 20)

Any relationship that could be identified as "codependent," is showing itself in full clarity now. You may be the one who has rescued ad nauseum and now you no longer have the emotional energy to continue. Your sense of future direction may feel fuzzy and without structure. Yet you must give it some kind of form in order to proceed.

Capricorn

(December 21-January 19)

You know in your heart that you have come almost to the end of a career cycle. You need to break free and get some rest before you tackle the next big project. But it's scary out there and of course, you need to earn a living. Give special attention to your vision and also your hearing. Don't allow symptoms to go on without a thorough check.

Aquarius

(January 20-February 17)

Financial resources may be drained. Don't go into debt by not giving attention to your checking account. If you see this developing, stop and make a solid plan for how you are going to pay for what is needed. You may be taking on someone else's financial problem. Be aware of the cost to you for doing this.

Pisces

(February 18-March 19)

The mask you wear out in the world has been fading. You have sustained a blow to your ego. Maybe you have defined yourself by your occupation or status in the world, and the sand under your feet is being sucked out from under you. Don't waste time in paralysis. Saturn's requirement is that you reconstruct and recommit to your direction. Take this time to adapt and become flexible.

Cork City Library hosts photographic exhibition commemorating Armenian Genocide

The Irish Times - It was described by US President Theodore Roosevelt as "the greatest crime of the war" and now the Armenian genocide which began in 1915 has been commemorated with a special exhibition of photographs at Cork City Library.

"The Iconic Images of the Armenian Genocide" - officially opened by Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Chris O'Leary - features a series of old photographs which depict the genocide of 1.5 million Armenians living in what is now present day Turkey.

One of the organisers, Jimmy Lynch explained that the exhibition has been put together by the Armenian

community in Ireland to mark the centenary of the genocide and it is based on an original project by the Armenian National Institute and Armenian organisations in the US. "In Ireland we rightly remember what happened in World War I in places such as Gallipoli and Suvla Bay where many Irish suffered and died but we should also be aware of what happened in Armenia - this is an important and emotional year for the Armenian community in Ireland and worldwide.

"They will be remembering and commemorating what happened to their family antecedents in those dark

times from 1915 to 1918 and the people of Cork can share in that remembrance by visiting and viewing the exhibition in Cork City Library," he said.

According to Mr Lynch, the panels of photographs depict the various aspects of the genocide, known in Armenian as Medz Yeghem, including executions, massacres, deportations and starvation of Armenians within the Ottoman Empire by the Young Turk movement.

"Together these photographs recreate a sense of the terror exercised by the Young Turk regime and reveal the extent of the dispossession and decimation of the Armenian people in their historic homeland," said Mr Lynch.

"With panels displaying photographs of survivors, rescued women, homeless children and refugees, the scale and depth of the uprooting of the Armenian people is revealed," said Mr Lynch.

Many of the images were taken in the teeth of a strictly enforced ban on photography by the Ottoman authorities and the collection represents photographs that survived and were scattered across several continents before being brought together, he added.





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