

The

Noah's Ark

Noyan Tapan

HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Newspaper

Published Since 1993

Armenia's capital Yerevan marks its 2794th anniversary



This year Armenia's capital Yerevan's 2794th anniversary will be marked under Capital of My Heart slogan on October 14.

see also p.7

The Turkish Parliament gave a mandate to the Army to carry transboundary operations

By David Petrosyan

On October 4 the majority of the Turkish Parliament (320 "in favor" and 129 "against" of the total 550 deputies) has approved to conduct military operations abroad if the government deems it necessary.

On the eve of the decision Turkish city Akchakal was attacked from Syria, in the result of which 5 civilians were killed (2 women and 3 children) and 13 were injured.

Note that Damascus has officially acknowledged the fact of gunning the Turkish territory and apologized for the incident.

The Turkish Government turning to the Members of the Parliament accused the Syrian Army of "aggressive actions".

It is interesting that some Turkish medias close to the opposition, referring to their sources, claim that the Turkish bombardment of the village was carried out with NATO-standard guns and ammunition (the Syrian army is armed with Soviet

Russian weapons).

The above mentioned decision of the Parliament gives the Government the right to conduct cross-border operations (artillery bombardments of the territory of neighboring countries, air strikes, actions of the Army with heavy weapons, etc.). Interestingly, in the decision of the Parliament there is not indicated any country, although many media outlets mentioned Syria. This is understandable, since the solution is connected with the incidents in the border areas with that country.

Regarding the cross-border transactions, the Turkish Army has much experience in conducting such operations in neighboring Iraq against the Kurdish irregulars. In the case of large-scale cross-border operations by Turkey against Syria, there is a risk to run into the Kurds who will remain loyal to President Bashar al-Assad.

Turkey, along with Qatar and *continued on page 6*

The second forum of the World Armenian Congress kicked off in Yerevan today. The first forum was held in Moscow in 2003.

The Congress has been created upon the initiative of the Union of Armenians of Russia in an attempt to unite all Armenians of the world. 147 out of 156 members of the Congress participated in today's forum in Yerevan.

The President of the World Armenian Congress and the Union of Armenians of Russia Ara Abrahamyan said we do not use the full potential of the Diaspora.

Greeting the participants of the forum, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said: "The representatives of many nations of the world live outside their Motherland today. However, in case of Armenians this has not been a result of free choice and a search for a better life abroad. Armenians have found themselves in other countries because of the genocide and loss of their land."

The second forum of the World Armenian Congress



"The 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide is approaching. The crime committed against our people still needs to be properly assessed. It's a nationwide issue, which, I'm sure, you'll refer to in your activity. The Armenian state and the world Armenian civil society have a say on this issue," the president said, adding that this is not the only question on our agenda.

"We defended Artsakh in a war imposed on us. Now it's time to consolidate this justice on the diplomatic field, and we are working hand in hand in this direction," the President said.

"Our brothers and sisters in Syria have found themselves in an extremely hard situation. We stand by our compatriots and do our best to support them," he added.

The President said our agenda is not restricted to the above-mentioned issues. "We have done much, but we still have more to do," he concluded.

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HIGHLIGHT

Armenian Genocide bill submitted to Italian parliament



RA National Assembly speaker Hovik Abrahamyan met October 12 with members of Armenia-Italy Friendship Group at Italian parliament.

As the friendship group head Sandra Zampa noted at the meeting, a bill declaring April 24 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day in Italy had been submitted to the parliament.

She further highly assessed Armenian people's contribution to the European culture, economy and other fields.

"It's time for Europe to return to you what throughout history you invested to Europe," she said.

Yerevan Mayor is awarded Police medal

By the order of Armenia's Police Chief Vladimir Gasparyan, and on the occasion of capital city Yerevan's 2794th anniversary, Mayor Taron Margaryan was awarded with the Police's "Cooperation" Medal for his contribution to Yerevan's development and strengthening cooperation between Yerevan Municipality and Armenian Police.

Gasparyan highly assessed the cooperation with the Municipality and the Mayor, and stressed that the Municipality is a reliable partner of Yerevan Police. "We must do all we can to further the cooperation in maintaining public order in the capital city and making the city become more acceptable," Vladimir Gasparyan said, Yerevan Municipality Information and Public Relations Department informs.

In his turn, Mayor

Margaryan assured that the cooperation between the Municipality and the Police will continue. "Our main objective is to have a safe city, and the Police play a huge role in this matter. The Municipality's policy has but one objective: to create a comfortable environment for the residents of our city, and in terms of ensuring public order. I am confident that we will have the opportunity to further embellish the capital city of all Armenians," Taron Margaryan noted.



Armenia blames Hungary over complications in Karabakh conflict



Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan has again accused Hungary of complicating the search for peace in the protracted conflict over Karabakh by handing over a confessed axe-killer of an Armenian to Azerbaijan several weeks ago.

In an exclusive interview with the Hungarian ATV channel aired at the weekend Sargsyan, at the same time, made clear that the responsibility for the bad decision rests entirely with Hungarian government officials and that his countrymen should not blame ordinary Hungarians for that.

The decision by the Hungarian government to extradite Ramil Safarov to Azerbaijan led to Armenia's suspending its diplomatic ties with Hungary. It was also questioned by many international organizations and governments of the world, including the United

States.

The Azerbaijani army officer Safarov was serving a life sentence in a Hungarian jail for hacking to death a fellow Armenian student at NATO-sponsored English language courses in Budapest in 2004. On August 31, he was handed over to Baku where he was quickly pardoned and promoted to the rank of major, with a house and eight years' worth of back-pay given to him by the state.

"The decision of the Hungarian government not only jeopardized the Armenian-Hungarian relations, which is regretful, but also led to problems in the European Union's Eastern policy and [Armenia's] peace talks with Azerbaijan, and, therefore, has put the stability of the region at risk," said Sargsyan in the interview.

He also stressed that Budapest's decision has only aggravated the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

"But I don't want the Armenian people to turn their back on the Hungarians because of the Hungarian government that turned its back on Armenia," the Armenian leader added.

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Hovik Abrahamyan is invited to visit Iran

On October 11 the RA NA President Hovik Abrahamyan received the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) to the Republic of Armenia (RA) Mohammad Reisi.

Welcoming and congratulating the Ambassador on the occasion of assuming the post, Mr Abrahamyan highly appreciated the friendly relations between the RA and IRI, highlighted the cooperation in different directions and deemed necessary more deepening of inter-parliamentary ties. He expressed conviction that during Mr Reisi's tenure the Armenian-Iranian relationship would more develop and strengthen.

"Today without hesitating we can document that the Armenian-Iranian relations are at high level and continue to develop in the atmosphere of mutual trust," the NA President noted. In Hovik Abrahamyan's word, the high level of the political relations of the two countries is a basis also for further enlargement and development of economic ties. According to the NA President, during the recent years the bilateral economic relations have registered a positive move, but we should not be satis-

fied with this, as in the political aspect the contacts of high level obligate us to take practical steps

bilateral relations in all spheres. In strengthening of inter-parliamentary relations the activity of the



for more developing the economic sphere of the relationship.

Thanking for reception the IRI Ambassador conveyed to the NA President the greetings of the President of the IRI Parliament Ali Larijani and the invitation of the official visit to the IRI, expressing confidence that the NA President's official visit to the IRI will boost the deepening of inter-parliamentary relations. The Ambassador emphasized the development of

Parliamentary Friendship Groups was mutually highlighted.

The NA President Hovik Abrahamyan thanked for the invitation and asked him to convey his best wishes to the President of the IRI Parliament Ali Larijani and the people of the IRI.

In the course of the meeting issues concerning the regional problems and of bilateral interest were also discussed.

Francophonie summit expresses support for the peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian spoke about the Nagorno Karabakh issue during the discussions on the international situation held on the sidelines of the summit of the International Organization of the Francophonie.

The Minister underlined that the position of the international community on the settlement of the issue exceptionally in a peaceful way, which goes in line with the Armenian approach, has been voiced on many occasions by the

Presidents of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing countries – Russia, the United States and France. "Unfortunately, Azerbaijan continues to turn down the proposals targeted at the resolution of the issue," he added.

On October 14 the summit adopted a final resolution on the settlement of crisis situations and reinforcement of peace, in which the member states of the International Organization of the Francophonie express their full

support to the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

"We call on all parties to the conflict to refrain from the use of force and the threat of force, which can jeopardize the peace process," the document reads.

The resolution urges to continue the negotiations on the basis of the proposals of the Minsk Group Co-chairs, namely non-use of force or the threat of force, territorial integrity, equality of peoples and their right to self-determination.

Conduct of drills not connected with the threat of war

"The conduct of two large-scale military exercises in Armenia is not connected with the threat of resumption of war," Spokesman for the Minister of Defense Artsrun Hovhannisyan told a press conference today. The conduct of drills allows to raise the combat readiness of the Armed forces.

The strategic command post exercises that were completed two days ago were also unprecedented; five thousand units of military techniques were tested, 45 thousand servicemen participated in the drills.

New types of military equipment were tested, including unmanned flying vehicles, anti-tank warfare, S-300 systems.

Assessing the results of the military exercises, Head of the Operative Staff of the Armed



Forces, Major General Artak Davtyan said all tasks were fulfilled brilliantly.

"If the rival tries to acquire new warfare, we are ready to give a

counterstrike. We are always one step ahead," he noted.

Artak Davtyan said our intelligence bodies were following the actions of the rival.

PACE Official voices concern over Oskanian Case

A Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) rapporteur for the monitoring of Armenia has expressed his concern about the lifting of the parliamentary immunity of former Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian on what he described as "controversial criminal charges".

"This is especially worrying in the light of persistent allegations that political motives have played a role in the charges that are levied against him," emphasized Axel Fischer in his statement posted on the PACE's official website on October 11.

"If substantiated, these allegations would mean a step backwards from the positive trend with regard to political normalization that we have witnessed over the last year and a half," said the Strasbourg-based body's German representative, adding that he had also sent a letter to Armenian Parliament Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan asking him to clarify the charges, as well as the basis on which the parliament agreed to lift Oskanian's immunity.

Oskanian, a member of the opposition-leaning Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP), was stripped of his immunity on October 2 following an application to the National Assembly by Prosecutor-General Aghvan Hovsepian, who sought to prosecute the lawmaker on money laundering charges.

Oskanian was summoned to the National Security Service earlier this week and was formally charged with misappropriation of some \$1.4 million donated by a U.S. philanthropist to his Yerevan-based Civilitas Foundation in late 2010. The BHK member denies the charges, calling them politically motivated and implying that they are aimed at derailing chances for his party ahead of next year's presidential election.



United States Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern voiced fresh concerns earlier this week regarding the criminal charges filed against Oskanian, a former U.S. citizen. He said the case was "bad for justice and democracy in Armenia". Heffern also called on the Armenian government to "live up to its commitments to the systematic, fair, and transparent implementation of the rule of law."

The U.S. diplomat also met with BHK leader Gagik Tsarukyan on October 10. According to Tsarukyan's spokesperson the two also discuss matters concerning Oskanian during their meeting.

The spokesperson, Iveta Tonoyan, said that "relevant bodies should make corresponding conclusions" from what she described as "tough assessments" by the U.S. Ambassador.

"I think that the Ambassador's message will get across and corresponding bodies will ensure a fair investigation," Tonoyan told Radio Liberty on Thursday.

To the question whether Tsarukyan and Heffern discussed issues concerning next year's presidential election, the spokeswoman, who also attended the meeting, said that some issues were discussed "off the record" and were, therefore, not subject to publication. She, however, again repeated that Oskanian's

recent statement that the BHK must contest the February presidential election with its own candidate and that he was ready to become such a candidate was his "personal position". She also reiterated that the public will learn about the final stance of the party in due time.

Meanwhile, Armenia's ruling party criticized U.S. Ambassador Heffern on Wednesday for "politicizing" the Oskanian case.

Eduard Sharmazanov, a spokesperson for the Republican Party of Armenia and deputy speaker of parliament, described as "unacceptable" linking any legal process in Armenia to elections. "I think it is particularly ambassadors who should refrain from politicizing legal matters and linking them to elections in Armenia," he stressed.

And the Prosecutor-General's Office refused to comment on Heffern's statement, saying that as a legal body it does not comment on "political matters".

Spokesperson Sona Truzian told Radio Liberty that the measures taken in the course of the investigation so far have not affected Oskanian's activities as a member of parliament. "Even today Oskanian can freely continue his work as a member of parliament, using all the possibilities that the parliament provides," she said.

Slovak judges visit Armenian Genocide Memorial

A delegation from the Slovakian Supreme Court, led by its Chairman Štefan Harabin, paid a visit on October 11 to the Armenian Genocide memorial and laid a wreath in memory of the Genocide victims. Subsequently, the delegation

toured the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute.

During the visit, Harabin told news reporters that he respects human life and favors a peaceful settlement to all matters. "The United Nations Commission on Human Rights [UNCHR] has rec-

ognized the Armenian Genocide. The European Parliament likewise has recognized it. In 2004, Slovakia also recognized the Armenian Genocide. In addition, there is a law [in Slovakia] on criminalizing genocide denial," Štefan Harabin stated.

Separately, chief judge Arman Mkrtumyan of Armenia's Court of Appeals informed that, with President Serzh Sargsyan's decree, Štefan Harabin is awarded with the Mkhitar Gosh Medal for his great contribution to cooperation between the Slovakian Supreme Court and Armenia's Court of Appeals and for his assistance in the passing of the Slovakian law on penalizing genocide denial.

Mkrtumyan also informed that they made arrangement on preparing a draft for signing a cooperation and experience exchange agreement with the Slovakian Supreme Court.



Protocols aren't dead, says ARF's Manoyan

Claims that the dangerous Turkey-Armenia Protocols are dead are not true, said Armenian Revolutionary Federation Political Affairs Director Giro Manoyan on October 10 during a press conference marking the third anniversary of the signing of the Protocols in Zurich.

"They are alive legally and are legal documents," said Manoyan warning of the possibility that Turkey may ratify the protocols and force Armenia to do so on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Calling the protocols pro-Turkish, Manoyan reminded the audience that President Serzh Sarkisian had declared that if Turkey did not ratify the documents in "within a rational time-frame" Armenia, using avenues guaranteed by international law, "would revisit its approach" to the protocols.

Manoyan said Turkey continues to announce that the Protocols are not dead and that the Turkish government is working on them. In reality, however, they are not doing anything on that front. He said that the only positive aspect in the past three years in Armenia

was the Constitutional Court's ruling, which expressed concerns about some of the provisions of the protocols.

Manoyan has explained that the Constitutional Court's opinion gives cause for concern that certain protocol elements do pose a national security threat for Armenia, saying this fact has not prompted "the authors of the football diplomacy" to resign from them."

"Armenia has distinct reasons for to pull back its signature and it must to do so in the shortest amount of time as possible," said Manoyan. He explained that the current Armenian regime strives to look good in the eyes of certain countries and as a result will not pull its signature from the protocols until next year's presidential elections.

"The stability of the region is not contingent of the Protocols and our stability will not be affected if Armenia were to withdraw its signature. On the contrary, that will demonstrate that we are a self-sufficient state and we are guided by our interests," added Manoyan.



Armenia and International Organization of La Francophonie sign two agreements

Armenia and the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) signed two agreements on October 12, and along the lines of the OIF summit being held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo capital city Kinshasa.

Armenian FM Edward Nalbandian and OIF Secretary-General Abdou Diouf signed the French-language cooperation agreement between Armenia and the Organization. Also, Nalbandian and OIF Executive Director Clément Duhaime signed an agreement on teaching French to Armenia's public servants and diplomats, Armenian MFA press service informs.

In his remarks following the signing ceremony, OIF Secretary-General Abdou Diouf pointed to Armenia's engagement in the French-speaking world and its spe-

cial role in the propagation and preservation of the French language.

In his address, Armenian FM Edward Nalbandian specifically said: "At this time, when the agenda of the leaders of the International Organization of La Francophonie countries includes the matter of changing Armenia's status in the Organization, we sign two important documents that will enable to further consolidate the interaction. The signed agreements are a result of cooperation, and we can record the progress that is achieved in terms of the use of French in Armenia."

In his turn, Abdou Diouf noted that Armenia is one of the most active countries from among the La Francophonie family and a leading French-speaking country.

A memorial dedicated to the victims of Genocide in the Ottoman Empire will be built in Berlin

An ecumenical memorial dedicated to more than 3.5 million Christians martyred in the Ottoman Empire in the beginning of the 20th century will be built in Berlin. The pre anointment ceremony of the memorial took place on October 13.

As a prominent German human rights defender, head of the committee for the Genocide recognition Tessa Hoffman informed that they are planning to build an ecumenical memorial dedicated to Christians martyred in the Ottoman Empire in front of the main entrance of Louizen Evangelical Church yard, in the territory of guarded memorials by 2015. There will be an attempt to turn this memorial into the public place of sorrow.

Instead of the accepted ceremony of placing of the cornerstone a pre anointment ceremony and representation of the memorial to the public will be held and first of all to Berlin residents from Armenia, Assyria, Asia Minor, Pontus and Greece on October 13 in 15:00

according to German time. Holy Fathers from Armenian Apostolic Church, Syrian Orthodox Church

al: "In the Memory of the Martyrs".

The building of the ecumenical memorial dedicated to more than 3,



and Greek Orthodox Church together will say prayers of anointment.

There will be an inscription in languages of all nations who suffered the Genocide on the memori-

5 million Christians martyred in the Ottoman Empire was initiated by a charity public union founded in the beginning of 2012.

Sargsyan reelection bid to be announced in December

The ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) has revealed plans for a special convention in December to formally field its leader and incumbent president Serzh Sargsyan as a candidate for reelection next year.

Deputy Speaker of Parliament Eduard Sharmazanov, who also acts as the RPA's spokesperson, said on October 12 that the matter was discussed at a meeting of the party's executive body the previous night.

Sharmazanov denied the party gathering addressed the issue of the Prosperous Armenia Party's (PAP) support of its nominee in the February presidential election.

A lot of things are being written about the RPA's allegedly having set a deadline to the PAP and its leader to make a decision. Such publications are far from being true and have nothing to do with the reality. This is just idle talk," said Sharmazanov.

The RPA spokesman added, however, that even if a meeting was held between Sarkisian and PAP leader Gagik Tsarukyan, that still wouldn't be something extraordi-



nary. "Because Tsarukyan is considered to be a member of the National Security Council. After all, his party is not an opposition, but an alternative," said Sharmazanov, stressing that no Sargsyan-Tsarukyan meeting has been held to deal with the upcoming presidential election.

Asked whether the international reaction to the charges brought against PAP lawmaker Vartan Oskanian, in particular the state-

ments by the United States Ambassador to Armenia and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly rapporteur on Armenia were damaging to Armenia's international reputation, Sharmazanov said: "Why should Armenia's reputation be at stake? We say that it is absurd to talk about political motives. Many RPA members are under arrest on different corruption-related charges. And no one has said that this is against the RPA."

Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem passes away

The Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II learned on October 12 that Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, passed away at the age of 93 and after a long illness, Information System of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin informs.

Archbishop Manoogian was born in 1919 in a refugee camp near the desert town of Baquba, north of Baghdad, Iraq.

His Beatitude played a vital role in the promotion of international ecumenical relations. He served on the Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States, and was Chairman of the Board of "Religion in American Life." Also, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the "Appeal of Conscience Foundation."

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian had published some twenty books and monographs, and he was considered a foremost expert and lecturer on the Armenian composer, Komitas.



Operation of Stepanakert airport quite natural - Swiss MP

The citizens of Karabakh need freedom of movement, Swiss lawmaker said commenting on the opening of Stepanakert airport.

Dominique de Buman, Co-Chair of Armenia-Switzerland Parliamentary Friendship Group, noted all the borders, excluding the road connecting Karabakh to Armenia, are closed. Therefore, opening of the airport is natural, he said in an interview with AzatArtsakh newspaper.

Switzerland's mission is to encourage and maintain peace processes, he said recalling that his country will take over the OSCE

presidency in 2013.

It is a 500-year-old tradition, Switzerland offers its mediation to the nations willing to find longstanding and stable solution, Buman said during his visit to Nagorno-Karabakh.

He noted Switzerland was striving to maintain good relations with all regional states but the sides should have mutual understanding and come to compromise.

As to extradition and pardon of the Azerbaijani axe-murderer Ramil Safarov, Buman said they were appalled seeing glorification of the criminal.

Greeks and Armenians press for answers from Romney and Obama

Two of the leading Greek and Armenian American advocacy organizations, representing nearly five million citizens from across the United States, today jointly called upon President Barack Obama and former Massachusetts Governor Romney to end their respective campaigns' silence on Armenian and Greek issues, by issuing public statements outlining their views, reports ANCA.

"As two of the leading Greek and Armenian American advocacy organizations, we join together today in calling upon President Obama and Governor Romney to publicly present the specific principles, priorities, and policies that would guide their Administration's actions on issues of special concern to our nation's nearly 5 million citizens of Greek and Armenian her-

itage," said American Hellenic Institute President Nick Larigakis and Armenian National Committee of America Executive Director Aram Hamparian.

Both the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) and the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) have, separately, written to both the Obama-Biden and the Romney-Ryan presidential campaigns, providing them with candidate questionnaires, and inviting them to share their views with voters, many living in swing states, that may prove decisive in what is widely expected to be a close electoral contest. Two recently launched Facebook pages reflect and reinforce the enduring bonds between the Armenian and Greek nations.

Turkish Ambassador in Slovakia recognizes Armenian Genocide: Ashot Grigoryan

Armenian Genocide denial punitive law is already a reality in Slovakia, reportedly Azerbaijani-Turkish propaganda disinformation which casts doubt on the existence of the law is being subjected to failure. Ashot Grigoryan, President of Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe (FAAE) had a press conference with the reporters on October 12. Armenian Genocide criminalizing law was adopted in Slovakia's Criminal Code in 2009, September 1. All those who will deliberately deny Armenian Genocide will be sentenced to 5 years of imprisonment, the ones who are unaware of the law will reportedly be sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment. The Azerbaijanis were making regular efforts to deny the existence of the law, they were not ceasing spreading information that there was no similar law.

In this context AshotGrigoryan recalled the statement made by Gulhan Ulutekin, Turkish Ambassador in Slovenia and its consequences. "When Gagik Mkrtumyan, Chairman of the Constitutional Court and Arman

Mkrtumyan, Chairman of the Court of Cassation and me visited khachkar dedicated to Genocide victims and paid a tribute to their memory, The Turkish Ambassador in Slovakia then issued a statement, writing there was no Genocide, noting Armenians should speak carefully", Armenpress reports. Ashot Grigoryan filed a lawsuit calling to subject the Ambassador to the punishment prescribed by law. Yet, when GulhanUlutekin was called to a police department announced he has nothing against Armenian Genocide thus explicitly recognizing Armenian Genocide.

"We have even sent a letter of thanks to Ahmet Davutoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs Minister of Turkey on the occasion Turkish highest diplomats recognize Armenian Genocide fact "Grigoryan wrapped up. Slovakia recognized Armenian Genocide in 2004. Stefan Harabin, Slovakia's Supreme Court Chairman visited Tsitsernakaberd memorial and paid tribute to the victims of the Armenian Genocide on October 11.



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- ◆ 684. Mashtoc avenue, 5/4, 37.4 sq.m., 1 room, stone building, a need to repair, old tiles, no water and gas, balcony looks at the avenue. Price: 70.000 USD
- ◆ 69. Khajaznuni street, 9/2, habituated, 50.6 sq.m, 1 room, capital repaired, euro windows, Ariston, permanent hot and cold water, no balcony. Price: 52.000 USD
- ◆ 645. Baghramyan Street, 5/1, 48 sq/m, newly repaired, iron door, euro windows, doors, AC, cabin, water tank. Price: 72.000USD

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- ◆ 1445. Sayat-Nova street, 5/4, 73 sq.m. 2 rooms, stone building, capital repaired, furnished, h-3 m. Price: 150 000 USD
- ◆ 1467. Mashtoc av. 8/5 81sq.m. made 3 , stone , special project , old but repaired, always running hot and cold water, looking at the Sun. Price 125.000\$
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- ◆ 1459. Baghramyan Avenue, 5/3, 55 sq.m., 2 rooms, capital repaired, h-3.8 m, balcony, iron door, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, furniture and techniques. Price: 49. 000.000 AMD
- ◆ 1458. Bryusov street, 9/8, 68 sq.m., 2 rooms, normal state, Baxi system, Czech tiles, showcases, wood doors and parquet. Price 75.000 USD
- ◆ 1469 Tumanyan st. 4/3 50sq.m. 2 rooms, repaired, furnished. Price 47.5mln. AM dram
- ◆ 1357. Pushkin street, 8/6 floor, 77 sq.m., 2 rooms, newly built, furniture, techniques. Price 165000\$

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- ◆ 2474. Koryun Street. 5/3, 100 sq.m., 3 turned into 4, euro repair , euro windows, permanent gas, balcony, 2 AC, opportunity. Price 160.000 USD
- ◆ 2454. Moskovyan str., 5/2, 180sqm, normal state, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, permanent water, gas. Price 370.000USD
- ◆ 2453. Koryun str., 6/4, 100sqm, 4 rooms, euro repaired, 2 lavatories. Price negotiable
- ◆ 2429. Ekmalyan street, 10/9, 178sqm, 3bedrooms, 3lavatories, capital repaired, AC, parking. Price-360.000USD
- ◆ 2393. Moskovyan street, 5/3. 110 sq.m., euro repair, logha balcony 17 sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, cube 700 l, electric heating system, natural gas, Ariston, 2AC, satellite. Price: 400 000 USD
- ◆ 2335. Mashtots Avenue. 4/4, 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, stone building, euro repair, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquetry, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 125000 USD
- ◆ 2348. Abovyan Street, 4/2, 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, concreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system. Price: 250000 USD preliminary
- ◆ 2395. North Avenue. 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD

PREMISES

- ◆ 1710. Sayat - Nova str., 1st floor, 420sqm, 2 rooms, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price 1.000.000USD
- ◆ 1727. Baghramyan str., 2 storied, 230sqm, capital repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ◆ 1725. Hanrapetutyan str., 1storied, 171sqm, 2 entrances, capital repaired, permanent hot and cold water. Price 500.000USD
- ◆ 1703. Northern Avenue, 9/7, 66sqm, capital repaired, heating, lavatory, 30000AMD service rent, view to Teryan street. Price 220.000USD
- ◆ 1553. Kasyan street. 170sq.m., working fashion saloon, large windows, facade-15m, 1room+fooye, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500 000 USD preliminary
- ◆ 1598. Nairy Zaryan street, 180 sq.m., 1st floor, a working restaurant, hall-100 sq.m. 1st line, repaired, tonir. Price: negotiable
- ◆ 1383. Nalbandian St, cellar + 1 story, 30 sq. m. cellar, 90 sq. m. story, Euro repair, hall, kitchen, lavatory, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- ◆ 1603. North avenue, 159 sq.m., 1st floor. Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1 sq.m. 10 000 USD
- ◆ 1588. Tigran Mec street, 256 sq.m, 5/1.2 , Given to the operation in October 2011, gajats,

LANDS

- ◆ 1756 H. Qochar str. 1000 sq m, 2-storey brick building - 1200 sq m, old repaired. Price: 1200.000 preliminary
- ◆ 2122. Davitashen, 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- ◆ 1869. Cascade. 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- ◆ 2121. Centre, land-1338sqm, 1100 sqm has permission for building. Price-2million USD
- ◆ 2107 Monument, 2400sqm, permission for building, 2 projects to build 3 storied building, possibility of water, gas, electricity, beautiful view of city and Ararat. Price-500USD per sqm.
- ◆ 2033. Tsakhkadzor, New Quarter, 600 sq.m., 1st line, asphalted road, premises, designed for construction of residential house, with all communal conveniences. Price: 120 USD for 1 sq.m.

- ◆ 1939. Kotayk region, Aghavnadzor district. Land 5000 sq.m., suitable for building a resort place. Price negotiable
- ◆ 2011. Proshyan street. Land 400 sq.m. for building a house, privatized, 2nd line/ near the garden/. Price 1 sq.m. beginning from 700 USD
- ◆ 2013. Cascade. Land 1000 sq.m. For public construction needs, First line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price for 1 sq.m. 580 USD
- ◆ 2028. District of Erebuni, Arin-Berd street. Land 2 acr. With a 2 storied partially built building, water, electricity plastered.h=4.20m. Price 1 sq.m. 50 USD
- ◆ 1402. Hr. Kochar St, 1,100 sq. m. personal plot, front -25 m, privatized, empty, possibility for building communications. Price negotiable.
- ◆ 1351. Monument, 2,000 sq. m. privatized, front - 17 m, APZ permission, for social purposes: suitable for a restaurant, hotel. Price negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ◆ 2725. Nork-Marash, building - 733.25sqm, land-620sqm, semi-basement +2floors, euro repaired, semi-basement is sport room, sauna, summer room, pool, fireplace, 1st floor- sitting room, 1 bedroom, cabinet, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Spanish tiles, 2 AC. Price - 500.000USD
- ◆ 3348. Blur, Barbyusi. 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, building-700 sq.m, capital repaired, climate control. Price: 1.5 million USD
- ◆ 3059. Vahagni community, total-1500sqm, building-280sqm, 2.5 storied, newly built, not lived in, 1st floor-living room-44sqm, kitchen, family room-24sqm, 2nd floor-3bedrooms, 3 lavatories, garage for 2 cars, cellar, security system, possible to sell with furniture. Price 490.000\$.
- ◆ 3210 Aygestan community. 2 stories, land: 480 sq.m, building: 310 sq.m, 1st floor is not repaired, garage, 2nd floor: repaired, kitchen, lavatory-tiled, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi system, a place for barbecue, garden, trees Price: 270.000 USD
- ◆ 3292. Arabkir, 2 floors, land - 1200 sq.m, building - 340 sq.m, 4 rooms, newly built, repaired, euro windows and doors, sauna, 2 swimming-pools, 5 bathrooms, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, Jacuzzi, fireplace, laundry room, cameras, 2 satellites, garage for 2 cars, basement, fruitful garden, brick fence. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ◆ 3313 Blur, H. Emin, 3 floors, land - 550 sq.m, building - 450 sq.m, capital repaired, furnished, 6 bedrooms. Price: 1 600 000 USD
- ◆ 2916. Ashtarak highway, village Nazrvan. 3 storied building. Land 3500 sq.m., building 760 sq.m., euro repair, 3 tiled lavatories, a sauna, billiard, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, garden, pool, garage.The building is ramparted. Price 50000 USD

NEWLY BUILT

- ◆ 74. Cascade, Verin Antaryan. electricity, water, gas, euro window, drywall, no exploitation fees, parking - 15.000 USD. 136-315 sq m. 1 sq m - 1200 USD
- ◆ 107. Monument, Verin Antaryan. inhabited, 8th floor cocktail, gas, window, street view - 1 sq m -1000 USD, city looking - 1 sq m -1500 USD, parking - 4 million preliminary, price: started from 40 sq m
- ◆ 100. Leo str. half basement parking, 1st floor - shops, 2nd floor - office spaces, elevator, equipped kitchen, central heating, water, height - 2.80 m, beautiful view, will be ready to for use at the end of 2013. 60-300 sq m. 16 floors
- ◆ 87. Sayat-Nova street, newly built building Given to the operation in December 2012. Climate control, gas, the fasad sector has 3 bedrooms-188 sq.m, 199 sq.m, 1 sq.m- 1900 USD, 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight- 117 sq.m, 120 sq.m, 124 sq.m, 1 sq.m-1700 USD Price: 1 sq.m- 1900-1700 USD
- ◆ 93. Kievyan street, newly built building Given to the operation in October 2011, gajats,

windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas supply, the second floor has a parking lot, parking is

possible for sale. Price 12 000 USD
possible with mortgage, for 13 years term

- ◆ 94. Masiv. Newly built , coupling. 8 flats, in each cottage 4 flats, total-2000 sq.m, each flat has 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking: 80 sq.m. Price: 160 000 USD

FOR RENT

1 ROOMS

- ◆ 1109 Teryan Str., 4/2 1 room transformed into 2, 47 sq.m, newly euro repaired, euro windows and doors, furnished, equipped, security camera. Ariston. Price: 500 USD
- ◆ 1009. Teryan str., 4/3, 1 room changed into 2, 50sqm, euro repaired, furnished, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique, ariston heating system. Price 800USD per month, 60USD per day
- ◆ 1096. City Centre, Heratsu Str., 5/3, 1 room, newly repaired, furnished, equipped, bedroom sheets and dishes, heating, satellite. Price: 400 USD, 15.000 AMD per day.
- ◆ 1005. Lalayanc str., 11/5, 1 room changed into 2, euro repaired, furniture, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique. Price 600USD per month, 40USD per day
- ◆ 853. Amiryan street, 10/7. 1 turned into 2, 50 sq.m., euro repair, Italian furniture, bed, utensil, techniques, permanent water, gas, antenna, Baxy system. Price 700 USD, 50 USD per day

2 ROOMS

- ◆ 2064. Aygedzor, 7/1. 2 rooms, 60 sq .m, capital repair, euro windows, Baxi system, AC, heating floor, camera, cabin. Price 800 USD
- ◆ 2037. Baghramyan str., 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, modern furniture, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, AC, technique. Price 100USD per day
- ◆ 2189. Vardanants str., 24/12, 1 bedroom, newly built, 90 sqm, repaired, furnished, with elevator. Price: 450 000 AMD
- ◆ 2057. Sayat-Nova. 11/4, 2 turned into 3, 78 sq.m., capital repaired, Baxi system, furniture, techniques, AC, satellite. Price: 1 day- 80 USD, a month- 900 USD
- ◆ 1961. Tumanian street, 4/2, 86sq.m., 1 bedroom, Euro repair, Euro windows, Furnished, permanent hot and cold water. Price: 1200 USD, 1000 AMD per day
- ◆ 2186. Buzand str., 7th floor, 2 rooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, equipped, internet, security system, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, underground parking, beautiful view. Price: 900 USD, 20 000 AMD per day.
- ◆ 2099. Sayat-Nova Ave., 12/6, 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 220.000 AMD, per day - 50 \$

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ◆ 2005. Northern Ave., 8/8, 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD
- ◆ 1998 Buzand Str., 9/6 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, water, gas, heating, view to Republic Square, parking, no service fee. Price: 2500 USD
- ◆ 2008 Komitas, Vagharsyan Str., 7/3, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capital repaired, furnished, heating, 2 bathrooms. Price: 2000 USD
- ◆ 1739. Pushkin str. 6/5, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capital repaired,2 bathrooms, parking, price: 1600 USD
- ◆ 1723. Northern Ave. 8/4. 3 bedrooms, 170 sq.m., 3 bedrooms,3 bathrooms, newly built, repaired, furnished , open kitchen, Falkon system. Price: 2000 USD
- ◆ 1942. Teryan str., 4/2. 3 bedrooms, 120 sq.m., repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ◆ 942. Teryan str. 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m, concrete, Hgt. 3.50, loggia-2, tile/ital., renovation. Price: 1500 USD
- ◆ 1969. Amiryan str, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, capital repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system

installed, climate control. Price: 1700 USD
◆ 1970. Vazgen Sargsyan str., 10/8, 2 bedrooms, newly built,, 150 sq.m, capital repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, climate control. Price: 2500 USD

- ◆ 1967. Pushkin str., 8/6. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, capital repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- ◆ 1966. Ekmalyan str., 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capital repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed. Price: 1300 USD

- ◆ 1951. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad. /13, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 122 sq.m, capital repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, usage fee included. Price: 2000 USD
- ◆ 1950. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad. /8, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 163 sq.m, capital repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, open balcony, view to the garden, usage fee included. Price: 2500 USD

- ◆ 1137. Moskovyan str., 6/1, 2 bedrooms, lavatory, pool, normal state, furnished, technique, DVD, AC, permanent hot and cold water. Price 1100USD, possible daily rent.
- ◆ 1790. Byuzand street, close to Abovyan st. 7/5, newly built, 2bedrooms, euro repaired, 2 balconies, furnished, baxi, technique, 2 lavatories, garage. Price 1600USD per month.

- ◆ 1787. Koghbaci street, 13/6, 2bedrooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, 2 lavatories, central heating. Price 1700USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ◆ 1793. Teryan street. 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built Price: 3500 USD
- ◆ 1564. Tumanyan street, 7/4. 110 sq.m.



euro repair, 2 lavatories, Spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.

- ◆ 1720. Amirian Street., 18/10, 2 bedrooms, 190 sq/m, newly built, euro windows, permanent hot and cold water, gas, central heating, 2 open balcony, nice view to the city, possible with or without furniture, parking for 3 cars. Price 3000USD per month negotiable, for long term - 6 months and more.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ◆ 1191 Aygestan, 2 floors, land 350-400 sqm, building - 270 sqm, 1sr floor - living-room, kitchen, study. 2-nd floor - 4 bedrooms, bathroom, storage room, partly furnished, summer garden, garage, swimming- pool. Starting Price: 3500 USD.

- ◆ 1218. Cascade, freeway. 3700 sq m, 3 floors brick building - 1490 sq m, capital repaired, walls - otto chento, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, heating, gas, Price: 12.000 USD

- ◆ 999. Aygedzor 1st lane, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors' 310 sqm, capital repaired, 4 bedrooms, living room, hall, 4 bathrooms, new furniture, equipped, 3 AC, Baxi, sauna, swimming-pool, house garden, barbecue equipment. Starting Price: 5000 USD

- ◆ 1094. Noy block, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD

- ◆ 1095. Ay

The Diaspora must act as an agent for change in Armenia

By Houry Mayissian

The National Assembly of Armenia voted on Oct. 2 to remove former Foreign Affairs Minister and Prosperous Armenia MP Vartan Oskanian's parliamentary immunity. Oskanian is being accused of money laundering in what is widely perceived to be a political move to impede his return to active politics.

Around the same time, activists from Armenia and the diaspora gathered in New York and then in San Francisco and Los Angeles for the Armenians and Progressive Politics (APP) Conference to discuss a range of issues from foreign policy, to civil society development and the rule of law in Armenia. While the presentations delivered at the conference are yet to be made public, there was a clear call from many of the speakers for the diaspora to be more active in the promotion of democracy in Armenia.

Ironically, the two events couldn't have coincided better. Two decades on, the disconnect between independent Armenia's realities and the diaspora's understanding of these realities is striking.

In the past 21 years, entrenched Soviet legacies of corruption and a lack of respect for basic freedoms and fundamental rights have hindered the democratization of Armenia. A strategic alliance with Russia, a country that faces its own serious challenges when it comes to democracy, has not helped. Some have even argued that the lack of a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict has allowed Armenia's rulers to cling to power and derailed democratization.

While the challenges for democracy to take root in Armenia have been many, the agents for change have been few.

Some external powers have tried to fill this role, yet have been limited in their ability to drive true change. A case in point is the impact Armenia's integration into various European structures has had on delivering internal change.

Armenia undertook formal obligations to adopt democratic reforms as part of its membership in the Council of Europe (since 2001), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (since 1998), as well as cooperation with the European Union particularly under the European Neighborhood Policy starting in the mid 2000s.

Successive Armenian governments embarked on a series of legislative reforms in the judicial, electoral, human rights, and fundamental freedoms spheres. Constitutional reforms were adopted, election laws were reformed and refined time and again, and legislation relating to freedom of assembly and media freedom, to name a few, were amended in cooperation with experts from these organizations.

In practice, however, legislative reforms have failed to translate into behavioral change. In what democratization experts call cost and benefit calculations by governments, the potential threat posed by putting these reforms into practice has surpassed any benefit that may come out of implementing behavioral change. In other words, when it comes to democratic reform triggered by external pressure, the ruling elites in Armenia have talked the talk but failed to walk the walk.

In recent years civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have emerged as potential change agents in Armenia. NGOs were quick to mushroom in Armenia following the disintegration of the Soviet Union. It has been argued that the Armenian NGO sector has been influenced by the availability of funds from donors who have not only played a role in shaping the issues raised but also the solutions proposed, often resulting in a mismatch with the local context (see Ishkhanian, A. Democracy Building and Civil Society in Post-Soviet Armenia, New York: Routledge, 2008).

While civil society in Armenia faces significant challenges, a number of civic initiatives have been able to rally and maintain enough popular support to register small successes. We have seen examples in the fields of environmental activism (for example, the "Save Teghut" initiative), domestic violence, and the protection of public spaces (the campaign against the demolition of Mashdots Park).

Some of these initiatives have also resonated with the diaspora. Such was the case of the anti-domestic violence initiatives organized in the U.S. following the murder of 20-year old Zaruh Petrosyan, beaten to death by her husband. By and large, however, the diaspora's involvement in Armenia's democratization has remained minimal.

There needs to be a deeper understanding in the diaspora of the serious threats that corruption, the absence of rule of law and accountability, and persistent violations of human rights constitute to the long-term viability of the Armenian state. More than 20



A scene from the Armenians and Progressive Politics conference in NY.

years after Armenia's independence, it is high time for the diaspora to open its eyes to these realities and reassess its role in bringing change to Armenia.

What can we in the diaspora do? To begin with, we need to start talking about the serious internal issues that threaten Armenia today. We need to start talking about them not in a way that feeds into already well-established stereotypes, but in a way that creates meaningful public discourse and seeks solutions.

Do we have a vision for Armenia? What is it? How do we get there? These are the questions we need to be asking ourselves today as individuals and communities. The imperative for internal reforms in Armenia must become a topic of mainstream concern and discussion in the diaspora if we are to find ways to affect positive change in the country.

The structures and processes by which the diaspora can influence the course of democracy in Armenia is a topic that warrants serious discussion and one we are yet to start. However, in trying to

bring change to Armenia, the diaspora can find an important ally in civil society. A generation of young and motivated Armenians who want better for their country exists in Armenia today. Let's reach out to them, learn from them, empower them. They may become the country's next leaders.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of an independent Armenia, the priority for the diaspora was to provide immediate relief to an impoverished country devastated by an earthquake and a protracted war. Now it is time for the diaspora to re-consider its priorities in Armenia and act as a much needed agent for change in the country.

Houry Mayissian is a communications professional with journalism and public relations experiences in Dubai, Beirut, and Sydney. She has studied European politics and society at the University of Oxford, specializing on the democratic reform process in Armenia as part of its European integration.

The Turkish Parliament gave a mandate...

From page 1

Saudi Arabia, unequivocally support the armed opposition, the basis of which is the Sunni irregular military forces of the Islamic Radicals.

In the last month, the Syrian Government forces have made substantial progress in fighting against the units of the armed opposition. Apparently this fact makes nervous those in power in Ankara. Hence the change in the official policy: from the formal non-interference policy and criticism of Bashar al-Assad to deter and cross-border transactions. According to Turkey's pro-government experts, these steps should lead to de-escalation and neutralization of the tension.

Ankara, being one of the most active members of the "Friends of Syria" and aspiring to increase the pressure and the displacement of the Assad administration, actively supports the armed opposition. The actions of the opposition in Syria intensify the confrontation and the number of refugees in Turkey itself. As a result, Ankara citing humanitarian concerns encourages creating "security zones" in Syria and humanitarian corridors to protect the Syrian people. On the whole, the aforementioned policy of Turkey is supported by its Western allies in NATO, but The Alliance is not ready to support Ankara in case of large-scale clashes with Syria.

As we reported earlier, the

Syrian Christians, including Armenians (about 100 000), continue being loyal to the Government of Bashar al-Assad and retain formal neutrality in the Syrian crisis. A part of Armenian experts believe that Turkey's support of the armed Islamic opposition in Syria will weaken and subsequent the deportation of Christians, in particular the Armenians from the country. According to the official Armenian sources, 30 Armenians have been killed since the beginning of the clashes.

In the result of the combat the normal life of the Armenian community in Damascus and Aleppo has been disrupted. In particular, due to the fighting and the terrorist attacks, the children are unable to go to school. 3.5 thousand Syrian Armenians left for Armenia, some of them intending getting citizenship. However, most of them are hoping to return to Syria after the situation stabilizes there.

In order to resolve the issues of the Syrian Armenian children a special school "Kilikia" has been opened in Yerevan which will be teaching the children with Syrian curriculum. (in Arabic)

The Ministry of Diaspora which is often criticized along with the other State structures of Armenia held a record of children and teachers that arrived in Yerevan from Syria, manned classes, purchased and printed Syrian textbooks in all

subjects for grades 1-9.

The Armenian students visit a number of high schools in Yerevan where all the subjects are taught except for Russian language. We emphasize the fact that they show a high level of knowledge in science.

In the light of the aforementioned, note that the future of the Armenians of Syria, also the Christians of this country, is unclear. Whoever is in power in Armenia will face the problem of ensuring the safety of the compatriots in Syria.

Formally, the aforementioned decision of the Turkish Parliament to permit cross-border military operations extends to all its neighbors, including Armenia. However, as it is known, Armenia is under the Russian nuclear umbrella.

On the whole, it is clear that in the recent years Turkey demonstrates aggressive and hard-politics in relation to its neighbors.

This policy, including the support of the armed Syrian opposition, is ambiguously perceived in Turkey and has been criticized by the nationalist opposition (the Kemalists). Nothing is left from the political project "Zero problems with neighbors" of the Foreign Minister A. Davutoglu. Moreover, Turkey's neighbors have concluded that the increase of weapons and the supermilitarization in this country are a threat to the regional security.



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Armenia's capital Yerevan marks its 2794th anniversary



Misuse of Public Funds 'Exposed' in Armenian Healthcare Sector



An oversight body at the Armenian Ministry of Finance has reported revelations suggesting a large-scale misuse of public funds in the healthcare sector allegedly committed under the previous minister whose political party quit the ruling coalition earlier this year.

The cases were addressed at the October 11 meeting of the Armenian Government held at the Ministry of Health and chaired by Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan.

Senior officials of the State Revenues Committee, representatives of the Ministry of Finance's Control Board and other departments also attended the meeting that was the latest in a series of such gatherings held to address the recent efforts to expose government corruption.

President Serzh Sargsyan criticized government officials last month for widespread bribery and nepotism in state procurements resulting in huge misappropriations of public funds. He went on to instruct the law-enforcement bodies to investigate the reported abuses and start the crackdown from high-level officials.

During Sargsyan's September 15 extraordinary meeting with the government the sphere of drug purchases was mentioned as one of the most corrupt.

Sona Gharibyan, who heads the Ministry of Finance's Department for Internal Audit Assessment and Financial Control, reported that during the period of 2009-2010 as well as in February and April of this year the Ministry of Health used public funds

Armenia-Russia trade turnover to exceed \$1bln this year

The volume of Russian investments in Armenia over the last 20 years totaled about \$3bln.

Russian Minister of Transport, co-chairman of the Armenian-Russian intergovernmental commission Maxim Sokolov said this in Yerevan on October 12 while answering Mediamax's question about the decline in the volume of direct investments to Armenia.

"It's early to sum up the results yet. We'll study the statistics at the end of the year. The investment process has certain discretion. As a rule, investors build their financial plans on the basis of maximum concentration of resources by the end of the year," he said.

According to the data of the National Statistical Service of Armenia, the volume of direct Russian investments to Armenia

to purchase ten types of drugs, for which payments of nearly 600 million drams (or some \$1.5 million) were made. The official described the purchases as "unjustified and inefficient" and said that the medicines were bought at prices that were much higher than those existing on the market at that time.

In the period in question the Ministry of Health was led by Harutinian Kushkyan, a member of the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP), which quit the governing coalition after the parliamentary elections last May, withdrawing all its members from government posts. Since then the party has had increasingly tense relations with its former ally, the Republican Party of Armenia, which dominates the current government.

Earlier this month senior PAP member Vartan Oskanian was charged with money laundering in an investigation widely seen as a government response to his criticism as well as presidential ambitions that he revealed recently.

Speaking to Radio Liberty on October 11, the PAP spokesman Tigran Urikhanian said the answer to the question of whether the latest developments involving a former minister representing the party were connected to the upcoming presidential elections was "clear".

Armenian government officials routinely deny any political motives behind the recent high-profile investigations, stressing that they are part of broader efforts to tackle corruption.

The volume of Russian investments in Armenia over the last 20 years totaled about \$3bln.

Maxim Sokolov recalled that in 2011 the trade turnover between Russia and Armenia totaled \$1bln.

"The statistics of the current year shows that we have already exceeded \$800mln during 8 months, thus by the end of the year we will exceed last year's \$1bln," he said.

An agreement on economic cooperation between Armenia and Russia until 2020 was signed in Yerevan today.

Armenian Prime Minister, Armenian co-chairman of the commission Tigran Sargsyan said that "this document covers almost all cooperation directions between two countries."

There is an essential progress in all spheres of Armenia-EU cooperation

The 13th session of the committee of Republic of Armenia-Euro Union cooperation took place on October 8 in Brussels. Chairman from the Armenian side was the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia Tigran Davtyan and European side was represented in the face of director of European Foreign Relations for Russia, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, Regional Partnership

and OSCE Gunnar Wiegand.

As the Ministry of Economy said the sides discussed the procedure of realization of the programmes of the Republic of Armenia-Euro Union cooperation in frames of European Neighbourhood Politics and developments in the procedure of negotiations for creating Inclusive Free Trade Zone, supremacy of the law, human rights and basic liberties,

cooperation in the spheres of traffic and energy, as well as regulation of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, Armenia-Turkey relations, matters regarding the European Union assistance programmes.

Both sides mentioned that there was an essential progress in all spheres of bilateral cooperation. Resolutely negotiation procedures of creating the Republic of Armenia-Euro Union Inclusive Free Trade Zone and the progress in all spheres of cooperation were most appreciated. At the end of the session both sides were satisfied with the dynamics of development of bilateral cooperation.

On April 22, 1996 the Agreement of Cooperation and Partnership was signed between the Republic of Armenia and the European Community, which was in force since July 1, 1999.

In accordance with 83rd Article of the agreement Partnership Committee was initiated. The sessions of the committee are held once a year in Yerevan and Brussels rotationally.

Long-Term Economic Cooperation Program By 2020 Signed Between Armenia And Russia

Armenia - Russia Intergovernmental Commission on economic cooperation held its 14th session in the Government Guest House Prior to the start of an enlarged sitting, commission co-chairs Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan and Russian Minister of Transport Maxim Sokolov met in a narrow format.

Welcoming the participants, the Prime Minister congratulated Maxim Sokolov for appointment to the post of Russian Co-chair. Tigran Sargsyan noted that the commission faces great responsibility in terms of maintaining and expanding the potential of bilateral cooperation.

"I am confident that our joint efforts and cooperation will boost afresh the strategic partnership between our two nations. Economic cooperation between our two countries is of systemic relevance to Armenia's economy as it stands for an economic locomotive. In this context, we attach great importance to the work of the commission and stand ready to make every effort to promote effective work," the Prime Minister stated.

Pointing to the growth in the Armenian-Russian economic relations, Tigran Sargsyan said that Armenia's trade turnover with Russia has increased by 23% to USD 880mn over the first eight months of the current year as compared to the same period last year. The imports from Russia rose 17 percent to USD 640 million during the same period.

According to the Prime Minister, special attention needs to be given to the 50% increase to USD 168mn in the exports of Armenian goods and services during the first eight months of 2012

as compared to the same period in 2011. "This is an important growth factor for Armenia's economy," the head of government said.

In this context, Tigran Sargsyan highlighted the establishment of free economic zones in the territory

the mutual economic interest-based centuries-old friendship is behind the success," Maxim Sokolov noted.

The meeting discussed and adopted decisions concerning the implementation of the protocol



ries of Russian Sitronics-owned RAO Mars CJSC and the Yerevan Research Institute of Mathematical Machines (YCRDI).

In the Premier's opinion, these programs lead the way in the ongoing bilateral cooperation in the fields of high technologies and innovations: "These programs are a key component of Armenia-Russia economic cooperation, and I am sure they will outline future trends in the development of bilateral relations," Tigran Sargsyan emphasized.

In turn, Russian co-chair Maxim Sokolov expressed satisfaction with the work done so far:

"I wish to emphasize that there is a consensus on all the agenda items, which greatly contributes to the bilateral economic, cultural and other spheres. I believe that

adopted at the commission's 13th session which was held last year, the current status of the existing legal framework, the trade and economic relations, the cooperation in the fields of transport, communications and information technologies, agriculture and humanitarian sector.

In conclusion, Tigran Sargsyan and Maxim Sokolov signed a long-term program of economic cooperation between Armenia and Russia up till 2020, as well as the protocol of the Armenian-Russian intergovernmental commission's 14th session.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan stressed the importance of the program as to the further development of economic relations between Armenia and Russia.

SIGNIFICANCE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR ARMENIA

By Sevak Sarukhanyan
Deputy Director of "Noravank"
Foundation,
Head of the Center for the
Political Studies, Candidate of
Science (Political Studies)

In the years to come building of a new power generating unit of Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant will be one of the main political and economic challenges for Armenia. The power generating unit, which will cost about \$5 billion, will be most expensive and most important economic programme in the history of the Republic of Armenia, and its significance should be considered not only in economic but in political aspect either.

What is energy security?

Despite the fact that energy security takes a crucial place in the global economic and political relations, till now there is no common definition of the notion of "energy security" (unlike such notions as national, food or information security). In the west more or less common definition is given in the documents referring to the EU energy; according to it energy security has 3 components - security of supply, price and environmental impact.

It is obvious that combination of these three components may create rather stable system of energy security, the influence of which cannot be troubled by the ongoing political and economic processes. But can such an approach to the energy security serve a ground for the elaboration and implementation of the energy policy of the RA? Theoretical, yes, it can, but on practice - it cannot. The point is that the regional environment plays a crucial role for the energy security provision. If in Europe or other parts of the world regional cooperation in the sphere of energy is natural and established, for Armenia situation is generally different. The current condition of the national and energy security of Armenia is based rather on regional confrontations than on the regional cooperation. Blockade of Armenia by Azerbaijan and Turkey brought to the situation in the energy policy when while pointing out energy prospects of the RA one should take into consideration risks and not the possibilities, as the first outnumbers the latter. And in this aspect for us the most important component of the energy security is stable and unin-

terrupted supply of energy carriers to Armenia. It means that in our case "energy security" and "security of supply" notions are in some sense synonymous. This is the reality that should serve as a ground for the provision of the stability of the energy development of the RA; this is the reality that should form the necessity of the development of the nuclear energy.

Challenges for the energy carriers supply in the RA

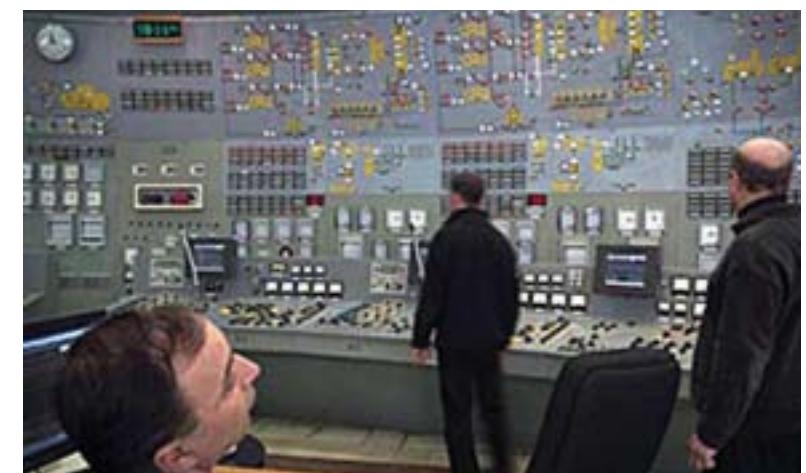
The main component of the energy security of Armenia is natural gas which is used for electricity production, for industrial purposes and for the consumption by common users. Natural gas supply to Armenia is carried out in two ways and their stable functioning is jeopardized by possible regional and international developments.

North-South Gas Pipeline

The gas pipeline which comes through the territory of Georgia has not been seriously modernized for the recent 20 years. Over the last 5 years Georgian authorities mainly with the help of the means received from "Challenges for the Millennium" programme carried out repair operations which were rather of cosmetic character and fixed problems on the most dangerous length of the pipeline. The Georgian side has stated for many times that full modernization of the pipeline demands investments of several dozens of millions US dollars which cannot be provided by the Georgian government. At the same time two sides which are interested in the stable functioning of the gas pipeline - RA and Russia - cannot make such investments due to several reasons. The main reason is that the gas pipeline is the Georgian property and for the foreign investments at least partial privatization of the pipeline is demanded. But in this case it is obvious that Georgian side will never sell gas pipeline to Russia and the Armenian biggest energy company - "Armrosogazprom" cannot buy it even if it wants as it does not possess enough funding resources. It is obvious that the Russian "Gazprom" theoretically can make an attempt to buy the pipeline if Georgian government sells gas pipeline's shares on the international stock exchange market. But this is just a possibility which is connected with an issue whether Georgia will use stock exchange markets to sell gas

pipeline's shares. In reality, as it is known, Georgia sold its gas pipeline system to the Azerbaijani "SOCAR" in 2006-2007, so Tbilisi can come into deal with an interested party thus concluding purchase/sale agreement. In this case any third party even if it wants, cannot claim an interest.

Over the last several years the Azerbaijani state oil company has expressed a wish to buy the gas pipeline for many times but as a result of the negotiations between the Armenian and Georgian sides selling of the pipeline to the Azerbaijani side was abolished. But this can be considered only provisional success which can be shaken due to two reasons. The first - Georgia is going through a period of active political changes and as a result after M. Saakashvili resigning new forces, the directions of the real regional policy of which can be forecasted only conditionally, can come to power. The



been the most important economic project implemented by the Republic of Armenia since the independence. It provided real alternative to the gas import. But in period when the gas pipeline was built regional situation was different - at that time, despite contradictions between the US and Iran which were intensifying from time to time, the talks about the real military encounter between

sion of the operation of Iran-Armenia gas pipeline in consequence of which Armenia may loose the second source of natural gas supply.

Of course it is difficult to imagine a situation when suspension of both North-South and Iran-Armenian gas pipelines will coincide but there is still such possibility (at least theoretical).

Nuclear energy



stance of the next generation of the Georgian state figures on the relations with Armenia and Azerbaijan is not known. The second - regrettably today Azerbaijan is the main economic and political partner of Georgia and this partnership will even deepen, taking into consideration the fact that in the years to come Azerbaijan will become a big natural gas exporter to the West (25 billion m3 annually) and the only way of gas export will pass through Georgia. Economic dependence of Georgia on the Azerbaijani gas export rent and on special law price set for Georgia will deepen which may provide an opportunity for Azerbaijan to take possession of "North-South" gas pipeline and in consequence Baku will acquire new serious leverage of influencing Armenia.

Taking into consideration all the aforementioned it should be said that "North-South" gas pipeline's further fate is unpredictable and this fact makes import of the natural gas to Armenia through the territory of Georgia risky and at least unstable in the long-term perspective.

Iran-Armenia gas pipeline

Iran-Armenia gas pipeline has

two states were of rather propagandistic character. Today the situation is different - it is obvious that the US and Israel are getting close to taking a decision to initiate military actions against Iran which will become even more realistic after possible overthrowing of the Syrian authorities - main ally of Iran in the region. One circumstance which is often not taken into consideration should be mentioned - the military strike will be delivered not only to the nuclear objects but to an entire military infrastructure which is spread all over the country including north-western Iran regions neighboring Armenia. And the counterstrike of Iran may cause destruction of the biggest economic infrastructures of Iran by the Israeli-American forces. Here we speak first of all about oil and gas wells and pipelines, which provide production and export of the feedstock and form the basis of real economy. This may impair social and economic situation in Iran and create fertile ground for the regime change in Iran or to jeopardize restoration of Iran. For Armenia, besides all these negative consequences, such development of the scenario supposes at least suspen-

It is our invincible believe that the aforementioned challenges should underlie development of the nuclear energy in Armenia. All other factors - the price of the development of the nuclear energy, high cost of the electricity produced by new power generating unit and riskiness of the nuclear power plant are though important but they are of marginal importance. The system of energy security of the Republic of Armenia has been formed and is acting in the regional situation which differs from the European one and it is that very situation which forms this policy.

It is obvious that building of a new power generating unit is rather long process. Theoretically it is possible that the construction of the plant would not receive appropriate funding because in the aspect of investments and economy it is not profitable. But taking into consideration riskiness of gas import, there must be a nuclear power plant in Armenia unless the situation in the region has changed or unless the ratio of the alternative energy in the energy system of the RA has reached at least a minimal level of state demand.



Two L.A.-Area Congressmen in Heated Debate over Armenian issues



By Harut Sassounian

Representatives Howard Berman and Brad Sherman, both serving on the powerful Foreign Affairs Committee, are forced to run against each other in the November 6 elections, because of redistricting.

The two congressmen are both Democrats, Jewish Americans, and both consistently supportive of Armenian issues. Voters of the 30th congressional district have a difficult choice in this hotly contested congressional race!

The Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region hosted a public debate at the Ferrahian School's Avedessian Hall in Encino on Sept. 29, giving the congressmen an opportunity to present their views on Armenian issues to Armenian-Americans voters. ANCA co-chair Nora Hovsepian delivered the welcoming remarks, followed by moderator Zanku Armenian who introduced the two candidates.

The debate got heated right from the start when Cong. Sherman pointed out that while he has been exclusively a member of the Armenian Caucus, Cong. Berman has been a member of both the Turkish and Armenian Caucuses in Congress.

Cong. Berman countered stating: "for nearly three decades of service in the Congress, I have been an ardent, consistent, and outspoken advocate for the Armenian Cause. I worked persistently to achieve US recognition of the Armenian Genocide. As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I led the successful effort to win that recognition at the Committee level." He went on to affirm that it would be his priority to have the House recognize the Armenian Genocide before its 100th anniversary, and he would personally urge Pres. Obama to keep his pledge on the Genocide. The failure to recognize the Genocide is "a huge moral stain on this great nation's record," Cong. Berman stated. He then proudly announced: "I halted the transfer of sensitive arms to Azerbaijan because I grew sick and tired of Azerbaijan's arms build up and bellicose rhetoric. Just this week, I wrote a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton about one of the most disgusting actions any world leader has taken within memory - I am talking about Pres. Aliyev's decision to pardon an Azerbaijani axe-murderer who was serving a life sentence for killing an innocent Armenian soldier in his sleep.... I asked Secretary Clinton that first, all of NATO condemns Aliyev's action, and secondly, that Azerbaijan is suspended from all future NATO-sponsored activities."

In response to questions from pan-

elists HarutSassounian, publisher of The California Courier, and AraKhachatourian, English editor of Asbarez, the congressmen addressed US recognition of the Armenian Genocide, reparations from Turkey, Israel's refusal to recognize the Armenian Genocide, protection of Armenian communities in Syria and Georgia, payment of rent for US air base in Incirlik, Turkey to Armenian owners of that land, return of churches in Turkey to Christian communities, Israeli arms sales to Azerbaijan, US aid to Karabakh (Artsakh), Azerbaijan's and Hungary's culpability in releasing the Azeri axe-murderer, independence of Artsakh, US trade agreements with Armenia, and Turkish Gulen charter schools in the United States. Below are excerpts from their remarks:

Cong. Berman: "Turkey has to understand that they have to come to terms with their own history. I am Jewish. The notion that in order to avoid hurting sensibilities, we do not acknowledge the historical truth of the Genocide, to me, is a horrible stain on our country."

Cong. Sherman: "Genocide denial is the last step in genocide; and the first step in the next genocide. That's why, it is critical that America recognize the first genocide of the 20th century. I will work ... as many years as it takes, but hopefully as quickly as possible, to get Congress to recognize the Genocide. ... It is time to put pressure on the administration, especially in the next 38 days, to turn to both candidates for president and get a clear statement from them. ... We should know what they are going to do next April."

Cong. Berman criticized Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for having referred to the Armenian Genocide as an "historical debate." He stated: "No one in the Congress makes the case that the Genocide didn't happen. They may argue 'oh, we can't hurt our relationship with Turkey' or maybe they're close to some people who are representing Turkey ... but nowhere do I hear now, like I used to hear, 'this is an historical debate.' ... It is very disappointing when the leadership of our country goes back to raising that issue.... This happened. It has to be acknowledged. The Germans acknowledged it, and particularly for

somebody who is Jewish, the notion that you can get away with denying this or try to fuzz it up as a historically debatable point, is in a very fundamental sense wrong."

Cong. Sherman: "We need to recognize the Genocide not only for Armenia, not only for America, but the Turkish state will never be a modern state until it comes to grip with its own history." Criticizing US governments' reluctance to use the term Armenian Genocide, Cong. Sherman asked: "What kind of superpower cowers before history? What kind of superpower worries about Turkish threats? Dozens of parliaments around this world have recognized the Genocide. It is about time for Congress to have the same level of courage!"

In response to a question on what the two Congressmen would do to encourage America's allies such as Israel to recognize the Armenian Genocide, Cong. Berman stated that "it is audacious for a country that itself hasn't recognized the Armenian Genocide, to start telling other countries what they should be doing. So number one: get this [genocide] resolution passed, and push and persuade the Executive Branch to support what the Congress has done, and then you do want to make it into an international consensus. But, we are not effectively going to tell a government that they should do something that we haven't yet done."

Cong. Sherman: "I'm proud that YadVashem, the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, recognizes the Armenian genocide; proud that the Holocaust Museum in Washington does the same. We need to recognize the Armenian genocide at the U.S. government level, but I for one have the chutzpah to urge my Israeli friends to do it even before we do it. And the politics in Israel are a little different. Here, there is still this mirage that somehow Turkey is the critical American ally. In Israel, that same mirage was more or less shattered recently, and so we may indeed find that Israel is able to beat the United States in recognizing the first genocide of the 20th century. And given the history of Israel and the history of the Jewish people, I think it's an important thing to do. So I for one don't believe

we should wait to urge Israel to move forward, but we should be inspired to move forward ourselves as quickly as possible."

Panelist HarutSassounian: "I would like to clarify something for the record based on the answers that you both gave. Before we give any wiggle room for Israel to wait for us to pronounce judgment on this issue, I think we would do well to remember that in 1975 and in 1984, twice, the House of Representatives, the full House, adopted resolutions recognizing the Armenian genocide. So Israel doesn't have to wait for the US to do it first. We've already done it twice, so they can do it once at least, in the meantime."

Cong. Berman: "For historical reasons Israel should do it, particularly Israel, should do it."

Cong. Sherman: Israel is going to recognize the Armenian Genocide "because it is the moral and right thing to do and because the historical record is there."

In response to a question on whether the United States should stop paying rent to the Turkish government for the Airbase in Incirlik, Turkey - located on occupied Armenian territories - and pay that money to the heirs of original Armenian owners, Cong. Sherman stated: "I look forward to developing a foreign policy where we are less dependent upon the use of bases in Turkey, because I've seen them try to lobby the Pentagon, to lobby Congress not to recognize the Genocide on the theory that, 'oh, you need our bases.' We can and should work with our other southeast Asian NATO allies to have a basing structure that does not require us to be paying rent to the Turkish state. ...However, as long as our base is on that land, that becomes an excellent argument for additional aid to the Armenian state because we're on that territory."

Cong. Berman: "...One of the arguments made in Congress against the genocide resolution is 'Oh the Turks will kick us out of Incirlik.' The Turks have no intention of kicking us out of Incirlik. They want us there; they're desperate to have us there. This is a smokescreen. This is an argument that people who

**Tigran Sargsyan:
Time has come
for closer
interregional
cooperation**



The Armenian-Russian Interregional Forum kicked off in Armenia's capital, Yerevan, and Armenia's Premier Tigran Sargsyan was on hand at the event's official opening.

In his welcoming remarks, Sargsyan expressed a hope that this forum would contribute to developing ties between both countries, the Government press service informs.

"The interrelations between Armenia and Russia are a strategic partnership. A political and an economic discourse is established. Today, the time has come for a closer interregional cooperation. We need to strengthen the mutual information space, [and] create a database for the regional markets of both countries," the PM said.

The Premier recalled that an economic cooperation program was signed Friday between Armenia and Russia, and until the year 2020. "This is a systemic document which reveals the directions for economic cooperation. [And] The regions must take an active part in carrying out events," TigranSargsyan noted.

TigranSargsyan added that one of the Armenian Government's priorities is the development of regional infrastructures. "We are exerting efforts so that the quality of life in the villages be same as urban conditions. Our regions have an enormous potential for tourism development. [And] Armenia's sanitariums are turning into tourism centers," Sargsyan noted.

Also, the PM presented Armenia's current economic situation and growth rate and opportunities.

Separately, several documents were signed within the framework of the Armenian-Russian Interregional Forum.



My Mother's Voice: A Genocide Survivor's Story



By Elise Kalfayan

Premiering at Toronto's Pomegranate Film Festival October 14

My Mother's Voice, a genocide survivor documentary based on the novel *A Gift in the Sunlight*, premieres this weekend at the Pomegranate Film Festival in Toronto. Kay Mouradian presented the book, based on her mother Flora Munushian's story, at the Glendale Public Library back in 2009. I first met Mouradian there, and then found opportunities to talk with her when we saw each other at civic, literary, and networking events. Her family and her extensive "community links" gave her resources, determination and encouragement to write the book, as well as professional contacts to help her translate it into a historical documentary.

"I am my mother's voice," Mouradian says in the film, echoing the prediction in her book's preface: "she told me in no uncertain terms that I was going to write a book about her life." This hadn't been her goal or even a thought until her mother's last years. Although she was the author of two professional books, she had never written fiction before. Presenting the story of her mother's teenage years as a novel was an excellent decision. The narrative is well-paced and action-packed, with the right amount of carefully researched details. Told from her mother's point of view, the story highlights Flora's drive to get an education, her youthful idealism and her inner strength. The book is a great read for both young readers and adults, with a positive message and story arc.

The film based on the book is more of a history of the genocide's

impact on Flora and her family. Among its visuals: a copy and translation of the deportation order posted in Hadjin, where the family lived before their march toward Der Zor; a photograph of Rev. Hovhanness Eskijian, who rescued Flora, her sister and hundreds of Armenian orphans in Aleppo; and a photograph of Flora's family - most of whom perished during the march or in Der Zor.

Mouradian's cousin, ABGU benefactor Jack Munushian, was an important family link to sources she needed for the story. He gave her an uncle's letter describing a mass slaughter along the Euphrates where Hadjin deportees perished. "Jack's parents had kept a lot of materials I was able to use," Mouradian said.

A local writers' group was another community link cheering Mouradian on to reach her goal. After meeting her at the library, I talked with her at these writers' meetings. Each time she had important progress to report about her book's impact and the documentary. Besides myself and Catherine Yesayan, no one else in that group had an Armenian background or was familiar with personal accounts of the Armenian genocide, so Mouradian's story had a great impact.

At subsequent library events, and at other professional events in the community, I would see Mouradian and catch up on her latest news. One of her South Pasadena neighbors had introduced her to his colleague, award-winning filmmaker Mark Friedman. Friedman agreed to produce the film with her. "He was so far-sighted, and very resourceful," Mouradian said. Together they searched out original film footage and were able to use portions of the 1919 silent film *Ravished*

Armenia that appears on Zareh Tjeknavorian's DVD *Credo*.

Tjeknavorian wrote to Mouradian, "Congratulations to you and Mark for so beautifully and affectingly bringing the message of your mother's life to the world. Her voice speaks so eloquently through your own. This film, and the vast history it artfully distills into such a poignant and positive personal story is as much a testimony to the resiliency of family and culture across generations as it is to the evil that sought to destroy them. I am sure it will go a long way to honoring the memory of Flora and the millions she speaks for."

Mouradian's South Pasadena community links not only got her introduced to a top-notch film collaborator, they have also supported and recognized her educational and civic endeavors. While serving as LA Community College Professor of Health and Physical Education, she published guidebooks and studies on yoga. She was honored for her professional and literary achievements by Congressman Adam Schiff, who named her 2012 Woman of the Year for South Pasadena. She is one of the original members of Women in South Pasadena Political Action (WISPPA) <http://www.wisppa.org>, a group that encourages well-qualified women to become active in city government and civic organizations.

WISPPA's 2012 annual meeting in September drew close to 50 people, women and men. Some fellow writers and I were invited as guests, because a private screening of My Mother's Voice was scheduled right after the organization's business concluded. This audience also (except for perhaps four Armenian-Americans) was unfamiliar with personal genocide stories, and it was clear the whole room was strongly affected by the film. "The film is tastefully, artfully done, the music is beautiful, and your narration hit all the right notes," one viewer wrote later. "It's a shock (and a shame) that this subject is not taught in high school history classes. I sure didn't know much about it until I moved to Glendale and started talking with Armenian friends."

In furthering her mission to tell her mother's story, Mouradian reached out to and beyond her higher education community, our mutual library and literary connections, and her civic advocacy contacts. She established links with the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan, The Genocide Education Project, the Near East Archive, and many individuals who have collected and published original research. She has published a wonderful book and produced a moving documentary.

Ministry or hotel?

By Alisa Gevorgyan

The building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been sold and will be turned into hotel in the future. The Foreign Ministry will move to its old building.

"The Republic Square is the heart of Yerevan and the exploitation of every building there should be well thought over," expert of monuments Samvel Karapetyan told reporters today. If they have decided to turn it into a hotel, then our country need hotels, he added.

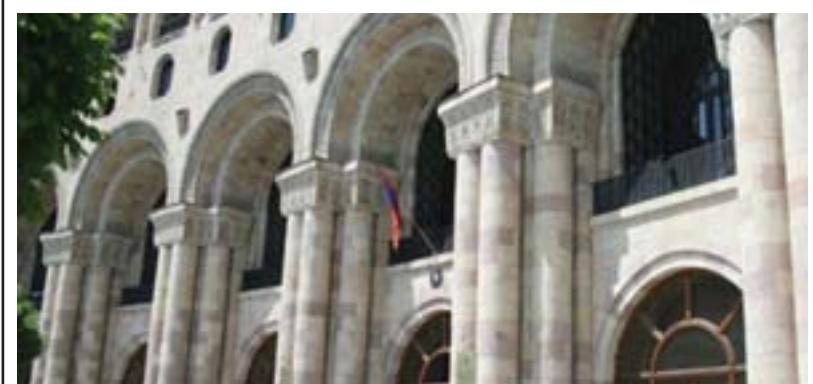
"The guests visiting Armenia do not represent the same class, and they should have a choice. By constructing another luxurious hotel, our country does not give them a choice," Karapetyan concluded.

The Artistic Director of the Yerevan Puppet Theatre Ruben Babayan does not mind moving all

government agencies away from the center. It would be ideal to him if the Republic Square was turned into a cultural center with museums, concert and exhibition halls. "As my dream is not destined to come true, let there be a hotel," he said.

At the same time, he is concerned about factors that hinder the development of tourism in our country. "The hotels in Yerevan are too expensive, and this does not contribute to the development of tourism," he said. He's convinced that the new hotel at the Republic Square will not be a cheap one, either.

The price is not the greatest concern for the intellectuals. The exterior of the building is the main issue all of us are anxious about. The intellectuals, however, are optimistic about this.



The film was a provocation against the Arab World

By Lusine Vasilyan

Experts of Oriental Studies discussed today the processes taking place in the Arab World, the reaction aroused by the "Innocence of Muslims" film and its possible consequences. Expert of Arab Studies Sargis Grigoryan is confident that the film was aimed to further aggravate the situation in the Arab World. However, the expert is not certain about the provoker, saying many could benefit from the situation.

The experts do not doubt that the information spread by Armenian media on the entry of Talibis to the country was simple misinformation. Armen Petrosyan urges the Armenian National Security Service to do its best to reveal the source of information.

"Alliance Françaises" opens its permanent residence in Yerevan

After ten years of activity at the French University of Armenia, the French "Alliance Françaises" will have its permanent residence in the center of Yerevan. The center will become a place for meeting for those who want to contribute to the inter-cultural dialogue between Armenia and France.

"Alliance Françaises will be a place for exchange of views, communication and dialogue," French Ambassador to Armenia Henry Reynaud said at the opening cere-

"There are at least two reasons: the dissemination of the information could have a serious psychological influence on a deadlocked country in conflict. Second, such information harms Armenia's international standing," he said.

As for the "Innocence of Muslims," the film was a provocation targeted against the Arab World. "It was a provocation, since there was an Arab translation and it was actually meant for Arab audience. Besides, the image of Prophet Muhammad is presented in a way unacceptable to the Muslim World," he said.

"The West should realize that this region is not the one it used to be before the Arab spring. Today most Muslims understand that they can influence the developments," the expert added.

money, adding that it will become a French cultural center in Armenia.

Today Alliance Françaises has 1,072 committees in 135 countries of the world. More than 500 thousand people are leading French through its network. According to Jean Claude Jacques, Secretary General of the Foundation, 527 Armenians study French in the Armenian center of Alliance Françaises.

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to European Union

The European Union has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for six decades of work in advancing peace in Europe.

The committee said the EU had helped to transform Europe "from a continent of war to a continent of peace".

The award comes as the EU faces the biggest crisis of its history, with recession and social unrest rocking many of its member states.

The last organisation to be given the award outright was Medecins Sans Frontières, which won in 1999.

Announcing the award, Nobel committee president Thorbjørn Jagland acknowledged the EU's current financial problems and social unrest.

But he said the committee wanted to concentrate on the body's work over six decades of advancing "peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights".

'Biggest peacemaker'

Mr Jagland highlighted the EU's work in sealing the reconciliation between France and Germany in the decades after World War II.

And he praised the organisation for incorporating Spain, Portugal and Greece after their authoritarian regimes collapsed in the 1970s.

The EU's reconciliation work had now moved to Balkan countries, pointing out that Croatia is on the verge of membership.

Senior EU figures were overjoyed with the award.

EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said on his Twitter feed: "It is a great honour for the whole of the EU, all 500 million citizens, to be awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace prize."

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy said the award was recognition for the work of "the biggest peacemaker in history".

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she regarded the Nobel as a "personal incentive" to build on six decades of peace in Europe.

"We must never forget that in order to keep this peace, democracy and freedom, we have to work hard over and over again," she said.



The BBC's Europe correspondent Matthew Price says the EU's achievements are clear, but the committee has picked a strange time to highlight them.

The eurozone crisis has made the EU look more divided and fragile than it has for decades, he says.

EU 'like Yugoslavia'

Alongside the chorus of praise, several eurosceptic politicians were quick to deride the award.

Nigel Farage of the UK Independence Party (UKIP) likened the EU project to the former Yugoslavia.

"Rather than bring peace and harmony, the EU will cause insurgency and violence," he said.

Dutch Eurosceptic Geert Wilders questioned the timing of the award.

"A Nobel prize for the EU at a time Brussels and all of Europe is collapsing in misery. What next? An Oscar for Van Rompuy," he said.

The Nobel committee has rarely shied away from controversy with its choice of winner.

US President Barack Obama won the award in 2009 despite leading a country that was fighting two separate wars.

And the choice of detained Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo in 2010 enraged China, which made an official complaint to Norway.

This year's Nobel Prize for literature winner, Chinese writer Mo Yan, said on Friday he hoped Mr Liu would be freed as soon as possible.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Siamanto

(1878-1915)

English translation by Alice Stone Blackwell

Prayer

The swans, in discouragement, have migrated from the poisonous lakes this evening,

And sad sisters dream of brothers under the prison walls.

Battles have ended on the blossoming fields of lilies,

And fair women follow coffins from underground passages,

And sing, with heads bowed down towards the ground.

Oh, make haste! Our aching bodies are frozen in these pitiless glooms.

Make haste towards the chapel, where life will be more merciful,

The chapel of the graveyard where our brother sleeps!

An orphan swan is suffering within my soul,

And there, over newly-buried bodies,

It rains blood - it pours from mine eyes.

A crowd of cripples pass along the paths of my heart,

And with them pass barefooted blind men,

In the divine hope of meeting some one in prayer.

And the red dogs of the desert howled all one night,

After hopelessly moaning over the sands

For some unknown, incomprehensible grief.

And the storm of my thoughts ceased with the rain;

The waves were cruelly imprisoned under the frozen waters;

The leaves of huge oaks, like wounded birds,

Dropped with cries of anguish.

And the dark night was deserted, like the vast infinite;

And, with the lonely and bloody moon,

Like a myriad motionless marble statues,

All the dead bodies of our earth arose to pray for one another.



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

Saturn in Scorpio requires you to focus on the consequences, responsibilities and liabilities of sharing resources with others. There may be work to do related to managing your own finances or those of someone else. This is a good period to tackle internal roadblocks that interfere with your ability to achieve genuine intimacy. Resources may be reduced for a time.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

The new Saturn cycle rivets attention on the quality of your important relationships. It is time to begin realistically considering your responsibilities in this area and clarify your commitment. Existing relationships will be evaluated and new purposes carved. On the other hand, it may be time to release those persons who are wasting your precious time and energy.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20):

This will be a period of apprenticeship. Now is the time to perfect your broad index of experience and knowledge, to practice until the accumulated bits of wisdom become second nature and highly efficient. The subsequent cycle will yield the improvement in status resulting from focus now. Give thorough attention to the needs of your physical body. Neglect could be costly.

Cancer (June 21--July 21):

This is the time for intentional application of your creative energy and to take steps toward manifesting your dreams of fulfillment. Something deep inside you no more than 3 years in your consciousness, wants to be expressed. Don't anticipate grandiose results on this cycle, but there should be reasonably positive responses from the world if you are on the right track.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

In terms of worldly influence, you are at the lowest point in the Saturn cycle. It is time now to lay the foundations for the next 28 years and this begins with inner work. We can produce little in the outer world until we develop a sense of a stable internal sanctuary. Define what you must have to feel solidly secure and initiate the steps that will produce it. Family and property concerns may dominate for a time.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22):

This is the beginning of a period for you to define and clarify your level of knowledge. You may be called upon to adopt a project requiring close concentration and sharpened communication skills. Learning to speak or write volumes in a few chosen words will become important as this cycle progresses. Work toward efficiency and streamlining all communication methods over these two years.

Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22):

This Saturn cycle asks you to more clearly define your values. You may have fewer resources available now, whether that refers to money, energy or time. Discrimination will be necessary to maximize efficiency. You are likely to voluntarily forego expenditures on immediate pleasures for longer range objectives. People commonly purchase a home or make important investments on this cycle.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

It is time to redefine yourself. The old way was good for a long time but it has outlived its purpose and you must now look at yourself more deeply. What are the potentials not yet developed? What is the best way to contribute your gifts to a greater whole? Focus your attention on personal identity and tighten up all life agendas to match who you wish to become.

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

This Saturn cycle asks that you be directed inward and you may choose to withdraw from the world (if not physically, then mentally). Attempts to capitalize on the social and political power of the last few years will fail to make you happy. You may be drawn to work with those who are deprived or mistreated. Now is a time for spiritual refurbishing and R&R before the next 28 year cycle begins.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19):

Saturn's current cycle calls you to take responsibility for your niche in life and clarify the role you wish to play in society. You have much knowledge coupled with many social and communications skills and talents. It is time to consider extending these gifts beyond the personal and offer them in service to a larger group. You will experience the outcome of many years' work during the next three years.

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

This is a highly productive period. For those who have been happy with life contributions, the next three years brings greater responsibility. Long term goals and desire for achievement in your outer life may press you to temporarily sacrifice personal life and leisure. It is likely you are either adding responsibilities or departing an outworn lifestyle to begin a fresh adventure.

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

This Saturn cycle calls upon you to study your beliefs for flaws. If they are sound, then commit yourself to establish practical ways in which to manifest them. The arena may be legal, religious, philosophical or educational. You must apply what you have learned in the secular world. You must "walk your talk". The world requires that you expand your usual territory to include a larger social structure.

HUMOR

Wedding Anniversary

A couple goes out to dinner to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. On the way home, she notices a tear in his eye and asks if he's getting sentimental because they're celebrating 50 wonderful years together. He replies, "No, I was thinking about the time before we got married. Your father threatened me with a shotgun and said he'd have me thrown in jail for 50 years if I didn't marry you. Tomorrow I would've been a free man!"

Quote of the week

"The secret of life, though, is to fall seven times and to get up eight times."

Paulo Coelho

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

MEZZO

classic house club

CLUBS

MEZZO CLASSIC HOUSE CLUB

28 Isahakyan

October 16 at 9:30 p.m.

CHICO & FRIENDS Jazz Band

October 18 at 9:30 p.m.

Vahagn Hayrapetyan

THE CLUB

40 Tumanyan Street

October 18 at 9 p.m.Aires de Tango
Sensual evening of real Argentinian Tango with candle lights**Every Tuesday at 8 p.m.**

Film Screening

Every Friday at 9 p.m.

Bard Club

Every Saturday at 7 p.m.

Tea Master invites to tasting Chinese teas

ARMENIAN NATIONAL SHOWRepublic Square,
Goverment House 2,
(Restaurant Ararat)

Every Day at 7:30 p.m.

CAFESJIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Cascade Complex

October 17 at 8 p.m.

Svetlana Navassardian. Solo Concert

October 19 at 8 p.m.

Tango Night
Valeria Cherekian
The concert starts with the performance of Stepan Shakaryan.

October 20 at 8 p.m.*Chico and Friends*
Concert-Presentation Dedicated to Miles Davis.

THEATRES

G. SUNDUKIAN NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATREGrigor Lusavorich st.,
house 6**October 17 at 7 p.m.**
*The Forty Days of Musa Dagh**Author: Franz Werfel*
Heroic novel, 2 acts
*Staging: Armen Elbakyan***October 19 at 7 p.m.***Irrevocable Future***October 20 at 7 p.m.***Woman After The Rain*
*Drama in 2 acts**Author: Karine Khodikyan*
*Staging: Aida Hovhannisan***October 21 at 7 p.m.***The Caucasian Chalk Circle*
Author: Bertolt Brecht
*Play in 2 acts***H. TUMANIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE**

Sayat-Nova Ave., house 4

October 19 at 7:00 p.m.*Cherchez la femme*
*Premiere**By Aldo Nikolai***October 20 at 7:30 p.m.***Publisher:*
*President of the Noyan Tapan Media Holding Tigran Haroutyunyan**Editor-in-Chief of the Noyan Tapan:*
Gayaneh Arakelyan

Aunt from Paris
Comedy
Lead roles: Narek Duryan, Zaven Abrahamyan, Ara Deghatrikyan and others.

October 21 at 7 p.m.*Operation Nemesis*
References: French historians Gerard Chalian, Ives Ternon, Jacques Derouge
*Based on "All Rise, the Court is in Session" by Perch Zeytunyan***RUSSIAN DRAMA THEATRE AFTER K. STANISLAVSKI**

7 Abovyan Str.

October 16, 17 at 7 p.m.*Don Juan Avia*
*Staged on the basis of "Boeing-Boeing", a classical farce by 20th century French playwright Marc Camoletti.***October 18 at 7 p.m.***Abanamat (Once We Lived in the Mountains)***October 19 at 7 p.m.***We Live Well (Capercaillie's Nest)***YEREVAN STATE CHAMBER THEATRE**

Mashtots Ave., Building 58

October 17, 18 at 7 p.m.*Royal Concert*
*Musical-amusing show***October 19 at 7 p.m.***It Doesn't Matter With Whom***CONCERTS**
ARAM KHACHATURIAN*Director of the Weekly:*
Marina Harutiunyan
Chief Correspondent:
Gourgen Khazhakian
Proofreader:
Susanna Mkrtchyan

CONCERT HALL

46 Mashtots Ave.,

October 15 at 7:30 p.m.*Turetski Choir**The concert of the famous Russian art-band "Turetski Choir"***October 16 at 7 p.m.***Concert Dedicated to Davit Haladjian's 50th Anniversary**Armanian Philharmonic Orchestra**Artistic Director and Principal Conductor:**New super dance show with the participation of opera and acrobatic ballet stars.***October 20 at 7 p.m.***Michel Legrand - 80**The Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra**in association with City Lights Entertainment (London) present:**Celebration of Michel Legrand's 80th birthday anniversary in Armenia With participation of Catherine Michel, Harpist*Համերգաշրջանի գլխավոր հովանավոր
General sponsor of the season

VIVACELL MTS

Հայաստանի տիկինոց՝
Ռինա Սարգսյանի
բարձր հովանությունըUnder the high patronage of the spouse of the President of RA
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The Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra
presentԿԱՍԱՎԿՈՎ ԿԱՆԵԿԻՆ
ՐԱՅԱՆԱՌԻ ՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ
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Գեղարվեստական դեմքավանդ գլխավոր դիրիժոր
Էդուարդ ԹոփչյանARMENIAN
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Artistic Director & Principal Conductor
Eduard TopchjanԵրևանյան միջազգային
երաժշտական
փառատոն

10 Սեպտեմբեր

September

20 Հոկտեմբեր

October

Արամ Խաչատրյան համերգարան
Aram Khachaturian Concert HallՏեսահոլովակների համար համերգարան
Արամ Խաչատրյան համերգարան
Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall*Eduard Topchjan
Armenian Chamber Choir
Artistic Director and Principal Conductor: Robert
Mlkeyan
Program:
David Haladjian
O. Rex**The Rest is Silence
Omnis Mundi Creatura
Music in the Shade
October 17 at 7 p.m.
Anastasia Volochkova**Solo from the Paris Opera
KOMITAS CHAMBER MUSIC HOUSE**October 21 at 7 p.m.
Return Festival
Piano recital
Marianna Shirinyan
/Denmark/***MEZZO**
production*Publisher:
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Editor-in-Chief of the Noyan Tapan: Gayaneh Arakelyan**Director of the Weekly:
Marina Harutiunyan
Chief Correspondent:
Gourgen Khazhakian
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