

# Armenian-Azerbaijani Fighting Claims More Lives

Two Armenian and Azerbaijani soldiers and one Armenian civilian have been killed in fresh ceasefire violations along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and "the line of contact" around Nagorno-Karabakh reported over the past day.

Vanik Ghukasyan, a 60-year resident of Nerkin Karmiraghbyur, was shot dead late on February 5 after his border village in Armenia's northern Tavush province came under fire from nearby Azerbaijani army positions. Many local residents reportedly spent the night in their basements.

The Armenian Defense Ministry said Azerbaijani forces also opened "intensive" fire overnight on virtually all other Tavush villages close to the Azerbaijani border. Artsrun Hovannisyan, the ministry spokesman, said on February 6 that the Armenian troops stationed in the area shot back.

"If we don't respond to every Azerbaijani ceasefire violation then we will start suffering defeats," Hovannisyan told a news conference in Yerevan. "But unlike them, we are not at



war with civilians. We know our enemy well: it's the [Azerbaijani] soldier in the trenches."

News reports from Baku spoke of

heavy Armenian gunfire targeting Alibeyli, an Azerbaijani village located just several kilometers northeast of

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## President Sargsyan meets with CSTO Secretary General



Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received CSTO Secretary General Nikolay Bordyuzha and Head of the Russian Federal Migration Service Konstantin Romodanovski, who have arrived in Armenia to participate in the meeting of the Coordinating council of heads of agencies in charge of fighting illegal migration in the CSTO member states.

The President welcomed the conduct of the sitting in Yerevan. He stressed the importance of joint discussion of issues on the agenda and search for effective means of fighting migration.

The guests briefed President Sargsyan on the results of the discussions held at the sitting. Reference was made to the implementation of the decisions made during the session of the CSTO Collective Security Council in December 2014.

CSTO Secretary General Nikolay Bordyuzha reported on the activity of the organization, the CSTO Joint Staff, the preparation for the meeting of the statutory bodies of the CSTO, as well as issues of ensuring security in the Caucasian region.

## Azerbaijan launches large-scale military drills

Azerbaijani armed forces have launched large-scale operational and tactical exercises attended by all types of troops on February 2, the country's Defense Ministry said.

Nearly 15,000 personnel, up to 300 armored vehicles, as well as over 200 means of missile and artillery troops and about 20 aircrafts of the air forces, air defense units and sophisticated anti-aircraft missile complexes are involved in the exercises.

About 5,000 reservists and 300 automotive vehicles are also engaged in the exercises to check the implementation level of the mobilization tasks of the formations and units during the exercises.

## Armenia seeks jurisdiction over Gyumri massacre suspect



Armenia has formally asked Russia to extradite a Russian soldier accused of murdering seven members of an Armenian family in Gyumri.

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

The office said Kostanyan invoked a 1997 Russian-Armenian treaty regulating the presence of a Russian military base in Armenia. It gave no other details of the letter.

The Office of the Prosecutor-General revealed Kostanyan's petition just hours after a Russian news report said that Valery Permyakov, the Russian conscript charged in the massacre, will be tried by a Russian military court in Armenia. Citing an unnamed source close to the investigation into the January 12 massacre, the Interfax news agency said that the court will consider evidence collected not only by Russian investigators but also their Armenian colleagues.

Permyakov has been kept under arrest at the Russian base's Gyumri headquarters ever since being arrested, in still unclear circumstances, 12 hours after a local couple, their daughter, son, daughter-in-law and 2-year-old granddaughter were found dead in their home. The seventh member of the Avetisyan family, a 6-month-old baby boy, died of his stab injuries a week later.

Kostanyan's letter means that the Armenian authorities want Permyakov to appear before an Armenian court and to be tried under Armenian law -- something which has for weeks been demand-

ed by many residents of Gyumri. The latter believe that a Russian trial would facilitate a cover-up of the gruesome crime.

About 2,000 Gyumri citizens staged a series of protests outside government buildings and Russian facilities in Armenia's second largest city last month. Some of them clashed with riot police near the local Russian consulate on January 15.

Responding to the unprecedented protests, the Russian authorities assured Armenians that they will spare no effort to solve the killings. Later in January, the heads of powerful Russian and Armenian law-enforcement bodies pledged to coordinate their separate criminal investigations into the slaughter. Armenian investigators were subsequently allowed to interrogate Permyakov.

Kostanyan pledged to appeal to the chief Russian prosecutor when he was confronted by angry demonstrators in Gyumri on January 15. They were incensed by his earlier statement that the Armenian side is not seeking Permyakov's handover because Russia's constitution forbids the extradition of Russian citizens to foreign states.

The treaty cited by Kostanyan in his letter stipulates that Russian military personnel charged with crimes committed outside their installations in Armenia shall be prosecuted by Armenian authorities. It requires Russian investigators to deal with offenses happening within the military base. The Russians have charged Permyakov with not only multiple murder but also desertion, meaning that the 18-year-old can technically fall under both Russian and Armenian jurisdictions.



## Turkish NGOs call on world leaders to go to Yerevan, not Gallipoli



Five Turkish NGOs urged world leaders "not to accept President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's invitation to Gallipoli on the 100th Anniversary of Armenian Genocide but to visit Yerevan instead," bianet.org reports.

Previously, President Erdoğan announced that they will commemorate on April 24 the defense of Gallipoli - a ceremony observed on March 18 every year. He also invited world leaders to the

northwestern province of Çanakkale to join the ceremony.

The associations (Human Rights Association (IHD)'s Commission Against Racism and Discrimination, Izmir Assyrian Friendship, Culture and Solidarity Association, Nor Zartonk, www.suryaniler.com Culture Platform and Zan Social, Political, Economic Research Foundation) made the statement protesting Erdoğan's invitation at IHD Headquarters in Istanbul.

"April 24 worldwide symbolizes the beginning of Armenian Genocide," IHD Vice Chairperson Meral Çıldır said in a statement.

"As the 100th anniversary of Armenian Genocide draws near, we, groups and peoples that struggle against the denial of the Genocide, protest the president's invitation and urge world

leaders to visit the genocide memorial in Yerevan instead of Gallipoli in Çanakkale.

Following the press statement, IHD Vice Chairperson Eren Keskin said the following:

"The mentality that founded the Republic of Turkey is the very mentality that committed the Armenian - Assyrian Genocide in 1915.

"For us, 24 April 2015 has a huge importance. We want to face our history. We want this understanding to be questioned as it has been told us wrong and brought up our children with lies. We know that the Genocide in 1915 is still not openly mentioned by many countries but we are asking a bit of conscience.

"This invitation is mocking with victims of Armenian Genocide. Go to Yerevan where the real pain is."

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Nerkin Karmiraghbyur. The APA news agency said a 32-year-old Azerbaijani woman living there was wounded in the arm and hospitalized. It quoted the village mayor as saying that dozens of Alibeyli houses were damaged by the cross-border gunshots.

An 80-year-old Armenian shepherd from another Tavush village was shot and killed late last month amid the latest upsurge in violence in the Karabakh conflict zone, which has prompted serious concern from international mediating powers.

Earlier on Thursday Karabakh's Armenian backed army said that one of its soldiers was killed by Azerbaijani forces deployed east of the disputed territory. According to the Defense Ministry in Baku, an Azerbaijani serviceman died in a "shootout with the enemy" at around the same time. The ministry did not specify the site of his death.

Davit Babayan, a senior official in Stepanakert, said on Friday that Karabakh Armenian forces launched a retaliatory operation immediately after their latest combat casualty. "We have taken different types of punitive actions,"

Babayan told RFE/RL's Armenian service. "The enemy has suffered many casualties but they won't admit that."

Karabakh's Defense Ministry claimed to have destroyed two Azerbaijani army posts in "punitive" raids carried out on Saturday. The Azerbaijani military denied those claims. But it did admit that one Azerbaijani soldier died in action on that day.

The conflicting parties have accused each other of heightening tensions on the frontlines since the beginning of January. Armenian leaders claim that Baku is thus trying to clinch more Armenian concessions in peace talks mediated by the United States, Russia and France. President Serzh Sargsyan warned on January 26 that the Armenian side could step up retaliatory strikes against Azerbaijani forces to prevent fresh truce violations.

The U.S., Russian and French co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group appeared to have held Azerbaijan primarily responsible for the latest escalation when they met with Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov in Poland the following day. In a joint statement issued after the meeting, they urged Baku to "observe its commitments to a peaceful resolution of the conflict." The mediators held talks with Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian in Munich on Thursday. James Warlick, the U.S. co-chair, tweeted afterwards that the diplomats welcome Nalbandian's "commitment to reducing tensions." In a statement on the Munich meeting, the Armenian Foreign Ministry said Nalbandian accused the Azerbaijani leadership of continuing to escalate the situation with its "adventurist policy and provocative actions." Baku was quick to rebut the claims as "demagogic."

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## Gyumri Massacre Suspect 'Has History Of Mental Illness'

The Russian soldier accused of murdering the seven members of an Armenian family in Gyumri suffered from a mental disorder just month before being sent to Armenia in December, Russian officials reportedly claimed on February 5.

Several leading Russian media outlets cited military officials as saying that Valery Permyakov was diagnosed with oligophrenia, or mental retardation, and even spent a month in a military hospital shortly after being drafted last summer in his native Chita region in Siberia.

They said Russian military prosecutors have launched criminal proceedings against a local recruitment officer who conscripted Permyakov and the commander of an army unit where the 18-year-old served until being transferred to the Russian military base in Armenia. Both officers are said to be risking prosecution on charges of "criminal negligence."

According to the "Komsomolskaya Pravda" mass-circulation daily, the recruitment officer, Aleksandr Loginovsky, dismissed the mental disability claims as "complete nonsense." "When Valery was called up he was in good health," Loginovsky told the paper.

"Permyakov had no documents certifying a mental disorder," said Yuri Bystrov, a more high-ranking Chita official in charge of military drafts. The soldier was not diagnosed with any serious diseases when he underwent a medical examination at a local military commissariat, Bystrov insisted, according to "Komsomolskaya Pravda."

In Yerevan, an Armenian law-enforcement body investigating the January 12 massacre in Gyumri said that it has no information about Permyakov's alleged health problems. "We have no such data in our criminal case at the moment," Sona Truzyan, a spokeswoman for the Investigative Committee, told RFE/RL's Armenian service.

Truzyan said that the committee has made written inquiries about the soldier's mental condition with relevant Russian authorities. The latter have not replied yet, she added.



With Permyakov being kept in detention at the Russian base's Gyumri headquarters, Armenian investigators have so far been unable to subject him to a medical examination. The Russian military has only allowed them to interrogate the suspect.

Permyakov is said to have admitted killing the seven members of the Avetisyan family, including two babies. But his motives remain unclear.

The Russian claims that the soldier has a history of mental retardation could add a new twist to separate investigations into the brutal killings that are conducted by Russian and Armenian law-enforcement authorities. It remains to be seen whether the Russian side will use the insanity defense to try to save Permyakov from imprisonment.

Thousands of Gyumri residents demonstrated in the wake of the family massacre to demand Permyakov's handover to the Armenian authorities. They believe that the Russian jurisdiction over the high-profile case increases chances of a cover-up of the crime. Many locals are unconvinced by Russian officials' assurances that the suspect will receive "the most severe punishment" if found guilty.

## New US Ambassador to arrive in Armenia next week

New Ambassador to Armenia, Richard M. Mills Jr., will arrive in Yerevan next week, the US Embassy in Armenia informed in a Twitter post.

Richard M. Mills Jr was confirmed as a new Ambassador to Armenia on December 16.

Mills previously served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy Beirut, where he began his tour in 2012.

Richard Mills assumed the role of Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Malta, ad interim, in June 2011. Since August 2010, he had been serving as the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy.

Mills joined the Foreign Service in 1988, serving at Embassy Paris as a consular officer, then as staff aide to the Ambassador. He returned to Washington to join the Soviet Desk, eventually becoming desk officer for the newly independent Armenia and Azerbaijan, followed by a tour as a political officer at the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg, Russia.

From 1996-98 Mills served in the Executive Secretariat, followed by a tour as economic officer at Embassy Dublin from 1998-2001. Subsequent tours included Political Advisor at the



U.S. Mission to the UN; Deputy Political Counselor at Embassy Islamabad; and Energy Attaché and Acting Economic Counselor at Embassy Riyadh. Rick was Political Counselor at Embassy London from 2006-2009.



## Gyumri protester set free



A man arrested for his role in last month's violent protest near the Russian consulate in Gyumri was set free on February 6 just hours before scores of people were due to rally in Armenia's second largest city to demand his release.

Mnatsakan Aleksanyan, a 22-year-old

resident of nearby Sarnaghbyur village, was detained on Wednesday in connection with the January 15 clashes between riot police and angry protesters demanding that a Russian soldier accused of murdering a local Armenian family be handed over to Armenian authorities. Armenia's police and Investigative Committee said that Aleksanyan is suspected of hooliganism.

The young man's arrest angered many Sarnaghbyur residents as well as civic activists in Gyumri who helped to organize larger and peaceful demonstrations there on January 14-15. The villagers gave Armenian law-enforcement authorities until Friday afternoon to free Aleksanyan

or face unspecified "drastic" actions. The activists, for their part, scheduled a rally for around the same time.

Just hours before the protest, Felix Tsolakyan, the governor of Armenia's northwestern Shirak province, told Karen Petrosyan, one of the organizers, that Aleksanyan is about to be released from custody. The protest was called off as a result.

Aleksanyan was freed without charge. "I want to thank all of you," he told reporters moments after emerging from a police station in Akhurian, a small town near Gyumri. He said he will not hesitate to take part in further "peaceful marches."

## Tsarkyan plans renewed anti-government protests



Gagik Tsarkyan on February 5 announced fresh anti-government protests planned by his Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK) and its opposition allies but again stopped of calling for President Serzh Sargsyan's resignation.

Tsarkyan gave further indications that the BHK, which controls the second largest faction in the Armenian parliament, will not press for snap presidential and parliamentary elections if Sarkisian agrees to abandon his plans for a sweeping constitutional reform.

The tycoon painted a grim picture of the state of affairs in Armenian at a conference of opposition groups held in a luxury hotel which he recently built outside Abovian, a town 15 kilometers north of Yerevan. He claimed that the "worsening" socioeconomic situation in the country has left many Armenians "on the brink of a powerful outburst."

"If the authorities opt for rejecting proposed variants then the people will be left to take one step: to force pre-term presidential and parliamentary elections," he said in an opening speech at the gathering.

"People should keep in mind that no government post is perpetual, no post is held for life. If the development and security of the state require regime change, then this is what must happen."

In that context, Tsarkyan singled out one of a dozen demands addressed to the Armenian authorities by the BHK and the opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK) and Zharangutyun parties: the scrapping of Sargsyan's apparent plans to turn Armenia into a parliamentary republic. The opposition trio claims that Serzh Sargsyan is thus keen to stay in power in another capacity after completing his second and final presidential term in 2018.

The three parties pressed this and other, mostly socioeconomic demands when they held a series of nationwide demonstrations in September and October. Tsarkyan announced on Thursday that they will soon stage more such protests across the country that will culminate in a "powerful national rally" in Yerevan.

Speaking to reporters after the speech, the BHK leader declined to comment on what might happen after that rally. He said only that he will meet with HAK leader Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Zharangutyun's Raffi Hovannisian in the coming days to discuss their further joint actions.

Levon Zurabyan, a senior HAK figure, confirmed that meeting and fresh protests planned by the trio. Zurabyan also said he agrees with Tsarkyan's assessment of the

current situation in Armenia.

"The [ruling] Republicans have failed to realize that the people distrust them so much that even if they miraculously come up with a good idea the people will resist even that," he told RFE/RL's Armenian service.

Unlike senior Zharangutyun figures, HAK representatives were conspicuously absent from Tsarkyan's conference. Some observers regard that as a sign of friction between Ter-Petrosyan and Tsarkyan resulting from the tycoon's refusal last fall to ratchet up the pressure on Serzh Sargsyan.

Both the HAK and Zharangutyun say that "regime change" must occur before 2018. Ter-Petrosyan's party warned Tsarkyan in November that the BHK will risk making a "fateful mistake" if it chooses to indefinitely postpone further anti-government protests.

Meanwhile, Sargsyan's Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) reacted cautiously to Tsarkyan's speech. Vahram Baghdasaryan, the HHK's parliamentary leader, claimed that the government is doing its best to address the opposition demands. But he also ruled out the conduct of snap elections under any circumstances.

"In order to please the public, opposition forces may have unrealistic wishes," Baghdasaryan told RFE/RL's Armenian service. "But we are not going to deviate from our development programs. We are implementing what can be implemented."

## Hovik Abrahamyan Sees Major Gains From Eurasian Union

Armenia expects "substantial" economic benefits from its membership in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian said on February 5 during talks in Moscow with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev.

The two men met ahead of the first session of the prime ministers of the EEU member states since the Russian-led bloc began functioning on January 1.

"We are confident that the creation of the EEU will give new impetus to the development of our economies and strengthening of their competitiveness," Abrahamian told Medvedev in his opening remarks publicized by the Armenian government.

"We hope that our economic indicators will substantially change in the near future and, in particular, there will be an increase in the volumes of our trade and investments, which will in turn help to boost living standards and create new jobs," he said.

Abrahamian similarly spoke in December of "good things" awaiting Armenia in the union. He said tangible results of the EEU membership will be visible already in 2015 but did not elaborate.

Abrahamian's cabinet expects economic growth in Armenia to accelerate to 4 percent this year. The International Monetary



Fund and the World Bank have forecast a lower growth rate: 3.3 percent. Some analysts in Yerevan say that even this scenario is overly optimistic given the mounting fallout from an unfolding recession in Russia.

Armenian critics of the EEU entry say that with the Russian economy projected to contract in 2015 and the Russian ruble having weakened by more than half over the past year Yerevan could not have chosen a worse moment to join the bloc.

## CSTO, EEC to tackle illegal migration



The Collective Security Treaty Organization intends to start cooperating with the Eurasian Economic Commission for the sake of counteracting illegal migration. The topic will be discussed at the session of the Coordinating council of heads of agencies in charge of fighting illegal migration in the CSTO member states in Yerevan, Armenia on 5 February, CSTO Press Secretary Vladimir Zainetdinov told BelTA.

Participants of the session will discuss the organization within the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and actual joint operative and preventive measures and special operations to counteract illegal migration. The session will also table activities of the Eurasian Economic Commission in

the sphere of illegal migration and possible avenues of cooperation with the CSTO secretariat. The session will also air common approaches to counteracting illegal migration in view of the launch of the Eurasian Economic Union, noted the source.

High on the agenda will be novelties in the regulations on recruiting and using foreign labor force in Russia. Participants of the session will also discuss the creation of a CSTO-wide system to handle refugees and persons seeking refuge. Apart from that, the Council will discuss joint actions in anticipation of the possible arrival of refugees from Afghanistan en masse.

Taking part in the session will be Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) Nikolai Bordyuzha, heads of the agencies in charge of fighting illegal migration in Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan in addition to representatives of the Eurasian Economic Commission, the CIS Executive Committee, and the Moscow office of the International Organization for Migration.

## Iran, Eurasian Economic Union plan to sign customs trade agreement: envoy

Iran plans to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) in 2015 to facilitate mutual customs trade, according to Iranian Ambassador to Russia Mehdi Sanaei.

Sanaei said that the Iranian Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade has been negotiating with the EEU to reduce customs duties between Iran and the EEU member states, the IRNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

"I think that in 2015 we need to work on this so that Iran has concrete economic contracts with the EEU... Iran plans to use this opportunity for its exports to Russia and other [countries]," Sanaei told RIA Novosti in an interview.

"It's possible that some sort of contract or memorandum on mutual understanding needs to be signed," the ambassador added.

He said that currently there are high tariffs on Iranian exports to Russia.



## Virginia Tech helps workforce in Armenia transition to market economy



Virginia Tech has won a \$2.5 million federal contract to help Armenia improve the competitiveness of its agricultural workforce.

Those who will benefit from the work are college students in Yerevan, the capital, who are studying to assume leadership roles in the food and agribusiness sector.

The five-year program, Innovate-Armenia, is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The work will take place at the International Center of Agribusiness Research and Education, which is affiliated with the Armenian National Agrarian University.

"Armenia, situated in the South Caucasus region of Eurasia, is emerging from decades as a command economy," said Tom Hammett, director of a related program that oversees the work. "The grant is designed to give young people skills that will make them competitive in the new, market-based economy."

The curriculum will cover food safety, food production, and food processing, and will also offer training in business, eco-

nomics, marketing, and management.

"A big part of our work will be to provide students the opportunity to construct a skillset that is required in a free market economy," said Angela Neilan, program manager for the venture. Along with the hard skills, soft skills - defined as traits relating to one's emotional IQ, as well as communication ability, teamwork, and professionalism - are needed as well. "A participatory system means people also assume responsibility for the challenges," Neilan said.

Program activities include:

- designing a business plan for the center to increase revenue,
- building ties with local farmers and agribusiness producers throughout Armenia,
- organizing a summer camp for American college students, and
- helping to build a wine academy - a venture that could also help develop tourism.

"Our charge is to make the program self-sustaining," said Hammett, who directs Innovation for Agricultural Training and Education, a larger program of which Innovate-Armenia is a part.

Virginia Tech will lead the program, partnering with three other universities: Penn State, the University of Florida, and Tuskegee University.

## Armenian Groups Target Genocide Denial Lobbyists Including Gephardt, Hastert

On Thursday, January 29, a coalition of organizations representing Armenian Americans sent more than 200 letters to businesses, universities, and NGOs working with one of the five firms that currently work for Turkey for the purpose of denying the Armenian Genocide. These firms include those led by former Congressional leaders Dick Gephardt (Gephardt Government Affairs) and Dennis Hastert (Dickstein Shapiro).

Despite international consensus from historians about the Armenian Genocide, Turkey is well known for its aggressive, ongoing denial of this crime, which witnessed the planned and systematic murder by Ottoman Turkey of over 1.5 million Christian Armenians between 1915 and 1923. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the genocide, and Armenian Americans along with allies nationwide will be protesting and drawing public scrutiny to both Turkey's primary lobbying firms, and the companies and organizations that continue to do business with them.

"It's a disgrace that Dick Gephardt and Dennis Hastert - two former leaders of the U.S. House - are making millions enforcing a foreign government's gag-rule on our White House and among the Congress in which they once served," said Aram Hamparian, Executive Director of the Armenian National Committee of America. "Gephardt and Hastert should drop their Turkey contract, and, if they won't, their clients should drop them."

The letters request that the companies demand their firm end its contract with the Turkish government in light of its participation in genocide denial efforts. If the firm does not end its relationship with Turkey, the letter requests that the company end its own contract with the firm. If neither occurs by Wednesday, February 25th - 60 days out from April 24, 2015, the global day of remembrance for the genocide - Armenian Americans will start protests against these firms and their clients.

Coalition partners include four of the largest Armenian American organizations: the Armenian National Committee of America, Armenian Assembly of America, and the Armenian Youth Federation of both the Eastern and Western United States.

## UK Prime Minister Snubs April 24 Invitation to Yerevan

The UK's Ambassador to Armenia Katherine Leach told reporters in Yerevan on February 6 that UK Prime Minister David Cameron has rejected an invitation to join commemorations of the centennial of the Armenian Genocide in Yerevan on April 24.

"He replied to say that he understood the huge importance of the centenary year for Armenia and Armenians all over the world, and he regretted he wasn't able to be here in person," the diplomat said.

Ambassador Leach added that the Church of England is sending representatives, saying that she would be able to

confirm the details later.

Cameron will likely visit Turkey on April 24 to join commemorations of the Battle of Gallipoli, which Turkish officials have decided to mark on April 24 this year for the first time, ostensibly in an attempt to derail commemorations of the Armenian Genocide.

Asked whether Cameron will visit Turkey, Leach said she had no details yet, but that there will certainly be high level British involvement.

"If I am invited, and I very much hope that I will be, I will of course visit Tsitsernakaberd," she added.



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- 824 Nalbandyan str, 5/5, 38sq.m, stone bld, old renovation. Price: 60.000 USD
- 1750. Aleq Manukyan str. 5/3, 72sq.m, 1bed-room, capially repaired. Price:110.000 USD
- 1696.Tumanyan str., 5/4, 67sq.m., stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 160.000 USD.
- 1680- Mashtots Ave., 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- 1674. Abovyan str., 2nd floor, 70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD

## 2 ROOMS

- 3038.Aram str, Newly built, 15/15, 115sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capially repaired. Price: 200.000 USD negotiable
- 3037. Paronyan str., Newly built, 11/9, 2edrooms, 1 bathroom, capially repaired. Price: 2000 USD per sq.m.
- 3015.Tsiternakaberd Highway Newly built, 4th floor, 2bedrooms, zero state. Prece: 1100USD per sq.m.
- 3003.Sayat-Nova str, 5/3, 105sq.m, 2bedrooms, stone building, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1560.Northern Ave., Newly built, 10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- 2818.Northern Ave., Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, Ac, furnished. Price: 400.000USD
- 1156.Komitas Ave., Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, kitchen is furnished. Price: 150.000 USD negotiable.
- 2300.Northern ave., Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.

## 3 ROOMS

- 3025.Northern Ave., Newly built, 10/8, 196sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capially repaired, parking. Price: 650.000 USD negotiable
- 2918.Tumanyan str. 4/4, 182sq.m., stone bld, 3bedrooms, 2 bathroom, capially repaired. Price: 370.000 USD
- 2801.Vardananc str. Newly built, 23/20, 179sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capially repaired. Price: negotiable
- 3012.Aram str, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price: 300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998.North Ave, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682.Aram Str., Newly built, 13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capially repaired, heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 600.000 USD with furniture.
- 2895.Northern Ave., Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 1104.Komitas Ave., Aram Khachatryan str., 5/2, 125sq.m., stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- 2836.Pushkin str., 4/4, 5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- 2990.North Ave., Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

## PREMISES

- 1789.Charents str. Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capially repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598.Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str., 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capially repaired. Price: negotiable.
- 1603.Northern Ave., Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- 2035.Tumanyan str., Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- 2013.Tumanyan str., Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- 2012.Mashtots Ave., 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 850.000 USD negotiable
- 2155.Mashtots ave., 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking. Price: 3.600.000 USD
- 2020.Hr. Kochar str., Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m, without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.200.000 USD negotiable
- 1986.Cascade, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.
- 2167.Sayat Nova str., newly built, 38sq. m, capially repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- 2175.Tumanyan str, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor 300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capially repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- 2172. Isahakyan str, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

## LANDS

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

## PRIVATE HOUSES

- 3348.Blur, Barbyus str. Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- 3146.Aygestan, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- 3583.Nork-Marash, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capially

repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.

- 3432.Aygedzor, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld.- 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD

- 3576.Avan, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 USD

- 3606.Avan, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD

- 3574.Blur, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD

- 3590 Blur,

- Barbyus str.,

- Land - 450

- sq.m., 4 storied

- building -

- 470sq.m., 3bed-

- rooms, 3 bath-

- rooms, capially

- repaired, heating

- system, AC, garden.

- Price:

- 680.000 USD

- 3651. Blur,

- Barbyus str.,

- Land-900sq.m., 5

- storied building-

- 800sq.m., 4 bed-

- rooms, 3 bath-

- rooms, capially

- repaired, heating

- system, AC, garden.

- Price:

- 1.700.000 USD.

- 3401.Antarayan str, Newly built, land-700sq.m,

- 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capially

- repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD

- 3712 Cascade Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 storied bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 USD

## NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

- 132. Vagharshyan str. 11floors, 1-2 floor-commercial areas, from 3rd floor-residential-54-120sq.m, no exploitation fees. Price: Commercial areas-2600 USD per sq.m, Residential- 1100 sq.m, Parking: 13.000 USD
- 137.Nalbandyan str, Construction works will be completed at the end of 2015, Price: Negotiable
- 74.Cascade, Verin Antarayan. 136-315 sq m., walls plastered, electricity, water, gas, euro windows, no exploitation fees. Price: 1200 USD per sq.m, parking -15.000 USD.
- 107.Monument, Verin Antarayan. inhabited, 8 floors, gas, windows, street view -1000 USD per sq.m., city looking -1500 USD per sq.m., parking -4 million USD preliminary.
- 87.Sayat-Nova str., 21 floors, 3 bedrooms -188 sq.m., 199 sq.m., Price 1900 USD per sq.m., 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight - 117 sq.m., 120 sq.m., 124 sq.m., Price: 1700 USD per sq.m., climate control, gas.
- 94.Masiv. 3floors, 8 flats, each flat has 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking. Price: negotiable.
- 130.Antarayan str., 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m, available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 131.Busand str., commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable







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## 1 ROOM

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

## 2 ROOMS

- 2308 **Vardanants str.** Newly built, 18/15, 135sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 2302. **Hin Yerevantsi** Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2298. **Baghramyan str.** Newly built, 17/14, 127sq.m, 2bedrooms, 1 bathroom, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 1500 USD
- 1780. **Amiryan str.** Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 2089. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 2243. **Buzand str.** Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

## 3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2290 **Bayron str** Newly built, /5th floor, 220sq.m, 2bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, climate control, furnished, parking. Price: 4000 USD
- 2309. **Vardanants str.** Newly built, 23/19, 192sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, guest toilet, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD negotiable.

- 2301. **Blur** Newly built, 18/7, 128sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2286. **Sose str**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, climate control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.



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

## PRIVATE HOUSES

- 852. **Aygedzor** 2storied bld-365sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3500 USD
- 1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str.**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- 1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, fur-

nished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

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

## PREMISES

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

## French "Politique Internationale" Journal publishes article by Armenian Foreign Minister

One of the most prestigious publications in the political and diplomatic world, the "Politique Internationale" Journal, printed in Paris, published an article by Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

In an extended article, entitled "Nagorno-Karabakh: Is a Solution Visible?" Edward Nalbandian thoroughly presents the roots, the settlement process, legal aspects and possible ways of the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

Edward Nalbandian thoroughly represents the efforts, exerted since the early 1990s towards the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, the stages of the negotiation process, proposals presented by the OSCE Minsk Group and recent developments.

"Azerbaijan rejected all versions of the Basic Principles of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement proposed by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, including the latest proposals submitted at the Saint-Petersburg (June 2010), Astrakhan (October 2010), Sochi (March 2011) and Kazan (June 2011) summits. Azerbaijan rejected all the proposals, proposed by the Co-Chairs. Not only did it attempt to change the essence of the negotiating process, but also to distort the nature of the conflict within various international bodies, not hesitating to mislead the international community by presenting the consequences of the conflict as its causes", writes Edward Nalbandian.

Attaching importance to the implementation of confidence-building measures, proposed by the Co-Chairs, Foreign Minister stresses, "The Co-Chairs proposed a number of Confidence and Security-Building Measures (CSBM) - consolidation of the cease-fire, withdrawal of snipers from the line of contact, creation of a mechanism to investigate incidents and violations of the cease-fire agreement. These proposals were endorsed by a number of major international organizations, as well as the UN Secretary General. They were equally welcomed by Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. But all of them were rejected by Baku."

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia touches upon the policy of hatred against Armenians, propagated on the highest level and its dangerous consequences, "In Azerbaijan, journalists, activists and the intelligentsia are all persecuted as "Armenian spies" and "enemies of the nation", just because they are advocating peace and reconciliation. The writer Akram Aylisli was ostracized for publishing a novel, where he talks about the pogroms against Armenians in Baku and Sumgait. His books were publicly burned and the writer had to leave the country because of threats on his life."

The Foreign Minister highlights, that many international organizations warned about the flagrant cases of racism, intolerance and violations of human rights in Azerbaijan and the policy of hatred against Armenians. In response, Baku merely organizes fake conferences on tolerance and freedom, in an attempt to impose its own distorted perception of human rights on others.



Under the article sub-section, entitled "Azerbaijan, a Threat to Regional Security", Minister Nalbandian elaborates, "For the last twenty years, Azerbaijan has done everything in its power to undermine the cease-fire agreements. Military actions along the line of contact and on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border have resulted in significant loss of life and greatly raised tensions on

the ground. All the statements and decisions by Baku's authorities prove that Azerbaijan has become a serious threat to security and stability in the South Caucasus. This country has lost its sense of reality and is doing its utmost to undermine the peace talks. That is why, despite the intensive efforts of the three Co-Chair countries during the last six years (twenty summits, several dozen ministerial-level meetings, visits by the three Co-

Chairs to the region), it has not been possible to achieve a breakthrough in negotiations. In fact, Baku is not interested in anything but its own advantage."

Presenting the vision of Armenia on the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement, Edward Nalbandian writes, "We continue to believe that the principles and elements outlined in the statements of the heads of the Co-Chair countries over the last six years can be the foundations for reaching a fair and lasting settlement of the conflict."

We absolutely agree that peoples should be prepared for peace, not war. Unfortunately, until now the Azerbaijani leadership is doing just the opposite.

We fully agree with the heads of the Co-Chair countries that the use of force will not resolve the conflict, and that only a negotiated settlement can lead to stability and peace, which will open new opportunities for regional cooperation and development. The sooner the Azerbaijani leadership understands this reality, the faster the conflict can be settled."

The article by Minister Nalbandian in English and French came out also as a separate brochure - an annex to *Politique Internationale* Journal.



## Pan-Armenian declaration reveals plans for legal claims against Turkey



*By Harut  
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The  
California Courier*

The Presidents of the Republics of Armenia and Artsakh along with leaders of major Diasporan organizations issued an unprecedented joint declaration last week, announcing the preparation of a comprehensive dossier of "legal claims" from Turkey to restore "individual, communal and pan-Armenian rights and legitimate interests."

The declaration does not detail the specifics of Armenian demands, since a legal team headed by Gagik Harutyunyan, President of the Constitutional Court of Armenia, is in the process of finalizing a thorough analysis of Armenian claims against Turkey.

The January 29 declaration was issued during the session of the State Commission on the Coordination of Programs Dedicated to the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide with the participation of over 50 regional Centennial Committees from around the world. Later that night, Pres. Serzh Sargsyan read the full text of the declaration during a somber wreath-laying ceremony at the Armenian Genocide Memorial Complex in Yerevan.

When Catholicos Aram I inquired if the declaration would become the official policy of the Republic of Armenia, Pres. Sargsyan responded by assuring everyone that the adopted document would guide not only Armenia's foreign policy, but all government officials!

Here are highlights from the Pan-Armenian Declaration:

- Condemning the genocidal acts against the Armenian people, planned and continuously perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire and various regimes of Turkey in 1894-1923, dispossession of the homeland, the massacres and ethnic cleansing aimed at the extermination of

the Armenian population, the destruction of the Armenian heritage, as well as the denial of the Genocide - all attempts to avoid responsibility, to consign to oblivion the committed crimes and their consequences or to justify them - as a continuation of this crime and encouragement to commit new genocides;

- Considering the 1919-1921 verdicts of the courts-martial of the Ottoman Empire on that grave crime perpetrated "against the law and humanity" as a legal assessment of the fact;

- Appreciating the joint declaration of the Allied Powers on May 24, 1915, for the first time in history defining the most heinous crime perpetrated against the Armenian people as a "crime against humanity and civilization" and emphasizing the necessity of holding Ottoman authorities responsible, as well as the role and significance of the Sevres Peace Treaty of 10 August 1920 and US President Woodrow Wilson's Arbitral Award of 22 November 1920 in overcoming the consequences of the Armenian Genocide;

- Reiterates the commitment of Armenia and the Armenian people to continue the international struggle for the prevention of genocides, the restoration of the rights of people subjected to genocide and the establishment of historical justice;

- Expresses gratitude to those states and international, religious and non-governmental organizations that had the political courage to recognize and condemn the Armenian Genocide as a heinous crime against humanity and even today continue to undertake legal measures to that end, also preventing the dangerous manifestations of denialism;

- Appeals to UN member states, international organizations, and all people of good will, regardless of their ethnic origin and religious affiliation, to unite their efforts aimed at restoring historical justice and paying tribute to the memory of victims of the Armenian

Genocide;

- Expresses the united will of Armenia and the Armenian people to achieve worldwide recognition of the Armenian Genocide and elimination of the consequences of the Genocide, preparing to this end a file of legal claims as a point of departure in the process of restoring individual, communal and pan-Armenian rights and legitimate interests;

- Condemns the illegal blockade of the Republic of Armenia imposed by the Republic of Turkey, its anti-Armenian stance in international fora and the imposition of preconditions in the normalization of interstate relations, considering this a consequence of the continued impunity of the Armenian Genocide, Meds Yeghern;

- Calls upon the Republic of Turkey to recognize and condemn the Armenian Genocide committed by the Ottoman Empire, and to face its own history and memory through commemorating the victims of that heinous crime against humanity and renouncing the policy of falsification, denialism and banalization of this indisputable fact;

- Expresses the hope that recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide by Turkey will serve as a starting point for the historical reconciliation of the Armenian and Turkish peoples;

- Considers the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide an important milestone in the ongoing struggle for historical justice under the motto "I remember and I demand."

It is noteworthy that the Pan-Armenian declaration counters the persistent Turkish falsification that the claims against Turkey are being advanced by the Diaspora and not the Republic of Armenia. The unanimously adopted declaration clearly reflects that Armenians worldwide, both in the Homeland and Diaspora, are firmly committed to pursuing their just demands from the Republic of Turkey!

## Serj Tankian talks 'Wake Up the Souls' tour, '1915'

Last November, the Grammy Award-winning group System of a Down announced plans for a tour to mark the centennial of the Armenian Genocide.

The tour, called "Wake Up the Souls" will kick off in Los Angeles on April 6 and after stops in London, Cologne, Germany, Lyon, France, Brussels, Amsterdam and Moscow the band will land at Yerevan's Republic Square for a free concert on April 23.

In an interview with Asbarez News Serj Tankian discussed the tour and other projects, which are keeping him busy for the foreseeable future. He touched on some of the key issues coming up in 2015, the main one being the Armenian Genocide Centennial and "Wake Up the Souls."

"The idea was to take what we had done with the previous concert series, 'Souls,' and to project that into a tour for the centennial in 2015," said Tankian referring to a concert the band staged in 2004 to raise awareness about the Genocide and to challenge then President George W. Bush to honor his campaign pledge to recognize as genocide the events of 1915.

He said that the tour culminating with a large free concert in Yerevan, where System of a Down has never performed, would be an appropriate commemoration of the centennial.

"We are also looking at televising the show in Armenia for free on the Internet worldwide so everyone can be with us in Republic Square in Yerevan," he added.

Tankian asserted that "Wake Up the Souls," is not meant to "just raise awareness [about the Genocide], but to be a conduit for justice." The call to action, he explained, begins before the tour kicks off on an online community where people have already begun connecting to advance the message of the Genocide and universal justice around the world.

"This is all matched by an online campaign with a heat map of data about the countries that have recognized the Genocide and link to Twitter accounts where people can join the effort-can join with us around the world," said Tankian.

He has been encouraged by the signs of change among certain segments of Turkish society that "are doing amazing work trying to get recognition for the Armenian Genocide."

"You're well aware that as of a few

weeks ago there was a resolution going through the Turkish parliament to recognize all past crimes from a female Kurdish member of parliament. Even though the AKP [Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party] controls the parliament and it will probably not pass, but that [the introduction of the resolution] is a good sign. I think we've come to expect little from the Turkish government, but I can say it's up to us as well. There is an organization called 'Project 2015' that is encouraging people to go to Istanbul for 2015. I think that's very interesting to go back to where it all started," said Tankian about the activism within Turkey.

On January 28, two prominent Turkish human rights organizations-The Human Rights Association from Turkey and The Center for Truth Justice Memory-partnered with the Toronto-based International Institute for Genocide & Human Rights Studies and presented legal briefs in favor of Armenia in the now famous Perincek case about Genocide denial at the International Court of Human Rights.

While neither System of a Down nor Tankian have performed in Turkey, due to the Turkish government policy of Genocide denial, as well as its restrictions on freedom of speech, Tankian says that a large fan base in Turkey is active and whenever there are statements or misinformation in the local Turkish press, the fans have actively defended the musicians.

Tankian said that Genocide is a humanitarian issue. "This is an issue having to do with a Genocide. It's not an issue between people or cultures as far as I am concerned anymore. We've seen this happen over and over again and we will continue to see this happen, even if there are committees in the UN [working to address or prevent it]. We won't see change until executive powers in the world agree that everything else is off the table when it comes to Genocide."

"So if there is a Genocide occurring in Sudan and the Chinese are buying oil from that country, there has got to be some kind of international agreement or mechanism to stop them from buying oil from that country [that is committing Genocide]," he explained. "There has got to be some kind of international agreement that when it comes to Genocide everything stops."

Tankian points out that official recognition of the Genocide has already happened



in US with the passage of various congressional resolutions in the 1970's and 1980's and with President Ronald Reagan acknowledging the Genocide during his presidency.

He believes however that "it's important to keep on the US State Department to correctly identify our relationship-US's relationship with Turkey- having to do with Turkey and having the Genocide as a part of that"-Genocide recognition should be a precondition for the level of US relations with Turkey.

"Will our tour procure this?" Tankian asked. "Probably not," he said.

"But we want to be a small part of the continuing recognition [movement] and necessity for justice having to do with the first Genocide of the 20th century while trying to make it clear that this is an ongoing disease that has not stopped," explained Tankian.

Another project Tankian is focusing on is writing the score for the upcoming Armenian Genocide thriller "1915," which is set for release this year.

"1915" is the feature film debut of writer-directors Garin Hovannisian and Alec Mouhibian. Together with producer Terry Leonard ("Before I Disappear," "Cold Comes the Night," "Amira & Sam," "Hounddog") and an international cast including Simon Abkarian ("Casino Royale," "The Cut," "Gett"), Angela Sarafyan ("The Immigrant," "Twilight"), Sam Page ("Mad Men," "House of Cards"), Nikolai Kinski ("Aeon Flux"), and Jim Piddock (HBO's "Family Tree," "The Prestige"), "1915" was filmed on location in Los Angeles, with the production companies Bloodvine Media and Strongman announcing last week that the film will debut this year.

Set on the single day of April 24, 2015, the film follows one man's controversial



and dangerous mission to bring the ghosts of a forgotten tragedy back to life. The movie will play a leading role in the global movement this spring to shed light on all genocides of the past century.

"I think '1915' is a really interesting, unique drama that deals with a unique topic that hasn't been dealt with in films. For me the film deals with the Diasporan effect of trauma-of loss. There's no film that's dealt with that. Maybe it's personal, but the message of loss-the pain of loss- is very universal. '1915' does that in a very artistic way," said Tankian who explained that he has been working on the score for months and describes the music as "orchestral, piano and very authentic instrument-based" with elements of surprise, horror and mystery.

He explained that he first wrote themes based on the script "to figure out what the emotional centerpiece of it is and then extrapolate the sub-themes and build other themes." Working in his studio, Tankian composes the score frame-by-frame and scene-by scene, with notes from the directors.

While the entire score is original, Tankian said he has brought in a few ele-

ments of a composition called "A 100 Years," which he co-wrote with New Zealand-based composer John Psathas. The entire composition was performed last fall with the Lark Musical Society.

"A 100 Years" is a symphonic piece about the first Genocide of the 20th century of Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians.

"It goes from dark to hopeful at the end," said Tankian who engaged his musician friends from around the world to perform the piece.

"A lot of great instrumentalists have given their time for free to be on the track," he said, adding that a video was also made that is a montage of the various musicians playing the piece. He anticipates featuring the video on YouTube, as well as various festivals.

"A 100 Years' is a symphonic piece that was born in New Zealand from a collaboration that I've had with another composer named John Psathas, who is Greek-Kiwi. He and I have collaborated before on the 'Elect the Dead' symphony in 2009. He helped me arrange a lot of those songs for the orchestra. We both co-wrote and co-composed 'A 100 Years.' It was actually his

idea," he said.

Tankian said that some of the elements of "A 100 Years" that he has incorporated in the "1915" film score worked perfectly with the overall composition.

"I can understand what people expect or want, but at the same time when it comes to the arts... It's not like the Armenian people woke up one day and said 'we expect a band like System of a Down' that are playing progressive metal music. That's not what the expectations were of us," said Tankian.

"When it comes to expectations, let's put that aside for a moment. The important thing is to make an effective film. A film that on its own is a great film, irrespective of the topic, and other people's expectations," he added.

Tankian said that "1915" is an indie film and expressed hope that "it will be an award-winning indie film, because I think it's got great acting, great performance, great writing and great music [laughs]."

Tankian and System of a Down have been touring since 2011. In September the band will headline the Rock in Rio festival in Brazil, in addition to performances in other South American countries.

## Robert Fisk: The Gallipoli centenary is a shameful attempt to hide the Armenian Holocaust

"When world leaders, including Prince Charles and the Australian and New Zealand prime ministers, gather at Gallipoli to commemorate the First World War battle at the invitation of the Turkish government in April, the ghosts of one and half million slaughtered Christian Armenians will march with them," Robert Fisk writes in an article published by The Independent. The article runs as follows:

For in an unprecedented act of diplomatic folly, Turkey is planning to use the 100th anniversary of the Allied attempt to invade Turkey in 1915 to smother memory of its own mass killing of the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire, the 20th century's first semi-industrial holocaust. The Turks have already sent invitations to 102 nations to attend the Gallipoli anniversary on 24th April - on the very day when Armenia always honours its own genocide victims at the hands of Ottoman Turkey.

In an initiative which he must have known would be rejected, Turkish President Recep Erdogan even invited the Armenian President, Serge Sarkissian, to attend the Gallipoli anniversary after himself receiving an earlier request from President Sarkissian to attend ceremonies marking the Armenian genocide on the same day.

This is not just diplomatic mischief. The Turks are well aware that the Allied landings at Gallipoli began on 25th April - the day after Armenians mark the start of their genocide, which was ordered by the Turkish government of the time - and that Australia and New Zealand mark Anzac Day on the 25th. Only two years

ago, then-president Abdullah Gul of Turkey marked the 98th anniversary of the Great War battle on 18th March 2013 - the day on which the British naval bombardment of the Dardanelles Peninsular began on the instructions of British First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill. At the time, no-one in Turkey suggested that Gallipoli - Canakkale in Turkish - should be remembered on 24th April.

The Turks, of course, are fearful that 1915 should be remembered as the anniversary of their country's frightful crimes against humanity committed during the Armenian extermination, in which tens of thousands of men were executed with guns and knives, their womenfolk raped and then starved with their children on death marches into what was then Mesopotamia. The irony of history has now bequeathed these very same killing fields to the victorious forces of the 'genocidal' Islamist ISIS army, which has even destroyed the Armenian church commemorating the genocide in the Syrian city of Deir ez-Zour. Armenians chose 24th April to remember their genocide victims because this was the day on which Turkish police rounded up the first Armenian academics, lawyers, doctors, teachers and journalists in Constantinople.

Like Germany's right wing and revisionist historians who deny the Jewish Holocaust, Turkey has always refused to accept the Ottoman Turkish Empire's responsibility for the greatest crime against humanity of the 1914-18 war, a bloodletting which at the time upset even Turkey's German allies.

*continued on page 14*

## ...The Gallipoli centenary is a shameful...



*From page 13*

Armenia's own 1915 Holocaust - which lasted into 1917 - has been acknowledged by hundreds of international scholars, including many Jewish and Israeli historians, and has since been recognized by many European states. Only Tony Blair's government tried to diminish the suffering of the Armenians when it refused to regard the outrages as an act of genocide and tried to exclude survivors from commemorating their dead during Holocaust ceremonies in London. Turkey's claim - that the Armenians were unfortunate victims of the social upheavals of the war - has long been discredited.

Several brave Turkish scholars - denounced for their honesty by their fellow countrymen - have researched Ottoman documents and proved that instructions were sent out from Constantinople (now Istanbul) to regional officials to destroy their Armenian communities. Professor Ayhan Aktar of Istanbul Bilgi University, for example, has written extensively about the courage of Armenians who themselves fought in uniform for Turkey at Gallipoli, and has publicised the life of Captain Sarkis Torossian, an Armenian officer who was decorated by the Ottoman state for his bravery but whose parents and sister were done to death in the genocide. Professor Aktar was condemned by Turkish army officers and some academics who claimed that Armenians did not even fight on the Turkish side. Turkish generals officially denied - against every proof to the contrary, including Torossian's photograph in Ottoman uniform - that the Armenian soldier existed.

But now Turkey has changed its story. Turkish foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu recently acknowledged that other ethnic groups - including many Arabs as well as Armenians - also fought at Gallipoli. "We [Turks and Armenians] fought together at Gallipoli," he said. "That's why we have extended the invitation to President Sarkissian as well." The Armenian president's reply to Erdogan's invitation even mentioned Captain Torossian - although he sadly claimed that the soldier was also killed in the genocide when he in fact died in New York in 1954 after writing his memoirs - and reminded the Turkish president that "peace and friendship must first be hinged on the courage to confront one's own past, historical justice and universal memory... Each of us has a duty to transmit the real story to future generations and prevent the repetition of crimes... and prepare the ground for rapprochement and future cooperation between peoples, especially neighbouring peoples."

Armenians hold their commemorations on April 24th - when nothing happened at Gallipoli - because this was the day on which

the Armenian intellectuals were rounded up and jailed in the basement of Constantinople's police headquarters prior to their deportation and - in some cases - execution. These were the first 'martyrs' of the Armenian genocide. By another cruel twist of history, the place of their incarceration is now the Museum of Islamic Arts - a tourist location to which Prince Charles and other dignitaries will presumably not be taken on 24th April. These killings marked the start of the Armenian people's persecution and exile to the four corners of the earth.

Professor Aktar's contribution - along with that of historian Taner Akcam in the US - to the truth of Turkish-Armenian history is almost unique. They alone, through their academic research and under enormous political pressure to remain silent, forced thousands of Turks to debate the terrible events of 1915. Many Turks have since discovered Armenian grandmothers who were 'Islamised' or seized by Turkish militiamen or soldiers when they were young women. Aktar also points out that other Armenian soldiers - a First Lieutenant Surmenian, whose own memoirs were published in Beirut 13 years after Torossian's death - fought in the Turkish army.

He has little time, however, for either the Turkish government or Armenian president Sarkissian. "If you want to honour the Armenian officers and soldiers who... died for the fatherland (Turkey) in 1915, then you should invite the Armenian patriarch of Istanbul," Aktar told me. "Why do (they) invite President Sarkissian? His ancestors were probably fighting in the Russian Imperial Army in 1915. He is from Karabagh [Armenian-held territory that is part of Turkish Azerbaijan] as far as I know! This is a show of an 'indecent proposal' towards President Sarkissian... it is rather insulting!"

Many Armenians might share the same view. For several months, Sarkissian was prepared to sign a treaty with Turkey to open the Armenian-Turkish frontier in return for a mere formal investigation by scholars of the genocide. Then-US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton supported him, along with sundry politicians and some Western journalists based in Turkey. But the Armenian diaspora responded in fury, asking how Jews would feel if friendship with Germany was contingent upon an enquiry to discover if the Jewish Holocaust had ever occurred. In the First World War, American and European newspapers gave massive publicity to the savagery visited upon the Armenians, and the British Foreign Office published a 'black book' on the crimes against Armenians of the Turkish army. The very word 'genocide' was coined about the Armenian holocaust by Raphael Lemkin, an American lawyer of Polish-Jewish descent. Israelis use the word 'Shoah' - 'Holocaust' - when they refer to the suffering of the Armenians.

The Turkish hero of Gallipoli, of course, was Lieutenant Colonel Mustapha Kemal - later Ataturk, founder of the modern Turkish state - and his own 19th Division at Gallipoli was known as the 'Aleppo Division' because of the number of Arabs serving in it. Ataturk did not participate in the mass killings of Armenians in 1915, but some of his associates were implicated - which still casts a shadow over the history of the Turkish state. The bloody Allied defeat at Gallipoli was to cast a shadow over the rest of Winston Churchill's career, a fact well known to the tens of thousands of Australians and New Zealanders who plan to come to the old battlefield this April. How much they will know about an even more horrific anniversary on April 24th is another matter.



## How Kim Kardashian's ancestors escaped the Armenian Genocide

The extraordinary escape from the Armenian Genocide of Kim Kardashian's ancestors - thanks to a 'prophet' who urged them to uproot to America - can be revealed today for the first time.

The Daily Mail presents images showing the reality TV star's ethnic Armenian forebears who fled the tsarist Russian empire in the early 20th century, many of whom obeyed the advice of the sage.

Known at the time as the Kardaschoffs, in Russian style, the family made their way from their home village of Karakale in the late 19th Century to German ports. From there, they travelled to a new life in America on the passenger vessels SS Brandenburg and SS Koln.

By doing so, they escaped the triple horror of the First World War from 1914-18, the Armenian Genocide starting in 1915 - exactly a century ago this year - and the Russian Revolution in 1917.



*Meet the family: Luciag (centre in front row) and Hovhannes took their daughter Vartanoosh Miroyan (first on the left in back row) to America, where their legacy has thrived*



*History: Kim Kardashian's great great grandparents Hovhannes Miroyan (left, front row) and Luciag Chorbajian (second from left, front row) fled Armenia in the early 1900s with their daughter Vartanoosh Miroyan (second from right in back row)*



*Glamorous: It is quite possible that Kim Kardashian got her star power from her 'dynamic' grandmother Helen (daughter of Vartanoosh) who is pictured left on her wedding day*



*Belief: Kim's great great grandmother Luciag (seated) was part of the Molokan faith. It means 'milk drinkers' because followers of the Christian sect drank milk on traditional Russian Orthodox fast days*

One hundred years after the deadly holocaust decimated their ancestral home, the Kardashians have become one of the most influential families in America.

The most famous of which is Kim who has chosen this year, on the hundredth anniversary of the atrocity, to visit Armenia for the first time.

But her lavish lifestyle, the expensive houses, an army of followers who hang on her every tweet, the marriage to a musical superstar would not exist if her ancestors had ignored the warning of a child 'prophet'.

Among those fleeing Erzurum - then in Armenia, and ruled by last Russian Tsar Nicholas II was family patriarch Hovhannes Miroyan and Kim's great great grandfather, born in 1844. He married the doughty Luciag Chorbajian, born in 1853.

*continued on page 16*



## ...Kardashian's ancestors escaped...

*From page 15*

The couple wed in Erzurum, which is now in Turkey, in 1867 but escaped along with their daughter Vartanoosh Mironyan, born in 1886, in the early 20th century.

Vartanoosh's distinctly blonde daughter Haigoohi Arakelian - known as Helen, born in America in 1917, the year the Bolshevik Revolution rocked the Russian Empire - was Kim's grandmother, who later married into the Kardashian clan.

The glamorous and 'dynamic' Helen wed Arthur who ran the largest meat-packing business in southern California.

Helen's son Robert, a celebrity lawyer who died of esophageal cancer in 2003, married Kris Houghton and fathered the 21st Century's biggest reality TV stars Kourtney, Khloe, Robert Jr and most famous of all - Kim.

Their mother Kris eventually married Olympic gold medalist Bruce Jenner and together they raised two more TV personalities, Kendall and Kylie.

The flight to freedom of Arthur's parents and grandparents from the village of Karakale - today a snow-covered and entirely Muslim outpost in eastern Turkey where the stone ruins of the old Armenian homes still stand - came later than many in this community.

It was as if they had sought to cling on against the rising ethnic violence and persecution.

The Kardashians - or Kardaschoffs - like other branches of Kim's paternal kith and kin were ethnic Armenian, but they were also religious rebels, at odds with the orthodox faith in their homeland.

They had already fled persecution once before, from another location deeper in Armenia. 'The village bullies harassed and insulted them, dug into their tombs and (violated) the corpses of the deceased - hanging them on trees,' explained Joyce Keosababian-Bivin, whose ancestors also came from Karalala, and whose family is linked by marriage to the Kardashians.

'Because of that they wrote a letter of complaint to Nicholas II.'

The tsar decreed that they could move to Karakale, close to the Russian military settlement, where initially they were safe in what was 'a modern village, with beautiful buildings and wide streets'.

Here, they became close to incoming Russian Protestants against the Russian Orthodox Church.



*Safe: Vartanoosh Mironyan (back row, left) married Arakel Arakelian (back row, right). Their daughter Helen (front, centre), was born in America in 1917, the year the Bolshevik Revolution rocked the Russian Empire*

They were a sect called the Molokans, literally translated as 'milk-lovers', so-called because they drank milk, and other banned foods, on fast days.

Some were known as Jumpers, who leapt in the air, raising their hands high, during church services. They were pacifists and, crucially, adhered to the power of prophecy.



*Destiny: By leaving their native Armenia, Vartanoosh (front, left), Arakel Arakelian (front, right) and their daughter Helen (second from right, back row) escaped the triple horror of the First World War from 1914-18, the 'Armenian Genocide' starting in 1915, exactly a century ago this year, and the Russian Revolution*

The legend has it that in the 1850s, an 11-year-old Efil Klubnikin penned an apocalyptic forecast despite being apparently illiterate.

'Those who believe in this will go on a journey to a far land, while the unbelievers will remain in place,' the boy prophesied. 'Our people will go on a long journey over the great and deep waters...people from all countries will go there.'

'There will be a great war. All kings will shed blood like great rivers. Two steamships will leave to cross the impassable ocean.'

In the first years of the 20th century, Efim renewed the warning that he made to stunned believers in Karakale as a child, saying his premonition was now coming to pass.

'Efim called a meeting, he invited the elders from all the Molokan villages including the two elders of the Armenian Molokan church. He prophesied this was the time for them to leave Russia as there were terrible times coming, especially for the Armenians,' said Ms Keosababian-Bivin.

Images he scrawled led locals to believe they should cross the Atlantic to the United States, but this young diviner also indicated they should not stop there, but trek to the west coast. He pointed them towards Los Angeles.



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**WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?****Enjoy your leisure****10 February**

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

**11 February**

**19:00.** Pro Semiramis. Dance show for adults. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

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

**12 February**

**14:00.** Alice in Wonderland. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** Rich Girl Can't Be Ugly. Author: Alexander Ostrovski. Comedy, 2 acts. Director: Yervand Ghazanchyan. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

**19:00.** Aunt from Paris. Comedy. Lead roles: Narek Duryan, Zaven Abrahamyan, Ara Deghtrikyan and others. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** From Here and There. Premiere. Sergey Danielyan's mono-play. Author and Staging Director: Sergey Danielyan. Small hall. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

**13 February**

**12:30, 14:00, 15:30.** The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Mark Twain. Stage Director: Hranush Chichakyan. 7+. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

**19:00.** Twelfth Night. Comedy in 2 acts. Author: William Shakespeare. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

**19:00.** Natalie Filion. Performance in Russian, for adults. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** Romantic Comedy. B. Slade. Tragicomedy in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

**19:00.** APO, Massimo Mercelli & Irina Zakyan. Concert dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra. Artistic Director and Principal Conductor: Eduard Topchjan. Soloists: Massimo Mercelli, flute (Italy) Irina Zakyan, soprano. Program: Mozart: Flute Concerto Michael Nyman: Flute Concerto (Armenian premiere). Mahler: Symphony No. 4. Conductor: Eduard Topchjan. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

**19:00.** Nazar, Nazar, Till the End. Based on D. Demirchyan's "Brave Nazar". Staging director: Ara Yernjakyan. Cast: Andranik Harutyunyan, Mkhitar Avetisyan, Hasmik Danielyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

**14 February**

**12:30, 14:00, 15:30.** The Dog and the Cat. Based on Hovhannes Tumanian's tale. Staging: Anna Elbakyan. 4+. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

**14:00, 16:00.** Goldfish. Author: Alexander Pushkin.

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

**14:00.** Cinderella. Author: Charles Perrault. Staged by: A. Miridjanyan. Music: S. Alexanyan. Designer: M. Areyan. Dances: N. Mirzoyan. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater

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

**18:30.** Liana Zurabyan: Love Poetry. "My Days are Christian, My Nights are Pagan..." /H. Shiraz/Love poetry dedicated to St. Sargis Day. Poetry, Evening of literature and music | Arno Babajanyan Concert Hall

**19:00.** Coma Nostra. New performance dedicated to the author's 55th anniversary. Author: Narek Duryan. Staging and music design by Narek Duryan. Producer: Kristine Hovhannisyan. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** Gayane. A. Khachaturyan. Ballet in 3 acts. Musical Director and Principal Conductor: Honoured Artist of Armenia, Karen Durgaryan. Chief Ballet Master: People's Artist of Armenia, Vilen Galstyan. Staging: People's Artist of Armenia, Vilen Galstyan. Painter: Honoured Painter of Armenia, Minas Avetisyan. Costume designer: Rubina Hovhannisyan. Conductor: Karen Lavchyan. Ballet | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

**19:00.** Valentine's Day Show. Participants: Hasmik Karapetyan, Margarita, Albert Ghazaryan, Light Band, Sirapi Nikoghosyan, Srбуhi Hovhannisyan, Gevorg Kalemdayan, Matador Dance Duet, Liana Khachatryan, DJ Vendetta. Concert | Elite Plaza Hotel

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

**19:00.** You Can't Get Rid Of Me. Comedy in 2 acts. Author: Gurgen Khanjyan. Staging: Yervand Ghazanchyan. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

**19:00.** A Man is Required. Original "Jan & Beatrice" by Carol Freshett. Director of the play – Lusine Yernjakyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

**2015-02-14, 2015-02-15.** The Day of Love in Tsaghkadzor. You will enjoy an unforgettable evening with everyone's favorite Rouben Hakhverdyan, as well as Srбуhi Sargsyan and Allusion Band. The package is for 2 persons and includes:- overnight stay in a double room- 2 meals- concert program- festive reception- 2-way transfer Yerevan-Tsaghkadzor-Yerevan (as well as Gyumri-Tsaghkadzor-Gyumri). Concert | Golden Palace Resort & Spa, Tsaghkadzor



## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

This is absolutely not a time to take an offensive, attacking position. If you feel angered by another, think the situation through from the very beginning. Look for your contribution to the problem. On the other hand, if someone else takes a swing at you, you may defend yourself as needed.

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

Much of your attention this week will be focused on friendships and perhaps group and community concerns. Your partner or significant other will understand these needs and may be a helpful resource. You probably will choose to put personal needs aside for the present.

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

Your memory may be full of holes during this period. Recognize this and don't pretend it isn't so. Write notes to yourself. Your partner or a Significant Other can also be of help. If you find an interesting item on the internet, print it. Don't count on holding it in mind or finding it again.

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

It will be important at this time to use firmness about your boundaries. This is likely to be particularly so with family members who may want to overrun your plans. Unfortunately, the interference may be from a broken thing, such as the washer. The warrior is in your corner. You can get this resolved to your satisfaction. Just be firm and ask for what you need.

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

This is a time in which your exuberance and enthusiasm may carry you farther than you really intended to go. You will certainly have more energy to do whatever you choose, but take care that you don't promise way more than you can deliver. Leave the credit cards at home so you will have to really think before you make an extravagant purchase.

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

Your body seems to be on a low cycle at present. Take all your vitamins and get plenty of rest. You have been searching for a necessary piece of paperwork which is likely to surface this week. Clear your mind of anxiety and think. It has been misfiled or has fallen behind something larger.

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

Taking care of others in recent weeks may take a toll on your body. If you are feeling resentful or irritable about adding yet one more helping project, you are on the verge of burnout. It is important to be aware of this possibility. Annoyance with the needs of others is a sure sign you need to take a break.

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

This is not the smoothest of weeks. Your energy is in high gear and prone to overreact to any disturbing circumstances. This is most particularly in the areas of your daily work life, health, and relationship(s) to children or lovers. Your reflexes are off. Handle tools and cars with care.

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

An option for a new job or career may be dangling in front of you. Think twice or three times before making a move now. Circumstances are likely to be more favorable after Feb. 11, when Mercury turns direct. Overall it is timely to take on a new identity in life, but that doesn't have to be today.

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

You may recognize that an expenditure made recently is not really the right solution. Your frame of mind at the time was really conservative and now you see it was overly so. You may be able to take it back if you move quickly. If not, look at ways to re-purpose the item so it will serve another need.

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

Drive with caution this week. Your careful attention may save you a lot of trouble and energy in repairs. Make it a point to focus your mind on what is right in front of you. You have a tendency right now to drift and daydream. If you can allow it in a restful way, you can enjoy it.

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

This is a week devoted to mental or emotional healthcare. As you live into this experience, you will re-discover that having compassion also heals you. Pisces is often the caregiver. You have this experience regularly. A life lesson for you is to care for others without becoming their pain, or taking it on as your personal issue. That would be good mental health care for you.

## ARMENIAN POETRY

### **Varouzhan Khastour**

#### **FAREWELL**

You leave...  
And train with devilish whistling,  
takes you to the indefiniteness.  
And the (station) remains empty,  
just like me.

From farewell kiss  
my lips burns yet.  
Your absurd desires of happiness  
like stone  
hangs on my thought,  
wiches have electrified  
and become convulsive,  
I do not know why,  
you come near at the window  
and handle me,  
you farewell me, or the past,  
Is it only a beautiful habite?  
or it is an effort of return...

After an instant,  
the all dissolves  
and transparents,  
and I find me  
my hands rise and with smile of foolish.  
Only in my ears,  
echoes the whistling of the train.  
And the periodic knocking of wheels.  
Then the station fills with people,  
and swells from daily conversations.  
And I, in girls surrounding me,  
in vain try to find you.

Then the next train leaves,  
then the loneliness,  
then again people and bustle,  
then leaves the next train,  
I and station  
harmonize to each other,  
and the oil perfume of woods  
for me becomes very pleazant,  
relative,  
ceremonial,  
the shining railways  
loughs dreary,  
and melancholic,  
a drunkhard begger  
frivolous pushes me,  
and I say  
I am also a begger,  
and he departs me  
regarding me an insane.

And I  
Between the increasing distance  
into train and me  
beg your face,  
on railway steps  
I imagine a woman's sketch  
and my heart beats like whills,  
On all steps  
You are...

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