

Prime Minister: Government to continue reforms in the sphere of local self-government

Attended by Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan, the fourth annual conference of rural communities kicked off in Jermuk. The conference is to discuss topical issues relevant to local government and rural communities involving all stakeholders.

Welcoming the forum on behalf of his government and himself, the Prime Minister said that the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Association of Armenian Communities-hosted forums have already become traditional in nature, turning into an effective platform for addressing numerous local and regional governance systems-related theoretical and practical issues.

Hovik Abrahamyan especially stressed the importance of having the participation of heads of rural communities, along with the representatives of various government agencies, international organizations. In his words, it is provides an excellent opportunity to communicate with each other, exchange experiences.

The Prime Minister said that the conference agenda is quite full, which includes items relevant to the local government sys-



tem, further improving institutional-oriented topics as well as communities in the provision of various services aimed at increasing efficiency and increasing the volume of problems.

"I would single out the issues relating to administrative reform, improvement of institutions necessary for their implementation, holding of local elections, the intro-

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Hovik Abrahamyan received Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice President Wencai Zhang

Welcoming the guest, the Prime Minister praised the cooperation with ADB toward ensuring our country's economic development and institutional reform process. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of continued implementation of joint programs for infrastructure development, including transport nodes, maintenance and construction of roads, water supply and drainage systems modernization programs and joint continuity.

The ADB Vice President rated as effective the interaction dating back to as early as 2005, noting that the Bank is working over the Armenia Partnership Strategy for the next five years. Mr. Zhang welcomed the reforms implemented by the Government in various areas and especially hailed the progress in improving the business environment and boosting entrepreneurship in Armenia.

The parties expressed satisfaction with the progress of the project in different fields. As they talked about the details of the North-South Road Corridor construction project, the interlocutors stressed the need to carry out construction works in quality and timely manner. Then the Prime Minister and ADB Vice President referred to the areas for expanding cooperation.

Hovik Abrahamyan, among several other projects, prioritized the inclusion in next five-year Armenia Partnership Strategy projects concerning rural communities, information technology, SME, as well as female entrepreneurship development programs. Both sides stressed the importance of promoting regional cooperation programs.

On behalf of the ADB, Wencai Zhang expressed readiness to continue to support both the ongoing programs and the Government's priorities for economic development, public-private sector cooperation, promoting the development of a knowledge-based economy, providing technical assistance, capacity building, etc.

The Prime Minister stressed that mindful of expanding the ongoing cooperation with the Bank, his government will keep in focus the implementation of joint programs and the agreements reached.

Going against self-determination equal to going against evolution: Armenian FM

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian received on November 3 UK's Minister of State for Europe David Lidington. The two Ministers discussed a wide range of issues related to the development of bilateral relations, the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh issue, the situation in the Middle East, etc.

"The second visit in a ministerial capacity is in itself an illustration of strong bilateral relationship, which exists between Armenia and the United Kingdom," Mr. Lidington said at a joint press conference with Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian.

Speaking about the Nagorno Karabakh issue, the British diplomat said: "We strongly support the efforts of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to try to find a way forward towards a political solution to the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh and reconciliation between Armenia and Azerbaijan."

"The UK believes that the international community needs to redouble its support to what the Minsk Group Co-Chairs are seeking to achieve, because the political conflict and the human tragedy, which is at the heart of the conflict, has been continuing for too long. It is damaging to regional and European stability," he said.

United Nations Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, Alfred de Zayas recently published a report, which states, in part, that "The realization of the right to self-determination is essential to maintaining local, regional and international peace and must be seen as an important conflict-prevention strategy."

Commenting on the report, the Armenian Foreign Minister said: "We have always stated that the realization of the right to self-determination is not the cause of different conflicts. On the contrary, the denial of the right to self-determination creates ground for conflicts. This is what the report is about. We have always said the realization of the right to self-determination can help prevent new conflicts and establish and maintain peace and stability in the region and the world, at large."

"The realization of the right to self-determination can contribute to the reinforcement of democracy and protection of human rights. The report also stresses this," Minister Nalbandian said. He reminded



that the UN had just 51 members at the time of its establishment, while the number has grown to 193, which is the result of the realization of the right to self-determination.

"Going against the right to self-determination is equal to going against evolution. This important report comes to prove the approaches Armenia and a number of other countries have always had on the issue. A country that respects democracy and human rights cannot be against the right to self-determination. The most recent example was the Scottish referendum," the Armenian Foreign Minister stated.

To what extent does UK's economic involvement in Azerbaijan prevent the country from voicing a just assessment of the obvious cases of human rights violation in Azerbaijan, harassment of human rights activists and presence of political prisoners?

"We've been completely open in what we've said about the situation in Azerbaijan," David Lidington said.

"I've issued public statements about particular cases in Azerbaijan within the past year. Members of Parliament in the House of Commons raise concerns about human rights in many countries, including Azerbaijan from time to time. The Foreign Office publishes an annual report on the state of human rights worldwide," he said.

As for the UK's economic interests in the Caspian Region, Mr. Lidington said: "The UK is aware of the risks to economic interests in the event of further instability in the South Caucasus. There is a particular imperative on our part to see an end to the frozen conflicts as being in our national interest too."

Speaking about the Armenian-Turkish relations, the British Minister said "the protocols should be implemented without delay." "We want to see the normalization of relations between Armenia and Turkey. We think that both parties have what to gain from that," he said.

Armenian cabinet to undergo structural changes



The Armenian government has approved changes proposed in its structure, with two ministries expected to be merged and a new one to be created.

Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan, who chaired Thursday's Cabinet meeting, suggested that the ministries of emergency situations and local government be reorganized into one ministry.

The change follows the resignation of Local Government Minister Armen Gevorkyan on October 16. Since then the ministerial post as well as the post of deputy prime minister that Gevorkyan combined have remained vacant.

It is yet unclear whether Armen Yeritsyan, the current minister of emergency situations, will be asked to head the unified ministry.

Meanwhile, Abrahamyan also suggested establishing a new ministry that will be in charge of "economic integration and

reforms". According to some media reports, former finance minister Vache Gabrielyan, who currently serves as senior advisor to the prime minister, could be appointed to head this new ministry.

Minister of Education and Science Armen Ashotyan, who is also deputy chairman of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK), said that the new ministry will be in charge of issues connected with the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) that Armenia expects to become a member of beginning next year. "I think that it will also deal with Armenia-European Union cooperation, the development of a new agenda, relations of new type and quality with the EU especially in the economic sphere," he said.

Vahram Baghdasaryan, the leader of the HHK parliamentary faction, said it was important to set up the new ministry to facilitate interaction with the EEU, which opens up a market of 170 million people for Armenia. But members of the main opposition groups in Armenia have already challenged the wisdom of the move, describing it as potentially another waste of taxpayer money. Some of them stressed that the draft budget for 2015 submitted to the parliament last week did not envisage any funding for new ministries.

Chief of government staff David Harutiunyan was instructed to submit the proposals to the National Assembly as a bill for priority consideration so that relevant amendments are made in the law on the government's structure.

Armenian ruling party 'open' for meeting with Tsarukyan

President Serzh Sargsyan is unlikely to reject the opportunity of a meeting with the top opposition leader should the latter seek such a meeting, a senior member of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) said on November 4.

Parliament Speaker Galust Sahakyan, who is a deputy chairman of the party led by Serzh Sargsyan, at the same time did not confirm the latest media reports alleging that a meeting between the president and Prosperous Armenia Party leader Gagik Tsarukyan took place over the weekend.

"But we are open to the possibility of a meeting," Sahakyan said. Still, he repeated that the HHK does not have a clear idea of what it is that the current opposition movement wants to discuss.

"In any case, they try to present... that there is an extremely bad situation and that it is necessary to sit down and talk," he told RFE/RL's Armenian Service. "If Tsarukyan needs such a meeting, I don't think there will be a refusal."

Tsarukyan's Prosperous Armenia Party and its more radical opposition allies - the Armenian National Congress and Heritage - held two well-attended ral-

lies in Yerevan last month. They plan another rally at a yet unannounced date in the near future.

Addressing tens of thousands of supporters in the Armenian capital's Liberty Square on October 24, Tsarukyan urged the current leadership to comply with a set of opposition demands or face the prospect of being ousted by a campaign of street protests seeking early elections. Among the demands he mentioned amendments to the election laws, in particular, demanding that parliamentary ballots held in single-mandate constituencies be abolished and elections be held by party lists only. Many opposition groups in Armenia believe such a reform will drastically reduce opportunities for the ruling party to rig elections.

"We are ready to change the electoral code in due time," Sahakyan said. "But at this moment we have to deal with chang-

ing the model of government...It is absurd to make changes in the electoral code before a constitutional reform as these changes should proceed from the amendments to the Constitution."

Sahakyan said that a special government commission is looking into what the electoral code should be in conditions of the amended Constitution.

The three opposition parties are critical of the constitutional reform initiated by the current administration. They fear that the plans to turn Armenia into a parliamentary republic are tailored to the needs of President Sargsyan who thus wants to stay in power in some capacity after the end of his second and final term in office in 2018. Serzh Sargsyan himself has pledged not to seek a top government post in the future if the current semi-presidential model is changed as a result of the reform.

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Government reconsiders plans to cut maternity benefits

The Armenian government has reconsidered its original plans to make considerable cuts in maternity leave benefits after the move sparked protests among working women.

Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Artem Asatryan said on November 4 that an overwhelming majority of women will not be affected by the changes envisaged in a number of related laws, while for the rest employers will have to ensure appropriate payments.

The current law stipulates that the monthly allowances must fully match the salaries of women employed by public or private entities. The originally planned government bill would cut their amount by between 20 and 60 percent depending on their work experience.

The government attributed the measure to the scarcity of public funds spent from its budget, saying that it would use the money saved through the proposed cuts to also pay benefits to unemployed mothers starting from 2016. The move, however, sparked protests among mostly young women and activists many of whom rallied outside the government and parliament buildings late last month.

At a government session last Thursday Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan instructed his Cabinet to redraft the amendments in a way that "not a single pregnant woman suffers as a result".



During hearings on the matter in parliament on Tuesday Minister Asatryan said that women whose monthly salary does not exceed 1 million drams (about \$2,500) will not be affected by the planned changes, while employers will have to take care of the extra payments to those who receive higher salaries. According to him, at present there are only 400 women in Armenia whose salaries are above the indicated sum.

Lawmaker Aghvan Vartanyan from the opposition Armenian Revolutionary Federation said the government decision was the result of the protests staged by women.

"It is very important that there was a public protest and women stood up for their rights," he said.

Demo In Support of Jailed Activists Staged In Yerevan

Scores of activists gathered in Yerevan's central Liberty Square on Wednesday night to mark the first anniversary of the arrest of protest leader Shant Harutiunyan and his supporters.

Wearing masks of the so-called Anonymous group they also marched through central streets of the city, demanding the release of the 47-year-old leader of the little-known opposition Tseghakron party and 11 other men who were convicted and sentenced to prison terms last month on charges stemming from their actions during last year's demonstration.

Eight activists were briefly detained by police for "violating the rules of the use of public places" during tonight's demonstration. The police said they face fines of between 20,000 and 60,000 drams (about \$50-\$150).

On November 5, 2013, Harutiunyan led a march towards President Serzh Sargsyan's offices in what he described as a "revolution of values." Police used force to stop the crowd armed with sticks and homemade stun grenades from approaching the presidential compound. Dozens of activists were arrest-



ed after clashes with police. Harutiunyan and 11 other men were eventually charged in connection with the incident in which dozens were injured, including four police officers.

The trial of the activists began in June and virtually all of the defendants pleaded not guilty to the hooliganism charges which Mnatsakan Martirosyan, the presiding judge who rarely challenged prosecutors, eventually found substantiated.

On October 17, the court handed prison sentences ranging from 1 to 7 years to the activists, with Harutiunyan sentenced to 6 years in jail. Harutiunyan's 15-year-old son Shahen, who avoided pre-trial arrest, received a suspended 4-year sentence on the same charges of "hooliganism".

Opposition groups and leading human rights activists in Armenia condemned the court rulings, describing Harutiunyan and others as political prisoners.

The lawyers of the activists said they will appeal the verdicts and the sentences passed against their clients at a higher court.



EU mulls areas of cooperation for future agreement with Armenia, envoy says

The European Union does not exclude that a new agreement with Armenia considering the South Caucasus country's commitments to an emerging Russian-led trade bloc may be signed in the near future, according to a Brussels representative in Yerevan.

Talking to RFE/RL's Armenian Service (Azatutyun.am) on November 7, Ambassador Traian Hristea, the head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, said that negotiations around the matter are currently underway between the two parties.

The European Union and Armenia signed a memorandum of understanding on November 3 launching the Single Support Framework for EU support to Yerevan under which the 28-nation bloc pledged to provide between 140 million and 170 million euros to Armenia for private-sector, public administration, and justice reforms over the next three years.

Newly appointed EU Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn told RFE/RL on Monday about the starting "first reflection process" on the issue of identifying areas of future cooperation with Armenia and on what Armenia's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union implies for its relationship with the EU.

"Taking into account the new Armenian commitments [we are going] to see what are those areas of bilateral cooperation that we can put from the sectoral point of view into the future agreement that we are going to conclude in, I hope, immediate future with Armenia," said Hristea, reflecting on the results of the Brussels meeting.

As for the possibility of the EU signing the so-called political part of the Association Agreement with Armenia excluding the Deep and Comprehensive

Free Trade Area (DCFTA) component that contradicts Armenia's new commitments to the EEU, the head of the EU delegation in Yerevan said: "I think that we really have to take in account what we agreed in Vilnius. During the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius we convened first and foremost to continue the support for Armenia in terms of democratization, rule of law, fight against corruption and support for the reforms to engage in bilateral cooperation as far as bilateral sectoral cooperation is concerned. And that was the purpose of that meeting [in Brussels]. And thirdly [its purpose was] to make use of the existing association agreement that has been negotiated and in the future also to update the action plan."

"It's a part of a much more complex exercise and as soon as that is finishing, we will see what kind of agreement we have," Hristea concluded.

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duction of mechanisms to ensure the full functioning of local councils, communities, the mechanisms needed to efficiently distribute State-administered financial resources and administrative oversight. The conference agenda is also advantageous in terms of practical issues. In particular, I would single out the national strategic plan for solid waste management, Kotayk and Gegharkunik marz programs which already have a specific description and financial structure, for which, by the way, the Government of Armenia is negotiating favorable credit terms and grant resources to attract," the Premier said, noting that projects like that are being developed for Lori and Tavush marzes.

Taking this opportunity, Hovik Abrahamyan thanked the representatives of international organizations in attendance for their willingness to assist the Government.

The Prime Minister stressed that the development of agriculture is a government priority and is kept in spotlight. This is evidenced by those numerous programs that are designed to support the progressive development of this sector.

In this context, the Prime Minister highlighted the ongoing discussions pertaining to the use of modern technologies in ensur-

ing biodiversity, providing sound pasture, forest management, establishing farms, agricultural cooperatives and the modern trends of agriculture development.

"Here, I wish to emphasize the important role of local-self government authorities. Through better organization, proactive steps we can ensure some local results. We have already recorded tangible results in the creation of greenhouse farms, berries and small agricultural processing capacity. They are good and instructive examples. In recent months, juice and dried fruit processing small entities were launched in Ayrum, Lusadzor, Bagratashen, Sardarapat and a number of other rural communities. Greenhouse facilities will be commissioned in Kothi and Chinari communities. These initiatives are very welcome, and the Government will encourage such efforts," the head of government said.

According to the Prime Minister, the most important precondition for effective local self-government is people's participation in decision-making and implementation processes.

People's activity is also a decisive factor in the formation of local authorities. According to the head of government, the awareness of this factor has led to the implementation of various UNDP-supported programs aimed at radicalization of democratic government.

"I want to emphasize that we realize that consistent effort and political will is needed to inculcate the fundamental principles of decentralization and local self-government. We have the necessary will. I wish to assure you that we will continue the reform process. We have still a way to go before we can tackle the social problems of about 866 rural communities, create all the necessary conditions, but what is important is that we are on the right path, and I am convinced that with joint efforts we will reach our goal," Hovik Abrahamyan concluded.

The conference is attended by representatives from central and local authorities, local and international organizations involved in regional projects, experts. Each marz is represented by ten community heads and five aldermen council members.

The forum is also a good platform for all actors involved in the field of sustainable rural development to come together and exchange information on programs and policies.

On the margins of the conference, there will be organized round tables, which will focus on the development of local self-government bodies, environmental concerns, agricultural development trends, as well as tourism and balanced regional development issues.

IFC Supports Development of energy efficient business complex in Armenia

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is supporting the development of an innovative, energy-efficient office building in Armenia which will spur job creation and positively impact the environment.

IFC is providing a \$9 million loan for its own account and mobilizing another \$9 million from DEG (Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH) to the Property Development Company to finance the development in the center of Yerevan. The project is expected to create links with local suppliers, while also creating jobs. The office complex will be constructed on V. Sargsyan Street, with the main façade of the existing historical building remaining intact in the new construction.

Artashes Kazakhetyan, CEO of

Property Development Company, said: "We have preserved every single stone from the old building by applying international standards, and also developed an architectural and engineering design that showcases the historical importance of this area. In addition, this will be the first green commercial building certified by BREEAM, a global leader in the design and assessment of sustainable buildings."

The total value of the project is estimated to be \$37 million, with the remaining funds provided by the Property Development Company from its own account. The development of an A-Class office building in the capital is also expected to boost commercial real estate standards, while the use of advanced energy efficient technologies will help future tenants save on energy bills.



Armenia became a member and shareholder of IFC in 1995. Since then, IFC has invested more than \$320 million in 52 projects across a range of sectors, including financial markets, manufacturing, and mining, and mobilized nearly \$23 million from other lenders. IFC Advisory Services provides advice through projects focusing on the financial sector, sustainable energy, regulatory simplification, and food safety.

Armenian, Turkish entrepreneurs looking for common interests in IT sphere

More than 30 Turkish businessmen have arrived in Armenia to discuss the perspectives of cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technologies. Entrepreneurs, programmers, designers, sales experts from both countries held a roundtable discussion on November 6.

On November 7 they will participate in a "Star-up Weekend" event, which will continue in Gyumri on November 8-9.

The Armenian specialists briefed their Turkish counterparts on the achievements and perspectives of development of the ICT in Armenia.

"I didn't believe so many people would be interested in participating in the event. This is a new opportunity in the reconciliation efforts," US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern said.

According to him, the "first track" diplomacy sometimes works, sometimes doesn't. This initiative is a "second track" diplomacy, i.e. contacts between societies, private entrepreneurs.

EU To Provide Armenia With Fresh Aid

The European Union has pledged to provide between 140 million and 170 million euros to Armenia for private-sector, public administration, and justice reforms over the next three years.

The commitment is contained in a memorandum of understanding launching the Single Support Framework for EU support to Yerevan that was signed in Brussels on November 3 by newly appointed Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn and Armenian Economy Minister Karen Chshmaritian.

"The EU and Armenia are committed to continuing cooperation in areas of mutual interest based on shared values," Hahn said, on his first official working day as commissioner. "We support the country's modernization efforts and we will continue encouraging necessary reforms in Armenia."

The deal represents the most significant agreement between the European Union and Armenia since Yerevan decided to join the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union. That decision, announced by Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian in Moscow in September 2013,

effectively put an end to years of negotiations between Yerevan and Brussels to conclude an Association Agreement and its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) component.

Hahn also announced the first package of EU assistance for 2014 under the new Single Support Framework. The fresh funding of 19 million euros (about \$23.8 million) will focus on small businesses and human rights protection in Armenia.

"Supporting businesses and innovative start-ups can, in a longer run, boost more job opportunities, increase the economic competitiveness, and enhance the overall progress of the private sector of Armenia. In the field of human rights protection, the new program will help improve relevant legislation in the areas of right to free elections, torture prevention, anti-discrimination, gender equality and child protection," a European Commission press release said.

Pledging to continue to support reforms in Armenia, the European Union at the same time emphasized that the figures of allocations are indicative: final

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Peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict would be transformative for the South Caucasus: UK Minister



more distant," the Minister added.

According to him, a peaceful resolution would be transformative for the South Caucasus as a whole, enabling the region to develop its full economic potential as a bridge between Europe and Asia. "At a simple, practical level that fact that you cannot have direct flights between Baku and Yerevan is an obstacle to the normal business of international trade and commercial contact."

"Only diplomacy can bring about peace; and diplomacy can only succeed if those who disagree meet to resolve their differences," David Lidington said. He welcomed the recent meetings of President Aliyev and President Sargsyan: in Sochi; at the NATO Summit in Newport; and in Paris. "Regular high level meetings are one vital step towards building peace," he said.

"I personally, and the UK government strongly support the work of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs in trying to achieve a lasting peace. The "Madrid Principles" set out in 2007 provide the basis for a deal but they involve difficult decisions and compromises for both sides. So it is important that these principles are discussed more openly, both in Azerbaijan and Armenia," he said.

"Peace will only be possible if both Armenia and Azerbaijan are prepared to show the political will needed to reach agreement," he stressed and added: "I am concerned that neither the government of Azerbaijan nor the government of Armenia is at the moment creating a situation in which a peace agreement would be acceptable to their populations."

"I know that compromise is not easy and I recognize that finding a solution to this conflict will require courage from all sides. But some of the keys to future stability and prosperity involve difficult decisions right now. I believe that now is the time to invest in peace," Mr. Lidington concluded.

Speaking at the Baku ADA University, UK Minister of State for Europe David Lidington stressed the need to "end the terrible tragedy that is Nagorno Karabakh."

"It is a matter of deep regret that on the twentieth anniversary of the 1994 ceasefire we still seem to be a long way from an agreed sustainable and agreed political settlement. In fact, there have been more deaths this year than in any other since 1994. This is a conflict that has caused 20 years of lost opportunity. 20 years of continued hostility, hatred and suffering," Mr. Lidington said.

"Every year both Azerbaijanis and Armenians die on the line of contact as a result of this ongoing conflict," he said.

"Every year the divisions and differences between the two countries and two peoples seem grow; and the opportunities for contact, for the exchange of views, for building of links across national lines seems to diminish further. Every year the possibilities to build a brighter future for the region seem to become

EU To Provide Armenia With Fresh Aid

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allocations will depend on the country's needs and commitment to reforms.

Aside from those agreements, the EU commissioner and the Armenian economy minister also signed a document under which 25 million euros will be provided to Armenia for agriculture and rural development.

"I welcome this agreement and hope that there will be a lot of further agreements and that will be certainly a very close cooperation between Armenia and the European Union," Hahn said. Chshmaritian expressed Armenia's gratitude to the EU for understanding the position of Armenia, stressing that Yerevan wants to continue cooperation in trade and investments, implementing reforms in all sectors of the economy. "We want to have a more attractive investment and business climate for our European partners," he said.

Asked by RFE/RL Brussels correspondent Rikard Jozwiak whether it was still possible for Armenia to sign the political component of the Association Agreement with the European Union without the DCFTA part, Hahn acknowledged that the



Russian-led customs group presented an obstacle.

"Tomorrow [November 4] there will be the first reflection process on this issue, a brainstorm meeting where both the Armenian side and the European Union will be sitting together and identifying areas of future cooperation and what this membership in the Customs Union implies for the relationship with the European Union," Hahn said.



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

PREMISES

- 1789. **Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598. **Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capitally repaired. Price: negotiable.
- 1603. **Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- 2035. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- 2013. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- 2012. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- 2155. **Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking. Price: 3.600.000 USD
- 2020. **Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m, without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable
- 1986. **Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.
- 2167. **Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- 2175. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor 300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m., - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- 2172. **Isahakyan str.**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

- 2122. **Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.
- 2121. **Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m., building permits. Price: 2million USD.
- 2013. **Cascade**. 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 460.000USD
- 1402. **Hr. Kochar Str.**, 1100 sq. m., facade -25 m. Price negotiable.
- 2090. **Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000USD.
- 2406. **Avan**, Mher Mkrtyan 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, Barbysus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 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, 4 bathrooms, 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, Barbysus str.**, Land-450 sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD
- 3651. **Blur, Barbysus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 1.700.000 USD.
- 3401. **Antarayan str.**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capitally repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

- ♦1780. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- ♦942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- ♦1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- ♦1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦2089. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- ♦1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2187. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9/5, 120 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2.200 USD
- ♦2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦2243. **Buzand str.**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD
- ♦2267. **North Avenue** Newly built, 7th floor, 170sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished equipped. Price: 2500 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦2286. **Sose str.**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD

- ♦2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- ♦2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- ♦1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.



- ♦1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, climate control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking. Price 3000 USD negotiable
- ♦2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦2252. **Northern ave.**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦1323. **Monument, Babayan str.**, Land-400sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- ♦1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq.m , 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- ♦999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capially repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- ♦1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- ♦1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially 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, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD

♦327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price: 4000 USD

♦1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable

♦1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD

♦1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD

♦1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable

♦1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.

♦1323. **Monument, Babayan str.**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

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

President Sargsyan makes the first move for Aronian at Tigran Petrosian memorial tournament

President of the Republic of Armenia, President of the Armenian Chess Federation Serzh Sargsyan was present on November 6 at the Tashir International Chess Tournament in memory of Tigran Petrosian, the 9th World Chess Champion.

Serzh Sargsyan, who is the president of the organizing committee of the memorial tournament, welcomed the world's strongest GMs participating in the tournament and the fans watching the games at Moscow's Novotel hotel.

He wished success to the tournament and made the first move for Armenian Grand Master Levon Aronian.

The tournament has been organized by Tashir Group Company and the Russian Chess Federation.

An agreement was signed between the Chess Federations of Armenia and Russia, under which the strongest team of Armenian schoolchildren will participate in the renowned "Belaya Ladya" (White Rook) tournament.



Armenia, Karabakh conduct large-scale military drills

The armed forces of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh have been engaged in large-scale military exercises these days, a Defense Ministry spokesman in Yerevan confirmed on November 6.

Artsrun Hovhannisyanyan told RFE/RL's Armenian Service (Azatutyun.am) that the drills are a scheduled arrangement. "From year to year these drills become more upgraded in terms of their nature, depth and professional features in accordance with the requirements of the time," he said.

The Defense Ministry official described the military exercises as "multifaceted and diverse", saying that they involved both current armed forces and reserves.

"The goal of any exercises is to raise the combat readiness of the armed

forces," Hovhannisyanyan added.

The official representative neither confirmed nor denied media reports about assemblies of reservists, adding that the reserve force is also part of the armed forces. However, he did not link the drills to the current situation at the Armenian border with Azerbaijan. According to him, the situation at the borders is relatively calm today.

Azerbaijan, too, regularly holds large-scale military exercises along the Line of Contact with the ethnic Armenian troops of Nagorno-Karabakh. It has repeatedly threatened to use military force to regain control of the region that broke free from Baku's rule as a result of hostilities in the early 1990s. Authorities in Baku, at the same time, have also expressed their hope to settle the dispute diplomatically

through internationally mediated talks with Armenia.

In early August, Armenia and Azerbaijan appeared to be on the brink of renewed hostilities amid an unprecedented escalation of violence in the conflict zone. The sides blamed each other for skirmishes and commando raids in which at least two dozen servicemen were killed.

Relative calm was restored after a Russia-mediated meeting between the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents, Serzh Sargsyan and Ilham Aliyev.

The two leaders last met with the mediation of French President Francois Hollande on October 27. At the Paris talks the parties were urged to show 'political will' to overcome their differences and prepare their peoples for peace.

Iran, Jordan, alienated from Turkey, warmly welcome Armenian Leaders



By *Harut Sassounian*

Publisher, The California Courier

Armenians boosted their historical ties with the Arab and Muslim world last month with the simultaneous visits of Armenia's President and Jerusalem's Armenian Patriarch to the Kingdom of Jordan, and visits by the Armenian Prime Minister and Aram Catholicos of Lebanon to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

While such foreign visits are commonplace, the exceptionally warm reception accorded by Shia Iran and Sunni Jordan to four Armenian leaders reflects these Islamic countries' close relationship with Christian Armenians and displeasure with the Turkish government's radical Islamist policies.

Only a few years ago, many Arabs and Muslims hailed Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Erdogan - now President - as a modern-day Sultan who was championing their national and religious aspirations. In 2010, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey decided to form a joint free trade zone to strengthen their economic cooperation. Soon after, by siding with the Muslim Brotherhood and Jihadists' murderous rampage against Kurds, Yazidis, Shias, Alawites, and Christian minorities, Erdogan's hegemonic and erratic behavior alienated almost every state in the Middle East. Turkey's love-fest with Syria quickly turned into outright hostility, and Ankara's relations with Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and especially Israel, became antagonistic.

These regional tensions with Turkey may have played a role in the enthusiastic welcome the four Armenian dignitaries

received from the highest ranking officials of Iran and Jordan where they had warm and fruitful discussions regarding their mutual interests and concerns. Here are the highlights of their visits:

- Pres. Serzh Sargsyan met with King Abdullah II, Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour, Senate President Abdel Raouf al-Rawabdeh, and Speaker of the House of Representatives Atef Tarawneh. During the visit, the mayors of Yerevan and Amman signed a sister city agreement. The leaders of the two countries decided to establish inter-parliamentary friendship groups and expand their cooperation in the fields of tourism, energy, agriculture, and health. Pres. Sargsyan thanked the Jordanian leadership for welcoming Armenian refugees during the 1915 Genocide and paying special attention to the needs of the Armenian community of Jordan today. The Armenian President voiced his gratitude for the decree issued in 1917 by Sharif al-Husayn Ibn Ali, who urged the Muslim faithful to protect the Armenian survivors of the Genocide "as you would defend yourselves, your properties, and children." Pres. Sargsyan also paid tribute to the late King Hussein who had sent urgently-needed humanitarian aid to Armenia shortly after the 1988 earthquake. The President then attended the historic consecration of the St. Garabed Church by Jerusalem Patriarch Nourhan Manougian near the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized. The land for the sacred site of the church was graciously donated by the Jordanian government. It is ironic that while Turkey aided and abetted ISIS terrorists' destruction of the Armenian Genocide Memorial Church in Der Zor, the Jordanian government was instrumental in the construction of an Armenian Church on the banks of the Jordan River!

- During his brief visit to Iran,

Armenia's Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan met Pres. Hassan Rouhani and signed a series of agreements on energy, agriculture, and culture. Mr. Abrahamyan transmitted Pres. Sargsyan's invitation to Pres. Rouhani to visit Yerevan next April 24, on the Armenian Genocide Centennial. The Prime Minister, accompanied by seven cabinet ministers, also met Iran's First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, Minister of Petroleum Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, and Isfahan Governor Rasul Zargarpar who praised the contributions of the Armenian community to the development of Isfahan.

- Aram Catholicos met with Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani who hailed the positive role played by the Iranian-Armenian community: "Iran has always held the Armenian community in high regard and many friendly relations have been in progress between Iranian Muslims and Armenians." They also discussed the Turkish government's negative role in the region. Aram Catholicos also met with the Governor of Isfahan and leaders of the Islamic Organization for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue. On behalf of Pres. Rouhani, Ali Younesi, Special Assistant to the President on ethnic and religious minorities, hosted a dinner in honor of the Catholicos. Speaking at a conference in New Julfa on Armenian Genocide demands from Turkey, Aram Catholicos declared: "irrespective of the circumstances and the elapsed time, we shall continue to demand justice for our martyrs."

The coincidental visits of the four Armenian leaders to Iran and Jordan reinforced the strong positive ties between the two Muslim countries and Armenia and Armenians, and highlighted Turkey's further isolation in the Middle East.

Armenian, Azerbaijani FMs will reportedly meet in Basel in December

"A meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia with the participation of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs is expected in early December," Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov said at a press conference following the meeting with Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Szijjarto in Baku, APA reports.

The minister said extensive discussions were held in Paris.

"Meetings were held at various levels, including with

French President Hollande. Hollande said in his statement that it is high time to continue working on a peace agreement," Mammadyarov said.

"Most likely, a meeting on the Karabakh conflict will be held as part of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Basel at the beginning of December. We will hold discussions. There would be a need for the next meeting of the presidents in the near future," he said.

VivaCell-MTS: Recent News from Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator

Armenia is hosting the 3rd Regional Conference for Human Resources Management (HRM): "One Step Forward"

The annual conference organized by the Human Resource Association of Armenia and Cascade Consultants aims at exploring the current challenges of the region in Human Resources area and offering their potential solutions. At the conference, which has already become traditional, the participants discussed the international HR standards, research findings and the need for development of the professional requirements in HR area.

Leading HR professionals of the region, as well as special guests representing the European HR Association (EAPM), the HR Certification Institute (HRCI) and the "Tom Hunt" Company made interesting presentations at the conference.

At this standardization conference a cooperation agreement was signed with the HR Certification Institute which will allow Armenian professionals of the area to receive qualifications such as HR Business Professional (HRBP) and HR Manager (HRMP), which have international acknowledgment and are highly respected.

The agreement also implies providing trainings for the HR qualification tests/exams, which will be conducted by Cascade Consultants, the official partner of the HR Certification Institute. The trainings will be conducted using the materials and programs and curriculum of HRCI.

"Today we can be confident that there is a special dynamics observed in HR management in terms of institutionalization, coordination and increase of HR role in organizations, and definitely the time has come to have certain standards to be on the same line with the international trends and to move forward the same direction," said **Arpi Karapetyan**, President of the HR Association of Armenia and Director of Cascade Consultants.

The General Sponsor of the conference is VivaCell-MTS; the bronze sponsor is "Dundee Precious Metals Kapan".

"I state with pleasure that the number of companies willing to unite under the

same cause grows year by year. The Human Resources department has a serious role in forming a healthy working environment. This conference is an important platform for professionals to appreciate the value of employees, find solutions to the problems concerning them and ways to turn the workplace into a pleasurable working environment. I wish you good luck in your undertakings," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

One of the achievements of this conference is the possibility to join the European HR Association (EAPM) within short period, which will provide lots of opportunities to HR professionals in



Armenia and will ensure an access to professional resources creating a new platform for sharing experiences.

WITH STEADY STEPS TOWARDS WINTER VivaCell-MTS & Fuller Center for Housing Armenia Partnership Continues

Owing to the partnership between VivaCell-MTS and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia the current year has become prominent for eight families - has been solved their top priority issue - the housing problem.

VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**, staff members from the

company and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia team had a regular visit to Armavir region, the villages of Yervandashat and Margara sharing with five families their happiness.

Nine families from Armavir region, the villages of Yervandashat and Margara, will meet the winter without worries and concerns

"It is already a month that some of our fellow villagers have already finished the construction of their homes. We were feeling awe following the process, sometimes

we were getting discouraged thinking whether the day when we finish the renovation of our house would come or not, whether we would feel the happiness of living in a safe and decent home. Now the sense of despair has disappeared," said **Tsovinar Grigoryan**, whose family more than anyone else knows what it means to live with deteriorated roof and without basic housing conditions.

"It was a month ago that the teams of VivaCell-MTS and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia as well as a group of foreign volunteers joined us helping with the construction of our house. In one day the teams did such a great work that we wouldn't have managed to do ourselves in this period and wouldn't have finished the construction till now. Now my family has a safe roof over its head. There are no words that can

express my feelings and the sense of gratitude," said **Hakob Muradyan**.

"Fatherland is a sacred idea, the purest of all the beliefs. It is the fundament upon which our identity relies on. Yet it is tangible as anything else around us. It's about soil cultivated by the farmer and the harvest that the land yields, it's about village kids who live in harmony with the nature, it's about strong families who pass their knowledge of land cultivation from generation to generation together with their love for the birthplace. Fatherland is the air that we breathe; it's the eyes of the young shepherd, clean as the spring water he drinks. Fatherland is the cumulative belief that each of us, nowadays Armenians, should hold: we are the means

to pass this holy land inherited from our ancestors to our children. For preserving our Fatherland, we have to work a lot, day and night, sparing no effort. We have to build - and with each of the houses that we build, we rebuild our belief. No one else will do this for us," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

In the frames of this project 6 houses were renovated, 2 half-built houses completed and one house purchased in Armariv region.

"The least each of us can do for these people is to create basic housing conditions, safe roof and solid walls. For an Armenian the home is more than a place to live in and we try to do the possible to make more families live without the concern of living in comfortable conditions," said **Ashot Yeghiazaryan**, Fuller Center for Housing Armenia President.

VivaCell-MTS has invested 55 million AMD for the housing project in the borderland villages of Armenia and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia has undertaken the implementation of the project.

**Media tour in Dahnak Mountains
New generation of IP and GPS
surveillance cameras for
wildlife monitoring in the
Caucasus Wildlife Refuge**

During a tour organized for media representatives, the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) with its General Partner VivaCell-MTS, have presented a new generation of IP and GPS surveillance cameras for wildlife monitoring in the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is located near Urtasdzor village in Ararat region. The cameras, which were acquired within the framework of the joint project, provide a unique opportunity for round the clock surveillance of animals in the area. While the IP cameras provide a continuous real-time video stream that can be watched and recorded on computers and screens far away (for example in the ranger station or in FPWC's office) the GPS cameras are triggered by motions. As soon as there is a movement in the area the GPS camera immediately sends reports and images through an SMS-message or electronic mail. This provides not only the opportunity to get information about passing by animals but it also reveals any illegitimate human intruder in the area for example poachers. Cameras work during day and night, and in any weather conditions, ensuring high quality images and accuracy.

The launching of the cameras was made possible by the high-speed internet coverage available in the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge, provided by VivaCell-MTS. Adjacent to the Khosrov Forest State Reserve in an uphill area (on a mountain 1300 meters above sea level) the company has set up a base-transceiver station providing uninterrupted internet and



mobile connectivity. Mobile access to voice and data services will also support the development of eco-tourism in rural areas, especially in the Ararat region.

In order to provide electricity supply to the base station, an electricity transformer was installed, and a 1.5 km-long high voltage power line was carried on from the major supply line to the top of the mountain, using wooden poles. Thanks to VivaCell-MTS, another power line was provided to the center, for pumping water from the river and for watering 2,000 newly-planted trees needing regular irrigation.

Moreover, during the media tour the participants were introduced to the unmanned surveillance system that was established within the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge's project. Both the camera and the surveillance system have the capacity to constantly monitor remote locations, delivering real-time information and data

about the territory. As already noted the system will also serve as an effective tool in the fight against poaching.

This video surveillance system, that is the most innovative approach in Armenia to receive necessary data about wildlife in remote areas, has been made possible by the generous support of FPWC's General Partner VivaCell-MTS.

**The 7th Pan-Armenian Painting
Day was held at the Yerevan Zoo**

The 7th Pan-Armenian Painting Day was held at the Yerevan Zoo. The event, organized by the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) in cooperation with VivaCell-MTS, is part of the Pan-Armenian Painting Contest held annually, which invites all Armenian children living in Armenia and abroad to submit their best nature painting for various prizes.

On Painting Day, zoo visitors had the opportunity to enjoy music, art, dancing and numerous other festivities with family and friends. Games, contests, prizes, exhibitions, and special guests filled the day amidst hundreds of nature paintings. After the event, the best paintings were chosen for special exhibitions throughout several locations in Yerevan.

The deadline for participating in the 7th Pan-Armenian Painting Contest is November 30th. Paintings can be submitted electronically at <http://paintingday.sunchild.org>.

The winners of the contest are selected by an independent jury and honored with awards, certificates, and prizes, which include bicycles, video cameras, and many more gifts provided by FPWC and its various partners.

**The Chkalov village community
has started the construction of
the water supply network**

The Chkalov village of Lori region has a history of 250 years. One of the most vital issues of the community is the absence of the drinking water supply network. The only spring situated in the center of the village, from which the villagers take water, is getting scarce. People have to get to the spring from morning till late evening to have water for the basic needs of the household.

Propelling the personal volunteering initiatives, VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian has donated AMD 8 200 000 from his personal funds for the construction of the drinking water supply network in the village. Owing to

the investment 5.5 km of the 20 km-long water pipeline has already been constructed. 74 households will become the beneficiaries of the implemented project.

These voluntary initiatives, as stated by VivaCell-MTS General Manager, are meant to set an example for people to follow. We as individuals are as responsible as companies in this country. Such a commitment is also important from the point of view of increasing the awareness and forming a responsible attitude among the beneficiaries of the implemented projects. The Chkalov villagers realize that drinking water is vital resource and water efficiency derives from the sense of responsibility towards the future generations. Moreover, the young people constructing the water pipeline try to avoid massive logging: In some stages of the construction they refuse using special machinery and rely on manual work.

For years, the project of constructing a water supply network could not be implemented because of the scarcity of the community budget. Today, the problem of funds is solved, and the villagers' only concern is finishing the construction works as soon as possible. The road from the headwater to the village center is hard to surmount, but the inhabitants of Chkalov are excited at the thought that the problem of drinking water will no longer bother them by winter. They emphasize that devotion is what unites the people implementing the project and those supporting the network construction.

Diesel generator set provided to the Ministry of Emergency Situations for uninterrupted operation of the backup server

VivaCell-MTS provides continuous support to the development of key national infrastructure, and in particular, to the Ministry of Emergency, in the area of the prevention and protection of information security, data protection and functioning of key state infrastructure in disaster situations.

Today, the Ministry of Emergency Situations was presented with a powerful diesel generator set to be used as a source of alternative electrical energy for supporting the uninterrupted operation of the backup server (BSC) center worth AMD 50 million for the government of RA, provided by VivaCell-MTS to the Ministry of Emergency Situations earlier this year. The creation of the backup server center (BSC) is aimed at increasing the viability

of Armenia's system of state governance in emergency situations. The BSC, which is situated in the administrative building of the RA Ministry of Emergency Situations was designed for providing timely organization of civil protection emergency activities in peacetime and civil defense management in wartime; for keeping the information secure and using it in a safe and efficient way; as well as for centralizing the backup information systems of state offices and facilitating their operation.

Designed to the highest quality, fuel-efficiency, reliability and environmental standards, the 3-phase Perkins P440E 400-Volt generator diesel generator set is capable of producing 360kW (kilowatt) of electrical energy within an hour.

"No matter in business or state infrastructure, full readiness to preventing and managing disaster situations efficiently is a priority. Priority presupposes availability and allocation of proper resources,



including critical equipment. This is especially critical in case of our country, having multiple challenges we are all aware of. Here from comes our readiness to share with the Ministry of Emergency with an analogue of the highest quality equipment used by VivaCell-MTS for supporting key infrastructure in the case of extraordinary and emergency situations. We spare no effort at supporting the state when it comes to creating effective mechanisms of preventing and managing disaster situations," VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** noted.

Business ethics as a leadership tool

VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian has presented the most important principles of business administration to the students of the Leadership School. Meetings of this kind, organized for the future professionals representing different spheres, are important from the point of introducing ready models of management.

"One should follow business ethics in order to succeed. Our growth depends on the policy of using business ethics as a management tool. The civilized culture of administration lies at the heart of the system of values formed in VivaCell-MTS. It presupposes applying a flexible strategy, providing a healthy working environment, forming respect and trust in the relations between employer and employee, appreciating the role of the employee, respecting his/her rights and striving for growth. This kind of approach is a way of turning a dream into a goal," commented VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

The presenter also explained to the students the importance of gaining respect through business administration and forming a high reputation. The interactive format of the meeting allowed the audience to receive answers to all their questions.

A group of students from Artsakh were also able to follow the lecture online due to the connection established via VivaCell-MTS 3G network.

VivaCell-MTS hosted students from the French University of Armenia

VivaCell-MTS hosted 40 students from the faculty of Marketing of the French University of Armenia. The students had a chance to interact with the Company's professionals and have a practical course by presenting their ideas of modifications of the VivaCell-MTS' "Yes" tariff plan and listening to comments by VivaCell-MTS management and marketing experts.

The students got acquainted with the history of creation of VivaCell-MTS. The General Manager of the Company shared with the youth the story of his success and his vision of effective management. The guests together with Ralph Yirikian toured inside the company and got acquainted with the operational processes of the Commuting Center, Call Center and Service Center.

"It is important to share the rich experience and the practical skills accumulated during the many years of work with the young generation. This can be achieved by giving them a chance to express their thoughts and discussing with them professional and, why not, more general issues that will guide them throughout their lives. When we are young, there are moments when we feel the need for support from someone more experienced," noted VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**

Over 95% of ANCA endorsed candidates win seats in Congress



Months of intensive voter registration efforts and grassroots campaigning contributed to significant Congressional victories for pro-Armenian American issues candidates during Tuesday's mid-term elections, with over 95% of Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) endorsed candidates being elected to office. Top winners included Bob Dold (R-IL), a former Republican Vice-Chairman of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, who won one of the most closely contested U.S. House races in the country.

"It's always gratifying for the ANCA to empower Armenian American voters, especially during highly competitive election seasons like this, when our efforts contribute meaningfully to the victory of

so many Congressional friends," said Aram Hamparian, Executive Director of the ANCA. "While we're certainly proud that our nation-wide electoral participation this season hit an all-time high-water mark, we're already planning to top this unprecedented effort during the coming 2016 election cycle.

Among other wins in competitive races were those by Congressman Michael Grimm (R-NY), the current Co-Chairman of the Armenian Caucus, who won by 13% in a high profile campaign; and David Valadao (R-CA), the co-author of the Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice Resolution, with a convincing 18 point victory in a race that was rated a toss-up earlier in the election cycle. Congressman Jim Costa's (D-CA) race for reelection was still too close to call, as were those contested by three other candidates endorsed by the ANCA: Mike Honda (D-CA), Peter Aguilar (D-CA), and Raul Ruiz (D-CA).

Other high-profile victories by ANCA-endorsed candidates included those by David Brat (R-VA), who will take the

Richmond U.S. House seat formerly held by Majority Leader Eric Cantor, and incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). U.S. Representative Gary Peters (D-MI), an ANCA-backed candidate, won a seat in the Senate.

Both Americans of Armenian heritage who serve in the U.S. Congress, Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Jackie Speier (D-CA), won reelection, with a host of Armenian American state and local candidates following suit, including: Assemblymembers Adrin Nazarian and Katcho Achadjian, who won reelection to the California State Assembly; Assemblymember Katherine Kazarian who won reelection in Rhode Island; Scott Avedisian who was re-elected Mayor of Warwick, RI; and Richelle Noroyan, who secured a seat on the Santa Cruz, CA City Council.

An ANCA Election Day on-line poll found that 73% of respondents believe that Armenian American voters are willing to cross U.S. party lines to support pro-Armenian candidates, results that are consistent with feedback from previous election cycles.

Armenian delegation participated in the Second UN conference of Landlocked Developing Countries



From 3 to 5 November in Vienna the Armenian delegation took part in the 2nd United Nations conference of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs). The delegation was headed by the Secretary General and Chief of Staff of MFA Shahen Avakian.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, President of Austria Heinz Fischer, presi-

dents of Zambia, Bolivia, Zimbabwe, prime-ministers, ministers, other high ranking officials and heads of different international organizations delivered welcoming addresses at the opening of the ceremony. The Austrian Foreign minister Sebastian Kurz was elected as Chairperson of the conference.

The main purpose of the conference was to sum up the implementation of the Declaration and Action Plan adopted in Almaty in 2003, through general discussion outline effective international and regional strategies of international trade transit areas, as well as to reassure the commitment of international community to support to landlocked developing countries to face economic development challenges.

In his speech at the plenary session Shahen Avakian spoke in particular about the peculiarities of sustainable economic

development of geographically landlocked Armenia and the challenges to regional cooperation. He presented the government's investment and development projects, reforms of transportation infrastructure, as well as Armenia's participation in multilateral economic formats of regional and international cooperation.

In the framework of the conference the Armenian delegation participated in the high-ranking thematic round table discussions, business investment forum and a number of other parallel events.

At the conclusion of the conference the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Action Plan for 2014-2024 was adopted by member states, which defined the targets of sustainable economic development for 32 developing landlocked countries and the main challenges and priorities in their implementation process.

Appalling silence over Turkey's 1915 genocide against Armenians

"Just before the invasion of Poland, Adolf Hitler urged his generals to show no mercy towards its people - there would be no retribution because 'after all, who now remembers the annihilation of the Armenians?'"

"As the centenary of the Armenian genocide approaches - it began on April 24, 1915, the night before the Gallipoli landing, with the rounding up and subsequent "disappearance" of intellectuals and community leaders - remembrance of the destruction of more than half of the Armenian people is more important than ever. Yet, as Hitler recognised in 1939, the crime the Ottoman Turks committed against humanity by killing the major part of this ancient Christian race has never been requited or, in the case of Turkey, been the subject of apology or reparations," Geoffrey Robertson writes in an article published by The Australian.

The article runs as follows:

"The Young Turks who ran the Ottoman government did not use gas ovens but they did massacre the men and sent the women, children and elders on death marches through the desert to places we hear of now only because they are overrun by Islamic State. They died en route in their hundreds of thousands from starvation or attack, and many survivors died of typhus in concentration camps at the end of the line. The government ordered these forced deportations in 1915, then passed laws to seize the Armenians' lands, homes and churches on the pretext that they had been abandoned.

The destruction of more than a million Armenians was declared a "crime against humanity" by Britain, France and Russia in 1915, and these allies formally promised punishment for what a US inquiry at the end of the war described as "a colossal crime - the wholesale attempt on a race". But the Treaty of Sevres, designed at the end of World War I to punish the Young Turks for the colossal crime - now called genocide - was never implemented.

Modern Turkey funds a massive genocide denial campaign, claiming that the death marches were merely relocations required by military necessity and that the undeniable massacres (the Euphrates was so packed with bodies that it altered its course) were the work of a few "unruly" officials. In Turkey today, you can go to jail - and some do - for affirming that there was a genocide in 1915: this counts as the crime of "insulting Turkishness" under section 301 of its penal code.

Ironically, in some European countries, it counts as a crime to deny the Armenian genocide. The parliaments of many democracies - France, Germany, Spain, The Netherlands, Russia, Greece and Canada, for example - recognise it explicitly, as do 43 states of the US. The problem is that Turkey, "neuralgic" on the subject (the word used privately by the British Foreign Office to describe its attitude), has threatened reprisals and is too important geopolitically at present to provoke by stating the truth, lest it carries out threats to close its air bases to NATO and its borders to refugees.

Thus Barack Obama, who roundly condemned the Armenian genocide in 2008 and promised to do so when elected President, dares not utter the G-word. Instead, he calls it Meds Yeghern (Armenian for "the great crime") and asserts that his opinion has not changed.

The same double standard has been adopted by the Australian government. Tony Abbott, when opposition leader, did not hesitate to condemn the Armenian genocide. But when the NSW parliament formally recognised it, Turkey threatened to ban MPs from Gallipoli for next year's Anzac centenary.

That doubtless explains Foreign Minister Julie Bishop's bizarre statement in June that the events of 1915 were "a tragedy" but "we do not recognise the events as genocide". She added: "The approach

of the Australian government has been not to become involved in this sensitive debate." A sure-fire way of becoming involved in the debate is to refuse to recognise the genocide, and she was duly hailed in Turkey as a genocide denier. "Australian Foreign Minister: Armenians not victims of genocide" screamed the newspaper headlines in Istanbul.

Telling the truth about this genocide has, for the Australian government, never been more inconvenient. Although many of its members will be at the dawn service at Gallipoli on April 25 next year, nobody has yet been appointed to represent Australia at the international commemoration in Armenia's capital Yerevan on the day before.

This is shameful because the Dardanelles landings were the trigger for the start of the genocide, and (together with Russian military activity on Turkey's eastern front) were used as an excuse for the destruction of the Armenians, on the pretext that they might support the allied invasion.

Even today, Turkey defends the death marches on grounds of "military necessity", as if the destruction of civilians far from the front, and the ethnic cleansing of women, old men and children, could ever be necessary to gain a military advantage.

The evidence of the government's genocidal intent, in any case, is overwhelming, coming as it does from appalled German and Italian diplomats and neutral Americans, to whom the Young Turk leaders admitted that they were going to eliminate "the Armenian problem" by eliminating the Armenians.

There can never be justification for genocide. This was understood by Raphael Lemkin, the Polish lawyer who coined the word and worked tirelessly between the wars to have the annihilation of the Armenians recognised as an international crime. The Holocaust soon provided another example of the need for a convention to bind the world to act against governments that seek to destroy racial or religious minorities.

It is sometimes forgotten that Australia was first to take up Lemkin's cause, through the foresight of Doc Evatt, who bonded with Lemkin and introduced the Genocide Convention in 1948 during his presidency of the UN General Assembly. Its definition of the crime, applied to the undisputed facts of 1915, produces a verdict of guilt that is beyond reasonable doubt.

It was, of course, a century ago: does it still matter? A century is just within living memory: this year a 103-year-old woman, once a small child carried by her mother across burning sands, took tea with Obama and the world's most famous Armenian (Kim Kardashian). The mental scars and trauma for the children and grandchildren of survivors throughout the diaspora will continue until Turkey makes some acknowledgment of the crime and offers an apology.

International law may provide some assistance: there are assets expropriated in 1915 that can still be traced, and many ruined churches that can be restored and returned. Armenians want restoration of their historic lands in eastern Turkey, which is asking too much (although I have suggested that the majestic Mount Ararat, overlooking Yerevan, could be handed over by Turkey as an act of -reconciliation).

But what they want most of all is what they are plainly entitled to have: an acknowledgment from Turkey, and for that matter from the Australian government, that what happened to their people in 1915 was not a tragedy but a crime."

Geoffrey Robertson QC is author of An Inconvenient Genocide: Who Now Remembers the Armenians?, published this month by Random House.

"KAAR-MED"

PRIVATE CLINIC CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**10 Bitwy Warszawskiej,
02-362 Warsaw, Poland**

Information and registration:

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WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?**Enjoy your leisure****11 November**

19:00. Arshak the Second. Tigran Chukhajian. Opera in 2 acts. Opera | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

19:00. Hello Out There!. Based on William Saroyan. Staging Director: Nareh Hovhannisya. Play | Edgar Elbakyan Theater

19:30. Maxim Galkin. Recital. Concert | Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall

12 November

19:00. The Forty Days of Musa Dagh. Author: Franz Werfel. Staging: Armen Elbakyan. Heroic novel, 2 acts. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

19:00. Love Bridge. Director: Vahan Badalyan. Musical | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

13 November

16:00. That Same Huri. Author: H. Tumanyan. Director/ Producer: R.Babayan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

19:00. Almast. Staging conductor: People's Artist of Armenia Yuri Davtyan. Opera in 2 acts. Opera | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

19:00. Royal Concert. Musical-amusing show. Author and director of the play - Ara Yernjakyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19:00. How Long Will Be Like This?. Author: G.Khanjyan. Staging: Yervand Ghazanchyan. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

19:00. Flight. Director: Zhirayr Dadasyan. Staging: Pantomime Theater. Drama in 2 acts. Duration: 60 min. Play | Yerevan State Pantomime Theater

14 November

15:00. Cock-a-doodle-doo. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

19:00. All Rise, the Court is in Session. Author: Perch Zeytuntsyan. Staging: Tigran Gasparyan. Drama in 2 acts. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

19:00. Hamlet. W. Shakespeare. Tragedy in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

19:00. Ah, Women, Women. Robert Lamouret. Director: Vigen Stepanya. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater

19:00. Karine. Tigran Chukhajian. Operette in 2 acts. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

19:00. Sexual Chaos in the Hotel. Author: Ray Cooney. Director: Honored Artist of RA, David Hakobyan. Play | State Musical Chamber Theater

15 November

12:00, 14:00, 16:00. Goldfish. Author: Alexander Pushkin. Director/Producer: Tigran Zahalyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

12:00, 19:00. 44 degree. Author: Astghik Simonyan. Stage director: Zohrap Bek-Gasparyants. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater

12:30, 14:00, 15:30. Hansel and Gretel. Brothers Grimm. Staging: Lily Elbakyan. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

18:00. Du-Dum the Wise Man and the Ignorant. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

19:00. NCOA & 4 Pianos. Chamber Orchestra of Armenia. Artistic Director and Principal Conductor: Vahan Mardirossian. Concert | Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall

19:00. Nazar, Nazar, Till the End. Based on D. Demirchyan's "Brave Nazar". Staging director: Ara Yernjakyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19:00. Goya. Author: Antonio Buero

Vallejo. Staging: Tigran Gasparyan. Drama in 2 acts. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

19:00. Suzanne, Suzette and Jacqueline + 3 men. Marc Camoletti. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

19:00. Mrs. Ministress. Premiere. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

12:00, 14:00. Tom & Jerry. Children's Musical Fun Show. Staging: Artur Saribekyan. Music by: Armen Margaryan. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater

16 November

12:00, 14:00, 16:00. Little Red Riding Hood. Author: Charles Perrault. Director/Producer: Arpi Maghakyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

12:30, 14:00, 15:30. The Adventures of Buratino. Alexei Tolstoy. Director: Armen Elbakyan. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

14:00. Beauty and the Beast. Children's Musical Fun Show. Director: Armen Margaryan. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater

16:00. Golden Chicken. Author: Vladimir Orlov. Director/Producer: Karen Khachatryan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

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

19:00. Royal Concert. Musical-amusing show. Author and director of the play - Ara Yernjakyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

19:00. Sale. Author: A. Galin. Staging: V. Stepanyan. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater

19:00. Insomnia. Hovhannes Davtyan. Stand Up - Comedy. Humor, parody, stand-up comedy | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

19:00. The Last Clown. B. Slade. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

Whatever is occurring in your life during Nov. is clearly intense and emotion-laden. You may feel as though your very life depends upon making your point of view heard and acknowledged. It is important to play your personal political cards carefully. Don't attempt a takeover unless you are prepared for a serious pushback.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

From now through next week your attitude may be somber. Perhaps you are thinking about your primary relationship and what could be done to improve it. Usually this comes from something going wrong between you. We need to experience such times so that we can make necessary corrections in our thinking.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

This is the week for a romantic venture. You would be happy to take the first flight to Tahiti and never bat an eye over it. You want to think artistically. You may be focused on the opera or the ballet. Music may really strike your chords right now, or books that tickle your romantic bones.

Cancer (June 21--July 21) :

We are nearly beyond the recent eclipse season. You may be relieved to know that your emotional waves are likely to rebalance and the waters will be smooth again. The full Moon in Taurus may bring illumination to you in the areas of children and friendships.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

Your world seems demanding and maybe even overwhelming. Don't allow this maya to interfere with your appreciation of the healing of your heart. An old ache or painful experience is being soothed, probably by a member of your family.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

After the weekend circumstances may be right to share soulful thoughts with your partner. Somehow it seems "safer" than it might at other times. He/she is more receptive and you become more open and softer in your approach. You may be taking small mental breaks this week, with lots of daydreaming and drifting. Sometimes we just need these rests.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

This week you may need to take care of yourself financially and avoid overspending. The same holds true for all the goodies in life, such as sugar. At this time it is just too easy to break training. If you mean what you've promised to yourself, don't go anywhere in which you would be in harm's way.

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

This is a very active period for you. Your reflexes may be off. Take care with driving and also with your mouth. Concentrate on thinking before you speak, especially if you feel angry. Remember that you have shot your mouth off at others before and lived to regret it.

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

This is a week in which you are probing, researching, or looking for information. You may experience a "Eureka!" event on the weekend. Travel is highly probable, even if it is limited to the internet. You are looking for facts that will help you identify the big picture view.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

Listen to the important people in your life who comment upon what you are doing. You have significant power now and could readily run over those you care about like a steam roller. Allow the "other" equal space or there will be pay-back time later when the power is on the other side.

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

You are moving into a rough patch with significant others. You might be inclined toward critical thinking of others, but it is more useful to take a good look at yourself first. Are you provoking misbehavior from the "other"? It is possible that you are withdrawing, which causes others to grasp for you.

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

This period may be difficult for those on a diet or other self-improvement program. You are prone to self-indulgence right now. Perhaps the best thing to do is accept that is so and find a new solution that is satisfying without sabotaging your good intentions.

Nonesuch Records to release label debut by jazz pianist Tigran Hamasyan

Nonesuch Records will release the label debut from jazz pianist Tigran Hamasyan, *Mockroot*, in early 2015. Hamasyan is currently on tour in Europe, with shows in France, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, and Switzerland, amongst others. Further details about the forthcoming album and its release will be announced shortly, along with additional international tour dates, the Nonesuch Journal reports.



Although trained as a classical and jazz musician, Tigran Hamasyan draws on a wide range of influences, including Armenian folk music, rock, beatbox, poetry, and more. In the past decade, with the release of four critically acclaimed albums and an unceasing touring schedule, he has built up a dedicated international following, as well as accolades from the likes of Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, and Brad Mehldau. In the words of the Guardian, Hamasyan "is guided by one of [mentor and fan Herbie Hancock's] most enduring lessons: it's possible to be a multi-stylistic jazz virtuoso and a groove-powered hit-maker simultaneously and hugely enjoy all of it." The Times of London said of his most recent release, 2013's *Shadow Theater*, "Armenian folk, electronic loops, heavenly voices and indie rock energy vie with Hamasyan's rippling piano to create a dramatic, deeply melodic music unlike anything else you'll hear this year."

Hamasyan was born in Armenia in 1987, before relocating with his family to Los Angeles in 2003. He currently resides in Erevan, Armenia. He began playing piano at the age of three, and started performing in festivals and competitions when he was 11 years old, winning the Montreux Jazz Festival's piano competition in 2003. He released his debut album, *World Passion*, at the age of 18 in 2006. That same year he won the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition. Subsequent albums include *New Era* (2008), *Red Hail* (2009), and *A Fable* (2011), for which he was awarded a *Victoires de la Musique* (the equivalent of a Grammy Award in France). Most recently he won the Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise in Contemporary Music in 2013.



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