

## Golden Apricot: 11th edition of int'l film festival opens in Yerevan

This year's opening ceremony paid homage to Sergey Parajanov — a renowned Soviet-era Armenian filmmaker — with a screening of one of his most well-known works, "The Color of Pomegranates." Parajanov and his legacy will be a central theme of this year's film festival.

The competitive part of the festival will feature 70 international films from 95 countries. Films will compete in four categories, customary to the Golden Apricot festival: feature film, documentary, "Armenian panorama," and "kernel" (short film).

Concurrent with the opening ceremony, a traditional blessing of apricots was performed at Yerevan's St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral to mark the opening of the film festival.

Actor and filmmaker Ken Davidian on the red carpet at the opening ceremony of the Golden Apricot International Film Festival

A number of well-known filmmakers and artists are attending the Golden Apricot festival, including Kim Ki-duk (South Korea), Krzysztof Zanussi (Poland), Amos Gitai (Israel), and others.

Kim Ki-duk remarked in a speech during the opening ceremony that he was grateful and humbled that his films were well-known in a country he had just discovered.

Kim, who was a car mechanic and who didn't see his first motion picture until he was 32, has become a film festival staple, winning numerous awards over the years, including at the Venice and Cannes film festivals.

The South Korean director ended his speech with a surprise performance of a Korean folk song. He was awarded the Parajanov Thaler Award at Sunday's opening ceremony.



The 11th edition of the Golden Apricot international film festival was ceremonially opened in Yerevan on Sunday. The first film shown as part of the festival was Sergey Parajanov's "The Color of Pomegranates". The legacy of Parajanov, a prominent Soviet filmmaker of Armenian origin who would have turned 90 this year, will be the main subject of this year's Golden Apricot.

The competitive part of the current festival, which is to be held through July 20, features 70 films from 95 countries in four traditional categories: feature film, documentary,

"Armenian Panorama" and "Stone" (short films). A traditional blessing of apricots, held as Armenian "national fruit" and considered to be the symbol of the festival, took place at St. Grigor the Illuminator Church in Yerevan also to symbolize the opening of "Golden Apricot".

A number of well-known filmmakers are attending the festival hosted by the Armenian capital. Among them are Kim Ki-duk (South Korea), Krzysztof Zanussi (Poland), Amos Gitai (Israel) and others. Their films are also to be shown during the festival.

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## President Serzh Sargsyan attended Film premiere of "The Book"



On 13 July, at Moscow Cinema President Serzh Sargsyan attended the premiere of the film "The Book" released by Vem Media Arts Film Company. The Russian film director Vitaliy Manski's



film premiered within the framework of Golden Apricot Yerevan 11th International Film Festival's Extra Competitive Projects/Yerevan Premiere project.

## Tigran Sargsyan Begins Ambassadorship in US



"The United States attaches great importance to its relationship with Armenia," said US President Barak Obama on Monday as he ceremonially accepted the credentials of Armenia's new ambassador to the United States, Tigran Sargsyan, who served previously as Armenia's prime minister.

Congratulating Sargsyan on taking over the position Obama expressed confidence that the newly appointed ambassador will use the wealth of his experience and knowledge to deepen relations between the two friendly nations, the Armenian Foreign Ministry reported Tuesday.

Obama welcomed ongoing cooperation with Armenia in peacekeeping missions, strengthening of democracy, and economic development. He also commended Armenia's commitment to a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the foreign ministry reported.

In turn, ambassador Sargsyan said that Armenian-American relations are highly effective. The ambassador added that the two countries have great potential for development of relations, and that his mission will focus on the development and expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation.

The two were also quoted as underlining the role of the Armenian-American community and its important role in the good relations between the two countries.

## Armenian President visits French Embassy, sends message to Hollande on Bastille Day



On 14 July President Serzh Sargsyan visited the Embassy of the French Republic in Armenia on the occasion of the country's public holiday – the Bastille Day. The Armenian President congratulated Ambassador Henry Renault and the embassy staff and in the person of them, all French people on the occasion of the holiday.

In addition, Serzh Sargsyan sent a congratulatory message to President Francois Hollande of the French Republic.

Congratulatory address by President Serzh Sargsyan to President Francois Hollande of the French Republic on the occasion of the country's public holiday

*Your Excellency,*

*I cordially congratulate You and I would like to send my best wishes to you and the friendly people of France on the occasion of the French Republic's National Day.*

*I remember with gratitude your state visit to Armenia in May this year which gave a new impulse to the high-level politi-*

*cal dialogue between Armenia and France and the continuous reinforcement of the friendly ties between our peoples. I am confident that the effective fulfillment of the agreements made during your visit will further stimulate the Armenian-French mutually beneficial cooperation in the trade and economic sphere.*

*The atmosphere of mutual trust between our friendly peoples anchored in close historical connections and shared values lays down a firm foundation for making progress in all directions. I am sure that the stable collaboration between Armenia and France both in bilateral and multilateral formats, including within the framework of international organizations, will continue the path of development and progress for the benefit of our peoples.*

*Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to once again present my appreciation to You for the crucial mission carried out by France as an OSCE Minsk Group co-chair country aimed at the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and promoting peace and security in the region.*

*I once again congratulate You on the occasion of the French National Day and wish you success and all the best and I wish the friendly people of France further progress and prosperity.*

*Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.*

## Russia Risks Losing Armenia, ARF Leader Says



Russia will lose Armenia as an ally if it continues to supply arms to Azerbaijan in large amounts, a leader of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun) said on Tuesday, July



15th.

In an interview with RFE/RL's Armenian Service (Azatutyun.am) representative of the opposition party's Bureau Hrant Markarian reacted to recent reports suggesting that Moscow has sold modern types of weapons, including heavy materiel, worth around \$4 billion to Baku in recent years.

"Russia should realize that this way it cannot keep its allies around for a long time. It should realize that this way it will lose them," Markarian said. "One can always find options, one should always look for options, there are always ways, hard or easy, ways in which we may pay

a high price, but still have an option. I don't think that we are so helpless that our only way can be with Russia. And Russia should also realize this. It should realize that this is a wrong approach and it may have great losses."

Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian recently voiced dismay at continuing deliveries of Russian offensive weapons to Azerbaijan. In an interview with Argentinean media during a visit to Buenos Aires last week Sarkisian, however, insisted that Russia remains committed to its military alliance with Armenia.

"It is a very painful subject and our people are worried that our strategic ally sells weapons to Azerbaijan," the Armenian president said. "But we are very confident that Armenia has the capability to defend its borders... Despite the fact that Russia sells weapons [to Azerbaijan] I have no doubts Russia will honor its commitments to us in times of adversity."

Sarkisian did not specify what kind of Russian military assistance Armenia expects to receive in case of a renewed war for Nagorno-Karabakh. Meanwhile, Russia appears to have supplied more heavy weapons to Azerbaijan than Armenia, its main regional ally, in the

past several years. Citing Russian government data, the UN Register of Conventional Arms revealed last month that Azerbaijan purchased 72 tanks, 34 armored vehicles, 456 artillery systems, 37 attack helicopters and 1,200 rockets and missile systems from Moscow in 2007-2013.

Russian and Azerbaijani officials have estimated the total volume of bilateral defense contracts signed between the two countries since 2010 at nearly \$4 billion. A Russian newspaper reported recently that the figure could rise to \$5 billion by the end of this year. Officials in Armenia have so far been careful not to publicly criticize the Russian arms supplies to Azerbaijan. Some of them have implied that they are offset by Russian military aid to Armenia.

The senior Dashnaksutyun member believes that maintaining military balance in the region is in the interest of Russia. "This [arms supplies to Azerbaijan] is not something that we can disregard... There is only one way to make it acceptable – if Russia gives us whatever it sells to Azerbaijan free of charge while charging Azerbaijan for it," Markarian said.

The Dashnaksutyun representative also spoke about Armenia's planned membership in the emerging Eurasian Economic Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, acknowledging that the decision to engage in the process stems from considerations of Armenia's security. Yerevan effectively gave up its process of association with the European Union after announcing its intention to become part of a Russian-led trade bloc last September.

Markarian said that remaining outside any blocs would be the best option for Armenia if it had no security issues. "If we could find a way to solve our security problems or to feel secure and not be a member of any bloc, but have relations with all, that would be an ideal way," the Dashnaksutyun leader said.

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## Larisa Alaverdyan: Escalation of situation at the border connected with Minsk Group activity

The fact that Baku denies there has been an act of sabotage, deprives the Azerbaijanis who crossed the Armenian border, of the status of prisoners of war, Chairwoman of the “Against Legal Arbitrariness” NGO, first Human Rights Defender Larisa Alaverdyan told reporters today.

She is concerned about the public reaction to the recent events in Karvachar. According to her, the discussions on whether it was an act of sabotage or not are not only useless, but also worrisome.

“I’m worried, because this is not the first time the social networks and media react inadequately to events. The first case was the one of Hakob Injighulyan,” she said.

As for the escalation of situation at the border, Larisa Alaverdyan ascribes this to the activity of the OSCE Minsk Group.

According to her, Azerbaijan has given a lot of reasons for the Minsk Group to make targeted statements, while the latter remains committed to the principle of maintaining parity.

“Unable to take measures like imposing peace, the Minsk Group has started to criticize the status quo. This is dangerous. Such statements have always encouraged Azerbaijan’s illegal steps contradicting international law,” she said.

Freedom fighter Arthur Yeghiazaryan said in turn, that saboteurs should not necessarily look like specially trained service-



men in a special uniform.

“They can be dressed like a shepherd or driver and not look remarkable at first glance,” he said, adding that everything depends on the purpose of their incursion.

For Larisa Alaverdyan it’s beyond any doubt that the actions of the group that entered Karvachar were controlled from above.

## Non-Coalition Parties not Jealous of Rule of Law, Says ARF MP

MPs from two of the four non-coalition parties in Armenia gave a variety of explanations as to why they haven’t jointly met to devise a strategy to oppose the recent electricity rate hike.

Prosperous Armenia MP Mikayel Melkoumian told Hetq that he was in Great Britain at the time when the matter was discussed by the four parties (ARF, HAK, Prosperous Armenia, Heritage).

“I just got back the day before yesterday. I’ll find out if there were any meetings but I’m leaving the country tomorrow,” said Melkoumian.

ARF MP Artvik Minasyan also said that he had just returned to Armenia and was out of the loop regarding any joint action by the four parties.

“In any event, the ARF hasn’t taken a vacation. We are working on a number of issues, especially drafting a petition to the constitutional court on the mandatory pension matter,” Minasyan told Hetq.

Representatives of the ARF and Prosperous Armenia said they would not be participating in a July 18 public rally organized by the Rule of Law party on the elec-



tricity rate hike issue, confessing that they didn’t know if their respective parties had even discussed whether to participate or not.

Both MPs said they were not concerned that Rule of Law might utilize the public rally to recruit new members at their expense.

“I don’t think it’s a matter of falling ahead of behind [Rule of Law]. What’s important is getting a result. If Rule of Law can get a result, all of us would be happy. There is no jealousy towards that party. We are so few that jealousy in politics can be destructive,” said Minasyan.

## Azeri saboteurs to be prosecuted in line with Armenian law and international norms: Defense Minister



According to the information of the NKR Prosecutor General's Office, the law-enforcement bodies today launched a criminal case connected with the incursion of the Azerbaijani reconnaissance-sabotage group into the territory of Nagorno Karabakh in the direction of Karvachar. Armenian Defense Minister told reporters today that the Azerbaijani citizens, who illegally crossed the Armenian border, will be prosecuted in line with the requirements of the Armenian and international law.

"Azerbaijan undertook an act of sabotage, involving a criminal group familiar

with the area. They have committed a crime under our law, a criminal case has been opened and they will be persecuted in compliance with our legislature and the international norms, Seyran Ohanyan said.

Recall, that Armenian Officer, Major Sargis Abrahamyan, 42, was killed as a result of the subversive act, a 37-year-old woman – Karine Davtyan – was wounded.

The Minister did not rule out that the disappearance of Smbat Tsakanyan, a 17-year-old resident of Karvachar, could also be linked to the subversive act. He said the investigation will give answers to all questions.

## Former Armenian PM Sees Disadvantages In Eurasian Union Membership

Former Armenian Prime Minister Hrant Bagratian believes that the country will see its economy declining in the short term if it becomes a member of the emerging Eurasian Economic Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan on its current terms.

In an interview with RFE/RL's Armenian Service (Azatutyun.am) on Wednesday Bagratian, who is currently an opposition lawmaker, said that such membership can be successful only if Armenia is given some privileges by the Customs Union member countries and ensures proper governance.

"If we become a member of the Customs Union, then I do not see any chance for betterment in the short term. The question is on what terms we become a member. If it is on the terms that the three current members of the Customs Union have agreed upon, I definitely expect economic deterioration," said Bagratian, who headed the Armenian government in 1993-96.

"Armenia's economy makes only 0.4 percent of the Customs Union member states' collective GDP. The bulk of Armenia's trade with the Customs Union member countries falls on the purchase of energy resources from Russia. Most of our foreign trade is not connected with the Customs Union member states," the former prime minister explained.

In Bagratian's opinion, if the Customs Union members provide Armenia with certain customs privileges, such as exemptions on about a thousand names of goods, then

"in case of good management it will be possible to have successes by using the territory of the Customs Union for increasing Armenia's export potentialities".

"But this is highly unlikely. Today they do not regard us even as an equal partner, let alone giving us exemptions on a thousand names of commodities," Bagratian said.

Armenia first announced its intention to join the Customs Union and then participate in the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union last September. President Serzh Sarkisian hoped that Armenia would join the Russian-led trade bloc in time for its transformation into the Eurasian Economic Union that was announced at a May 29 summit in Astana. But the presidents of the three member states only committed themselves to having the accession treaty with Yerevan prepared by July 1. The Union's executive body said late last month that a draft treaty had already been submitted to the Russian, Belarusian and Kazakh governments for approval.

No clarity was brought into the possible date of Armenia's accession to the Union even after the meeting of the Armenian and Russian prime ministers in Sochi last Friday.

Earlier this month, Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Yerlan Idrisov said that Armenia's accession treaty could be signed at another meeting of the heads of the Eurasian Economic Union member states scheduled to be held in the Belarus capital of Minsk in October. But no official statement has been made in this regard yet.

## Armenian businessman detained in Moscow



The Federal Security Service of Russia has detained Armenian businessman Levon Hayrapetyan, one of the richest Armenians in the world, Rosbalt agency reports, citing sources in the Russian special services.

Hayrapetyan was detained at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport, upon his arrival from Monaco. He was conveyed to the investigative committee. In the coming days, investigators intend to submit petition for his arrest to Moscow's Basmanny Court.

Hayrapetyan is suspected of having ties with the "Kingisepp" criminal grouping charged with involvement in a number of contract killings.

## Armenian Representative Becomes Leader at ICANN



Armenia's representative to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Siranush Vardanyan became a leader of her regional department of the organization, the Internet Society of Armenia's deputy director Grigory Saghian said following his return from a pivotal ICANN international conference in London.

ICANN is the governing body for Internet domain names and other naming and numbering conventions. The non-profit organization recently made news after announcing a host of proposed changes to the domain name system, including the introduction of a plethora of new suffixes

like .wine and .London, some of which have produced controversy.

Grigory Saghian recently announced that Armenian authorities have applied to ICANN for the ability of using the Armenian alphabet in internet domain names and URL's.

The 50th ICANN meeting was held in London from June 22 to 26.

Siranush Vardanyan has been appointed as vice chairwoman of a committee in ICANN's Asia-Pacific regional department, Saghian said.

Siranush Vardanyan was coordinator of Project Harmony in Armenia from 2000 to 2008.

## Armenia's Akila Technics to start providing technical services to aircrafts in Zvartnots Airport

Akila Technics, a company of Akila Group, which is based in Zvartnots Airport, is the first Armenian company to provide aircrafts with technical services.

Karen Avdalyan, the founder of Akila, told journalists on Tuesday that aircrafts in Armenia had been served by foreign companies before, and now the company is trying to win dominance in the market.

"The market consists of aircrafts that serve flights to Armenia – 20 to 30 aircrafts and \$50,000-60,000 a month," he said.

He said that now the company serves four airplanes – three aircrafts of Air Armenia and one presidential liner, but if the company works successful, it will build

a hangar.

Avdalyan said now investments in the company amounts to about \$200,000, but the construction of the hangar is estimated to cost \$2.5 million.

He said the company has employed 23 people who have been trained in Europe's flagship aviation establishments and after gained work experience abroad returned to Armenia.

"The appearance of an Armenian company with Armenian specialists makes it possible to pursue a more flexible price policy and to be more competitive," he added.

Akila Technics company's activity is

authorized by a Part 15 certificate received from the General Department of Civil Aviation of Armenia in conformity with international requirements. The certificate allows the company to serve Boeing 737-300/400/500 and Airbus A319/320/321.

Zvartnots Airport is run by the Armenia – International Airports in accordance with a 30-year concessional management agreement sealed with Armenian government in 2001.

The company belongs to American International Airports, an Argentine company owned by Eduardo Eurnekian, an Argentine entrepreneur of Armenian descent.

## Expert: Armenia to join EEU before September 10

Armenia will join the Eurasian Economic Union before September 10, Aram Safaryan, chairman of Integration and Development research and analysis center, was quoted by Novosti-Armenia as saying in an interview broadcasted by the Second Armenian TV Channel.

He sees no obstacles to Armenia's Eurasian integration. Safaryan voiced regret at certain political parties and non-governmental organizations made the matter a target of political posturing in a bid to reap benefits of it.

In his words, negotiations between Armenia and the Eurasian Economic Union founder countries are already completed - no political conditions have been put to Armenia, all economic and techni-



cal problems have been settled and everything is OK now.

Russian, Kazakh and Belarusian governments are now considering the accession agreement, and after necessary procedures and the governments' decisions a place will be chosen for signing it.

On May 29, at a session of Eurasian Economic Council in Astana,

Kazakhstan, the Armenian president expressed Yerevan's intention to join the Eurasian Economic Union agreement until June 15. However, appropriate papers have not been signed so far.

On July 1, Russian President Vladimir Putin, speaking at a meeting of Russian diplomats, said Armenian will become a full member of the union very soon.

In recent days, media outlets quoted Kazakh Foreign Minister Yerlan Idrisov as saying that the agreement between Armenia and Eurasian Economic Union is likely to be signed in October 2014 at a regular meeting of Eurasian Economic Union countries' presidents in Minsk.

Arka

## Government Campaign Against Tax Evasion Draws Skepticism

Opposition members and economic experts critical of the Armenian government have discarded as another 'show' the recent report suggesting that scores of companies have 'come clean' following a warning by Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian to stop evading taxes.

At a meeting with business leaders in May, a month after assuming his duties as prime minister, Abrahamian pledged to create a level-playing field for all businesses, at the same time warning leading companies that they must stop evading taxes and abusing their market positions by July 1 or face a tougher crackdown by tax authorities. He also promised to publish the results of the campaign against tax evasion every 10 days after the deadline.

This week the Tax Service published the names of 98 companies that had "specified" their tax obligations by July 1. These companies reportedly raised their expectations of profits for 2014, pledging to pay a total of 391 million drams (about \$960,000) more in profit taxes during the year.

Meanwhile, skeptics note that there are no companies belonging to top 'oligarchs' or the families of top officials in the list published by the tax authorities. Some economic experts and opposition members imply that the process is just another 'imitation' and will make no difference in the long run.

Hayk Gevorkian, an economic analyst writing for the Haykakan Zhamanak daily, estimates that by these companies' 'coming clean' Armenia's shadow economy gets



reduced by only 1.5 percent. "Meanwhile, even according to modest estimations, the amount of shadow economy in Armenia makes 30-35 percent. Other estimations suggest that it may be as high as 45 percent," he said.

Gevorkian stressed that companies belonging to the extended families of top officials, including powerful Finance Minister Gagik Khachatryan, who is supposed to lead the campaign against tax dodgers, continue to work in the non-taxed sector of the economy. "The bubble that is being inflated now will burst in a few months," he said.

Opposition Armenian National Congress lawmaker Aram Manukian also spoke skeptically about the ability of Prime Minister Abrahamian or any other head of

the government to make a 'tax revolution' in Armenia.

"I told Hovik Abrahamian on the very first day that he would not be able to do anything and that he would be discredited even sooner than [his predecessor] Tigran Sarkisian, who at least dragged out the process for a couple of years. This period will be limited to several months for Hovik Abrahamian. The past two months have shown that he is not able to do anything, nor does he want to do anything. On the day of his appointment [President] Serzh Sarkisian set the bar to him that he cannot overcome. He cannot destroy the system in which he has lived and prospered and will continue to live and prosper as long as there is this usurpation of power," Manukian said.

## Armenian Ministry of Energy: By October 2014 Armenia will consider and approve a new indicative balance for duty-free supplies of Russian petroleum derivatives in 2015

By October 2014 Armenia will consider and approve a new indicative balance for duty-free supplies of Russian petroleum derivatives in 2015, Armenian Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Iosif Isayan says in an interview to ArmInfo.

He says that the indicative balance for each year is to be approved by October of the previous year. The year 2014 was an exception, when the indicative balance was considered and approved by late 2013, because the agreement with the Russian Federation was signed on December 2. The document was approved by the Russian Energy Ministry, Armenian Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and the Russian Ministry of Economic Development. Isayan says that additional

oil derivatives may also be supplied but they will not be tax-exempt. Isayan stresses the importance of accurateness in determining the needs for petroleum derivatives. He says that for the moment it is the only problem, because neither the Statistical Service nor the State Traffic Inspectorate nor any other structures tackled that problem. For 2014 the quota of supplies is as follows: fuel oil - 45 tons, jet engine fuel - 47 thsd tons, diesel fuel - 144 thsd tons, oil tar for production of bitumen - 25 thsd tons, petrol - 136 thsd tons, lubricating oils - 390 tons. The project operator is Rosneft. The deputy minister says that the agreement will allow reducing the prices of oil derivatives in the republic's domestic market by 10-15%, which will have a positive effect on the whole economy of Armenia.

To recall, on June 30 Russian President Vladimir Putin ratified a Law on ratification of the Russian-Armenian intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in supplies of natural gas, oil derivatives and rough diamonds to Armenia. Under the agreement, Russia levies no export customs duties from the domestic consumption amount of oil derivatives, natural gas and rough diamonds fixed in the indicative balances. In the meantime, the duty-free commodities supplied to Armenia from Russia cannot be re-exported to the third countries. In accordance with the agreement, the competent bodies of the parties coordinate the amount and nomenclature of domestic consumption of petroleum derivatives and natural gas in Armenia for the following calendar year. *Arminfo*



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- 1726.**Khorenatsi str.**, 4/4, 35sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 55.000 USD.
- 1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m, euro repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1715- **Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- 1680- **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- 1674. **Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor, 70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- 1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

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

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- 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 nego-

tiable

- 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.**Antarayin 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.**Antarayin str.**, 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m, available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable

- 131.**Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable





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### 1 ROOM

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

### 2 ROOMS

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

### 3 ROOMS AND MORE

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

- ♦2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- ♦1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

### PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally 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, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- ♦1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- ♦1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦1142. **Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitally repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.

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

### PREMISES

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

## Economy and State Administration Management Policy of RA in Transitional Period (1991-2014).

### Tendencies and Results as Outlined by Strategic Program



By **Artashes Mikaelyan**

*Dr.(Ph) economy, professor of Moscow Institute of Management, Economy & Innovation, member of Moscow Armenian Diaspora, consulter of Minculture of RF, head of Moscow department of interregional fondation "Eurasian dialog of cultures & civilizations".*

#### Social-economic situation in the republic

According to different estimates the number of Armenians in the world amounts to 10-12 million. people. The great large-scale migration of the Armenian people took place in 1375 when after the fall of the Cilicia kingdom Armenians in the attempt to save themselves from physical extermination dispersed all over the world. In a hundred countries the Armenians established their communities. At present the Armenian Diaspora abroad is equal to 7-9 million. people.

From 400 000 sq.km of her former historical territory Armenia has preserved (according to the data of Armenia's statistic annual for 2013) only 29743 sq. km with the population of 3026.9 million. people. The population of the capital of Armenia, the city of Yerevan, is equal to 1 million. 66 thousand people which makes 31% of the population of the country. The density of population per sq. km in Yerevan equals to 1025 people. It should be noted that the statistic annual of Armenia gives the figure that exceeds the real index, because according to the methodology of Armenia's statistical service, the calculated number of the people includes those who at the moment of calculation are temporarily absent from the country and whose absolute number is not indicated in this source.

The characteristic index of people's life standard in Armenia is the rate of food staffs and manufactured goods consumed by population. In the last decade the share of food staffs in the total volume of consumer goods makes 60-61%, while the same index for manufactured goods is 39-40%. The share of bakery and meat products in the total volume of food products makes 20% each, the fact that testifies to low calorie content in the population's ration.

Armenia showed the following indices of population rate in 1970-1989 and in 1989-2013:

**Table 1**

*Population rate in Armenia in 1970-2013 (in thousands for*

1970	1989	2013
2491.9	3448.6	3026.9

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As seen from the table, in 1970-1989 the population of the republic got increased by 967. 700 people, while in 2013 it got reduced by 421700 people. The period of 1970-1989 being the time of Armenia's stormy economic development, it shows the growth of population by 956700 people or annual increase of the population was about 50350 per year. If we made an extrapolation

of the annual increase in 1970-1989 for the next 14 years, then the expected increase of the population would be equal to 700 000 people. However, in 1989-2013 the population rate reduced by 421700 people.

Simultaneously with the described process, according to the official data, the growth of population in other countries is noted: in Russia by more than 1 million., in the USA - by 300 000, in Europe - by around 300 000.

It is a common knowledge that when the population flight from a country depends on unfavorable economic or political circumstances, it is but casual and temporary. However, when the crisis situation is long-lasting and more and more crucial, it is nothing else but depopulation of the country. Depopulation, as a rule, is a result of wars, epidemics or natural disasters. Depopulation in Armenia is, to our mind, the result of a latent policy aimed at the reduction of population under the pressure of some internal and external forces.

**Production.** The characteristic indices of the level of economy development are: the rate of domestic production volume and its relation to the same index for imported goods and services; the volume indices for import and export and the rate and tendencies of their development.

As stated in the Program of stable development of RA, "in the transitional period the volume of domestic production ought inevitably and objectively get reduced." In fact, to meet the demands of the population RA has to constantly increase the volume of imported goods.

Thus, by 2010, the volume of export from Armenia was equal to \$1041.1 man., the same index for imported goods was \$3749.0. It is clear that import exceeds export by \$2708.0 million. or is about 3 times as much. By the same indices in 2012 we have accordingly: the volume of export - \$13802.0 million, and import - \$3749.0 million. Otherwise the import is 2.3 times as much. The figures presented above show that economy of Armenia is completely dependent on import.

The share of food staffs in the total volume of imported goods exceeds the same index of manufactured goods, while raw materials and ore make the greater part of the volume of exported goods. These data testifies to the fact that the economy of Armenia is in a most crucial condition. Following from this is drastic and immediate measures that should be taken on the part of the authorities with the aim to improve the existing misbalance in the foreign trade policy. This is a most serious and vital demand of the economy management policy in today's Armenia. The delay will only make the situation worse and the existing crisis deeper.

Growing economic dependence of RA on foreign market will eventually bring to the complete loss by the country of its political independence.

**Agriculture.** In the Strategic program of Armenia's development agriculture is viewed as a leading branch of Armenia's economy; at present, the volume of agricultural production exceeds that of manufactured goods sector. However, before Armenia acquired independence her leading branch of economy was industry whose share in the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was around 60%.

Before Armenia becoming independent the image of the for-

mer Armenia in the eyes of the USSR and the whole world was that of an industrially developed country. Thus, among the countries with machine-tool industry Armenia was the fourth in the USSR and provided for half of the exported volume of refined copper. By the output of certain kinds of light industry production per capita Armenia was ahead of the US. Besides, the country was one of most developed scientific research centers in the Soviet Union.

Without diminishing the importance of agriculture in the economy of Armenia it should be noted that the agricultural output in the national GDP makes no more than 40%.

However, the main way out of the long-lasting and deep crisis is by securing the development of industry. In spite of the fact that agriculture has traditionally been one of the main branches of Armenia's economy, giving the priority to this branch of economy is not the proper direction of economy strategy development for a long-term period. Moreover, today when agriculture is given priority among branches of economy, there is no marked positive improvement or shift in the direction of land cultivating or recultivating; quite the contrary, there is an obvious decline in this sphere. Thus, the area of arable land during 1995-2013 got reduced considerably. This is seen from the following table.

**Table 2**

*Agricultural land in Armenia in 1995-2013 (1000ha)*

Agricultural land	1995	2013	2013 to 1995 in %
Total area	1391.4	2052.4	147.5
Including arable land	483.5	448.4	92.7
Specific weighting %	34.8	21.9	

As is seen from the table, in 2013 the total area of agricultural land got increased by 47% as compared to 1995, while the area of arable land got reduced by 35.1 hectares or by 7.3%. In 2013 the area of arable land was equal to 21.9 % of the total agricultural area, while in 1995 this index was equal to 34.8 %, i.e. got reduced by 12.9%.

The reduction of arable land area testifies to unsatisfactory agricultural policy of the government.

**Science.** Active and consistent introduction of innovative scientific achievements into economy is the basis of its improvement, science and personnel retraining courses performing the main role in this process.

Contemporary economic science in Armenia has its own traditions which were widely used in the world economy in the previous period and are still being used. The major centers of science in Soviet Armenia were: Institute for Economy after Michael Kotanyan at National Academy of Science, Economy department at Yerevan State University, Yerevan Institute for National Economy and Management after M. Adonts and some others.

In all Soviet republics including Armenia the projects introduced by State Planning Committee (Gosplan) were supervised by leading scientists and scholars of corresponding scientific structures. Moreover, in 1968 in the system of Ministry of Trade and Consumers Administration Board (Potrebkooperatsia) two Scientific boards were established whose aim was to carry out marketing research. After Armenia's proclaiming her independence these boards ceased functioning. The number of professionals in economy also got reduced which is seen in the table given below.

**Table 3**

*The number of post-graduate students in 2008-2012 (in thousands)*

specialists	2008	2012	2012 to 2008 in %
Total number	1320	1104	83.7
including			
the sphere of economy	389	218	56.0
in the sphere of social science	16	11	70.0
in the sphere of politology	34	61	180.0

As seen from the table, in 2008-2012 the total number of specialists in the sphere of science got reduced by 30%, the number of specialists in economy - by 44%, the number of specialists in the sphere of social science - by 30%, while the number of specialists in politology increased and reached 80%.

Parallel with the reduction of science personnel in the period under survey was the process of reduction of science- technological research total volume. In terms of money the research of this type in 2012 amounted to the sum of 5104,1 million drams, while in 2008 the corresponding sum was equal to 9422 million drams which is 4318,0 million drams or by 45% less. Of this total sum the expenditure for research and scientific projects development was equal to 8619,6 million drams in 2008, and 4966,4 million drams in 2012 which means that the expenditures for scientific purposes got reduced by 3653,2 million drams that makes 40% of the total sum.

The development of this process in the same direction will lead to the destruction of Armenia's scientific basis which, in its turn, will make the economic crisis still deeper.

A great number of countries in the transitional period choose a course of science-oriented production and economically-based management, due to which during a short period of time the former weak-developed countries turn into socially and economically highly-developed ones.

Science-oriented economy creates favorable conditions for the growth of sectoral economy which, in its turn, is the basis for the increase of science products volume, the products that are in great demand in the world market.

If Armenia chooses a policy of science-oriented production and economy-based management, as foreign investors in Armenia do (400 Russian and hundreds of investors from different countries) and parallelly with it uses Armenia's science potential, then the Armenian enterprises will become profitable and the country will produce goods competitive in the world market, the result being export-oriented trade balance of the country.

The experience of many countries proves that economically-based anti-crisis management is a powerful mechanism in the process of leading the country out of the world crisis.

Given the common tendency for reduction of specialists in different spheres of life, we have to specially admit the absence of professionals in the sphere of international management in Armenia, the fact that holds back the possibility of economy's steady development. In addition to that, Armenian specialists in international management enjoy a high rating in the world labor market, their rich experience of economy management might be of great help for RA.

*(To be continued)*

# Stratfor – The Nagorno-Karabakh Dispute: Then and Now

Stratfor, an American global intelligence company, has issued a report on Nagorno Karabakh.

## Summary

There has been a burst of diplomatic activity in recent months over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, which Armenia and Azerbaijan have disputed for decades. Russia, the strongest power in the Caucasus, has become more engaged in the issue in light of Azerbaijan's growing leverage in the region, raising the possibility of a shift in this conflict. It is the changing positions of larger regional players such as Russia, Turkey, Iran and the United States, more so than Azerbaijan and Armenia themselves, that will drive the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the months and years to come.

## Analysis

As Russia and the West continue their confrontation over Ukraine, there is a subtler yet potentially equally significant competition occurring in the Caucasus. While Georgia attempts to move closer to the West and Armenia strengthens ties with Russia, Azerbaijan has attempted to maintain a careful balance between the two sides. Azerbaijan thus serves as the pivot of the Caucasus, and the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh is a crucial aspect in shaping Baku's role.

## The Historical Backdrop for the Conflict

Nagorno-Karabakh is a small yet strategic piece of territory located in the center of the South Caucasus region. Despite its small size (4,400 square kilometers, or about 1,700 square miles) and population (fewer than 150,000 people), Nagorno-Karabakh historically has been an ethnically and religiously mixed region because of its mountainous terrain and location at a crossroads between continents, although the population now is over 95 percent Armenian.

Nagorno-Karabakh, along with much of the rest of the Caucasus, was contested by the Ottoman Turks and Persians for hundreds of years. The emergence of the Russian Empire as a major player in the Caucasus during the 18th century culminated in Russia's annexation of the region, including Nagorno-Karabakh, in the early 19th century. The Russian Empire would be the dominant power in the region until the Russian Revolution of 1905 weakened the empire and the subsequent revolution of 1917 brought about its collapse.

Both of these periods marked significant turbulence in the Caucasus culminating in a war over control of Nagorno-Karabakh and the wider region in the midst of a vacuum created by Russian weakness and distraction. By 1921, the Bolsheviks had taken over the entire region, and the Caucasus was incorporated into the Soviet Union as the Transcaucasian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic in 1922. The Soviet republic was then reorganized in 1923 into three separate republics: Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Nagorno-Karabakh was placed under the jurisdiction of the Azerbaijani Soviet Republic by then-Soviet Nationalities Commissioner Josef Stalin. This redrawing of borders and territorial lines, which were designed to create territorial disputes among the republics in order to



keep them weak, set in motion the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

With the introduction of the glasnost and perestroika movements in the late Soviet period and the easing of public discourse and political participation, Nagorno-Karabakh became one of the first and highest profile issues to come under dispute. Starting in February 1988, numerous public demonstrations were held in the Armenian capital of Yerevan supporting the incorporation of the majority-Armenian Nagorno-Karabakh into the Soviet Republic of Armenia. Next, the Nagorno-Karabakh Oblast Committee of the Communist Party held an unprecedented unofficial referendum to rejoin Armenia. Azerbaijan appealed to Moscow to condemn such actions, but when Moscow's response was slow and not to Baku's liking, ethnic violence erupted against Armenians in Azerbaijan and against Azerbaijanis in Armenia.

This violence quickly spread into a full-scale military confrontation in which all Azerbaijanis were expelled from Nagorno-Karabakh, leading to the territory's current Armenian-dominated ethnic balance. Armenian forces decisively defeated Azerbaijan in the conflict, leading to the de facto independence of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenian control of several provinces abutting Nagorno-Karabakh as a corridor into the region. After mediation by numerous external players including Russia, Turkey and Iran, a cease-fire was reached to end the conflict in 1994.

## Geopolitical Alignments and the Elusiveness of Peace

With an end to the war, a formal peace process was launched by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 1994, with Russia, the United States and France serving as co-chairs along with Armenia and Azerbaijan. However, 20 years and countless meetings and summits later, there has been no substantial progress made on a diplomatic solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. There are fundamental geopolitical drivers for why this is the case.

# Turkish Counter-Efforts Help Publicize Genocide Centennial



By Harut Sassounian

Publisher, The California Courier

Armenians in the US and around the world were needlessly alarmed by a recent article in the Turkish Hurriyet newspaper, titled: "Turkish Americans prepare 'master plan' for 2015."

No one should be surprised that the Turkish government and affiliated organizations worldwide have been earnestly planning to counter commemorative activities being organized by the Armenian government and the Diaspora for the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide on April 24, 2015.

Tolga Tanis reported in Hurriyet's July 5 issue that the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) will invite Turkish-American groups to Washington in September to plan "proactive and active responses" to Armenian Centennial events.

ATAA reportedly will form Turkish "activist committees" to visit "lawmakers in each state, conduct social media campaigns, keep in touch with traditional media outlets, prepare online courses, and organize country-wide networking meetings for Americans." Hurriyet also reported that ATAA will organize "at least 20 day-long conferences in partnership with local universities and with the participation of famous Turkish-Americans like Dr. Mehmet Oz and Coca Cola CEO Muhtar Kent."

As part of its "reactive responses," ATAA allegedly plans to counter:

- Articles, books and films on the Armenian Genocide;
- Panels, conferences and exhibitions organized by Armenians;
- "Anti-Turkish bills" in Congress.

Before Armenians get too excited about these purported Turkish schemes, the following questions must be asked:

-- Is Hurriyet accurately reporting ATAA's plans? The Turkish media is notorious for distorting facts and making up stories. Interestingly, no such announcement is found on ATAA's website;

-- If Hurriyet's article is fully or even partly true, is it certain that ATAA will actually carry out any of its announced plans or is this simply a propaganda ploy or fundraising effort?

As a starter, it has come to our attention that at least one critical part of Hurriyet's story is a falsehood! Ara Khachatourian, English Editor of Asbarez newspaper, reported that a spokesman for the prominent TV personality has denied that Dr. Oz is involved in any way

in Turkish denialist activities. Likewise, I am trying to confirm if the alleged report about Coca Cola CEO Muhtar Kent's involvement in genocide denial is accurate. It is noteworthy that Hurriyet has already amended its initial report, adding a disclaimer, possibly after complaints from Dr. Oz and Mr. Kent about the unauthorized and inaccurate use of their names: "The two individuals whose names are mentioned in the article above (Dr. Mehmet Oz and Coca-Cola CEO Muhtar Kent) are two prominent figures on a long list of accomplished Turkish Americans who will be invited to speak at community events. They have no knowledge of or involvement in ATAA's plans."


I wish Dr. Oz and Mr. Kent were actually involved in Turkish denialist efforts, which would have triggered a worldwide boycott of Dr. Oz's TV show and Coca Cola products. This would have provided Armenians a golden opportunity for publicity on the Armenian Genocide Centennial that no amount of money could buy!

Moreover, my fervent hope is that Hurriyet's article would turn out to be totally accurate and that ATAA would carry out fully all of the promised activities. The more often Turkish denialists raise the Armenian Genocide issue trying to counteract the estab-


lished historical facts, the more they would be inadvertently publicizing the Genocide Centennial, and thereby disgrace themselves in the eyes of the world!

While Armenians are unable to make their voices heard loudly in the international arena, in an ironic twist, Turkey's influential public relations firms in Washington would be of tremendous assistance! Equally helpful are the public pronouncements of Turkish leaders, such as the one by Prime Minister Erdogan on April 23, 2014, despite their denialist content. As an unintended consequence, ATAA's anti-Centennial efforts would prompt the international media to pay ever greater attention to the continuing injustice suffered by Armenians, by providing more coverage to the planned Armenian commemorations.




Although Turkish counter-strategies should receive adequate scrutiny, Armenians should pay more critical attention as to whether they are preparing themselves appropriately to observe the Centennial in the global arena, given the immense loss of the 1.5 million martyrs of the Armenian Genocide. By being overly obsessed with the sinister actions of Turkish denialists, Armenians may not be focusing sufficiently on their own obligation to honor the sacred memory of the victims and demand justice!



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## Analysts: Armenia needs to increase 'foreign-policy resistance' in view of latest regional developments

Political analysts and experts see Armenia's current situation as dangerous and consider it needs increase of resistance in its foreign policy. The opinion is caused by various factors such as Armenian foreign policy's vector directed towards Eurasian Economic Union (EaEU), recent frequent incidents on the border with many human casualties, improving Russian-Azeri relations and Russians selling more and more weaponry to Azerbaijan.



Globalization and Regional Cooperation Organization head Stepan Grigoryan thinks that Russia uses the Karabakh case as a tool, and currently that tool is used for attracting Azerbaijan into EaEU.

"Russia does not want to accept us in the EaEU, because it wants to use the Karabakh tool for attracting Azerbaijan. It is clear that Russia is waiting for Azerbaijan's answer. Our strategic ally's interests contradict our interests. I suggest we increase Armenia's alternative relationships, specifically increase gas import volumes from Iran," said the political analyst.

Analysts think that the political logic contradicts Armenian government claims about Customs Union membership providing Armenia security.

Armenian ally Russia is the first country selling offensive weapons to Azerbaijan during the recent years. Last August at a joint conference with President Putin in Baku Ilham Aliyev stated that the total volume of the Russian-Azeri military-technological

contract forms four billion dollars and tends to increase.

Political analysts find President Serzh Sargsyan's interview to Argentine La Nacion last week unprecedented as he mentioned that the Armenian nation is concerned by the fact that Russia sells weapons to Azerbaijan.

"That is a very painful topic for us and our nation is very concerned that our strategic ally sells weaponry to Azerbaijan. But I am assured that Armenia has enough strength and capacity, and will be able to protect its borders. Despite the fact that Russia sells weapons to Baku I do not doubt that in a difficult situation for us Russia will realize its responsibilities," the president said.

Grigoryan thinks that Armenia must return to EU Association agreement. Whether Armenia's such step will be viewed seriously or not, the political analyst thinks that there will be countries to support Armenia.



Yerevan-based Caucasus Institute director, political analyst Alexandr Iskandaryan believes that since last September the public has reacted quite nervously to any change that happens in Armenian-Russian relations.

"But actually nothing new happens. Russia has been arming Azerbaijan since independence, even earlier. Certainly, there is nothing positive in it for Yerevan. But to suppose that Russians will suddenly stop doing it is hard," Iskandaryan said.

ARF Bureau representative Hrant Margaryan thinks that by selling large amounts of weapons to Azerbaijan Russia risks losing Armenia as an ally.

"This means business dominates over friendly relationships. I think Russia must realize that this way it will not be able to preserve long-term allies. They must understand that this way they will lose. Because it is always possible to find ways out, there are always some ways – difficult or easy ways, for which we will pay a high price, but it will still be an option for us. But I do not think we are so hopeless to tie our only option with Russia. Russia must realize this, as well. And it must understand that a wrong approach may lead to bigger losses," Margaryan told RFE/RL's Armenian Service, mentioning that preserving balance in the region is also in the interest of Russia.



Leader of the Armenian Center for National and International Studies Manvel Sargsyan evaluates border tension and frequency of sabotage attacks as really hazardous for Armenia.

"We can see that all the countries want to interfere in this case, which is very dangerous. Russia has always been clear about its desire to place its army on the border, but cannot manage to do it. Now the situation is graver, Russia has problems with all the countries; processes are continuing in Iraq, and everyone will try to deter the opposite's desires, getting something out of it. In such a situation Armenia must draw its position very clearly for Russia to consider our approach," Sargsyan said.

## Chairman Ed Royce to speak at hearing on Turkish democracy

On 15 July, U.S. Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, will deliver an opening statement at a subcommittee hearing, entitled “The Future of Turkish Democracy,” Asbarez reports.

Earlier this year, Chairman Royce and Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), Ranking Member of the Committee, introduced the Turkey Christian Churches Accountability Act (H.R. 4347). The legislation, which passed the Committee last month, requires an annual report from the State Department on the status of stolen, confiscated or unreturned Christian properties in territories controlled by Turkey.

Below is Chairman Royce’s opening statement as prepared for delivery at the hearing:

Although it is an overwhelmingly Muslim country, Turkey, as well as being a NATO ally, has long been a secular democracy.

However, I am very concerned by recent events that indicate a shift by Prime Minister Erdogan away from democratic ideals and reverting to more authoritarian rule.

He has reportedly stated that, “Democracy is like a bus ride. Once I get to my stop, I am getting off.”

He appears to be putting those words into action, and has consistently chosen to use strong-arm tactics against opponents.

This approach was clearly demonstrated in his response to the 2013 peaceful protests in Gezi Park, which he regarded as an illegitimate challenge, resorting to violence to disperse the crowds. A key target was the media, with 153 journalists injured and 39 detained by the police.

Under his government, free speech has been under increasing repression.

Reporters Without Borders noted in their 2014 report on Press Freedom in the World that:

“Around 60 journalists were in detention at the end of 2013, including at least 28 held in connection with their work, making Turkey one of the world’s biggest prisons for media personnel.”

In reaction to comments last year on Twitter regarding a corruption investigation involving his AKP party, Erdogan’s immediate response was to vilify Twitter, stating, “There is now a menace which is called Twitter...To me, social media is the worst menace to society.”

A few days later he moved to block

all access to the site, and followed shortly thereafter by banning access to YouTube.

Freedom of religion is also threatened.

According to the 2014 United States Commission on International Religious Freedom report, “Politically, religious freedom abuses are linked with the absence of democracy and the presence of abuses of other human rights, such as freedom of expression, association and assembly.”

Religious minorities in Turkey suffer under strict controls governing their affairs, including their ability to choose their own church leaders, manage and raise funds, own property and even access to their historic sites of worship.

The continued closure of the Orthodox Church’s Halki Theological Seminary by the Turkish government presents a fundamental threat to the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Despite optimistic claims by Turkish leaders in 2011 that the revised Foundations Law would allow all church properties to be returned within a year, the majority of properties remain confiscated.

In many cases, the situation has actually gotten worse. Instead of returning them to their rightful owners, the Turkish Directorate General of Foundations approved the conversion of two Byzantine Orthodox Churches previously expropriated by the Turkish government into mosques, and there is even legislation before the Turkish Parliament to likewise convert the Hagia Sophia church in Istanbul.

Many believe these actions constitute a move to eradicate the presence of the Christian heritage in Turkey since it first arrived there almost 2,000 years ago.

That is why I am pleased that a few weeks ago the Committee passed my bill, HR 4347, which will not only call on Turkey to return these properties but also enact a report requirement to hold Turkish leaders accountable for progress on this issue.

By committing ourselves to acting on such legislative measures, and by holding hearings on the situation in Turkey, it is my hope that Congress will send a clear message that the Turkish government must renew its commitment to democracy and the basic human rights for all of its people.

This would be the foundation for a closer U.S.-Turkey relationship.

## Yerevan Plans to Engage in Perinçek Court Case



The Government of the Republic of Armenia intends to engage in the case of Turkish nationalist Dogu Perinçek in the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) as a third party. During his interview with Armenpress, the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Armenia and Representative of Armenia to the ECHR Gevorg Kostanyan said that the decision has already been made and, by Aug. 26, Armenia will officially apply to the ECHR to be engaged as a third party.

Kostanyan did not go into details about the actions that should be carried out by the Armenian side, but stressed that they were seriously determined, and that a group of advocates would most likely be formed to achieve success.

Under the provisions of the Swiss law, in 2007, Turkish citizen Perinçek was convicted for denying the Armenian Genocide. Failing to win two appeals against the judgment, Perinçek appealed the ECHR, which on Dec. 17 ruled that the Swiss courts’ rulings violated the appellant’s right to freedom of expression.

The ECHR ruling in December stated that “the free exercise of the right to openly discuss questions of a sensitive and controversial nature is one of the fundamental aspects of freedom of expression and distinguishes a tolerant and pluralistic democratic society from a totalitarian or dictatorial regime.”

The original case emerged from Perinçek’s participation in a number of conferences in Switzerland in 2005, during which he publicly denied that the Ottoman Empire had perpetrated the crime of genocide against the Armenian people in 1915.

## ECtHR Decision Does Not Stipulate Refund of Compensation

By Roza Hovhannisyan

The rector of the Justice Academy, the former deputy minister of justice, the ex-deputy representative of Armenia to ECtHR Ruben Melikyan has denied the facts in the article Deputy Minister Wanted Money To Implement ECtHR Decision published in Lragir.am.

Note that according to the article in February 2012 Ruben Melikyan met with the families which submitted the applications *Baghdasaryan-Zarikyantses v Armenia*, *Gharibyan v Armenia* and the *Ghasabyans v Armenia* who had been evicted from their apartments on Buzand Street which were demolished for city center development.

According to the residents of the demolished neighborhood, the ex-deputy minister told them the families must return the tiny compensation paid to them through the Armenian courts for the implementation of the ECtHR decision to pay compensation for their houses. Meanwhile, the ECtHR does not contain a single word about returning any money.

Ruben Melikyan refuted the part of the article in which Sedrak Baghdasaryan told how Ruben Melikyan told him that Sedrak Baghdasaryan tells how Ruben Melikyan told him that Sedrak Baghdasaryan would have to return about 23,000 dollars paid to him under the ruling of the Armenian courts in 2005. In 2005 Griar Company paid the compensation to the residents after the decision on the Armenian courts to evict people.

Sedrak Baghdasaryan insists that there was such a conversation between him and the ex-deputy minister. Gohar Ghasabyan also insists that the ex-deputy minister had asked them to return the compensation.

Ruben Melikyan first invited the Ghasabyan family and informed about it. "He said return the money and I will give you the keys to the apartment. I said the money is not mentioned in the ECtHR decision, look at the decision, there is no such a clause. Ruben Melikyan said we interpret the decision in this way. I said a court decision is not implemented, it is either executed or not. He said no, we interpret that you must return the money," Gohar Ghasabyan told Lragir.am.

She noted that the apartments which the Armenian government committed to

provide to their families had already been sold. "I asked Ruben Melikyan why those apartments had been sold to someone else. He did not know that those apartments had been sold to other people. He was surprised. He said he did not know and was going to find out. He said you return the money, we will think about it. I said we have been paying rent for 8 years, the money was spent on rent," Gohar Ghasabyan told an episode of her conversation with the ex-deputy minister.

She noted that they had been told to return the money orally, they did not receive an official letter and they never learned whom they were supposed to return the money to.

In answer to the article published in Lragir.am Ruben Melikyan wrote that the money was to be paid to Griar, the development company. "According to the ECtHR decision, in order to provide apartments to former residents of Buzand Street which were twice as larger, they had to return the compensation which they received in 2005 under the court rulings," Melikyan explained.

He refers to the ECtHR decision, explaining that the European Court had made such a decision. However, the decision of the ECtHR does not contain any such point. It rules on providing apartments to three families but there is no word about returning the compensation.

"It is very upsetting to hear such denial from the former minister of justice. This is a deliberate lie. He says the purpose of his conversation with me was to present the stance of the state on the decision of the European Court. So, we all are educated people and I want to understand what it means to present a position if there is a decision of the court. A position matters before a decision or a verdict is made. What position are you presenting after the decision is in place? He says according to the decision of the ECtHR, in order to provide twice larger apartments the ex-residents of Buzand Street must return the compensation which they received in 2005 on the basis of the decisions of Armenian courts." This is a terrible lie. In what decision of the ECtHR is it found? There is nothing like this in the decision of the European Court, Sedrak Baghdasaryan said in an interview with Lragir.am. As to Ruben Melikyan's point that residents should return the money to

Griar CJSC, Sedrak Baghdasaryan wonders which decision contains such a point. I sued the Republic of Armenia, what does Griar have to do with it?

The residents continue to argue that Ruben Melikyan informed them about return of money orally, there was no written document or decision, and it is not known who the refund must be made to.

"Let us assume that we agreed to give it, who were we to give the money to? We cannot understand this. After all, you are not requesting one thousand drams, Mr. Melikyan, you are requesting a round sum from me, from the Ghazabyans, from the Gharibyans. How were we supposed to bring that money and give it to you? They should have written an official letter as to where the money should have been transferred to. If I am supposed to give the money to Griar, why are you asking me, you give me my house, and then let Griar go to court and claim the money," Sedrak Baghdasaryan says.

The residents have the note from the ex-representative of Armenia to ECtHR, now Prosecutor General Kostanyan who states that the government commits to providing apartments to the abovementioned families. Kostanyan's note stated the addresses of the apartments and the numbers of certificates of ownership of property. Later, however, the citizens found out that the mentioned apartments had been sold to other people.

The Ministry of Justice commits to respond later to the written inquiry of Lragir.am on why the government of Armenia has not executed the decision of ECtHR made in 2011 and why it failed to provide the abovementioned families with apartments within three months.

The representative of the applicants Arthur Grigoryan says the government is telling the citizens to return the insignificant compensation they had received earlier. The money, according to the advocate, has hardly covered the rent of these families. He thinks that the government of Armenia is trying to mislead ECtHR.

"We think the excuses of the government are an excuse rather than a reason. In reality, the government of Armenia has been unable to take any measure to prevent Griar CJSC from signing deals over the apartments concerned," the advocate thinks.

*lragir.am*



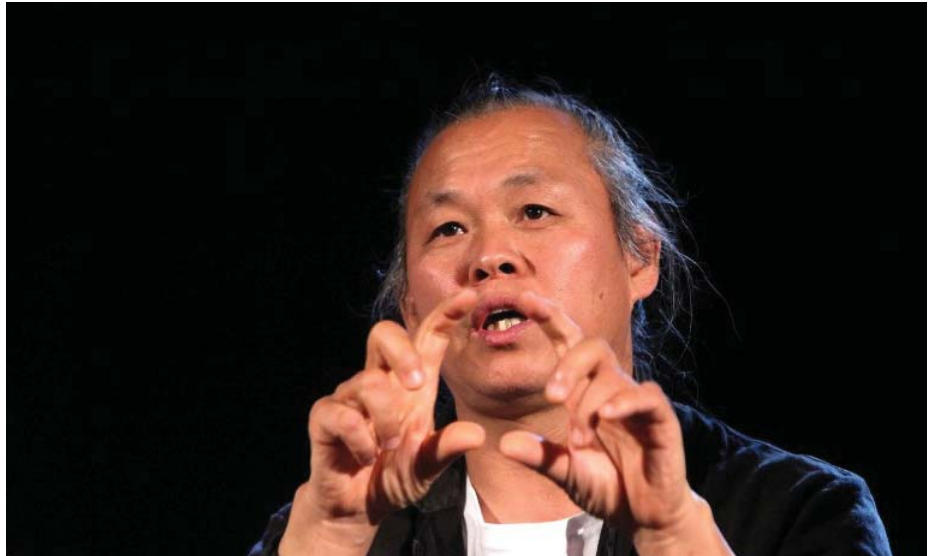
## GM Levon Aronian meets Armenian community in Glendale

South Korean film director Kim Ki-duk, while in Yerevan for the 11th Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival (GAIFF), spent some time wandering the streets of the Armenian capital.

At a recent press conference, he said that he managed to see not only the city center, but also the local poor, concluding that the image in Korea and Armenia are practically the same. For this reason, he said, he wants to study Armenia further.

Kim Ki-duk introduced the West to Korean cinema. He has shot 20 films, some of which have gone on to receive awards at prestigious international festivals. The filmmaker often hears that there's a lot of cruelty in his films. But he thinks that he simply presents life, which has both good and bad aspects. Just as depicted by the director in his film *Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter...and Spring*, man's life changes like the seasons in the year. And even if he presents the bad, he doesn't do so intentionally. It's just that through his films he wants to show how he lived that which exists in Korean reality. Kim Ki-duk is not only the director, but also the scriptwriter and sometimes producer of his films.

Six of Kim Ki-duk's films will be screened as part of GAIFF's



Retrospectives program, which opened with his film *Pieta*. This 2012 film won the Golden Lion Award at Venice International Film Festival, receiving other awards in the US, Japan, China, Australia, Dubai, and Portugal. Before the film screening in Yerevan, Kim Ki-duk got up on stage to welcome the audience. He said that he thought for a long time who is the mother being, as a result of whom this film's script was born. But this is a story not of a good, kind-hearted mother, but a vengeful mother. Kim Ki-duk's other films to be screened at GAIFF

are *3-Iron*, *Address Unknown*, *The Coast Guard*, *The Isle*, and *Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter...and Spring*.

Kim Ki-duk confessed that he is quite moved that so many people came to both the press conference and his film screening. He's happy that there are so many people in Armenia who are interested in his films and hopes that soon he will present his new film to this audience.

GAIFF presented Kim Ki-duk with the Parajanov's Thaler, a Lifetime Achievement Award, for contributions made to global cinema.

## Can't understand why Turkey does not recognize the Armenian Genocide: Israeli filmmaker

"Modern cinematography is rich in money, but poor in ideas," says Israeli filmmaker Amos Gitay, an author of over 80 documentaries and feature films mostly surrounding the Middle East and Jewish-Arab conflict. Retrospective screening of his films will take place within the framework of the Golden Apricot 11th International Film Festival in Yerevan.

Although this is Gitay's first visit to Armenia, he has long wished to visit the country to see the people that have passed through massacres and need to present their pain to the world. The filmmaker believes cinema is a powerful tool for preserving memory.

"I never understood why Turkey does not recognize the Armenian Genocide. I see similarities between the histories and identities of the Armenian and Jewish



peoples. The demand of Armenians is completely legal and justified as was the demand of the Jews. This is not a sentimental issue connected with the memories of the past. Only by condemning the crimes of the past can we be confident that they will not reoccur in the future. Politics is certainly important in the process of recognition of the Armenian Genocide, but no less important is the power of art, which should be used,"

Amos Gitay told reporters in Yerevan.

Famous Turkish film director Tayfun Pirselimoglu is also among the guests of the Golden Apricot Film Festival. His 2013 film presented in the competitive program is a joint production of Turkey, Greece, Germany and France. The film "I'm not him" tells about a man, who changes his identity and becomes a different person, without thinking about the consequences.

"The change of human identity lies in the basis of the film. It seems that the hero had no reason to change his identity, but this happens, anyway," the Turkish filmmaker said.

According to him, the issue of identity is still urgent in Turkey, and he does not rule out that one of his heroes could be an Armenian that has changed his identity.

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 19:00 Illusions. For adults. Author: Viripaev H. Tumanyan State Puppet Theatre  
 19:30 White Night El Sky Bar  
 20:00 Mind Summer Party. With DJ Grig Jose Restaurant Café Club  
 21:00 Anushik Alaverdyan & Karen Mamikonyan Band Ulikhanyan Club  
 21:30 Hayway Band Mezzo Classic House Club 19.07.14 12:30

**19 July**

14:00 Hansel and Gretel. Brothers Grimm. Play for kids Yerevan State Marionette Theatre  
 14:00 Goldfish. Author: Alexander Pushkin H. Tumanyan State Puppet Theatre  
 14:00 Beauty and the Beast. French folk tale. Children's Musical The State Musical Chamber Theatre  
 16:00 Goldfish. Author: Alexander Pushkin. Play for kids H. Tumanyan State Puppet Theatre  
 18:00 Watermelon Festival Swan Like 19.07.14 19:00 Gomidas Choir's Concert in Yerevan Komitas Chamber Music Hall  
 19:00 Du-Dum the Wise Man and the Ignorant. Play for kids H. Tumanyan State Puppet Theatre  
 19:00 The Adventures of Masha and Dasha. Play for kids G. Sundukian National Academic Theatre  
 19:00 On the 44 degree. A. Simonyan (Based on T. Hayrapetyan story) Hamazgayin Theatre  
 19:00 Romantic Comedy. B. Slide. Tragicomedy in 2 acts H. Ghaplanyan Drama Theatre  
 20:00 Music Cascade: Armenian Traditional Ensemble Cafesjian Center for the Arts  
 21:00 Group Fiesta (Soloist Sona) Malkhas Jazz Club  
 21:00 Anushik Alaverdyan & Karen Mamikonyan Band Stop Music Club  
 21:30 Cocktail Band Mezzo Classic House Club

**20 July**

12:00 14:00 Cinderella. Author: Charles Perrault. Play for kids The State Musical Chamber Theatre  
 12:30 14:00 The Adventures of Buratino. Alexei Tolstoy. Play for kids Yerevan State Marionette Theatre  
 14:00 Little Ida's Flowers. Author: Hans Christian Andersen. Play for kids H. Tumanyan State Puppet Theatre  
 16:00 Golden Chicken. Author: Vladimir Orlov. Play for kids H. Tumanyan State Puppet Theatre  
 19:00 State Dance Ensemble of Armenia Alexander Spendaryan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre  
 19:00 Ah, Anna, Anna, or Passion Sunday, Marc Camoletti. Romantic comedy in 2 acts-sion H. Ghaplanyan Drama Theatre  
 21:00 Van Gogh & Modigliani @ WishUp Art Café Van Gogh  
 21:00 Vahagn Hayrapetyan Jazz Trio Malkhas Jazz Club  
 21:00 Katuner Band Stop Music Club  
 21:30 Chigapo & The Untouchables Mezzo Classic House Club

**21 July**

19:00 Meeting with Armen Claude Mutafian (Armenia-France) Naregatsi Art Institute  
 21:00 Group Reminor and Forsh Malkhas Jazz Club  
 21:30 Nuance Ethno-Jazz Mezzo Classic House Club

**22 July**

19:00 Arshak II. T. Choukhajian. Opera in 2 acts Alexander Spendaryan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre  
 19:00 Coma Nostra. Author: Narek Duryan H. Tumanyan State Puppet Theatre  
 19:00 Classical Music Night. Hasmik Vardanyan, cello Naregatsi Art Institute  
 20:00 Open Couple Café Theater Bourbon St.

21:00 Jazz quartet (Soloist Zara) Malkhas Jazz Club  
 21:30 Allusion Band Mezzo Classic House Club

**23 July**

19:00 Violin Night. Nune Melikian (Armenia-New York) Naregatsi Art Institute  
 20:00 Cafesjian Classical Music Series: Anna Mayilyan presents-Call of Homeland Cafesjian Center for the Arts  
 21:00 Crossroads Blues Band (Soloist Amiryan Misho) Malkhas Jazz Club  
 21:30 Imagine Band Mezzo Classic House Club

**24 July**

19:00 Il Trovatore. G. Verdi. Opera in 3 acts Alexander Spendaryan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre  
 21:00 Jazz Trio (Soloist Aghvan) Malkhas Jazz Club  
 21:00 Special Jazz Night Stop Music Club  
 21:30 Camaradas Band & Ani Lupe Mezzo Classic House Club

**25 July**

12:00 Shushi. Concert Dedicated to the 90th Anniversary of Charles Aznavour. The Modern... Naregatsi Art Institute  
 19:00 Liparit Avetisyan. Tenor. Accompanied by Ella Meliq-Husyan Komitas Chamber Music Hall  
 19:00 Stepanakert. Concert Dedicated to the 90th Anniversary of Charles Aznavour. The modern... Naregatsi Art Institute  
 21:00 Spanish Night with the songwriter David Rodriguez Art Café Modigliani  
 21:00 Mane & The Cocktail Band Stop Music Club  
 21:00 Martin Vardazaryan Star Opening Yans Music Hall  
 21:30 Hayway Band Mezzo Classic House Club

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