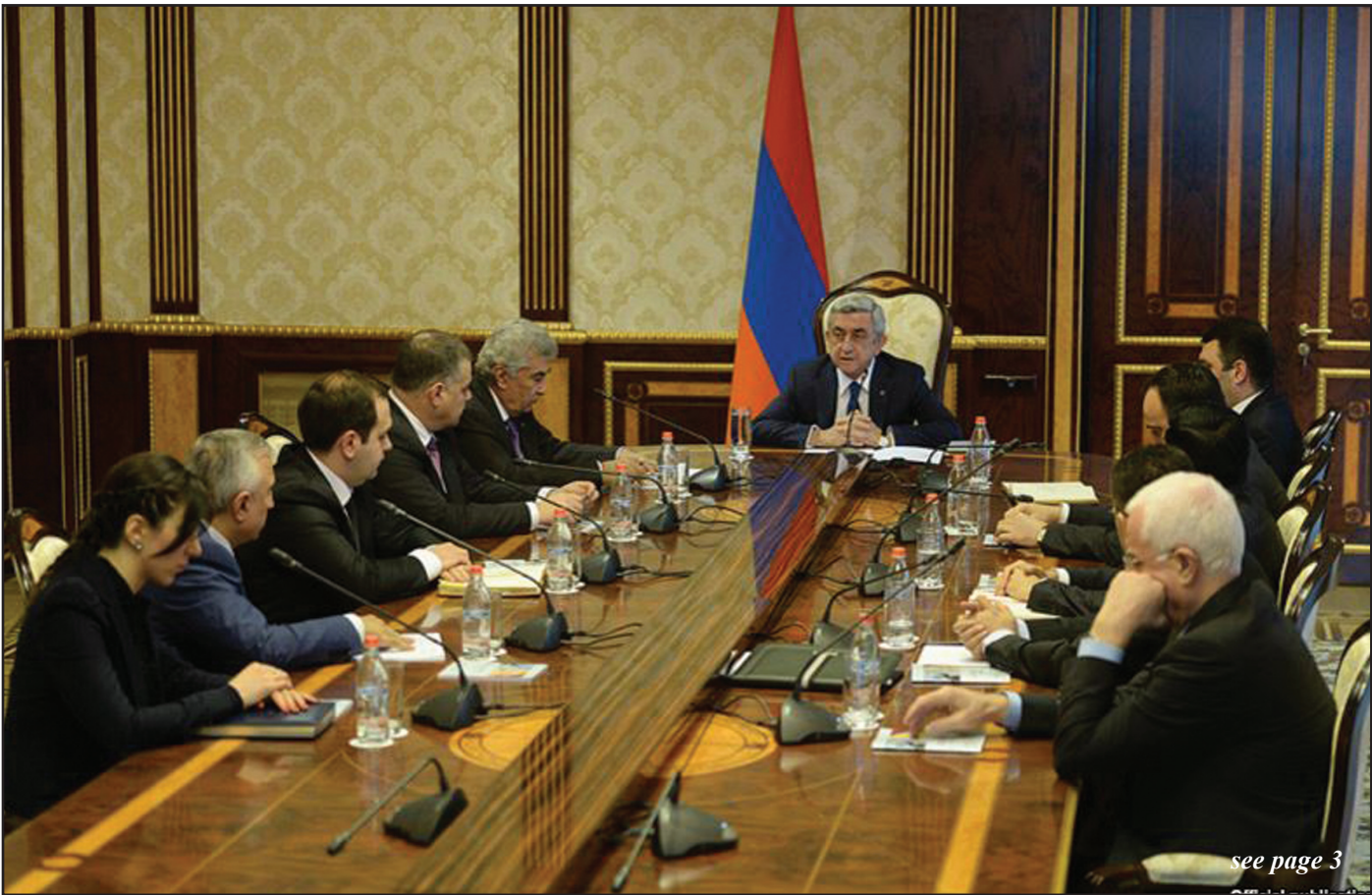


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International Genocide Scholars Meet In Armenia

The International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) began a conference of its members in Yerevan on July 8, underscoring its strong support for greater international recognition of the 1915 Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey.

The five-day forum titled "Comparative Analysis of 20th Century Genocides" is attended by some 180 scholars from around the world specializing in research of crimes against humanity and seeking the prevention of more such atrocities.

President Serzh Sargsyan took part in the solemn opening ceremony of the 12th Meeting of the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGC) titled "Comparative Analysis of 20th Century Genocides."

The Armenian president delivered a speech. The meeting, which is devoted to the Armenian Genocide Centennial, as well as to the 70th Anniversary of World War II and the Holocaust, was attended by IAGC President Daniel Feierstein, more than a hundred leading experts in genocide and adjacent fields, as well as by eminent scientists from all over the world.

Address by President Serzh Sargsyan at the Opening of the 12th Meeting of the International Association of Genocide Scholars

Honorable Mr. Feierstein,

Dear participants of the 12th Meeting of the International Association of Genocide Scholars,

It is an honor for me to greet you in Armenia and signal the start of this representative meeting. I am proud that being people who survived genocide, the most terrific crime against humanity, we have managed to revive and build statehood, and today we have the opportunity to be at the forefront of the fight against the crime of genocide.

It often seems that along with the development of international law and the progress in political thought, humanity should have already overcome the calamity caused by the crime of genocide. So many times have been talked about the components of this crime against humanity, and so many efforts have been made to characterize, prevent, punish and condemn this crime, that it would seem that the "Never Again" slogan will reach its full realization.

Unfortunately, today we continue to witness promotion of genocidal actions, xenophobic propaganda and fascist ideology. We can observe mass killings, manifestations of violence, massacres, discrimination grounded on religious, national and linguistic distinctions, attempts to annihilate, in whole or in part, separate groups, and targeting of cultural heritage and spiritual life.

It points out the fact that the international fight against the crime of genocide must gather momentum, acquire a new meaning and use all possible platforms.

Some people often use the wording "tragedy" when referring to genocide. But it is necessary that we always use the only correct characterization of the term - "crime." Tragedy can often be the result of a technological disaster, can be the result of a natural disaster and even the result of a contingency. All this is in stark contrast to genocide, a carefully calculated, planned and prepared crime, which has a clear target, a defined set of tools and an ideology based on xenophobia.

And taking into account the multilevel nature of that crime, it is very important that the process of its characterization, prevention, cessation, condemnation and imposing an appropriate punishment is grounded on a comprehensive approach which builds on a multidisciplinary scientific foundation. We need historians, political scientists, ethnographers, culturologists, international law experts, psychologists and many other specialists to carry out an effective struggle against the crime of genocide, as well as to outline and take steps aimed at overcoming the effects of genocides. This is why this platform of the International Association of Genocide Scholars is important. You have a professional approach to that hellish phenomenon which faces humanity.

Unfortunately, throughout history, various interests have often overshadowed the imperative to prevent genocides, creating unpunished precedents in human chronology and thus stimulating further manifestations of such behavior. It is no secret that science, too, has failed to avoid attempts to hide crimes, present victims as criminals and criminals as victims, or maybe it is more correct to say "anti-science."

Hence, I have another reason to value the mission of this meeting and your many years' efforts aimed at restoring historical justice in science. We highly appreciate the fact that your association recognized and condemned the Armenian Genocide in 2007.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Of pivotal importance is, of course, the broad involvement of social and political circles in preventing crimes against humanity, including genocides. Political figures, cultural, ecclesiastical and academic circles, civil society and the free media should direct concerted efforts at that struggle.

As part of the events to mark the Armenian Genocide Centennial, Yerevan hosted the first global forum "Against the Crime of Genocide" in April this year. The forum was joined by around 600 delegates, journalists, ecclesiastical leaders and scholars. It was not directed towards any state or people; it was directed at the crime of genocide.

It was exactly the forum participants' suggestion, and Mr. Feierstein approved it, that Armenia should assume a leadership role in that issue and make that forum a reg-

ular event. After having necessary discussions, we have accepted that offer and plan to hold the forum once in two years, starting from 2016.

We hold that it will be better that the global forum succeeds the years of your association's conferences, thus providing your organization with a new platform to share your experience and knowledge with broader circles. I officially suggest that the International Association of Genocide Scholars become the co-founder, organizer and permanent participant of the forum "Against the Crime of Genocide."

Dear partakers,

Hundred years have passed since the Armenian Genocide, but nothing has been forgotten. We have not forgotten the names of those intellectuals, scholars and humanists in general, who used their minds and pens to shed light on the crime committed 100 years ago, thus not allowing its disguise at the time. And it is no accident that the pillar of gratitude is one of those four pillars upon which the Armenian Genocide Centennial rests: we are obliged to all those scholars and public and political figures, who, ignoring all difficulties, spoke out and continue to speak out about the Armenian Genocide.

It is crucial to us that the fact of the Armenian Genocide was mentioned during the mass performed by Pope Francis, in the addresses of Russia's, France's, Serbia's and Cyprus's presidents who had arrived in Yerevan to take part in the commemorative events, during the remembrance ceremony at Washington National Cathedral, in the historic address by German President Joachim Gauck where he clearly spoke about the German Empire's complicity, in the documents adopted by Chile's, Brazil's, Australia's, Luxembourg's, the Netherlands', Russia's legislatures, by Greece and Cyprus in the resolutions criminalizing that crime, in the resolutions of authoritative international organizations, including the European Parliament, and most importantly, left footprints in the hearts of tens of millions of people who express their solidarity for the Armenian people's just struggle.

It is in this same context that I view your decision to hold your meeting in Yerevan in this important remembrance year.

We are grateful to all of you for this unprecedented support and courage.

Dear guests,

We will continue our struggle for the prevention of genocides, for which will always need your support and advice. Our struggle is aimed at restoring our rights, and we are grateful to all those who support us, at least to those who do not hinder us. I wish the meeting a fruitful work, and I wish you pleasant days in Armenia.

Thank you.

Armenian electric utility fined by regulators



Just days after facing mass protests against an electricity price hike, Armenia's troubled power distribution network was fined 60 million drams (\$126,000) on July 8 for what state regulators called a violation of consumer rights.

The Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC) penalized the Electricity Networks of Armenia (ENA) utility for demanding earlier this year advance payments from residents of newly built houses and apartment blocks needing access to electricity.

The ENA's embattled chief executive, Yevgeny Bibin, ordered such payments in March in addition to regular connection fees collected from new consumers. The

Russian-owned company promised to deduct corresponding sums from their electricity bills for the next few years.

Many of those home owners seeking power supplies rejected the ENA's extra charges, leading the PSRC to investigate the matter. Bibin told the commission that he rescinded his order on June 23 even though he believes that it was justified given his company's grave financial situation. "Is that right or wrong? That is certainly bad for consumers," he said.

Robert Nazaryan, the PSRC chairman, rejected the explanation. "If you decide what is right and what is wrong, then why are you dealing with this commission in the first place?" said Nazaryan. "You can give yourself orders and ignore Armenia's laws and regulations."

Bibin was conspicuously absent from the PSRC's previous meeting on June 17, which resulted in a more than 17 percent increase in electricity prices in Armenia. The ENA had been pushing for a 40 percent increase. Yet even the more modest price hike approved by Nazaryan's commission was enough to trigger angry street protests in Yerevan and other parts of the

country. On June 22 thousands of mostly young protesters blocked a central Yerevan avenue, demanding a cancellation of the unpopular measure. The nonstop demonstration led President Serzh Sargsyan to announce on June 27 that his government will subsidize the energy tariffs to ensure that Armenians do not pay more for electricity for now. He also announced an upcoming international audit of the ENA aimed at determining whether the company's massive losses are the result of corruption among its employees.

Serzh Sargsyan further hinted that the government could nationalize the ENA or help its Russian parent company, Inter RAO, sell it to another firm.

Inter RAO denied on June 29 Russian press reports that it is already holding talks with potential buyers. The ENA spokeswoman in Yerevan, Natalia Sarjanyan, reiterated that denial on Wednesday.

Citing unnamed sources, the Yerevan newspaper "Haykakan Zhamanak" insisted earlier in the day that the ENA's sale to a company owned by Russian-Armenian businessman Samvel Karapetyan is imminent.

Presidential Body Insists On Switch To Parliamentary Republic

A state commission formed by President Serzh Sargsyan on July 15 publicized its draft constitutional amendments envisaging Armenia's transformation into a parliamentary republic with a largely ceremonial head of state not elected by popular vote.

The amendments reaffirm the commission's belief that the executive authority in the country must be fully vested in the prime minister and their cabinet formed by the parliamentary majority. The prime minister would also be empowered to pick the chief of staff of Armenia's armed forces and would become their commander-in-chief in times of war.

By contrast, the president of the republic would be stripped of their presently sweeping powers. Under the amendments submitted to Sargsyan, the head of state would be elected for a 7-year term by an electoral college comprising members of the Armenian parliament and representatives of local govern-

ments.

The proposed changes also stipulate that the 131-member National Assembly will be elected only on the party-list basis. That would lead to the abolition of 41 single-seat constituencies that have been critical for Sargsyan's control of the parliament ensured through his Republican Party of Armenia (HHK).

However, this change could be offset by another draft amendment mandating the conduct of a second round of voting if no political party or bloc wins a clear parliamentary majority. The run-off parliamentary vote would pit the two leading election contenders against each other.

The constitutional package needs to be formally endorsed by Sargsyan before

it can be sent to the parliament for approval. Armenian lawmakers are expected to start debating it in September. The Sargsyan administration is expected to put the amendments on a referendum later this year or early next.

Most Armenian opposition parties are categorically against the proposed switch to the parliamentary republic. They maintain that Sargsyan is keen to stay in power in another capacity after completing his second and final presidential term in 2018.

At least two such parties, the Armenian National Congress (HAK) and Zharangutyun (Heritage), have signaled their intention to try to scuttle the constitutional reform with street protests.

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Armenian Justice Minister Resigns

In a move which some observers link with a controversial constitutional reform planned by President Serzh Sargsyan, Armenia's Justice Minister Hovhannes Manukyan has unexpectedly stepped down after only 14 months in office.

Sargsyan's office gave no explanations when it announced late on Tuesday a presidential decree relieving Manukyan of his duties. The announcement came less than a week after the minister went abroad on vacation.

Manukyan, who has not yet returned to Armenia, did not comment on his resignation. He did not answer phone calls on Wednesday.

Some Armenian media commentators were quick to speculate that Manukyan resigned to pave the way for the appointment as justice minister of a member of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun), a rare opposition party supporting the planned constitutional reform.

Representatives of both Dashnaktsutyun and the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) dismissed the speculation. "What are Dashnaktsutyun members to do with that?" said Vahram Baghdasaryan, a senior HHK figure. "I see no connection at



all."

A Dashnaktsutyun representative insisted that a new power-sharing deal with Sarkisian is "not on our agenda." He said the party has held no such talks with the presidential camp.

Some sources familiar with Manukyan's thinking suggested, meanwhile, the minister decided to quit because he was upset with the fact that he was not included in a presidential commission tasked with drafting sweeping constitutional amendments that would transform Armenia into a parliamentary republic.

Manukyan, 43, is a former judge who

headed Armenia's Court of Cassation from 2005-2008. He is thought to have played a decisive role in the sensational acquittal in 2006 of three soldiers accused of murder. A lower court had sentenced them to life imprisonment on what human rights groups denounced as trumped-up charges.

In what was widely construed as a demotion, Manukyan was appointed as Armenia's ambassador in Georgia in September 2008, shortly after praising tens of thousands of opposition supporters who took to the streets of Yerevan in the wake of a disputed presidential election held in February 2008.

OSCE Concerned About Criminal Case Against Armenian Journalist

A senior official from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe expressed concern on July 16 at criminal proceedings launched against the editor of an Armenian media outlet critical of the government.

The OSCE's Vienna-based representative on press freedom, Dunja Mijatovic, said the Armenian authorities should not prosecute Kristine Khanumyan for her refusal to disclose the confidential source of a story reported by her Ilur.am news portal last year.

The report implicated the then police chief of Armenia's Shirak province in a violent attack on two young men. The Special Investigative Service (SIS) ordered Ilur.am as well as the independent newspaper "Hraparak" to disclose their anonymous sources, saying that is necessary for solving the case.

Both publications refused to comply with the order backed by Armenian courts. Earlier this week, Khanumyan was formally charged under an article of the Armenian Criminal Code carrying heavy fines and up to two years in prison.

"Members of the media should not be held liable for publishing or disseminating information of public interest," Mijatovic wrote in a letter to Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian. "Unless information is legitimately classified as secret on the grounds of



precisely defined national security concerns or protection of other overriding interests, the state should ensure full protection against any legal or administrative sanctions related to disclosure of the identity of journalists' sources."

"This principle is one of the basic requirements for the existence of independent journalism and free media," added the letter publicized by her office.

Russian, Armenian PMs Discuss Yerevan Protests



Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and his visiting Armenian counterpart Hovik Abrahamyan discussed on July 9 the fallout from dramatic street protests in Yerevan against an electricity price hike that was initiated by Armenia's Russian-owned power grids.

Medvedev reiterated Russian concerns over the unrest in his opening remarks at their talks in Moscow publicized by his press service. He said he and Abrahamian will look into "some issues of energy cooperation" between Armenia and Russia which are "relevant to the present day."

"And in general, I would like to hear your opinion about how events are developing in your country because the recent period was quite heated," Medvedev told Abrahamyan. "We are closely watching what is happening in Armenia because you are our neighbor, ally and close state, and we are certainly not indifferent to how events unfold in a friendly country."

"Things are very stable in our country right now," replied Abrahamyan. "Armenia is making every effort to bolster its allied partnership with Russia."

An Armenian government statement on the talks said the two men discussed "recent internal political developments in

Armenia" and Russian-Armenian energy ties that have long been central to power generation and distribution in the South Caucasus state. It gave no details of that discussion.

The statement added that Medvedev and Abrahamyan met *tete-a-tete* before being joined by senior officials from their governments, including Armenian Energy Minister Yervand Zakharyan, to explore ways of "further strengthening Russian-Armenian trade and economic relations." It reported no concrete agreements to that effect. Medvedev's office also said nothing about the results of the talks.

A Russian-Armenian intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation already discussed the situation with Armenian electricity supplies in Yerevan on July 26, at the height of a nonstop demonstration there against the more than 17 percent surge in energy tariffs. It agreed on the need for an emergency audit of the Electric Networks of Armenia (ENA) that would determine whether the price hike was justified or resulted from corruption within the power utility owned by Russia's Inter RAO group.

The commission's Russian co-chair, Transport Minister Maxim Sokolov, also discussed the matter in separate talks with President Serzh Sargsyan and other senior Armenian officials. Sargsyan announced on June 27 that the Armenian government will subsidize the tariffs until the release of the audit's findings.

The source of that subsidy remains unknown, with officials in Yerevan saying only that no funds will be diverted from the Armenian state budget for that purpose. This issue might have been on the agenda of Thursday's Russian-Armenian negotiations.

Welcoming Abrahamyan in his office, Medvedev spoke of "certain proposals" submitted by the Armenian side ahead of the talks. He did not disclose them in his opening remarks.

Russian Troops In Armenia Inspected



The Russian military began on July 7 what it described as a "sudden inspection" of its troops stationed in Armenia through exercises that are aimed at evaluating their combat readiness.

Russia's Southern Military District (SMD) said an ad hoc commission headed by its deputy commander, Lieutenant-General Igor Turchenyuk, will inspect ground troops in Gyumri and warplanes and combat helicopters in Yerevan making up the Russian military base in the country.

A statement released by the SMD said those units will be put on high alert and told to conduct unplanned exercises at two shoot-

ing ranges in central Armenia.

"The work of the commission will allow the SMD to objectively evaluate the state of combat readiness of the inspected troops and give the commanders and entire personnel of the Russian military base in Armenia more practical experience in accomplishing tasks set for them," added the statement.

The Russian troops already held "command and staff exercises" at the two locations in April. Their aviation unit numbering more than three dozen MiG-29 fighter jets and Mi-24 combat helicopters also took part in those drills.

Russia deployed the helicopters at Yerevan's Erebuni military airfield last year as part of a broader reinforcement of its military presence in Armenia. It also modernized the MiG-29 jets stationed there.

The Russian military presence has long been a major element of the South Caucasus country's defense doctrine. Armenian leaders say it is primarily needed for precluding Turkey's direct military intervention on Azerbaijan's side in case of another war for Nagorno-Karabakh. Russian and Armenian soldiers practiced a joint operation against an imaginary enemy codenamed "Ottomania" when they last held joint drills in September 2014.

EU drugs agency, National Security Council of Armenia step up cooperation

The European Union and Armenia will cooperate more actively on monitoring the drug phenomenon in future, thanks to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on July 16 in Yerevan between the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA) and the National Security Council of Armenia (NSC).

The agreement was signed by EMCDDA Director Wolfgang Götz and NSC Chief of staff, Aram Tananyan.

Armenia - a country of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) area - submitted a formal request for cooperation with the EMCDDA in 2013 (1). This led to a green light from the EMCDDA Management Board in July that year for the agency to negotiate the MoU with the NSC.

Today's accord - signed for an initial period of five years and sealing cooperation between the two partners - will be implemented through a joint work programme to be updated every three years. This programme will include steps to



enhance the partners' monitoring and knowledge base on the drug situation and responses to it, particularly through harmonizing key indicators in areas of both supply and demand.

Special attention will be given to the regular exchange of information on the appearance on the drug market and use of new psychotropic substances, as well as the technologies employed in their production.

The agreement provides for an exchange of technical expertise and knowledge between the two bodies, the co-sponsoring of technical meetings and the pooling of human and financial resources to launch joint programmes. The NSC will endeavor to present to the EMCDDA an annual report on the drug situation in Armenia. The EMCDDA, for its part, will facilitate training as well as the exchange of experts and scientific research findings on issues of mutual interest.

Both organizations recognize that information on the drugs phenomenon is an essential and indispensable instrument for drafting and implementing drug policies and for assessing the impact of actions to reduce the problems originating from drug use and trafficking.

This cooperation takes place within the EMCDDA's mandate for cooperation with third (non-EU) countries in consultation with its Management Board and the European Commission.

Armenian agricultural exports surge in 2015

Exports of Armenian agricultural products soared by more than 55 percent in physical terms in the first half of this year, reflecting a bumper harvest of apricots and other fruits, according to official statistics released on July 6.

Data from the Ministry of Agriculture shows that Armenia exported just over 40,000 metric tons of fruits and vegetables, up from 25,700 tons in the same period last year.

Apricots accounted for more than one-third of this figure. Their first-half sales abroad were up more than tenfold

year on year, the official figures show.

Armenian apricot production collapsed from almost 90,000 tons in 2013 to just 8,000 tons in 2014, owing to a devastating spring blizzard. Agriculture Minister Sergo Karapetyan predicted last month it will surpass the 2013 level this year thanks to very favorable weather conditions.

Karapetyan said that Armenia's recent accession to the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) paved the way for "large-scale exports" of apricots and other agricultural produce to Russia, their

main market abroad.

They will also be facilitated by a Russian ban on food imports from the United States and Europe which Moscow imposed last August in retaliation for Western economic sanctions. On the other hand, export revenue from Armenian farming output will be dragged down by last year's sharp depreciation of the Russian ruble.

Although the Ministry of Agriculture did not estimate the monetary value of the agricultural exports, the rapid growth of their physical volume is certain to boost Armenia's overall agricultural output. With agriculture generating roughly one-quarter of Gross Domestic Product, that could in turn reflect positively on the country's broader macroeconomic performance.

The Armenian government has insisted in recent weeks that the domestic economy will continue to grow this year despite spillover effects of a recession in Russia. The International Monetary Fund, for its part, has forecast zero growth for the country in 2015.



Armenia Hails Iran Nuclear Deal



Armenia promptly welcomed on July 11 a historic international agreement to curb neighboring Iran's controversial nuclear program, expressing hope that it will help to deepen Armenian-Iranian commercial ties.

Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian issued a special statement shortly after Iran and the United States and five other world powers hammered out a final nuclear deal after marathon negotiations in Vienna.

"This long-awaited agreement is an important achievement that will help to strengthen international and regional stability and cooperation," Nalbandian said. "We are hopeful that it will give a further boost to the expansion of Armenia's economic cooperation with friendly Iran and the implementation of bilateral projects."

Official Yerevan reacted just as quickly and positively when Iran, the U.S., the European Union, Russia and China worked out the main parameters of the deal in early April. The final deal envisages a gradual lifting of crippling international sanctions imposed on Iran because of its alleged efforts to develop nuclear weapons.

The Armenian ambassador in Tehran, Artashes Tumanyan, also underlined Yerevan's strong interest in the lifting of the sanctions in an interview with the Iranian newspaper "Donya-e Eqtesad" given ahead of the Vienna accord. "The economic situation in the whole region would fundamentally change and obviously Armenia too would take advantage of new favorable conditions," Tumanyan told

the paper, according to the Armenian Foreign Ministry.

Armenian government data shows that the volume of Armenian-Iranian trade stood at a relatively modest \$290 million last year, accounting for less than 5 percent of Armenia's overall foreign trade. Armenia also uses Iran as a transit route for its trade with other Middle Eastern states and China.

The long-standing sanctions have hampered the implementation of Armenian-Iranian energy projects such as the \$350 million construction of a big hydroelectric plant on the Arax river separating the two countries. Yerevan and Tehran also plan to build a new high-voltage transmission line that will enable Armenia to export much more electricity to the Islamic Republic and import larger volumes of Iranian natural gas.

These projects have repeatedly fallen behind schedule not least because of serious Armenian government restrictions imposed, under Western pressure, on cash operations between Armenian and Iranian banks.

Close relations with Iran have long been a matter of national consensus in Armenia, reflecting the landlocked country's unresolved conflicts and closed borders with two other Muslim neighbors: Azerbaijan and Turkey. Iran as well as Georgia have been Armenia's sole conduits to the outside world ever since its independence.

Indian Government okays signing of agriculture agreement with Armenia



India's Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today gave its approval for signing and ratifica-

tion of an Inter-Governmental agreement between India and Armenia, on cooperation in the field of Agriculture, the Business Standard reports.

This Agreement will promote cooperation through short and medium term programs, within the framework of the joint activities mentioned in the agreement. The Biennial Work Plan will be drawn up by mutual agreement between the two parties to give effect to the objectives of the agreement. The agreement will provide for a Joint Working Group for agricultural cooperation which shall be responsible for elaborating Biennial Work Plans. The Joint Working Group shall identify areas and forms of cooperation, and shall coordinate their implementation. The Joint Working Group shall meet periodically and alternatively in India and Armenia.

The agreement will promote understanding of best agricultural practices in the two countries and will be mutually beneficial.



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- ♦1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m,euro repaired, heating system, furnished,parking,. Price: 350.000 USD.
- ♦1715- **Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- ♦1680- **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- ♦1674. **Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor,70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- ♦1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

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



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

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

PREMISES

- ♦1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m,5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m.,basement, capially repaired, parkings. Price:4.000.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant,1st line, capially repaired. Price: negotiable.
- ♦1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m.,zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- ♦2035.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m.,1st line, facade-55m.,capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m.,1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m.,window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses,parking. Price:3.600.000 USD
- ♦2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m,1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m.,each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m,with-out divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price:1.400.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1986.**Cascade.** Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price:1.000.000 USD.
- ♦2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capially repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- ♦2175.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capially repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- ♦2172. **Isahakyan str.**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2347 **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable
- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, with or without furniture.

Price: Negotiable.

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



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

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

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

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

PREMISES

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

Andrey Shcherbak: "All the Conditions to Hold Tchaikovsky Competition One Day Here in Yerevan Exist"

Three Armenian performers will participate in the 9th International Tchaikovsky Competition for Youth in December '15 in Novosibirsk of Russia

By Gourgen James Khazhakian
Chief Correspondent

Three Armenian performers will take part in the 9th International Competition for Young Musicians after P.I. Tchaikovsky to be held on December 5-15 in the Russian City of Novosibirsk. This was announced on July 7 at the Yerevan Komitas Chamber Music Competition at a news conference.

They are **Arthur Grigoryan** (piano), **Andranik Aghajanyan** (cello) and **Diana Adamyan** (violin); all the three are the Yerevan Tchaikovsky Music School students.

The Competition is organized by the Association of the International Tchaikovsky Competition Stars and the Interstate Development Corporation ("MKR"). Interstate Development Corporation Deputy Director General **Sergey Demensky** began his speech with the following words: *"It is perhaps a symbolic thing that we have gathered in the Hall named after Great Komitas (the founder of the contemporary Armenian classical music who suffered mentally after being an eye-witness of horrors of the Armenian Genocide 1915 in Ottoman Empire), the great art of who has proved to be above his life tragic circumstances ... His music, being based on the pure Armenian folk melodi-es, encompassed elements of both the European and the Russian music as well, and I wish the young participants of the Tchaikovsky Intl Competition to contribute in future to the world music as much as the Great Komitas and Tchaikovsky did..."*

As Mr Demensky said, the Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians is usually done remotely, via examining by the Jury audio/video recordings of the applicants around the world wishing to participate in the selection, and only a few cities, - Paris, Seoul, Shanghai, Minsk and Yerevan were chosen for live auditions. He explained the choice of the capital of Armenia by the *"spotless reputation enjoyed by the Armenian music school and education in the entire world."*

Director General of the Association of International Tchaikovsky Competition Stars **Andrey Shcherbak**, calling Armenians and Russians "forever intermarry nations", said that many times young

people from Armenia have participated in the International Tchaikovsky Competition, reminding as an instance **Sergey Smbatyan's** (currently the Founding Artistic Director and the Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia - NT) play in Japan years ago, that, in his own words, was "a very interesting one". According to Mr Shcherbak, *"they in Japan remember Sergey, and later he became a prominent musical figure."* By the way, **Sergey Smbatyan**, as a performer (violin) who took part in the Tchaikovsky Youth Competition once, has been invited to be a jury member of the 9th Competition to be held in December in Novosibirsk.

Citing another talented young Armenian cellist **Narek Haknazaryan** who became the Tchaikovsky Youth Competition winner

dren will return with laurels. "

Director of State Youth Orchestra of Armenia **Anna Ter-Hovakimyan** said it was great honor for them to come up with a concert of the Armenia finalists of the Tchaikovsky International Youth Competition.

During the press conference the parallels were taken between the Aram Khachaturian and Tchaikovsky international competitions. It was especially stressed that Yerevan Khachaturian Contest winners had become later the laureates of the International Tchaikovsky Competition. So, the 9th Aram Khachaturian International Competition (2013) winner, cellist **Andrey Ionita** (Romania) has won the 15th International Tchaikovsky Competition held recently. In turn, the Khachaturian Competition '12 winner violinist **Pavel Milyukov** this year won the 3rd Prize at the Tchaikovsky International Competition.

Andrey Shcherbak noted that both the Khachaturian and Tchaikovsky Competitions are to raise the young talents to musical elite heights. For example, cellist **Narek Haknazaryan** who won the Khachaturian Contest, and later the Tchaikovsky Competition, is a world-class star already. *"I think this wonderful partnership between the two competitions will be very fruitful,"* said Mr Shcherbak. According to common opinion of the speakers, the fact that the winners of the Khachaturian International Competition become laureates of the Tchaikovsky Competition, is one more evidence of the Khachaturian Competition's high level. The talents revealed at the Khachaturian Competition become a world famous musicians within years. It was noted it was not accidental that both Khachaturian and Tchaikovsky competitions were members of the World Federation of International Music Competitions (WFIMC).

After the press conference at the Chamber Music Hall concert of the Armenia finalists of the 9th International Tchaikovsky Youth Competition was held. **Arthur Grigoryan** (piano), **Andranik Aghajanyan** (cello) and **Diana Adamyan** (violin) as well as the soloist **Hayk Kazazyan** (violin) played with the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia conducted by the SYOA Founding Artistic Director and the Principal Conductor **Sergey Smbatyan**. The concert was organized by the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia and sponsored by the MKR Media Armenia.



years ago and went on to become the adult contest winner several tears later, Andrey Shcherbak stressed that the Competition for the Young was a "foundry" for the same name competition for their older friends.

He expressed hope that the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Association of the International Tchaikovsky Competition Stars and the Yerevan Tchaikovsky Specialized Music School to be signed just after the news conference will become a basis for further support for the projects being realized in Armenia, and, why not, probably one day the Tchaikovsky Competition will be held in Yerevan where, according to speaker, all the necessary conditions for it exist.

Martoun Kostandyan, Tchaikovsky Music School Director, said: *"These students are the laureates of international competitions. I am confident that the cooperation between Armenia and the Tchaikovsky Competition will go on, and that our chil-*

Court Finds Armenia & Azerbaijan Guilty: Baku Hides Loss, Declares Victory



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

Ruling simultaneously on the Sargsyan vs. Azerbaijan and Chiragov vs. Armenia cases, the European Court of Human Rights decided on June 16, 2015 that Armenia and Azerbaijan had violated the rights of refugees who had fled during the Karabagh (Artsakh) conflict.

Azeri government officials, however, misled their citizens, declaring that Azerbaijan had won and Armenia had lost.

Here are the details of both court cases: On April 6, 2005, six Azerbaijani Kurds filed a joint complaint against Armenia with the European Court. They claimed to have been forced to flee their homes during the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in 1992, after Armenian troops took over the Lachin region which separated Armenia from Artsakh. The Azerbaijani refugees alleged that Armenia had violated their rights under the European Convention on Human Rights: 1) protection of property, 2) right to respect for private and family life, and 3) right to an effective remedy.

On August 11, 2006, Minas Sargsyan filed a similar complaint against Baku in the European Court of Human Rights. He charged that Azerbaijan had violated his rights, the same ones claimed by the six Azerbaijani refugees, since he too was forced to flee in 1992 from his native village of Gulistan in the Shahumian region, controlled by Azerbaijan.

Both parties asked that their property rights be restored and demanded fair com-

pensation.

In March 2010, after years of inactivity, the Court forwarded both cases to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights, consisting of 17 judges from Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Cyprus, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, and Ukraine. The Grand Chamber's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

A decade after these cases were first filed, the Grand Chamber issued two identical judgments on June 16, 2015, finding that both Armenia and Azerbaijan had violated the rights of each other's refugees. In a lengthy document of 221 pages, including the two verdicts and the dissenting and concurring opinions, the Court ruled that the 20-year long peace negotiations did not free the two governments from their responsibility to protect the rights of hundreds of thousands of refugees. The Grand Chamber noted that there are over 1,000 individual applications pending before the Court, filed by Armenians and Azerbaijanis displaced during the Artsakh conflict.

The six Azerbaijani applicants claimed they had suffered \$9 million in monetary damages and \$330,000 in non-monetary damages. They further estimated their legal expenses to be around \$65,000 as of October 2013. The Azerbaijani applicants' representatives requested that an expert be appointed to evaluate the total damages their clients had incurred.

On the other hand, the Armenian applicant Minas Sargsyan had requested the restitution of his property, including the right of return to his home. He claimed \$415,000 in monetary damages and

\$210,000 in non-monetary damages, in addition to non-specified legal fees.

Acknowledging "the exceptional nature" of the two cases, the Court did not make a final determination on awarding compensation or "just satisfaction." The Grand Chamber asked the Armenian and Azerbaijani governments and the respective applicants to submit their "written observations on the matter" within 12 months, and "to notify the Court of any agreement that they may reach."

In my opinion, the European Court's parallel decisions were aimed at pressuring the two governments to expedite a negotiated settlement that would resolve all outstanding issues, including rights of refugees.

One of the most significant, yet unexpected outcomes of these court cases were the two written opinions - 25 pages each - by Judge Paulo Pinto de Albuquerque of Portugal and appended to the court's verdicts, in which he presented a strong legal case for Artsakh's independence: "Whenever a part of the population of a State is not represented by its government and the human rights of that population are systematically infringed by its own government, ...the victimized population may have recourse 'as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression,' to use the powerful formulation of the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." The Judge also wrote that when a State systematically abuses the human rights of a seceding population, it is lawful for another State to take military action in favor of the seceding population, after the latter has established control of its territory and declared its secession.

Azerbaijan bans Russian opera singer Lyubov Kazarnovskaya



The Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan has banned Lyubov Kazarnovskaya, a Russian opera singer after she recently took a trip to Nagorno Karabakh.

"Lyubov Kazarnovskaya's name will be included in the list of 'unwanted' persons," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hikmat Hagiyevev told RIA Novosti.

The Opera singer visited Stepanakert last week, where she held a master class at the musical college.

Kazarnovskaya has said she's proud to be in the same list with Montserrat Caballe. "Nagorno Karabakh is a splendid place, and I took young interns there. There will never be peace on the planet as long as there is aggression.

There, in Karabakh people do not want war. They want peace, they want to give birth to children and hear the sounds of music," she told the Russian News Service.

India's Foreign Policy - Building on the Legacy of Non-Alignment or Pursuing World Power Status?



By Gourgen James Khazhakian
Chief Correspondent
Journalist Emeritus
of Armenia

Trying to come up with a comprehensive analysis of the foreign policy of the government of India since Mr **Narendra Modi** took office is a challenging task which cannot be successfully tackled in a modest newspaper article.

However, even a brief outline of the energetic efforts spearheaded by the External Affairs Minister Mrs **Sushma Swaraj** may prove useful for all those watching with interest the steadfast rise of the Asian giant. What should we expect from the biggest democracy of the world?

Mrs Swaraj wrote in her address-preface to the recent publication on the India's new government's foreign policy entitled "**Breakthrough diplomacy**": "*Revitalising traditional ties, resettling strategic relations and reaching out to Indians abroad have been primary to India's diplomatic efforts*".

As the External Affairs Minister points out, the symbolic first visits after the Prime Minister took office were made to Bhutan and Nepal, India's northern neighbours and traditional friends. "**Neighbours First**" – that is *the New Mantra* of India.

After that the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister (not to mention other officials) participated in a relentless drive, dealing with both bilateral and international issues, from supporting statehood for Palestine to inaugurating a railway in Sri Lanka, linking Colombo with Jaffna in the north (a feat unimaginable even a couple of years ago, bringing together two parts of the

island nation traumatised by a brutal internal conflict – a bright example of India's influence used to heal the wounds of a neighbouring nation); visits to India by **Xi Jinping** (the first-ever by an incumbent President of China) and **Barak Obama** – the latter has become the first-ever foreign leader who stood in the same row with the India's President and Prime Minister receiving military defile on the recent Republic Day, 26 January 2015, the first visit of PM Modi outside the subcontinent - to Japan - the list goes on and on.

The External Affairs Minister is indefatigable - her visits are difficult to enumerate. And we must not forget President **Pranab Mukherjee** - he invit-

India to the Republic of Armenia Dr. **Suresh Babu** when in his foreword to a commemorative publication "India New Vision New Vigour" dedicated to the 65th anniversary of the Republic Day of India and issued by the India-Armenia Friendship NGO he writes the following:

"... Under the visionary guidance and leadership of Prime Minister Modi and the External Affairs Minister Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, India has achieved a breakthrough in the foreign policy front. Both of them have held Summit level meetings with almost all world leaders and have participated in all major multilateral gatherings within a span of six months".

We need not point out that all those contacts, and many more besides, always bring tangible benefits in the form of economic development, cultural enrichment, scientific cooperation and improved international situation.

The Indian leadership promote Indian (millenia-old and legendary) culture worldwide, from making the UN to declare June 21 "International Day of Yoga" to jointly, with China, publishing "Encyclopaedia of Cultural Contacts".

Indian Govt has been strengthening furthermore contacts with Indian diaspora (*Pravasi Bharatiya Divas*) worldwide, and we believe, in spite of all the difference between their and our – the Armenian diaspora, first of all in terms of size, experience exchange between the two nations on this matter could be mutually beneficial.

Keeping ties with its long time traditional partner Russia, India's new Govt. develops cooperation with the US: during PM Modi's visit to Washington last year US-India vision statement "*Chalein Saath Saath*" – "*Forward Together We Go*" has been achieved, with expected bilateral trade five-fold



ed the Governor General of Australia, made state visits to countries as far apart as Norway and Finland, on the one hand, and Vietnam, on the other.

According to some forecasts, by 2050 GDP of the BRICS quintet member-states will overwhelm half of the total world GDP, so its significance could not be underestimated by the new leadership of India: At the last BRICS Summit held in Fortaleza, Brazil they've established a USD 100 billion contingent reserve arrangement for short-term liquidity, and the Indian to be the first President of the USD 50 bn New BRICS Development Bank with headquarters in Shanghai.

And it is a quite difficult thing not to agree with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of

growth, - from the current USD 100 billion to USD 500 billion.

It includes development of three Smart Cities in India with the help of US companies; Proton Accelerator Project with Fermilab and Indian membership in the Thirty Meter Telescope consortium; Inter-Agency WG to speed up deployment of US-origin nuclear reactors in India; And a joint working group to be constituted for collaboration on Mars exploration.

And the last, but not the least, not at all: framework Agreement for India-US defence cooperation to be renewed for further 10 years.

And as far as we've touched upon defence issues, the following seems an interesting thing:

Experienced defence analysts are pondering the significance of the plans for assembly of up to 400 Russian helicopters in India per annum, announced in the wake of Vladimir Putin's visit to

New Delhi, and recent abrupt termination of long and detailed talks for purchase of 126 French-made jet fighters for the Indian Air Force.

What could that mean? We hasten to smooth the analysts' brows – Indian negotiators are patient and tough, the decade-long saga of India buying a Russian-built aircraft carrier is the proof, if any were needed. The French asked a high price and wanted to safeguard jobs at home, while the Russians managed to fix a suitable price and agreed that helicopters will be built in India.

Perhaps the French might follow suit and complete the deal to mutual satisfaction? Why are Indians unwilling to splash out the money?

In our view, PM Modi's drive to eradicate poverty still affecting every fifth Indian explains many, if not all, efforts of the Modi government. And thus the question as to what India's

intentions really are - are the Indians trying to steer clear of the conflicting world powers, as they did when they were launching the Non-Aligned Movement, or are they striving to achieve the world power status themselves - has a very simple answer.

Both. In the world where regional conflicts and failed states are like local fires threatening to spread and engulf the globe, India cannot prosper and bring prosperity, education, health care and advancement to all Indians. India needs peace and stability in global terms. When the Indian government pushes for localized manufacture of the goods it wants to import, be it high-speed trains or jet fighters, they pursue a twin goal of uplifting the economy by creating high-skilled jobs and ensuring India's security.

Very good job, but we need not expect anything else from an ancient culture embracing the future.

First Deputy Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan: “We Attach Importance to the Upgrading of Our Defense Cooperation with Georgia”

*On July 16, within framework of a working trip to Georgia, First Deputy Minister of Defense of Armenia **Davit E. Tonoyan** met with Georgian Defense Minister Mrs **Tinatin Khidasheli**.*

The Armenian delegation included Deputy Chief of the RA Armed Forces General Staff Lieutenant-General **Enriko Apriamov**, Chief of the Defense Ministry Defense Policy Department **Levon Ayvazyan** as well as other high-ranking officials.

During the meeting, the parties discussed issues of bilateral coopera-

tion. The Georgian Defense Minister noted that military education was one of priority directions of bilateral cooperation with Armenia. *“In Brussels, I had the opportunity to meet with my Armenian colleague, Minister **Seyran M. Ohanyan** and to agree on establishing relations with new formats and new ways of cooperation. This visit aims to deepen cooperation between our military educational institutions, in order to exchange experience and knowledge”,* – said the Georgian Defense Minister. The parties also exchanged

views on the latest developments in the region. At the end of the meeting, Mr Tonoyan extended Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan's invitation to his Georgian counterpart Tinatin Khidasheli to visit Armenia.

Requested by The Highlights to comment on their visit to Georgia, Mr Tonoyan told that the Armenian side, outcoming of the general security situation and realities in the region, has been attaching importance to the upgrading of bilateral cooperation with Georgia in defense area to a higher level.



Lonely tale of Nagorno-Karabakh

By Mary Boland in Stepanakert
The Irish Times

The blue-and-white bird-like structure of Nagorno-Karabakh's airport perches in the Caucasus Mountains like a shining, defiant emblem of national pride. The departures screen lists an international flight to Yerevan, the Armenian capital. Members of the airport's 120 staff stand by to pass luggage through the latest model X-ray machine. Authorities at the facility, which cost \$20 million (€18 million) to rebuild, say it has sophisticated satellite navigation technology.

However, there are no passengers - and no aircraft. The flight to Yerevan is aspirational; the only way to get there remains a six-hour drive through the mountains. The reason: any flights that land at or leave this airport will come under fire from Azeri troops.

As a self-proclaimed republic recognized by no country in the world, Nagorno-Karabakh considers itself a nation under siege. Located within Azerbaijan's official borders but run by ethnic Armenians, the landlocked enclave was the subject of a devastating war between 1991 and 1994, which cost some 30,000 lives and displaced a million people.

Nagorno-Karabakh has kept its de facto autonomy; but Azerbaijan maintains its claim to it.

Shoot down

The airport, destroyed in the war, reopened four years ago. "In 2011 we wanted to start flights, but our neighbors intervened - they said they would shoot down our aircraft," says Dmitri Atbashyan, head of the state let's civil aviation authority.

The threats are not exaggerated. Last year three military personnel died after Azeri troops shot down their helicopter. Troops from both sides have died in sporadic clashes on the border, in breach of a 1994 Moscow-brokered ceasefire.

With a wry sense of humor and a glint behind his aviator sunglasses, Atbashyan is proud to show off the little-used airport - and tout its advantages as a flying school, in which lessons involve close-range sorties safe from gunfire. "You can get your pilot's license here for \$6,000 [€5,400]; in the US it will cost you \$31,000. And we have some of the best pilots."

As if on cue, instructor Samuel Tavadyan, an ex-military man, starts up a small Zenith plane and takes off. He shoots into the sky, then ducks, weaves and does hairpin bends reminiscent of scenes from a Warner Bros cartoon. After landing, he jumps out and walks away as though he has parked a car.

The airport's staff are kept on the payroll and all systems remain running "because with such sophisticated machines, it would be too expensive to turn them off", says Atbashyan. He stresses that every aspect of the facility complies with international standards, so it should therefore be possible to operate it normally.

"The UN Declaration of Human Rights grants everyone freedom of movement," he says. "This shouldn't depend on the status of the country of that person."

No UN member state recognizes this enclave of some 147,000 people, despite its national flag, government, public institutions, army and police force. In the eyes of international law, it is a country that doesn't exist.

This reality is ever present a few kilometres away in down-



town Stepanakert, where the president, Bako Sahakyan, faces a lonely challenge on the international stage. As a member of the Commonwealth of Unrecognized States, Nagorno-Karabakh shares a bond of mutual recognition with the club's three other similarly troubled adherents: South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Transnistria.

"Our primary goal is to be integrated into the civilised and international community," says Sahakyan, a balding, ruddy man in his 50s.

Far from the front lines

The president is sitting in the boardroom of his presidential palace overlooking the significantly renamed Renaissance Square in the reconstructed capital, with its wide avenues, cafes and fashionable shops. At this comfortable distance from the front lines, it's hard to imagine that a low-level war is unfolding.

"Being unrecognized always forms the basis of our policies," he says. "But you must know that everything we do as part of our state-building - our legislation, law enforcement, judicial system, our elections - are all established and operated according to international standards. What we have to do is restore historical justice."

For Sahakyan, this means righting Moscow's 1923 designation of Nagorno-Karabakh as an autonomous region within Soviet Azerbaijan. "This entity was itself created artificially when it was forcefully incorporated into Azerbaijan."

The conflict dates back further, to rivalry between the Christian Armenians and Muslim Turkic Azeris who populated the area for centuries.

Nagorno-Karabakh means "highland black garden", but locals call it Artsakh, or "strong fortress". It is nonetheless deeply connected to and dependent on neighboring Armenia. Its citizens, more than 95 per cent ethnic Armenians, hold Armenian passports, speak Armenian and use the Armenian currency, the dram. And Armenia's 11 million-strong diaspora is a significant source of funds.

As Sahakyan concedes, it is not easy to run a nation at war over its very existence.

"Of course we think we have to settle this issue with our neighbor," he says. "We want to discuss, we want to negotiate. Unfortunately, the other side is rejecting our proposals."

The centuries-old rivalries behind this decades-old conflict are far from resolved. This country that doesn't exist will likely remain in limbo for some time yet.

100 LIVES Opens Nomination Period for New \$1 Million Global Humanitarian Award



100 LIVES Co-Founders Noubar Afeyan, Ruben Vardanyan and Vartan Gregorian stand with Aurora Prize Selection Committee Co-Chair George Clooney at the March launch event pledge wall.

Nominations are open for the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, a new annual international humanitarian award to be given to a person or a group of people who put themselves at risk to enable others to survive. From July to October, a designated portal on www.100Lives.com/Prize will allow individuals to submit nominations for candidates they believe have overcome great personal challenges to make an exceptional impact on preserving human life and advancing humanitarian causes.

To evaluate the submitted nominations, the Aurora Prize has gathered together an acclaimed group of people to serve on its Selection Committee, including Nobel Laureates Elie Wiesel, Oscar Arias, Shirin Ebadi and Leymah Gbowee; former President of Ireland Mary Robinson; human rights activist Hina Jilani; former Australian Foreign Minister and President and CEO of the International Crisis Group Gareth Evans; President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York Vartan Gregorian; and Academy Award-winning actor and humanitarian George Clooney. All of them are accomplished in a diverse range of fields, but are united in their commitment to the principles of humanitarianism.

"We are calling for nominations of lesser known yet inspirational stories of courage and intervention," said Aurora Prize Co-Founder, Ruben Vardanyan, an Armenia-born philanthropist. "We want to

honor those who risk their own safety because of a heightened sense of humanity and responsibility and support life-saving causes in a tangible way."

The Aurora Prize is the philanthropic vision of Vartan Gregorian, Noubar Afeyan and Ruben Vardanyan, the co-founders of 100 LIVES, an initiative expressing gratitude to the individuals and institutions whose heroic actions saved Armenian lives during the Genocide 100 years ago. 100 LIVES seeks to share remarkable stories of saviors and survivors and celebrate the strength of the human spirit. Together they are seeking to build a humanitarian movement by drawing attention to the issues faced by the world's most vulnerable and reward individuals and organizations that work to address those issues in a substantial and consequential manner.

"Sadly, tragic issues and events continue to plague the world's populations," said Aurora Prize Co-Chair George Clooney. "This Prize seeks to draw the world's attention to some of the remarkable efforts

tion, or livelihood to help others to survive and thrive," said Aurora Prize Co-Chair Elie Wiesel. "What distinguishes this Prize from others is the legacy this award will create through investing in the organizations that inspire acts of humanity."

Mr. Clooney will present the inaugural Aurora Prize to the winning recipient during a ceremony to be held April 24, 2016 in Yerevan, Armenia.

Nominations can be submitted from July to October 1, 2015 at www.100Lives.com/Prize

About 100 LIVES

The Aurora Prize has been developed as part of the 100 LIVES initiative, which is rooted in the inspiring stories of courage and survival in the Armenian Genocide. The Armenians who survived did so because of the courage displayed by others. A century later, 100 LIVES seeks to express gratitude, to share remarkable stories of survivors and their saviors, and to celebrate the strength of the human spirit. The actions of 100 LIVES will help to inspire others to stop, to think about those who have helped them during a crisis, and to express gratitude by doing something in return.

About the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity

The Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity is a new global award that will be given annually to people who put themselves at risk to enable others to survive.

Recipients will be recognized for the exceptional impact their actions have made on preserving human life and advancing humanitarian causes, having overcome significant challenges along the way. Every year the winners will be honored with a \$100,000 award as well as the unique ability to continue the cycle of giving by nominating an organization which inspired their work and is consistent with the spirit of the Prize, for a \$1,000,000 grant.

The Aurora Prize is designed to further the causes that motivate people to risk their health, freedom, reputation or livelihood by voluntarily carrying out acts that enable others to survive and thrive.

The Aurora Prize will be awarded annually on April 24 of each year in Yerevan, Armenia.



being undertaken to help save the world's most vulnerable from humanitarian crises happening around the globe."

The winner will be honored with a US\$100,000 award, as well as a US\$1,000,000 grant to be donated to a charitable organization that inspired their work. This is consistent with the spirit of the Prize and allows the recipient to continue the cycle of giving. Nominations may span a broad range of sectors in the non-profit field, including economic development, public health, law, government and education.

"The Aurora Prize is designed to make a real difference to the causes that motivate people to risk their health, liberty, reputa-

Beauty hidden in plain sight, the historic Armenian Church of Madras

Tamil Nadu of The News Minute presents a photo essay about Armenians in India.

In the 7th and 8th centuries, groups of merchants from a small land called Armenia, far beyond the Hindu Kush mountain range started coming in to India to sell silk, muslin, spices, timber and precious stones. Through the several centuries that followed, these traders formed small settlements in different parts of the country from Kerala to Kolkata, and from Agra to Madras. By the 17th century, there was a sizable population of their people in Madras, now Chennai, and the street where most of them lived, came to be known as the Armenian Street.

Armenia is an ancient mountainous country in Eurasia, surrounded by Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan and Georgia. It is one of the oldest Christian civilizations, and in the 4th century AD, it became the first officially Christian state in the world. It is believed that Noah's Ark came to rest on the Ararat Mountains in Armenia after the flood waters receded.

The Armenian Street is home to the Church of St. Mary, India's oldest Armenian Church. Stepping into the serene and almost deserted church, it is impossible to believe that it stands in the middle of the noisy Georgetown area of Chennai. The church had its origins in a simple wooden structure built on a plot of land granted to the Armenian community by the British East India Company. A proper church was built in 1712, but it was destroyed in a French siege in 1772, and was then rebuilt in its present location - the grounds of an Armenian cemetery. A three-storey bell tower stands next to the church, and has three pairs of enormous bells dating back to the 18th century. The bells weigh about 150kg each, and one pair was forged in London by the same foundry that the Big Ben came from.

The Marmalong Bridge across the River Adyar, in the bustling Saidapet area, was built by an Armenian merchant called Khojah Woskan. It is locally known as the Maraimalai Adigalar Bridge now. Woskan also built the steps leading to the church at St. Thomas Mount. Another distinguished member of the Armenian community in Madras was Shahamir Shahamirian. He was a pearl merchant by profession, but he set up the first Armenian printing press in Chennai. He played a big role in the movement for an independent Armenia even from faraway Madras. Along with a group of Armenians called the Madras Group, he came up with a vision for a free and democratic Armenia. It was published in his

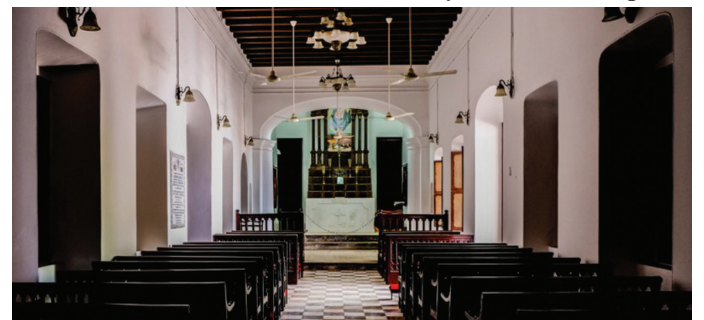


book called Vorokayt Paratz. It is considered the first draft of the constitution of Armenia.

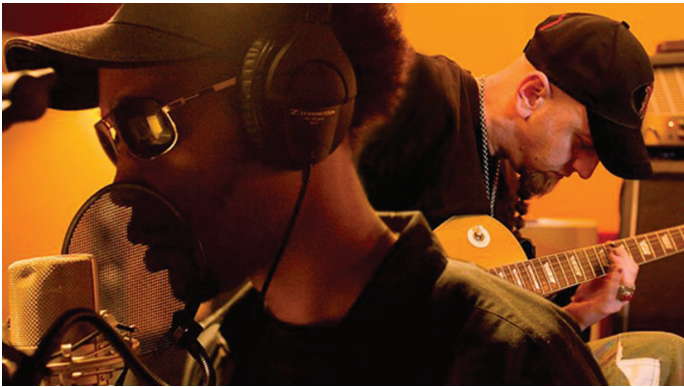
Since this church is built on a cemetery, hundreds of flat graves with beautiful carvings and inscriptions in the Armenian script are scattered all around the church under blooming frangipani and flame of the forest trees. In some places, it is difficult to move around without stepping on them. While the other graves are flat and at ground level, a raised one in the garden adjoining the church is clearly special. This one belongs to Rev. Harutun Shmavonian, and as a tribute to his publishing career, an open stone book representing his Azdarar adorns his grave.

There are almost no Armenians in Chennai now, and if you go to the church today, chances are that you'll be the only visitor. Regular service is not held, but the church is open to visitors from 9am to 2:30pm on all days. It is maintained by the Armenian Church Committee in Kolkata, which still has a small population of Armenian Christians.

Photos by Madhumita Gopalan



RZA & System Of A Down's Shavo Odadjian release new album



System of a Down bassist Shavo Odadjian has released a collaborative album with Wu Tang Clan's RZA, *The Rolling Stone* reports.

The duo had first announced their project, *Achozen* (pronounced "a chosen"), in the mid-2000s, around when Odadjian was hyping an ill-fated online music community called *urSession*. But other than the release of a few tracks ("Deuces," "Salute/Sacrifice"), the group seemed to fall by the wayside.

Now, eight tracks of the act's spacey, lushly textured hip-hop are available with the purchase of a limited-edition portable speaker, the Boombotix Boombot Pro.

"We both come from struggle. We come from oppression. I didn't know Armenia was the first country to accept Christianity as its national religion. And I didn't know about the Armenian

Genocide. I knew about the black man's struggle in America from slavery to civil rights to whatever we still go through, but you think that that struggle is just personal. You don't realize, 'Oh, wow, the Asian brothers went through a struggle. The Armenian brothers went through a struggle. Now the Pakistani and the brothers in the Middle East is going through a lot of struggle based on situations.' Right? So, I became aware and that helped connect us," RZA told *The Rolling Stone*.

"That led to our second song, which is called 'Fabricated Lies' and is about the Armenian Genocide. He [Odadjian] gave me a couple of books as well, but I was moved by the struggle enough that I wrote a verse," he said.

Speaking about the first-ever concert System of A Down played in Armenia on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Odadjian said that it was an emotional experience.

"We played two-and-a-half hours, 37 songs. We played outside to 100,000 people; there was no spot for people to even sit. It was pouring rain, lightning going on. I cried onstage a few times. It was emotional to think that I was that age, that they were like little me's, my little kids. And we're in our country, but it's their country because they live there and we are giving them what they've only see on the Internet, live. From grandparents to three-year-olds were there, standing in the rain watching this crazy band. But it was just amazing and I don't think that it can ever be duplicated unless it was a 200th anniversary. It was perfect. Everything perfectly fell into place," said Odadjian.

Company founded by Kirk Kerkorian to produce film on Armenian Genocide



Tracinda Corp., the holding company founded by the late Kirk Kerkorian, has unveiled production company Survival Pictures with the Christian Bale-Oscar Isaac drama "The Promise" as its first project, *Variety* has learned exclusively.

Survival is described as telling stories of "perseverance, endurance and the inextinguishable fire of the human spirit" to reflect Kerkorian's values. Kerkorian, who bought and sold MGM and United Artists three times, died on June 16 at the age of 98.

"The Promise" will be produced and financed by Survival

Pictures managers Eric Esrailian and Anthony Mandekic, with "Hotel Rwanda" director Terry George helming from a script he wrote with Robin Swicord.

The story is set during the last days of the Ottoman Empire, which was dissolved in 1922, with shooting in Portugal and the Canary Islands scheduled for the fall. Mike Medavoy ("Black Swan") is producing for his Phoenix Pictures banner with Esrailian, Ralph Winter ("X-Men") and William Horberg ("Milk").

The script centers on a love triangle with a medical student, an American journalist based in Paris and a beautiful and sophisticated woman. Bale will play the reporter, and Isaac will portray the student, who's conflicted by old-world traditions.

Bale was last seen in "Exodus: Gods and Kings" and stars in two completed Terrence Malick titles - "Knight of Cups" and "Weightless." Isaac will be seen in "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and "X-Men: Apocalypse."

Longtime Kerkorian attorney and spokesperson Patricia Glaser said, "Survival Pictures was born out of Kirk Kerkorian's unwavering dedication to telling inspiring human stories for audiences around the world. 'The Promise' will be a wonderful love story and will open the door to the championing of human rights. This film fulfills a longstanding dream for Mr. Kerkorian, who was thrilled to participate in the development and casting process."

Cypriot-Armenian project to help boost computer literacy in Artsakh schools

With the aim of helping boost computer literacy in Artsakh schools, the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's Cypriot affiliate has initiated and sponsored the establishment of computer classrooms at five secondary schools in the Karvachar area, by donating six computer systems as well as computer furniture to each of the schools. The government of Artsakh has given the project additional support by funding the complete renovation of the computer classrooms.

The beneficiaries of the project com-



prise the William Saroyan School (city of Karvachar), J. Jlavyan School (Nor Verin Shen village), S. Erumyans School (Nor Brajur village), V. Nazaryan School (Nor Getashen village), and P. Ghevondyan School (Yeghegnut village). The five schools have a total of close to 300 students. As Zhora Sargsyan, principal of the P. Ghevondyan School, stated, today it would be hard to imagine the life of children and teenagers without comput-

ers, especially at school.

Sebouh Tavitian, chair of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's Cypriot affiliate, said he's delighted that the small Armenian community of Cyprus was able to help enhance the learning experience of Artsakh schoolchildren. "I'm sure they will take good care of their new computers and enjoy using them to broaden their knowledge and skills," Tavitian stated.

Knesset Speaker calls for recognition of Armenian Genocide

The Knesset must do the moral thing and recognize the Armenian genocide, Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein said at a Knesset Education, Culture and Sport Committee meeting Wednesday, the Jerusalem Post reports.

"I visited one of the Armenian memorial sites and it is very hard to ignore what I saw there," Edelstein recounted. "I expect that I and the Knesset behave appropriately so that we can make decisions according to the moral standards of a democratic state."

The Knesset Speaker explained that many governments do not recognize the atrocity, while their parliaments clearly do.

"I will try to promote the issue and I hope that MKs will know the right way to vote in the moment of truth," he stated.

Twenty-two countries recognize the 1915 massacres as a genocide, including Canada, France and Germany, but not the US.

The Knesset sent a delegation to the Armenian government's 100th anniversary

ceremony in April, but Israel does not formally recognize the Armenian Genocide, in hopes that it can repair ties with Turkey, which perpetrated it.

Education, Culture and Sport Committee chairman Ya'acov Margi (Shas) said "we are aware of the diplomatic sensitivities, but we overcame them and the time has come for the government to do so, too."

Margi called for the government to recognize the genocide and for the Knesset plenum to make a historic decision in keeping with Jewish values.

"Ignoring [the Armenian genocide] will bring the next genocide," MK Zehava Gal-On (Meretz), who initiated the meeting along with MK Nachman Shai (Zionist Union), said.

Shai, who attended the memorial ceremony in Armenia, said: "We want to be in the international arena with countries that respect morals. Israel, the state of the Jewish People, must recognize what happened to the Armenians. Nothing will



change in our relations with Turkey or Azerbaijan."

Foreign Ministry representative Oded Yosef said that Israel has ties with Armenia and cooperates with the country in many projects, but the international debate as to whether there was a genocide or not is a political one about semantics.

Gal-On responded: "It would bring honor to Israel to recognize the Armenian genocide. It was a tragedy, but the word tragedy is not enough."

Russian tycoon moves to Karabakh

A controversial Russian businessman, who had become one of the first Soviet multimillionaires, appears to have settled in Nagorno-Karabakh with his family after reportedly fleeing Russia for reasons that are not entirely clear.

German Sterligov, 48, seemed to confirm on Tuesday his surprise relocation to the Armenian-populated territory. He said he will explain it at a news conference in Karabakh on July 13.

Sterligov rose to prominence in 1990 when he founded, together with several other Russian entrepreneurs, the Soviet Union's first commodities exchange at the age of 24. It served as a launch pad for a financial empire with offices in London and New York which he built in the following years.

Sterligov subsequently became known as a deeply religious man with hardline nationalist views and extreme hostility to science and technology, which he accuses of destroying humankind. He tried unsuccessfully to run for the Russian presidency in 2004 after failed bids to become mayor of Moscow and governor of the vast Krasnoyarsk region in Siberia.

In 2004, Sterligov abandoned much of his wealth to move deep into the Russian countryside and live a traditional peasant lifestyle there with his wife and five children. As he explained to the BBC afterwards, he wanted to escape "the mercenary atmosphere, the envy and the hustle" of Moscow.

Four years later, Sterligov founded in central Russia the Sloboda rural commune that offered free housing, healthcare and other public services to young and



married Russians willing to work there as farmers or craftsmen. Later in 2008, he resumed his entrepreneurial activities in Moscow, setting up a trading and financial services company.

The Russian media reported over the weekend that the eccentric tycoon wearing a big bushy beard is again selling off his assets and has left Russia for Karabakh together with his family.

"He was forced to leave the country by serious circumstances," the Interfax news agency quoted an aide to Sterligov, Polina Sirota, as saying. "It's not bandits, it's a higher level," she added without elaborating.

Some media outlets in Moscow claimed that Sterligov fled Russia to avoid prosecution in connection with incriminating testimony that has been given against him by two Russian ultranationalists jailed for politically motivated killings. Sterligov's ethnic Armenian lawyer, Artur Ayrapetov, suggested that this "slander" provided only an "addition-

al incentive for his departure."

Ayrapetov said on Monday that his client has moved to Karabakh because he has a "good rapport with many respected persons in Armenia." "Besides, all those values which he has applied to his Sloboda in recent times have already been put into practice in Nagorno-Karabakh," he told the "Moskovsky Komsomolets" daily.

Sterligov reacted to the Russian press reports on Tuesday through his personal page on a Russian social media platform, V Kontakte. He posted a picture of himself riding a donkey in a village and wrote: "I just came down from the mountains, surfed on the Internet and got stunned."

"I am scheduling a news conference for next Monday," he said. "The venue -- the blooming garden of Nagorno-Karabakh, the ancient Armenian town of Shushi. Dear journalists, arrange assignments [to Karabakh] and you'll learn the truth."

Sterligov also posted a Karabakh cell-phone number for the "accreditation" of reporters willing to cover the news conference.

The Azerbaijani government, meanwhile, condemned Sterligov's "illegal visit to the occupied territory of Azerbaijan." An Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry spokesman told haqqin.az that his name will be added to an official list of foreigners banned from visiting Azerbaijan. He said Russian and other journalists covering Sterligov's press conference without Baku's permission will also be placed on the blacklist.

Artsakh President visits London

On 6 July the Artsakh Republic delegation headed by President Bako Sahakyan arrived in Great Britain for a working visit.

On 7 July President Sahakyan had a meeting in the capital of Great Britain with the members of the Armenian Community Council and discussed issues related to the development of ties between the local Armenian community and Artsakh.

On the same day the Head of the State met with the representatives of the Armenian community of Great Britain at London's St. Yeghichè Armenian Church.

In a warm and friendly atmosphere the



President provided information about life in Artsakh, its accomplishments and the existing issues and responded to the raised questions.

According to Bako Sahakyan, the

Armenian community of Great Britain plays an active role in the life of both the UK, the Diaspora and the historic Homeland.

The President expressed gratitude to the community's representatives for their patriotism and devotion to the nation.

Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland Armen Sargsyan, Primate of the British diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Bishop Hovakim Manukian and other officials partook at the meeting.

The 12th Golden Apricot International Film Festival: Honorary Guests Ornella Muti, Nastassja Kinski and the Jury Members Delighted with the Armenian Hospitality

By Gourgen James Khazhakian

Members of the jury of the XII Golden Apricot International Film Festival (GAIFF) delighted with Armenian hospitality. At a July 19 press conference, they expressed their gratitude for the wonderful days in Yerevan and interesting festival program.

People's Artist of Armenia, Director and Founder of the GAIFF **Harutyun Khachatryan** thanked the jury for their work. *"The festival, unfortunately, ended. I say "unfortunately" because it was a Holiday... I always wait for the end to have a rest, but as soon as this is over, I am seized with sadness. Needless to say that a work remains yet - it is necessary to prepare for the Fest program films display in the Marzes of Armenia. I thank all the winners".* According to Armenpress, Khachatryan said that many have postponed their flights to spend more time in Yerevan.

A member of the Feature films jury **Alin Tasçıyan** (Turkey) noted that half of the films could be awarded with prizes. *"We chose the one around which there was general agreement. We all make decisions peaceful and happy...I wanted only to see an Armenian film in the competition..."*

Jury member of the "Armenian Panorama" **Bijaya Jena** (India) also thanked the Festival. *"Society attended by more than active. The halls were jam-packed. This shows the great love of the Armenian public to the cinema",* - she said.

FIPRESCI jury member **Helen**



Dulgheru (Romania) said a visit to Armenia was her old dream. *"A few years ago, I was fascinated by (the great filmmakers) Sergey Parajanov and Tengiz Abuladze. I really wanted to get to know your culture. And my Armenian dream has come true... Armenians are very deep people,"* - she said.

A bunch of star guests, first of all - two cinema-divas **Ornella Muti** and **Nastassja Kinski**, interesting movies, a long-awaited and intense week (12-19 July) - that was XII Golden Apricot...

The closing ceremony was held on 18 July at the Moscow Cinema Theatre. During a solemn ceremony the winners were awarded the prizes. The award-winning films screening was held on the July 19th.

This year the Fest received around

1,600 film submissions from 105 countries. 76 films were selected for competition programs, from which 12 films were considered in the International Feature, 13 - in the International Documentary, 17 - in the Armenian Panorama and 34 films - in the Apricot Stone Short Film competitions. The geography of the competing films included 26 countries. The main (feature films) jury Chairman was **Robert Guédiguian** (France).

Notably, from the very first (2004) GAIFF until the current its General Sponsor is VivaCell-MTS, Armenia's leading telecom operator (Founding GM **Ralph Yirikian**).

See the most interesting details of the 12th Golden Apricot in The Highlights next issue.

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