

Eurasian Union 'no threat to Armenia's Independence'

Armenia will not risk losing its independence after joining the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), President Serzh Sargsyan insisted on September 21 as he marked the 23rd anniversary of the country's secession from the Soviet Union.

"Today, on Armenia's Independence Day, I declare with utmost responsibility that our membership in the Eurasian Economic Union does not pose a threat to Armenia's political independence in any way. Such claims [to the contrary] are groundless," he said in a speech at an official reception held in Yerevan on the occasion.

"There is no integration process in the world which does not presuppose coordination of steps. This is more than a natural phenomenon," Sargsyan added, responding to critics of his unexpected decision last year to seek membership of the bloc comprising Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The critics, among them pro-Western civic groups and some opposition parties, say that the EEU is part of



Russian's President Vladimir Putin's efforts to restore Russian hegemony over much of the former Soviet Union.

They also believe that the Russian-led bloc's protectionist policies will spell serious trouble for the Armenian economy
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Serzh Sargsyan claimed, however, that EEU membership will on the contrary open up "new opportunities for economic development" by facilitating Armenian exporters' access to a "huge market." Still, he at the same time seemed to admit economic risks involved.

"None of us is a prophet and we don't know what results we will have in 10 or 20 years' time. But one thing is clear: in case of working hard we could anticipate serious economic benefits," he said.

Serzh Sargsyan hopes to sign an accession treaty with the Russian, Belarusian and Kazakh presidents at their next summit to be held in Minsk on October 10. Moscow is now thought to be pressing Belarus and Kazakhstan to drop their apparent objections to Armenia's quick accession to the EEU.

Congratulating Serzh Sargsyan on the Armenian independence anniversary at the weekend, Putin said that Yerevan's EEU membership bid is elevating Russian-Armenian relations to a "qualitatively new level." Those relations are now developing "in the spirit of allied partnership," Putin wrote in a letter cited by the Kremlin.



Obama praises 'strong' ties with Armenia

U.S. President Barack Obama has described U.S.-Armenian relations as "strong" and pledged to deepen them despite Armenia's upcoming accession to a new Russia-led alliance of ex-Soviet states.

"Armenia and the United States have a strong history rooted in partnership and friendship. The people-to-people, cultural and economic ties that bind our countries are impressive and inspiring," Obama said in a weekend letter to President Serzh Sargsyan that congratulated him on Armenia's Independence Day.

"The U.S.-Armenia relationship remains strong, and we look forward to continuing and deepening our cooperation for many years to come," read the letter publicized by Sargsyan's office.

"The deep bonds between the United States and Armenia are strong," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said for his part. "We will continue to strengthen our partnership with Armenia in various dimensions including security cooperation, economic and democratic development, and expanding people-to-people exchanges."

"As you celebrate 23 years of independence, know that the United States stands with Armenia as a partner and friend," Kerry added in a statement that congratulated Armenians on their national holiday.

Obama's and Kerry's statements chimed with Sargsyan's recent calls for "deepening the multifaceted Armenian-American cooperation." "We deeply cherish our friendship with the United States and are pleased that ... we have elevated our bilateral partnership to a qualitatively new level," Serzh Sargsyan wrote in a congratulatory message to Obama in July. He specifically hailed "growing American involvement" in the Armenian economy.

The Armenian leader reaffirmed his stated commitment to closer ties with U.S. less than a year after unexpectedly deciding to seek Armenia's membership in the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) at the expense of a far-reaching Association Agreement with the European Union. Yerevan also raised eyebrows in the West when it joined Russia in recognizing the internationally con-

demned referendum in Crimea and voting against a pro-Ukrainian resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in March.

Richard Mills, Obama's pick for the next U.S. ambassador to Armenia, reiterated Washington's "disappointment" with the Armenian vote during congressional hearings on his candidacy held last week. But he stressed that the Obama administration's "commitment to a strong bilateral relationship with Armenia remains unchanged."

Mills also indicated that Armenia's anticipated membership in the EEU is not an insurmountable obstacle to its closer partnership with the West. He said Sargsyan's foreign policy U-turn, widely blamed on strong Russian pressure, only underscored the importance of "decreasing Armenia's regional isolation and bolstering its economic and security independence."

"We have stressed since Armenia's decision that strengthened economic collaboration with the United States and Europe can complement Armenia's future membership in the Eurasian Economic Union," the ambassador-designate told the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee.

"Our military cooperation with Armenia is strong and deepening," Mills went on, pointing to the Armenian involvement in the NATO-led missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo.

Serzh Sargsyan plans to keep 120 or so Armenian soldiers stationed in Afghanistan even after NATO officially completes combat operations and launches a smaller mission there in January. He further underlined his desire for closer security ties with the West earlier this month by attending a NATO summit for the first time in more than five years.

Mills also made clear on September 17 that the U.S. continues to back Armenia's insistence on Turkey's unconditional implementation of the 2009 protocols on normalizing Turkish-Armenian relations. "We have been clear that responsibility for moving forward lies with the Turkish government," he said. "The [Obama] administration will continue to press at the highest levels for Turkish ratification of the protocols."

'To Hell with Your Ratification': Serzh Sargsyan Threatens to Withdraw Protocols

President Serzh Sargsyan delivered a strongly worded statement at the 69th session of the UN General Assembly threatening to recall the protocols from Parliament.

"...Those Protocols have been shelved for years now awaiting ratification in the Turkish Parliament. Ankara declares publicly that it will ratify those Protocols only if Armenians cede Nagorno-Karabagh, the free Artsakh, to Azerbaijan. In Armenia and Artsakh, ordinary people often just retort to such preconditions: 'To hell with your ratification.' This vernacular phrase concentrates the age-old struggle of the entire nation, and it unequivocally explains to those who attempt to bargain the others' homeland that the motherland is sacrosanct, and they had better stay away from us with their bargain. It is in these circumstances that currently the official Yerevan is seriously considering the issue of recalling the Armenian-Turkish Protocols from the parliament," said Sargsyan.

The President also voiced frustration at Turkey's unwillingness to reconcile with its past. "For a whole century now Armenians around the globe as well as the entire progressive international community expects Turkey to demonstrate the courage and face its own history by recognizing the Armenian Genocide, thus relieving next generations of this heavy burden of the past. Alas instead, we continue to hear ambiguous and ulterior messages, in which the victim and the slaughterer are equalized, and the history is falsified," said Sargsyan.

Serzh Sargsyan thanked those states that recognize the Armenian Genocide, adding, "I thank the U.S.A., European Union, and all those personalities, state bodies, territorial units and organizations in numerous countries, who publicly called things by their proper names."

Sargsyan also called the destruction of the Genocide Memorial Church in Der Zor a "barbarity" and "a criminal Godlessness [that is] in no way or shape related to any faith."

"Armenia has voiced on numerous occasions the necessity to defend the Armenian population of Syria and the Yezidi population of north-western Iraq, and we are encouraged by the unified stance of the international community in this regard," he noted, adding that

Armenian forces would soon be deployed to south Lebanon to contribute to UN peacekeeping operations.

The President also discussed the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict, highlighting the "unconstructive and maximalist stance" of Baku. "The failure of an adequate international characterization of the bellicose declarations and various threats put forth at the highest level in Azerbaijan has resulted in all-out permissiveness. The President of Azerbaijan designates the entire Armenian nation as the 'the enemy number one,'" he said. He also referred to the recent referendum held in Scotland, noting, "The vote held a few days ago in Scotland, once again proved that nowadays the institute of referendum is more and more widely perceived as a legal model for peaceful settlement of ethnic conflicts."

The President's full statement is below:

Distinguished President of the General Assembly,

Distinguished Secretary General,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. President,

We conduct this meeting in a symbolically significant period between the centennial of World War I and the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, the two turning points in the history of humanity. The United Nations Organization was established almost seventy years ago at the end of World War II, and its mission was to form new civilizational environment and culture of preventing the repetition of the past tragic pages.

2015 bears particular significance for Armenians all over the world. On April 24 Armenians around the globe will commemorate the most tragic page of the nation's history - the centennial of the Armenian Genocide. It was an unprecedented crime aimed at eliminating the nation and depriving it of its homeland: a crime that continues to be an unhealed scar for each Armenian. The 1915 Genocide

was a crime against civilization and humanity, and its inadequate condemnation paved the way for similar crimes of mass murder in the future.

Addressing the Assembly ahead of that centennial year of the Armenian Genocide from this prominent podium, which I would call the podium of Honor and Responsibility, I declare vociferously:

Thank you Uruguay, France, and Russia!

Thank you Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Sweden!

Thank you Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Greece, Slovakia, and Cyprus!

Thank you Lebanon, Argentina, Venezuela, Chile, Canada, and Vatican!

Thank you for the recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide regardless of the format and language adopted. I thank the U.S.A., European Union, and all those personalities, state bodies, territorial units and organizations in numerous countries, who publicly called things by their proper names. That is indeed extremely important since denial is a phase of the crime of genocide.

For a whole century now Armenians around the globe as well as the entire progressive international community expects Turkey to demonstrate the courage and face its own history by recognizing the Armenian Genocide, thus relieving next generations of this heavy burden of the past. Alas instead, we continue to hear ambiguous and ulterior messages, in which the victim and the slaughterer are equalized, and the history is falsified.

Armenia has never conditioned the normalization of the bilateral relations with Turkey by recognition of the Armenian Genocide. In fact, Armenia was the party that initiated such a process which culminated in the signing of the Zurich Protocols in 2009. However, those Protocols have been shelved for years now awaiting ratifi-

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cation in the Turkish Parliament. Ankara declares publicly that it will ratify those Protocols only if Armenians cede Nagorno-Karabagh, the free Artsakh, to Azerbaijan. In Armenia and Artsakh ordinary people often just retort to such preconditions: "To hell with your ratification." This vernacular phrase concentrates the age-old struggle of the entire nation, and it unequivocally explains to those who attempt to bargain the others' homeland that the motherland is sacrosanct, and they had better stay away from us with their bargain. It is in these circumstances that currently the official Yerevan is seriously considering the issue of recalling the Armenian-Turkish Protocols from the parliament.

The tragic events in Syria and Iraq, which we are currently witnessing, demonstrate how the groups whose creed is hatred are targeting religious and national minorities. Two days ago, on Independence Day of the Republic of Armenia, the Church of All Saint Martyrs in Deir-ez-Zor, Syria, dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide, where their remains were housed, was mined and blown up by terrorists. Such a barbarity is a criminal Godlessness in no way or shape related to any faith. The catastrophic situation in Syria and the north of Iraq continuously deteriorates, and today hundreds of thousands of peaceful people are directly imperiled. Among them are tens of thousands of Armenians of Aleppo. This is an instance of a peril to consider in the context of our joint commitments to preventing the crimes against humanity. Armenia has voiced on numerous occasions the necessity to defend the Armenian population of Syria and the Yezidi population of northwestern Iraq, and we are encouraged by the unified stance of the international community in this regard.

The very essence of our organization is the preservation of world peace and security. In recent years, Armenia has consistently consolidated its peacekeeping capabilities thus preparing ourselves for a more proactive engagement in that field. Armenian peacekeepers will very soon be dispatched to the south of Lebanon within the framework of the UNIFIL mission under the auspices of the United Nations. It became possible due to close collaboration we enjoy with our Italian colleagues. I

strongly believe that our servicemen will fulfill their mission with dignity and high professionalism also utilizing the extensive experience they have garnered in the last decade in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Distinguished colleagues,

It has been more than twenty years our neighbor aborts the efforts of the international community directed at the just and peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by its unconstructive and maximalist stance. The failure of an adequate international characterization of the bellicose declarations and various threats put forth at the highest level in Azerbaijan has resulted in all-out permissiveness. The President of Azerbaijan designates the entire Armenian nation as the "the enemy number one", and what is considered in the rest of the world to be a crime, is considered to be a glorious deed in Azerbaijan.

Despite the fact that each conflict is unique, fundamental human rights and freedoms, including the right of peoples to free expression of will and self-determination, continue to evolve as a determinant to their resolution. The vote held a few days ago in Scotland, once again proved that nowadays the institute of referendum is more and more widely perceived as a legal model for peaceful settlement of ethnic conflicts. It was no coincidence that the right to govern one's own fate through referendum is in the core of the proposal put forward by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Ladies and gentlemen,

While discussing the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement I cannot but address the four UN Security Council resolutions, which were adopted during the war, that every so often are exploited by Azerbaijani authorities in order to justify their obstructive policy.

It is about those four Resolutions that demanded unconditionally as a matter of priority cessation of all military hostilities. Azerbaijan failed to comply. Azerbaijan's own non-compliance with the fundamental demands of these Resolutions made their full implementation impossible. The Resolutions contained calls upon the parties to cease bombardments and air strikes targeting peaceful civilian populations, to refrain from violating the principles of international humanitarian law but instead

Azerbaijan continued its indiscriminate bombardments of civilian populations. Azerbaijan did not spare children, women and old men thus gravely violating all legal and moral norms of international humanitarian law.

Now Azerbaijan cynically refers to these Resolutions - refers selectively, pulling them out of context as a prerequisite for the settlement of the problem. The adequate interpretation of the UN Security Council Resolutions is not possible without correctly understanding the hierarchy of the demands set therein.

The Resolutions inter alia request the restoration of economic, transport and energy links in the region (UN SC Resolution 853) and removal of all obstacles to communications and transportation (UN SC Resolution 874). It is no secret that Azerbaijan and Turkey imposed blockade on Nagorno-Karabagh and the Republic of Armenia from the outset of the conflict. The Azerbaijani President in his statements even takes pride in this fact promising his own public that direction would remain the priority of Azerbaijan's foreign policy.

The abovementioned UN Security Council Resolutions called upon Azerbaijan to establish direct contacts with Nagorno-Karabagh. Azerbaijan refused to establish any direct contact with Nagorno-Karabagh, which was a legally equal party to the Ceasefire Agreement concluded in 1994, as well as to a number of other international agreements. Moreover, Azerbaijan preaches hatred towards people it claims it wants to see as a part of their state.

None of the UN SC Resolutions identifies Armenia as a conflicting party. Our country is only called upon "to continue to exert its influence" over the Nagorno-Karabagh Armenians (UN SC Resolutions 853, 884) in order to cease the conflict. Armenia fully complied, and partly owing to its efforts a ceasefire agreement was concluded in 1994. All the UN SC Resolutions have clearly recognized Nagorno-Karabagh as a party to the conflict.

Azerbaijani authorities have failed to implement the fundamental demands of the Security Council resolutions, including abiding and sticking by humanitarian norms. Incidentally, Azerbaijan has been gravely violating this demand every now

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Serzh Sargsyan: The right to self-determination a fundamental principle for us

Armenia is interested in maintaining good cooperation with the East and the West, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said in an interview with the Italian *Corriere della Sera*. He added that "it's dangerous for small countries to take advantage of the contradictions between the major decision-making centers."

"We have strong economic and strategic relations with Russia, we are part of the collective security system. At the same time we have very good relations with the United States, the European Union and NATO. Thus, in the face of tensions in their relationships, we choose not to take sides. We build our foreign policy around concrete issues," the Armenian President said.

As an example of a concrete issue, President Sargsyan pointed to the UN General Assembly Resolution on Crimea. "Armenia voted against the measure, but not because Russia did the same. As you know, there is the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-populated region that declared independence from Azerbaijan. For us, the right to self-determination of peoples is a fundamental principle. We reject the approach that before exercising this universally recognized principle, it's necessary to ask permission," he stated.

According to the Armenian President, there are values that are "not edible." "I remember that at the time of

the collapse of the USSR Europe unconditionally supported the right to self-determination. Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine became independent during that process. Does this mean we should support the exercise of this right in the case of large territorial units, such as the USSR, but not in the case of smaller units? We should remember the independence of Kosovo: there is no difference with Nagorno-Karabakh," he said.

Asked whether there is no difference even between Kosovo and Crimea, President Sargsyan said: "I do not have the right to judge the case of Crimea. But it is evident that there has been an exercise of the right to self-determination. In any case, we do not see a contradiction between the right to self-determination and the principle of territorial integrity. They are both founding principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

Speaking about the prospects of peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Armenian President said: "The long negotiations led to important results, with a solution framework that is based on three principles: non-use of force or the threat of force, territorial integrity and self-determination. But the solution seems to us to be far in the light of recent developments."

President Sargsyan said Turkey's role

in the process is not positive. "It's not positive. Ankara defends, supports and echoes the Azerbaijani positions," he said.

"In addition there is the issue of the Armenian Genocide, which marks the centenary in 2015 and which Turkey continues to deny. I am optimistic that one day a Turkish government will come to terms with history, recognizing the Armenian genocide." "I have invited Turkish President Erdogan to the commemoration of the centenary, but I doubt he will come," he reminded.

Serzh Sargsyan said the developments in the Middle East concern the international community, particularly Armenia. "There are large and vibrant Armenian communities in Iraq and Syria, who have lived there for years in harmony with Muslims. Now we are witnessing the gradual annihilation of the Christian cultural heritage in those regions. We are a small country, but efforts of large coalitions aimed at stabilizing this region have always been well received by the Armenian government. In addition, the presence of Armenian communities in those areas makes us particularly sensitive. After Iraq and Afghanistan, in late October Armenia will deploy a contingent in Lebanon under the Italian command within the framework of the UN peacekeeping mission," President Sargsyan said.

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and then. Azerbaijan's cruel and inhumane treatment of the Armenian civilian prisoners of war regularly resulted in their deaths. Although, I think, one shall not be surprised about it because it is the same state that suppresses and exercises the most inhumane treatment of its own people. A clear proof of it was the decision of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to suspend its visit to Azerbaijan due to the obstructions it encountered in the conduct of the official Baku.

The Co-Chairmanship of the OSCE Minsk Group is the only specialized structure that has been dealing with the Nagorno-Karabagh issue according to the mandate granted by the international community. While Azerbaijan is very well aware that it could not possibly deceive or misinform the Minsk Group, which is very-well immersed in the essence of the problem, it attempts to transpose the conflict settlement to other platforms trying to depict

it as a territorial dispute or exploiting the factor of religious solidarity. That is ironic, since Armenia traditionally enjoys very warm relations with the Islamic states both in the Arab world or, for instance, with our immediate neighbor Iran.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We highly value the indispensable role of the United Nations in the adjustment and implementation of the development goals. I strongly believe that through the new "Post-2015" development agenda we will continue our efforts at seeking solutions and responding to challenges of global nature stemming from the Millennium Development Goals.

In conclusion, I would like to underline that we have passed the substantial part of the road leading to shaping the "Post-2015 Development Agenda" and we will continue our endeavors in this regard by displaying necessary flexibility in order to bring this process to its logical conclusion.

I thank you.

Armenia condemns the destruction of the Saint Martyrs Church in Deir el-Zor

Armenia on September 22 strongly condemned the reported destruction by Islamic State militants of an Armenian church in eastern Syria that has also served as a memorial to the victims of the 1915 genocide in Ottoman Turkey.

The official Syrian news agency SANA said that the militants blew up and completely razed the Saint Martyrs' Church in the city of Deir ez-Zor on September 18. There has been no independent confirmation of the report so far. Nor have there been any statements yet by the Sunni jihadist movement controlling large swathes of land in Syria, including most of the Deir ez-Zor region, and neighboring Iraq.

Official Yerevan referred to the alleged bombing as a fact. "This despicable and barbaric act against a shrine once again demonstrates the savage nature of the so-called 'Islamic State' terrorist group," Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said in a statement. "The international community must immediately stop and root out that plague threatening the civilized world and cut off all channels of its support, financing and sponsorship."

President Serzh Sargsyan's chief of staff, meanwhile, held Turkey responsible for the reported bombing. "If Turkey has nothing to do with the terrorist attack on the Saint Martyrs' Church, it should come up with a corresponding statement of condemnation," the official, Vigen Sargsyan, wrote on his Facebook page.

The Turkish government has been accused by the Syrian regime, Kurdish leaders and some international media of providing covert support to the Islamic State. It has strongly



denied those allegations.

Built in 1989-1991, the Der ez-Zor church has been part of an Armenian genocide memorial complex. It comprises a museum housing the remains of genocide victims.

Deir ez-Zor and the surrounding Syrian desert were the final destination point for Armenians forced out of their homes and subjected to infamous "death marches" by the Ottoman government during the First World War.

Vigen Sargsyan emphasized this fact in his written remarks. "This is yet another proof that the crime of genocide continues as long as it is not fully recognized and punished," he said in another jibe at Ankara.

President Sargsyan visited and gave a speech at the Deir ez-Zor memorial during a 2010 trip to Syria.

UK Ambassador condemns attack on Armenian Church, urges Yerevan and Baku to continue peace talks

UK Ambassador to Armenia Catherine Leach on September 23 condemned the blowup of the Saint Martyrs Armenian Church in Deir ez-Zor, Syria by the Islamist State.

"Certainly what has happened in Deir ez-Zor is a tragedy. I am concerned over the fact that in Syria the religious mosaic is endangered. We imagine how endangered is the security of the people living there. That is the reason why the international community tries to find a possible strategy to come out of this situation," Ambassador Leach told reporters in Yerevan.

Speaking about the referendum held in Scotland, Catherine Leach said "it's hard to draw general lessons from it, because every case is different. "In every situation, where the principles of self-determination and territorial integrity are coming to some kind of conflict, the issue



should be resolved peacefully through a political process," she added. According to her, the cases, where there are different ethnic or religious groupings, can be extremely complex.

As for the Karabakh issue, she said the key is that there should be a political solution. The Ambassador said her call to

Azerbaijan is the same as to Armenia. "I urge the two Presidents to maintain peace and hold frank negotiations on peace, because this is what the two peoples need. I think it's important to prepare the two peoples to peace, which includes a painful talk about mutual concessions," the Ambassador stated.

5th Armenia-Diaspora Conference Starts in Yerevan



The 5th Armenia-Diaspora Conference, organized and hosted by Armenia's Ministry of the Diaspora, commenced on September 19 at the Yerevan Opera Theatre.

Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian and Artsakh President Bako Sahakian addressed guests in opening remarks. Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, and Catholic Patriarch Nerses Petros XIX also spoke during the conference's opening ceremony.

Hovik Abrahamyan in his remarks, hailed the conference and the coming together of Armenians from around the world to set out plans for work and cooperation.

Abrahamian quoted Garegin Nzhdeh in saying, "Our nation without patriotism is the same as a body without a soul."

"Armenia is powerful and invincible thanks to its two wings and a united diaspora. We feel strong here in Armenia, as we have the potential of the diaspora behind us. I'm confident you feel the same towards the Republic of Armenia, your independent and free fatherland. We do not have and cannot have different interests. Our interests are interrelated and our actions should be coordinated and complementary," Abrahamian said.

Speaking about regional problems, the Prime Minister said: "The Nagorno Karabakh conflict remains unsolved. Azerbaijan is conducting a belligerent policy, unleashing an arms race fed by oil dollars. Turkey, in turn, demonstrates an extremely biased stance and continues to keep Armenia in blockade. On the other hand, Georgia's relations with Russia do not contribute to regional stability and do not allow us to make full use of the transit and foreign cooperation opportunities. All these factors force us to be flexible and cautious in our foreign policy. The Armenian authorities are taking steps to ensure the security and steady development of the Republic of Armenia."

"Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Invaluable is the role of the diaspora in the process of recognition and condemnation of the Genocide. Painfully, modern-day Turkey, as the successor of the Ottoman Empire, not only refuses to reconcile with its dark past, but also continues to deny the reality of the Genocide, which is itself an act of continuing the genocide. At the same time, the international community is coming to understand that the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, first of all by Turkey, is inevitable, and that such an act will contribute to regional stability and will

establish an atmosphere of mutual trust. I'm confident that with joint efforts we can restore historic justice," Abrahamian said.

In his welcoming speech, President Sahakian noted that the conference has become a tradition and plays an important role in Armenia-diaspora relations and cooperation. Sahakian said that Artsakh is ready to take away lessons from this year's conference and act on them.

The President said that cooperation between Artsakh, Armenia, and the diaspora is pivotal for the vitality of the Armenian nation and the preservation of Armenian culture.

Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, remarked that the conference, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, should be held in high regard and should strive to make Armenians' voices be heard across the international community.

He stressed that the issue of the Armenian Genocide should be tackled at the legal level. "Our goal should be not only recognition and condemnation of the Genocide, but also reparations for its consequences. Our vocabulary should have the terms "recognize", "condemn" and "compensate," said Aram I. He emphasized that Turkey must realize that it cannot violate an entire nation's right with impunity.

Aram I believes that the centennial anniversary of the Armenian Genocide should mark the beginning of a new stage of international recognition of the Genocide, as well as its recognition and reparation by Turkey.

He added that the Armenian Church will be taking consistent steps in the matter of retrieving Armenian church properties in Turkey. "We will apply to international legal structures, but Armenia, as a state, should support us," he said.

He also expressed his concern over the gradual destruction of Armenian communities in Syria, Iraq and Ukraine and stressed the need to provide every possible help to the Armenian communities in these countries.

Aram I also announced that he will petition to Turkey's constitutional court to demand the return of the Sis Catholicosate to the Armenian Church. He further said that he is willing to apply to the European Court for Human Rights, should Turkey's court turn down the petition. As the Catholicos stressed, Turkey must always be reminded that Armenia will never stop fighting for its rights in the face of all odds.

The Catholicos called on Armenians to struggle for the return of Armenian properties and for the restoration of rights for Armenians, in the spirit of the youth who dared raise their voices in 1965, demanding justice and the return of Armenian lands for the first time.

"In 2015, on the centenary of Genocide, their children and the diaspora youth must join their voices to call for justice," the Catholicos said.

For his part, Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II stressed the importance of strengthening Armenia-diaspora-Artsakh relations even more to achieve important goals for Armenians worldwide, the recognition of the Armenian Genocide being one.

Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) Bureau Chairman Hrant Markarian also addressed the gathering, calling for national unity to resolve the domestic and foreign challenges facing the Armenian nation.



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- ♦2300. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.

3 ROOMS

- ♦2998. **North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3 bedrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- ♦2682. **Aram Str.**, Newly built, 13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally repaired, heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2958. **Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building, 4 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦2895. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- ♦2802. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, security system. Price: 320.000 USD.
- ♦1104. **Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m., stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- ♦2950. **Aram str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 176 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, office, zero state, Price: 310.000 USD
- ♦2836. **Pushkin str.**, 4/4, 5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- ♦2990. **North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- ♦1789. **Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capitally

repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable

- ♦1598. **Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capitally repaired. Price: negotiable.
- ♦1603. **Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- ♦2035. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2013. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2012. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2155. **Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking. Price: 3.600.000 USD
- ♦2020. **Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m, without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1986. **Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.
- ♦2167. **Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- ♦2175. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor 300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- ♦2172. **Isahakyan str.**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦3348. **Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ♦3146. **Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- ♦3583. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.
- ♦3432. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m , 3 storied bld.-

501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD

- ♦3576. **Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD
- ♦3574. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD
- ♦3590. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD



- ♦3651. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 1.700.000 USD.
- ♦3401. **Antarayan str.**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capitally repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

- ♦942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- ♦1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- ♦1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦2089. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- ♦1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2187. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9/5, 120 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2.200 USD
- ♦2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦2243. **Buzand str.**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD
- ♦2267. **North Avenue** Newly built, 7th floor, 170sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished equipped. Price: 2500 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- ♦2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m,

- 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- ♦1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.



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

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦1323. **Monument, Babayan str.**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sqm, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- ♦1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- ♦999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capially repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- ♦1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- ♦1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦1142. **Djrvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capially repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if neces-

- sary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- ♦1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- ♦327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- ♦1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- ♦1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- ♦1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- ♦1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

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

Pope Francis accepts invitation to visit Armenia

Pope Francis on September 19 met the President of the Republic of Armenia during which the two men discussed the situation facing Christians and other religious minorities in the region and the humanitarian crisis there.

In "cordial discussions" with Serzh Sargsyan, "satisfaction was expressed for the development and strengthening of bilateral relations, highlighting the special role of Christianity in the history and life of Armenian society," a Vatican statement said.

"With regard to the regional political situation," it continued, "it is hoped that complex and hitherto unresolved issues may be overcome through dialogue between all the interested parties."

The Vatican said mention was also made of conflict in the Middle East, and "trust was expressed in the common efforts of interested nations and religious communities to achieve a peaceful co-existence of peoples throughout the entire region."

The statement said: "Special attention was paid to the situation faced by Christian communities and other religious minorities in the area, and to the humanitarian crisis regarding refugees from the affected zones."

At a meeting at the Holy See Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and His Holiness Pope Francis hailed the high-level relations between Armenia and Vatican, emphasizing that those relations built on a solid basis stem from the same Christian value system and ideology.



The interlocutors attached importance to the high-level reciprocal visits over the past years, which testify to the willingness to keep the bilateral relations in the focus.

Serzh Sargsyan and Pope Francis exchanged views on the close cooperation between the Holy See and the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

During the meeting President Sargsyan extended an official invitation to Pope Francis to visit Armenia in 2015, which the Pontiff readily accepted, expressing his sincere desire to visit the country, according to the President's office.



Armenian, Azeri FM's, mediators discuss the forthcoming meeting of the Presidents in Paris

On the sidelines of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian, had a meeting with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs - Ambassadors Igor Popov, James Warlick, Pierre Andrieu and Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office. Then the meeting continued with the participation of Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Elmar Mamedyarov.

The Ministers and the Co-Chairs continued the discussions on the issues related to the process of peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs reaffirmed their determination to exercise joint efforts aimed at the exclusively peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The parties discussed the preparations for the Paris meeting of the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, initiated by the President of France.



The Co-Chairs informed about their willingness to visit the region in October.

Ex-Russian Envoy Again Warns Armenia



Armenia will put its national security and independence at serious risk unless rejects "Western values" to fully align itself with Russia, a former Russian ambassador in Yerevan warned on September 23.

Vyacheslav Kovalenko claimed that failure to make a "final" geopolitical choice in favor of Russia could thrust the country into the kind of crisis that has plagued Ukraine since the overthrow of a pro-Russian government in Kiev.

"Armenia must make a choice because in order for the economy of a small country like Armenia to develop, it has to integrate, it has to join some integration structures," Kovalenko told Armenian journalists in a video conference from Moscow. "And the choice here is stark. I think the situation will develop in such a way that we will require Armenia to make that choice.

"Armenia can't endlessly balance [between rival foreign powers] in this complicated international situation. So a lot depends on Armenia's historical choice: the future of the country, the future of the Armenian people, and the future of Armenians in general."

"Will Armenia remain an independent state with its own national policy, national interests and identity respected around the world?" continued the diplomat who headed the Russian mission in Yerevan until March 2013. "Will it embrace instead the Western values which ... will exist as long as Western powers continue

their aggressive policies?"

Echoing the official Russian line, Kovalenko claimed that the spread of those values was responsible for the Ukraine crisis. "It is very important that what is now happening in Ukraine, where such [conflicting] relationships have emerged between various segments of the population, is not repeated [in Armenia,]" he said.

"I think that the Armenians, who are one of the most ancient peoples in the world and outlived other peoples that are now non-existent, now live on thanks to right choices which they have always made at critical historical moments. Now is such a critical historical moment in which the Armenians must make a final choice for themselves."

The ex-envoy, whose current status is not clear, did not clarify whether the Armenian government should only join the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) or go further and freeze or downgrade relations with the West.

President Serzh Sargsyan has sought to deepen those ties even after unexpectedly deciding to make Armenia part of the EEU in August 2013. That decision is widely believed to have been the result of strong Russian pressure exerted on Sargsyan. The latter had previously planned to sign a far-reaching Association Agreement with the European Union.

Kovalenko exposed the Russian pressure in an interview published in July 2013. "By embracing European values, Armenia, it appears, could step onto a slippery path," he warned.

The 68-year-old diplomat has had no official position in the Russian diplomatic ever since the end of his four-year tour of duty in Armenia. Still, in an indication of his lingering links with the Russian establishment, he accompanied Dmitry Kiselyov, Russia's most famous TV journalist close to the Kremlin, on a trip to Yerevan in June 2014.

Kiselyov caused an uproar during that visit when he said that the Russian language must be granted an official status in Armenia. Kovalenko backed those calls rejected by the Armenian leadership.

Opposition parties to tour regions ahead of Yerevan rally

Top representatives of three leading opposition parties agreed on September 23 to visit Armenia's regions in preparation for their joint anti-government rally in Yerevan scheduled for October 10.

The Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK), the Armenian National Congress (HAK) and the Zharangutyun (Heritage) party released a timetable of their rallies to be held in Gyumri, Vanadzor and six other towns from September 25 through October 8. The meetings there are aimed at drumming up popular support for their unprecedented demonstration in Yerevan's Liberty Square.

The three parties will rally supporters in the capital to discuss the Armenian authorities' failure to meet a list of 12 polit-

ical and economic demands that were issued by them in June. They have not ruled out the possibility of launching a campaign sustained anti-government protests.

After a fresh meeting held in the National Assembly the parliamentary leaders of the BHK, the HAK and Zharangutyun again declined to clarify what they will demand on October 10. "At the heart of our common agenda will be the people's demands and views," Zharangutyun's Ruben Hakobyan said vaguely.

Hakobyan did indicate, though, that the opposition trio will not be seeking the resignation of Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan and his cabinet. He argued

that President Serzh Sarkisian is by far the most powerful man in Armenia. He also said that the opposition is campaigning for a change of the country's political system, rather than individuals.

As recently as in March, the three parties as well as another opposition group, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun), moved to seek a parliamentary vote of no confidence in the previous cabinet headed by Abrahamian's predecessor, Tigran Sargsyan. The latter stepped down in April ahead of a joint rally planned by them. The rally was cancelled as a result.

Abrahamian is thought to have a warm personal rapport with BHK leader Gagik Tsarukyan.

Small traders protest against new tax rules

Hundreds of market traders demonstrated in Yerevan on September 19 to demand the repeal of new government rules meant to end tax evasion among larger businesses selling goods to them.

A government bill approved by the Armenian parliament recently reduced from 3.5 percent to just 1 percent a single turnover tax levied from small businesses with an annual revenue of up to 58 million drams (\$140,000). But it also requires those entities to prove the volume of their turnover with more receipts and other financial documents. Failure to submit them to tax authorities may result in hefty fines.

The latter provision is what prompted several hundred small traders selling agricultural products and consumer goods in markets to rally outside Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan's office in Yerevan. They said that they will have trouble complying with the measure, effective from October 1, because their wholesale suppliers are reluctant to properly certify their transactions with receipts.

Abrahamian came out of the building and briefly addressed the angry protesters before meeting with a group of their representatives indoors. "We are asking you not to enforce this new law and stick to the old law," one of them told him at the meeting open to media.

Abrahamian argued that the main target of the new legislation is large importers of goods that have long been suspected of underreporting their earnings. "You have become a platform for large importers cheating the state," he said.

"If you want to bring large entities into the tax field why don't you do that not through us?" countered another, female trader. "Our livelihoods depend on large importers. You are turning us against them and stripping us of our income," she said.

Abrahamian responded by assuring her and her colleagues that tax officials will not be fining small traders en masse in their planned crackdown on importers. He also offered the pro-



testers to present their arguments and proposals to the Armenian government in writing.

The protest leaders came away dissatisfied, however, leading the crowd waiting outside to block an adjacent street in downtown Yerevan. Riot police used force to unblock it shortly afterwards. The traders said they will again rally in the same location on Thursday during a weekly session of Abrahamian's cabinet.

The turnover tax was introduced by the government of Abrahamian's predecessor, Tigran Sargsyan, with the aim of simplifying taxation for small businesses. According to the Armenian Finance Ministry, more than 55,000 firms and individual entrepreneurs are eligible for it. Around 10,000 of them work in retail markets across the country.

Abrahamian declared the fight against widespread tax evasion a top priority of his government after being appointed prime minister in April. He gave more than 100 wealthy entrepreneurs until July 1 to stop underreporting their earnings to face tougher government action.

Abrahamian's government has so far failed to significantly increase its tax revenue. The premier implied last month that he needs more time to tackle the problem.

Center of Excellence for Prevention of Childhood Blindness opened in Armenia

On September 22, 2014, USAID, the Armenian Eyecare Project and the Ministry of Health launched the 13th International Conference on Ophthalmology. The two-day conference brought together renowned experts from various fields of ophthalmology from Armenia, the United States, Europe and CIS countries, fostering a vigorous exchange of information and knowledge in various specialties related to eye care.

The first day of the conference was marked by the official opening of the Center of Excellence for Prevention of Childhood Blindness (CEPCB), a major landmark in the USAID/AECP Center of Excellence for Prevention of Childhood

Blindness Project. The mission of the CEPCB is to establish and develop a specialized ophthalmological capacity to help children from Armenia and abroad to combat childhood blindness.

The Center, situated in the newly constructed building of the Republic Institute of Reproductive Health, Perinatology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, is a pioneer in the region in performing eye surgeries for blinding diseases that affect children. Through continuous collaboration of highly-trained Armenian surgeons with U.S. physicians, the Center is committed to excellence both in treatment and service provision to prevent lifetime blindness

in Armenia and the region.

Day two of the conference focused on the activities of the AECP and the advances made in eye care, thanks to fruitful cooperation between Armenian and American physicians, authorities, and donors. Presenters highlighted the AECP medical education programs, AECP Mobile Eye Hospital activities, specialty clinics that exist in the Yerevan eye hospitals, and their achievements. As part of the conference AECP presented online training resources on ophthalmology and neonatal medicine developed in partnership with Orange Foundation and Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

Survey: Fifty-eight per cent of Armenians feel the European Union is an important partner



Most Armenians feel the European Union is an important partner for their country, and that relations between the two are good. This is one of the key findings of the recently released Spring 2014 EU Neighbourhood Barometer for Armenia, conducted in the framework of an EU-funded opinion polling project for the Neighbourhood, according to the website of the EU Neighbourhood Info Centre.

However, the survey, based on 1,003 interviews conducted in May-June 2014, finds a further decline in the number of those who see relations as good - 62% in Spring 2014, down four

points compared to six months earlier, and 18 points since Spring 2013.

Fifty-eight per cent of Armenians feel the European Union is an important partner (compared to 67% in the ENPI East region), while 56% believe the EU and Armenia have sufficient common values to cooperate (higher than the regional average). However, only 48% (compared to 55% six months earlier) feel the EU brings peace and security in the region, and 44% that EU support contributes a lot to the development of their country (compared to a regional average of 58%).

A relative majority in Armenia has a positive image of the EU (40% against 25% of those who describe the EU image as negative), but with a decrease in the last six months. Less than half of those asked (45% - down from 54% six months earlier) said they trust the EU, less than the level of their trust in the UN (52%), but considerably more than that in NATO (36%).

Armenians questioned in the poll were generally happy about their lives, with 63% satisfied with the life they lead, and the degree of satisfaction rising the younger and more educated respondents were (87% in the 15-24 age group and among those still studying). In spite of this, 87% of respondents said the economic situation was bad, with 46% believing it would get worse in the next 12 months.

The overwhelming majority of those asked (71% against 62% in the EaP region) was not satisfied with the way democracy worked in Armenia.

ArmTech Congress'14 kicks off in New York on September 26



On September 26, the 7th Global Armenian High Tech Conference ArmTech Congress'14 kicks off in New York. The Congress is organized by the RA Government, the World Bank and the Enterprise Incubator Foundation and sponsored by Cronimet, D-Link and Armenian Relief Fund. Congress partners include Mentor Graphics and PicsArt and it is supported by Armenian Development Agency, Armenia Fund USA, ViaSphere Technopark, Agnian, Digital Pomegranate and Fainberg.

Speakers include high level officials, heads of multinational corporations and largest technological and engineering companies, representatives of academia and others, among them:

Thomas Huang, Vice President of D-Link Corporation, Raffi Krikorian, Vice President of Twitter, Shadi Ashnai, Manager of Image Processing, Wolfram Research, Inc., Hovhannes Avoyan, Co-Founder of PicsArt, Chi-Foon Chan, co-CEO and President, Synopsys Inc.

Discussions on the following topics are included in the Congress agenda:

High Tech Industry in Armenia – Recent Development and Success Stories
Education, Research & Professional Development

Regional Development, Acceleration and Business Environment

Innovations, Startups and Entrepreneurship

ArmTech was founded in 2006 at Silicon Valley by business and technology experts. It was later recognized by the Government of Armenia as the country's business platform in high technologies conceived to ensure professional progress in Armenia's technology sector and promote its rapid growth. The first ArmTech was held in San Francisco, CA, US, following which it evolved into an annual event occurring consecutively in Armenia and the U.S.

The First World War and the Armenian Genocide: Serzh Sargsyan's article in the New York Times

The International New York Times has published an article by Serzh Sargsyan, President of the Republic of Armenia. The full text of the article is below:

This year marks the centennial of the outbreak of the First World War, a human catastrophe unprecedented in scope and savagery claiming some 14 million lives - 5 million civilians and 9 million soldiers, plus millions of wounded, prisoners of war, and displaced people forced to leave their ancestral homelands. One such group, the Armenians, were nearly wiped off the face of the earth.

Next year the Armenian people will commemorate the centennial of the events that marked the culminations of the mass deportation and killing of the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire. The year 1915 was the genocidal culmination of an Ottoman policy of ethnic cleansing and massacres of Armenians begun in the late 19th century and it was officially recognized as such at the time. On 24 May, 1915 the governments of Great Britain, France and Russia issued a joint statement announcing that "for about a month the Kurd and Turkish population of Armenia has been massacring Armenians with the connivance and often assistance of Ottoman authorities." This was the first international document acknowledging these events as "crimes of Turkey against humanity and civilization".

The scale and scope of atrocities committed by the Young Turk government made it an unprecedented historical tragedy, aimed at the total annihilation of a whole nation and claiming one and a half million Armenian lives. It nearly succeeded in its objective. In his 1929 book, "The World Crisis", Winston Churchill would write that, "history will search in vain for the word Armenia".

Indeed, the term "genocide" was coined by Polish legal scholar Raphael Lemkin as a term to define the mass killing of Armenians by the Ottoman authorities during the First World War as well as the mass killing of Jews by the Nazis in the Second World War. In both cases, the genocide took place within the context of a more general war.

According to historian Mark Levene, it was warfare not of state versus state, but warfare of state versus nation. In other words, genocide could be thought of as a type of warfare that a state or regime carries out against a people.

The Armenian Genocide was a sad precursor to the Jewish Holocaust during the Second World War, and subsequent genocidal

campaigns in Cambodia, Rwanda, and Darfur - a dark cycle of history repeating itself in part because of the unfinished business of the past. The fact that the Armenian genocide went unpunished offered encouragement to future dictators. Adolf Hitler, for one, concluded that the international community was prepared to tolerate such acts of genocide, especially when they occurred in the "fog of war." The Armenian massacres were very much on Hitler's mind when in 1931 -before he came to power - he discussed the need for a resettlement policy for non-German minorities: "We intend to introduce a resettlement policy. Think of the biblical deportations and the massacres of the Middle Ages... and remember the extermination of the Armenians..." In 1939 Hitler echoed these words in the context of his treatment of the Polish population: "I have placed my death-head formations in readiness - for the present only in the East - with orders to them to send to death mercilessly and without compassion, men, women, and children of Polish derivation and language. Only thus shall we gain the living space [Lebensraum] which we need. Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

The Armenian Genocide reminds us of the risks of not learning the lessons of history, the dangers of genocide denial, and the long-term negative consequences of allowing crimes to go unrecognized and unpunished. Recognition of past genocides, such as the Armenian case, is key to understanding and preventing future genocides. Although there is a 1948 United Nations convention aimed at prevention of future genocides, we believe that this or any other document cannot be properly enforced unless previous genocides are exposed, recognized and punished. We consider the Armenian Genocide to be not only a tragedy for our nation, but also a crime against humanity of a global scale which was internationally recognized at the time and, if honestly acknowledged could have helped to prevent future atrocities. Armenia will continue to work actively with the United Nations and other international fora to achieve a universal condemnation of such acts in any part of the world.

The Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide has always been a solemn occasion for diaspora Armenians scattered all over the world, descendants of men and women who lived in their ancestral homeland for millennia before they were uprooted

by bloody brute force. In the absence of an independent and free Armenia, the Diaspora and its institutions served as custodians of the Armenian legacy until the rebirth of a free Armenian nation.

Then, 23 years ago, the Armenian tricolour was once again raised in Yerevan, symbolizing the rebirth of an independent homeland. The people of Armenia received another chance to live freely in their own country. Armenia's renewed independence was an opportunity to begin a new era in relations with Turkey. Armenia's position is reflected in the decades-long principle of establishing relations "without any preconditions." This was the bottom-line principle for starting the negotiations with Turkey in 2008, and for the protocols signed in 2009. The idea was to avoid any stumbling blocks and to create a positive environment for the development of bilateral relations, understanding and reconciliation between the two societies after the establishment of diplomatic relations and the opening of borders.

Unfortunately, Turkey has backtracked from that agreement and refused to establish diplomatic relations, keeps its border with Armenia closed, maintains an illegal economic blockade, and denies the historic truth of past crimes and injustices. Historical truth aside, as long as the last section of the Iron Curtain - the Turkish-Armenian border - remains closed, it will impede the healthy development and regional integration in the Caucasus region, and will inject a constant element of instability in a strategically sensitive part of the world.

The future of Armenian-Turkish bilateral relations must be based on the historic rapprochement between the two nations. Acceptance of the historic truth can heal the deep-running discord between the Armenian and Turkish peoples. We believe that recognition of the Armenian Genocide can in no way be viewed as a humiliation, threat or attack on the Turkish people. Many Turkish intellectuals, writers and academics have begun to go down the difficult road of introspection and study, openly, courageously and with integrity. In this context, it is essential that the international community should support their action, and encourage Turkish political leaders to demonstrate the same attachment to justice and historic truth as some of their most respected private citizens have already done - to close, with honesty and humanity, one of the dark, unfinished chapters in human history.

Armenians, Assyrians in the US express concern over persecution of ethno-religious minorities in Iraq

The Assyrian Universal Alliance and the Armenian National Committee of America have sent a joint letter to Congressman Edward Royce, representative for California's 39th congressional district, on the persecution of Assyrians in Iraq.

Mr. Royce is the Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The letter expresses concern over the persecution of Assyrians and other minorities in Iraq by ISIS and calls attention to the flight of 200,000 Assyrians from their towns and villages in the Nineveh Plain in North Iraq, which was caused by ISIS moving into the area and capturing towns and villages.

The letter calls for the establishment of a safe haven in the Nineveh Plain, under UN protection, the creation of local Assyrian forces for protection and immediate assistance with humanitarian aid.

The letter was signed by Mr. Carlo Ganjeh, Americas Secretary for the Assyrian Universal Alliance, and Aram Hamparian, Executive Director of the Armenian National Committee of America.

Here is the full text of the letter:

"Dear Congressman Royce:

I write to express my grave concern over the systematic persecution of Iraq's ancient Assyrian Christians and other ethno-religious minorities in Iraq in light of the upcoming Foreign Affairs Committee hearing with Secretary of State John Kerry on the Obama Administration's response to the ISIS threat and urge the Representative to address these important issues and questions outlined below at the hearing.

Assyrians, referred to also as Chaldeans and Syriacs, are an indigenous community that has been living in Iraq for thousands of years, predating Islam and the Arab civilizations of Mesopotamia. They are being decimated, along with other Christian and minority communities in Iraq and Syria. Urgent action is needed to save these communities.

Following IS's capture of Mosul in early June 2014, an edict was issued to all non-Muslims in the city to either convert to Islam, pay a tax, flee or be killed. As nearly all of the city's 35,000 Assyrian residents escaped Mosul, members of IS marked

their homes with the Arabic letter "noon" to symbolize the word "Nasrani," or "Christian." Each of the 30 churches and monasteries inside the city are believed to be in the hands of IS militants, who have reportedly removed the buildings' crosses and burned, looted, or destroyed much of the property. In late June, the Chaldean Catholic Church's Archbishop of Erbil stated that for the first time in 1,600 years, mass was not celebrated in Mosul.

Many initially sought refuge in the Nineveh Plain region, one of the only areas within the country historically dominated by native non-Muslim and non-Arab populations and which houses the greatest concentration of Assyrian Christians in Iraq. In early August, nearly all of the roughly 200,000 residents in the Nineveh Plain, including many who have endured repeated displacement, fled the region as IS militants advanced. Now this culturally unique and historically significant territory is nearly empty of its indigenous inhabitants. The resulting humanitarian crisis has garnered the highest level emergency designation by UN officials as tens of thousands of perpetually uprooted minorities struggle to access food, water and shelter from the scorching summer heat.

In July, the UN Security Council released a statement expressing deep concern over reports of atrocities and condemning "in the strongest terms the systematic persecution of individuals from minority populations." Secretary General Ban Ki Moon also condemned the actions claiming that such systematic targeting may amount to a "crime against humanity." Most notably, members of the UN's anti-discrimination body recently issued a rare decision urging for the deployment of UN Peacekeeping forces to the Nineveh Plain to establish a safe zone for the return and protection of displaced persons traditionally living in that area. Their decision expressed alarm over mass killings and the forced displacement of populations, which "increase the risk of genocide." The UN's statements confirm the gravity of these crimes and implicate an obligation to protect the community from the dire consequences sure to result if action is not immediately taken.

The persecution of Assyrian Christians at the hands of the Islamic State is com-

pounded by a longstanding legacy of discrimination targeting non-Arab communities within Iraq. While such a legacy emerged under the regime of Saddam Hussein, much of the same policies against Assyrians persists - and is even reinforced at times - by various levels of Iraq's new democratic government. For instance, despite provisions within Iraq's Constitution requiring that security services maintain a balanced representation of the country's various components, Assyrian Christians constitute an inequitable proportion of local security forces in the Nineveh Plain as well as high-ranking law enforcement positions. As a consequence of such discrimination, Assyrians were left largely defenseless after Iraqi Security Forces and Kurdish Peshmerga retreated following the capture of ancient Christian villages by members of the Islamic State in early August.

While the US Government and many in the international community have condemned such atrocities, little has been done to help cure the injustices. Members of Congress have recently appealed to President Obama to address the particular needs of such vulnerable minorities. They have adopted a bipartisan resolution calling on the State Department and other stakeholders to "secure safe havens for those claiming amnesty in Iraq," issued letters highlighting the failure of Iraq's security forces to adequately protect minority groups, and passed legislation establishing a special diplomatic envoy dedicated to promoting religious freedom in the region. Yet it continues to appear that the administration remains slow in prioritizing the targeted persecution of Assyrian Christians and other ethno-religious minorities as part of its core policies on Iraq and the Islamic State.

Now is a critical moment for the future of this ancient community. Congressman Royce, I kindly request that you consider raising these concerns, especially the establishment of a safe zone under international protection as recommended by UN human rights experts, with Secretary Kerry during the upcoming Committee hearing. For your reference, I have developed a list of specific questions directed at Secretary Kerry that draw upon key issues raised in this appeal."

Survivor's child pens text on Armenian Genocide

Ellen Sarkisian Chesnut has published a new memoir based on her father's eye-witness account of the Armenian Genocide entitled "Deli Sarkis: The Scars He Carried: A Daughter Confronts the Armenian Genocide and Tells Her Father's Story," San Jose Mercury News.

A book launch for the memoir will be held Tuesday at the Alameda Museum. The author was born in Iraq and came to the United States with her father, mother and brother when she was 2 years old - to also escape threats in Iraq.

The author said that, to this day, the Turkish government denies the Armenian Genocide and has basically written it out of textbooks and history books.

"From 1915 to 1923, 1.5 million Armenians died as a result of outright massacre or deportation. The killings went on for eight years," said Chesnut, whose father was only 10 years old when his family was forced to leave their home in Turkey - or face death. "I wrote my book because I don't want this to be a hidden genocide anymore."

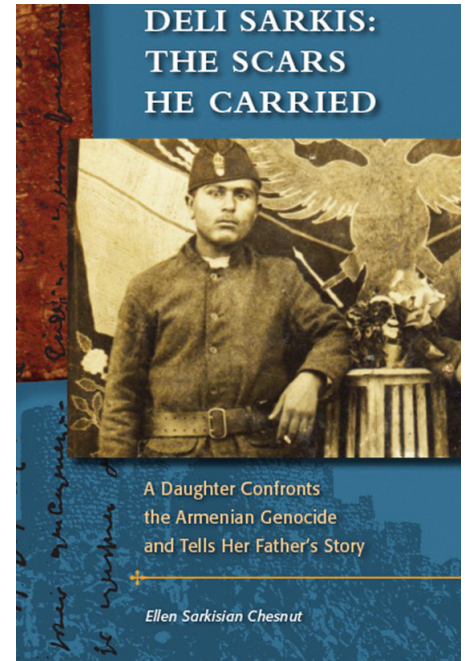
She said that what followed the forced departure from their home for the 10-year-old Deli Sarkis and his family - along with millions of other Armenians - was a horrific journey marked by cruelty, dangers and atrocities. They were first loaded into cattle trains - with little food and train cars filled with hay for toilets - then forced to walk through the Syrian

desert, where many died from massacre, exhaustion or starvation.

"The intent was for our people to die, whether at home or on the death march," said Chesnut, whose grandfather died en route, saying he couldn't make it anymore. Chesnut said her then-10-year-old father witnessed many atrocities along the way, including watching dead bodies being thrown into a pit and covered with lime to make them decompose faster and a massacre at Raqqa in Syria, where the Armenians were attacked by a group of Arabs, who killed the able-bodied men and stole the young girls.

Her father survived and reached Mosul, Iraq, with his mother and brothers. Later, he met and married his wife, a fellow survivor of the Armenian genocide. The young family, including then-2-year-old Chesnut and her baby brother, subsequently moved to San Francisco, where Deli Sarkis lived and worked for the rest of his life, including a stint in the shipyards during World War II. Chesnut, who taught 42 years with the San Francisco Unified School District, has carefully documented this history in her 186-page book, which contains 111 photographs. She said it's been a labor of love over the past 26 years through interviews with her father, who died in 1995, and her own intensive research on the subject.

"One day my father, who always talked to me about what had happened,



looked at me with a serious expression and said, 'Tell my story,' " Chesnut said. "That was my inspiration - it's a miracle he ever made it."

Three years ago, working closely with longtime Alameda resident and graphic designer Valerie Turpin, Chesnut began writing her father's story.

"We worked in unison together for three years; it was a big project," Chesnut said. "Valerie designed the front cover and worked on maps with me while I wrote all the captions for the photos - I wanted it to be very historically accurate."

Italian Senator condemns the destruction of the Armenian Church in Deir ez-Zor

President of the Parliamentary Group of the Italian-Armenian friendship, Sen. Emilia Grace De Biasi has denounced the destruction of the Armenian Saint Martyrs Church in Deir ez-Zor by Islamists. The Senator made the statement at the scientific conference on "Armenians: Genocide and Italian 20th century" organized at the Italian Senate.

Armenian Ambassador to Italy Sargis Ghazaryan noted that the current events in the Middle East prove that we should not stop speaking about genocides, including the Armenian Genocide. He stressed the importance of maintaining the memory of genocides, and struggling against their denial.

The Ambassador spoke about the destruction of the Armenian Church in Deir-ez-Zor and the state of minorities in the Middle East, noting that the barbarities and the threat of genocide is still there nowadays.

The Ambassador expressed gratitude to the organizers and



participants of the conference, among them students and teachers of a school in Roma, who prepared a film about the Armenian genocide in 2013-2014.

Armenian Stone Age artefacts show human technological innovation 325,000 years ago



Stone Age artefacts discovered at a site in Armenia have shown how innovative humans were in terms of technological development 325,000 years ago, according to the International Business Times.

Published in the journal *Science*, researchers studied thousands of stone artefacts from the Nor Geghi 1 site in Armenia. The area is unique as it has been preserved between two lava flows dating from 200,000 to 400,000 years.

The archaeological material was found in layers of floodplain sediments and ancient soil between the lava flows.

Analysis of the artefacts, by researchers at the University of Connecticut, showed that human technological innovation occurred intermittently throughout the Old World, rather than spreading from a single origin.

Their finding challenges long held theories of how human technology developed – that it spread as human populations moved. Experts thought more advanced technology was invented in Africa and spread to Eurasia replacing older tools in the process.

Researchers found two types of technology at the site. Biface technology, such as hand axes, is associated with the Lower Paleolithic era, while the more advanced Levallois technology, a stone tool production method, is thought to have come from the Middle Stone Age in Africa and the Middle Paleolithic in Eurasia.

The tools found suggest simultaneous use of both biface and Levallois technology – a surprising discovery: “The co-existence of the two technologies at Nor Geghi 1 provides the first clear evidence that local populations developed Levallois technology out of existing biface technology,” the authors said in a statement.

Daniel Adler, lead author of the study, said: “The combination of these different technologies in one place suggests to us that, about 325,000 years ago, people at the site were innovative.”

Researchers believe the shift from biface to Levallois technology was gradual and intermittent, and that it occurred independently with different human populations who had shared technological ancestry.

Adler said their findings suggest Stone Age people were flexible and variable in terms of their technology – highlighting the “antiquity of the human capacity for innovation”.

Armenia's Narek Hakhnazaryan among BBC Radio 3's 2014 New Generation Artists

Armenian cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan is one of the six New Generation artists BBC Radio 3 believes will be the classical music stars of the future.

BBC Radio 3's drive-time show *In Tune* recently announced Radio 3's 2014 New Generation Artists - six new artists from around the globe that the station believes will be the classical music stars of the future.

Radio 3's New Generation Artists scheme was founded in 1999 as part of the BBC's commitment to nurturing young talent. Now in its 16th year, the scheme provides musicians with opportunities to develop their live and recorded performances, including broadcasts with the BBC orchestras, lunchtime concerts from around the UK and regular studio recordings, as well as forming chamber music collaborations with fellow NGAs.

Through supporting the brightest musicians in reaching the next stage of their careers the scheme showcases new talent to listeners across the UK via a series of Radio 3 broadcasts, fronted by BBC Young Musician presenter Clemency Burton-Hill. Over the past 16 years the scheme has supported and spotted internationally recognised artists as diverse as Benjamin Grosvenor, Alison Balsom, the Belcea Quartet, Christine Rice and Gwilym Simcock.

The 2014-16 New Generation Artists are:

The Armida Quartet - String Quartet (Germany)

Benjamin Appl - Baritone (Germany)

Alec Frank-Gemmill - French Horn (UK)

Narek Hakhnazaryan - Cello (Armenia)

Pavel Kolesnikov - Piano (Russia)

Esther Yoo - Violin (US / Korea / Belgium)

Narek Hakhnazaryan studied at the Moscow and New England Conservatories; he was mentored by Rostropovich and received a scholarship from the Rostropovich Foundation. Prizes include the 2008 Young Concert Artists International Auditions and the Cello First Prize and Gold Medal at the International Tchaikovsky Competition 2011. Hakhnazaryan's many high-level engagements have included concerto appearances with the London Symphony, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Czech Philharmonic and Chicago Symphony orchestras, with conductors such as Gergiev, Robertson, Boulez, and Koopman. He has also performed in recital and chamber music in many of the major halls and festivals across the globe including Wigmore Hall, Salle Pleyel (Paris), Berlin Konzerthaus and Amsterdam Concertgebouw.

BBC Radio 3 is the home of classical music. The station also broadcasts a wide range of cultural programming including jazz, world music, arts and over 25 new drama programmes a year. Radio 3 features more live classical music programming than any other. The station is also the most significant commissioner of new musical works in the country and is committed to supporting new talent; composers, writers and new young performers through schemes such as New Generation Artists and New Generation Thinkers.

"KAAR-MED"

PRIVATE CLINIC CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

The Private Clinic "KAAR-MED" has been functioning on the market for medical services for more than 15 years. The Clinic is located in Warsaw (10 Bitwy Warszawskiej street) close to the centre of the city within easy reach of Dworzec Zachodni railway station and other city communications networks.

Our Patients can use a private parking located directly at the entrance to the Clinic with special places for ambulance and disabled people. Clinic is fully adapted and friendly for wheelchair users.

The Clinic specialisation is gynaecology and obstetrics including full pregnancy care, "one day surgery" and aesthetic medicine procedures as well as plastic and cosmetic gynaecology. "KAAR-MED" employs gynaecologists and physicians of all specialisations who have clinical experience gained in leading Warsaw hospitals.

We offer a wide range of laboratory, microbiological and genetic tests, diagnostic imaging techniques (USG) including prenatal tests such as pregnancy ultrasound, prenatal imaging findings, Harmony Prenatal Test, Doppler ultrasonography tests and many others.

The "KAAR-MED" Clinic is fully outfitted with the latest medical equipment used for diagnosis and treatment of the entire range of gynaecology and obstetrics diseases:

- Voluson ultrasound imaging system (pictures)
- Toshiba ultrasound imaging system
- Colposcope
- Cryosurgery machine
- Electrocoagulation apparatus
- ELLMAN Pelleve Unit (radio frequency surgery and wrinkle reduction system)
- Other equipment by "Aesculap" and "Stainless" companies

Our clinic fulfils all the official norms (stated by the Direction of the Health Minister of Poland of 02.02.2011) concerning professional, technical and sanitary conditions for health care organizations.

We are looking forward to see You in "KAAR-MED" Clinic and shall do our best to make You feel comfortable, safe and professionally treated here.

10 Bitwy Warszawskiej,
02-362 Warsaw, Poland

Information and registration:

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+48 22 201 90 95
+ 48 50 910 74 05



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

See the lead paragraph on the home page as it particularly pertains to you. Green lights are particularly smiling on you in relation to romance, fun, play and travel for pleasure. You are in the mood for something fresh and exciting. High tech gadgets may be on your radar at this time.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

Your attention turns to personal healing, or diet. An exercise buddy may appear on the horizon. For some there will be an improvement in the everyday environment at work. A new person may enter your work arena, who will be helpful and friendly.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

You may feel a compulsion to clean up files, closets, or other areas of detail. It is one way of organizing your mind. It is a good time to catalogue, classify, and coordinate details for your next project. Focus your attention on new habits that will support your physical body and strengthen your mind.

Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

This is a week to catch up on your reading and finish projects. October brings an eclipse season that is sometimes hard on your emotions. Get a massage, put your feet up, and claim some R&R time. Your life will speed up soon enough.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

You have favorable aspects related to activities involving education, publishing, the internet and travel. It is possible that you may be delayed by issues of aging property or needy people in your family. However, the good fortune will likely find you in spite of detours.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

Your ruling planet, Mercury, is changing signs to Scorpio. This represents a shift of attention from financial matters to focus on communications, neighbors, siblings, and others who are in your daily environment. You may need to consider the needs of your vehicle now. Give it a checkup and a detailing.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

Venus enters your sign this week and will be traveling "with you" through Oct. 22. Her presence gives you an air of poise and beauty, and people will simply like how you look. Often when Venus is prominent we become more interested in art forms. We have a greater need and desire to be with others, or they with us.

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

Mercury moves into your sign on Sep. 27 and remains through Oct. 10. Then it turns retrograde for a few weeks. Do your research related to upcoming plans. However, do not spend a lot pf dollars because of the retrograde. You may change your mind after you learn more details.

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

Make note of the lead paragraph on the home page. You have multiple favorable aspects involving travel or distant relationships, education, publishing, and legal interests. All of that and great aspects concerning love life as well. What more can one ask? Enjoy!

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

You may be under pressure to follow through and display work that you have been doing since last fall. There is also a sense in which you have become bored with the project. Return mentally to the place you started in order to re-ignite your passion. This is not a time to quit.

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

You may feel some pressure to finish a long term project related to your career or life direction. Take heart. You will soon get there. Meanwhile there may be a new vehicle on the horizon for you. Your relationship to partner(s) is positive and fun at this time.

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

It may seem to you as though almost everything is unsure, uncertain and up for grabs right now. This makes it challenging to make even relatively small decisions. Circumstances around you are not at all clear and it is better to leave all options open.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Hovhannes Tumanyan (1869-1923)

In the Cottage

THE little children wept and wailed;
Heart-rending were the tears they shed.

"Mamma, mamma, we want our food!

Get up, mamma, and give us bread!"
With bitter sorrow in her heart
Groaned the sick mother from her bed:

"We have no bread, my little ones;
Papa has gone to get you bread."
"No, you are cheating, bad mamma!

You are deceiving us! You said
That when the sunlight struck the banks

Papa would come and bring us bread.

"The sun has come, the sun has gone;

Still are we hungry, still unfed.
Mamma, mamma, we want our food!

Get up, mamma, and give us bread!"
"No bread your father yet has found;

Without it he dares not come back.
Wait but a little while, my dears!

Now I will follow in his track.
"In heaven there is a great Papa;

Abundant store of bread has he.
He loves you much, so very much,
He will not let you hungry be.

"There will I go and say to him
That you are faint with hunger sore.

Plenty of bread I'll ask for you,
That you may eat, and weep no more."

So spake the mother, and she clasped

The starving children to her breast.
On her pale lips the last kiss froze

That to their faces thin she pressed.
The mother's arms unclosed no more-

She shut her eyes and went away
Bread to her little ones to send-

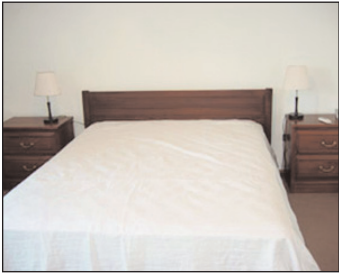
And lifeless in their sight she lay.
The little children wept and wailed;

Heart-rending were the tears they shed.
"Mamma, mamma, we want our food;

Get up, mamma, and give us bread!"

*Translated by
Alice Stone Blackwell*

Apartment for rent



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