

Armenia chairs UN General Assembly sitting



On September 21 – the 25th anniversary of Armenia’s Independence – Armenian Acting Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian chaired the sitting of the UN General Assembly in New York.

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President Sargsyan's address on 25th anniversary of Armenia's Independence

On September 21, at the Republic Square President Serzh Sargsyan was present at the Military Parade of the RA Armed Forces dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Armenia's Independence.

Address by Serzh Sargsyan, President of the Republic of Armenia, at the Military Parade

Soldiers, Officers, Generals,
My sisters and brothers,

I congratulate all of us on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia.

We have made our choice by casting a ballot on this very day a quarter-century ago, but we are well aware that deep in our hearts and in our collective memory we had made that choice much earlier. We chose freedom at the times of Patriarch Haik. We are faithful to the decision that we had made back at the times of a bow and arrow. Today, at the 21st century weapons have changed, but we have not, and we are determined to defend our liberty. And this parade is a testimony to that.

In the ideal world the right, of course, is the source of might. Nevertheless, the contemporary world and our environment are far from being ideal. There are still circumstances, in which the might is the source of the right. We have got both our right and might to defend our freedom. And this parade is a testimony to that.

Freedom and independence need to be defended not exclusively from external threats. The domestic social and political life is no less important and vital to us. Our citizens should be free since a free individual and a free society function way more effectively. We can and we shall continue building an efficient nation, which will defend a free citizen and a free society. Unfree people theoretically can create a lot but not happiness.

In the course of the past 25 years we have registered irrevocable achievements. Occasionally we have made mistakes, occasionally we have run into the extremes, but at the end of the day we have been moving in the right direction. We are building our happiness with free thoughts and free hands, which means we produce



peacefully and creatively. And there is only one obvious prescription as to how we shall move forward: it is to work hard, harder and harder.

Indeed, we highly value our achievements since we have paid a dear price for them. We shall multiply those achievements with our hard work and defend – with the might we have accumulated.

Long live our boys that vigilantly guard borders of Armenia: they are the primary guarantors of our freedom. Glory to the immortal heroes who fought in the Artsakh liberation war, to each and single brave fellow of ours. Glory to the young lions of this April, who wiped out all the hostile planning of our adversary. Some months ago at the grave of scout-machinegunner Sasun Mkrtchyan I promised on behalf of all of us that we would continue the sacred mission of Sasun and his friends, we would always keep lit the light that emanated from the new generation of Artsakh and Armenia, that had united all of us during those April days; united as a fist, ready to crush the head of the adversary that threatened our security. And we will keep our word. And this parade is a testimony to that.

Long live the citizen of the Republic of Armenia, a soil cultivator and construction worker, a physician and teacher, a miner and entrepreneur, a civil servant and artist. Glory to the citizen of Armenia, who establishes new values.

Long live the trilateral unity of Armenia-Artsakh-Diaspora: by joining our forces we are getting much stronger than one could imagine.

Long live our brothers and sisters that represent Armenia's ethnic minorities, who enjoy equality and share responsibility in the consistent pursuit of the cause for development and defense of our country.

Long live the traditional Armenian family, which in spite of all currents remains the source of warmth that gives birth to heroes and brings up generations thirsting for knowledge.

My fellow compatriots,

I again congratulate all of us and Armenians around the globe with the quarter-century anniversary of the reestablishment of the independent Armenian statehood.

Glory to the Republic of Armenia!

Glory to the Armenian Armed Forces!

Karapetyan orders action against Government “theft”



Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan ordered the Armenian government on September 22 to root out what he called the embezzlement of budgetary funds set aside for government officials’ travel expenses.

Karapetyan alleged and decried the illegal practice after his chief of staff, Davit Harutiunyan, unveiled a new electronic system for the purchase of air tickets for officials travelling abroad on business.

“It’s a quite complex system and you all understand what it is aimed at,” he told a cabinet meeting in Yerevan. “That is why I am issuing a directive. We are going to put in place quite complex mechanisms for eliminating the primitive theft. Sort that out

in your agencies.”

“When they tell me about what [fraud] schemes are devised for tickets ... it takes a lot of fantasy to do that,” added Karapetyan. “If those people used their intelligence in another area, the effects would have definitely been much better.”

The premier did not specify the scale of the alleged fraud or name officials who he thinks engage in it.

Armenia’s newly appointed Finance Minister Vardan Aramyan was reluctant to comment on Karapetyan’s blunt remarks after the cabinet meeting. “The prime minister’s appeal is also an order to the Finance Ministry,” he told reporters. “Let me just get down to work.”

Aramyan insisted that he was not aware of any cases of ticket fraud when he served as deputy finance minister in the past.

Karapetyan pledged to speed up economic reforms and strengthen the rule of law in the country after he was appointed prime minister by President Serzh Sargsyan on September 14. So far he has named only six members of his new government. Four of them, including Aramyan, did not work in the previous cabinet.

Karapetyan on Thursday also moved to abolish one of Armenia’s 19 government ministries: the Ministry for Urban Development. A relevant government bill presented by Harutiunyan would also change the name of the Economy Ministry to the Ministry for Investments and Business Support.

Mediators hope for another Armenian-Azeri Summit

The United States, Russia and France are ready to host yet another meeting of Armenia’s and Azerbaijan’s presidents, diplomats from the three nations jointly trying to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict said late on September 22.

The U.S., Russian and French co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group gave no possible dates for such a summit after holding separate talks with the Armenian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York.

“During the meetings, we paid special attention to implementation of decisions taken at the recent summits in Vienna (May 2016) and St. Petersburg (June 2016),” they said in a joint statement. “In particular, we discussed further steps that could create an atmosphere for advancing substantial negotiations that could lead to a settlement.”

“We also exchanged views on proposals that could be discussed between the sides,” read the statement.

The three mediating powers said after the Vienna meeting that Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Ilham Aliyev agreed on concrete measures to strengthen the shaky ceasefire regime in the conflict zone. Those include international investigations of truce violations there.

Aliyev and Sargsyan signaled progress towards a compromise settlement after their follow-up meeting in Saint Petersburg hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin. France’s President Francois Hollande offered to organize another Sargsyan-Aliyev encounter shortly afterwards. It is still not clear, however, whether the Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders plan to meet again anytime soon.



“Our governments are prepared to host another meeting of the Presidents or Foreign Ministers at the appropriate time,” the Minsk Group co-chairs said on Thursday. “We plan to visit the region in the near future.”

Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and his Azerbaijani counterpart Elmar Mammadyarov traded accusations of obstruction of the peace process at their separate talks with the mediators held earlier this week.

In particular, Nalbandian said that Baku is refusing to honor the confidence-building understandings reached at Vienna and Saint Petersburg. He repeated the claim at a meeting with the European Union’s foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, in New York on Thursday.

Mogherini also had a separate meeting there with Mammadyarov. The Azerbaijani minister was reported to denounce Armenia’s “destructive and provocative policy.”

US President congratulates Armenia on 25th anniversary of Independence



President of the United States Barack Obama sent a congratulatory message to President Serzh Sargsyan on the occasion of Independence Day of the Republic of Armenia.

“Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the United States, I congratulate you and the people of Armenia as you celebrate 25 years of independence this September 21.

The United States has been a steadfast partner of Armenia from the first days of its independence. We remain committed to the promise of those early years, when Armenians proudly raised their tricolor flag for the first time since 1920. Today, we again affirm our belief that a secure, prosperous, and democratic Armenia is essential for the security for the Armenian people and for the region more broadly.

We thank Armenia for its support of our shared goals, particularly its response to the Syrian refugee crisis and its contributions to global peacekeeping operations and nuclear security. We will continue to work together to help Armenia realize its full potential.

I wish you and the people of Armenia all the best as you celebrate 25 years independence,” the U.S. President’s congratulatory message says.

Resolution of Karabakh conflict should remain high on international agenda, Latvian President says

“For Latvia, the stability and security of Europe’s neighbors in the East is a strategic priority and remains high on the political agenda,” said President of Latvia Raimonds Vējonis in his statement to the 71st session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) on Wednesday, September 21 in New York.

“Resolution of the protracted conflicts in Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh should remain high on



the international agenda. We must remain vigilant and insist that all States including

Russia abide by their obligations under international law to respect the borders of sovereign States,” the Latvian President said at a sitting chaired by Armenia’s Acting Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian.

“The international community must work to facilitate the peaceful resolution of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. All parties must fulfill their commitments under the Minsk Agreements and make the Minsk process work,” President Vējonis stated.

Vigen A. Sargsyan is New Defense Minister of the Republic of Armenia

By Gourgen Khazhakian

According to The Highlights trustful sources, RA President will sign very soon a decree, according to which Chief of the Presidential Staff Mr **Vigen Aleksandri Sargsyan** will be appointed Defense Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

Well, Mr V.A.Sargsyan has reputation of a good manager and at the same time a brilliant intellectual who has got both the Western (US) and Russian (Sankt-Petersburg) education.

We’d like to emphasize his huge contribution to organization of the very im-

portant for Armenia international events such as marking the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide as well as those aimed at the country branding of Armenia.

As to the Army issues, we must mention that in 2000-2003 Mr Sargsyan served in the RA Armed Forces as the Assistant to the Minister Mr **Serzh A. Sargsyan**, - the times that are considered by many servicemen as a “brilliant period” for the Armenian Army.

Being RA Presidential Staff Chief, Vigen Sargsyan has been in the daily contact with the Armed Forces, so he is very well informed on the situation in our Army, and



many people believe that under his leadership the RA Defense Ministry and OUR ARMY will become more and more EFFECTIVE and POWERFUL.

Congratulations Mr Sargsyan !

Joachim Gauck: Settlement of the Karabakh conflict of paramount importance to Armenia

President Serzh Sargsyan received a congratulatory message from Federal President of Germany Joachim Gauck. The message reads in part:

“Mr. President,

On behalf of my fellow countrymen and myself, I offer heartfelt congratulations to you and your compatriots on the 25th anniversary of declaration of Armenia’s independence.

German-Armenian ties have developed over the past 25 years to grow into a close and trusting friendship as evidenced by your visit to Germany in April this year. Supportive of Armenia’s commitment to continue political and economic rapprochement with the EU after joining the Eurasian Economic Union, Germany will back your country as a partner nation.

The settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is of paramount importance to your country. As the presiding country of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Germany is willing to contribute to the speedy and peaceful resolution of conflict.

In addition to my independence-dated congratulations, I offer my best wishes for your personal well-being, as well as for your country’s peaceful, free and prosperous future.”

President Serzh Sargsyan received congratulations and best



wishes from Emperor of Japan Akihito, Sweden’s King Carl Gustav XVI, Belgium’s King Philippe, President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo, President of the United Mexican States Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, Australian Union Governor-General Peter Kosgrove, Republic of Moldova President Nicolae Timofti, President of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq Haider al-Abadi.

Francois Hollande: Armenia can be proud of the path covered during 25 years of independence

President Francois Hollande of the French Republic sent a congratulatory message to President Serzh Sargsyan on the occasion of the Holiday.

“Mr. President,

On the occasion of the national holiday of the Republic of Armenia, I am pleased to extend to you, as well as the whole Armenian people my best wishes for happiness, prosperity and success.

Armenia can be proud of the path covered during 25 years of independence, where it often met with numerous challenges and a difficult regional environment. I know that the people of Armenia will be able to continue with their efforts toward stability, democracy and development.

As you may know, our historically deeply-rooted relations are dear to me. Rest assured, Mr. President, I will advocate and support any link that binds our two countries.



In conclusion, let me reaffirm my commitment to finding a fair and lasting settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

As I had the opportunity to tell you during our Warsaw meeting on July 9, I am ready to host a meeting in Paris with a view to consolidating the ongoing peace process and discussing measures for the advancement of this extremely lengthy conflict,” the message of the French President reads.

Political consultations between the MFAs of Armenia and Georgia held in Tbilisi

On September 28, political consultations between the Foreign Ministries of Armenia and Georgia were held at the MFA of Georgia. The Armenian and Georgian delegations were headed by Shavarsh Kocharyan, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia, and Gigi Gigiadze, Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia, respectively.

In the course of political consultations the sides discussed a wide spector of issues related to the current situation of bilateral political, trade and economic relations and perspectives of their development. The agenda of the consultations focused on the deepening of cooperation in the areas of transport, energy, culture and education. Moreover, the necessity of inventory of the existing legal field was emphasized.

The interlocutors also touched upon the intensification of cooperation within the framework of international organizations, as well as exchanged views on a wide range of international and regional issues.

Chinese AVIC International interested in investment projects in Armenia



Prime Minister Karen Karapetian received on September 23 the delegation of the Chinese AVIC International Corporation headed by its Executive Vice President Liu Jun.

The Prime Minister welcomed the delegation's visit to Armenia and noted that the Armenian Government is ready for mutually beneficial cooperation.

Liu Jun said "the AVIC International is interested in the implementation of investment projects in Armenia" and presented the directions of the corporation's activity.

The interlocutors discussed prospects of cooperation and the possibilities of implementing joint projects in transport, energy, aviation and agriculture.

Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan welcomed AVIC International's commitment to make investments in Armenia's economy and expressed his government's readiness to facilitate the cooperation.

The Prime Minister instructed the relevant departments to discuss in more detail the proposed investment programs in possible areas of cooperation.

President Serzh Sargsyan visits Euromotors Company

President Serzh Sargsyan visited on September 22 Euromotors Company to attend the inauguration of "BMW, Mini and Rolls-Royce" exhibition hall.

The opening ceremony was also attended by co-owner of Euromotors, Prince Group President Adel Al Marzuki, BMW Group Vice President Thomas Rhein, Company Sales Director Konrad Baumgartner, Regional Director Victor Eisenbraun, Director of Euromotors Jaber Al Marzuki, co-owner of Euromotors, founder of Multi Group concern Gagik Tsarukyan, and Armenian officials.

Accompanied by them, the President of Armenia toured the newly built exhibition hall, which is the largest such facility in the region. After being told about the new jobs and the investments made so far, Serzh Sargsyan was shown the exhibits on display.



Yerevan eyes another drop in Russian gas price



The Armenian authorities hope that Russia will again cut this year the price of its natural gas delivered to Armenia, a senior official in Yerevan said on September 22.

Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan last week told the Armenian ministries of energy and labor as well as state utility regulators to explore ways of making electricity and gas cheaper for low-income house-

holds and some businesses.

“This must be done at the expense of economic entities that provide such services, rather than the state budget,” Karapetyan said in a clear reference to energy suppliers.

Robert Nazaryan, the head of the Public Services Regulatory Commission (PRSC), likewise said that the authorities have no

plans to subsidize domestic energy tariffs.

“Don’t you rule out the possibility of the gas price at the border being lowered?” Nazaryan told RFE/RL’s Armenian service, referring to the wholesale price set by Russia’s Gazprom gas monopoly.

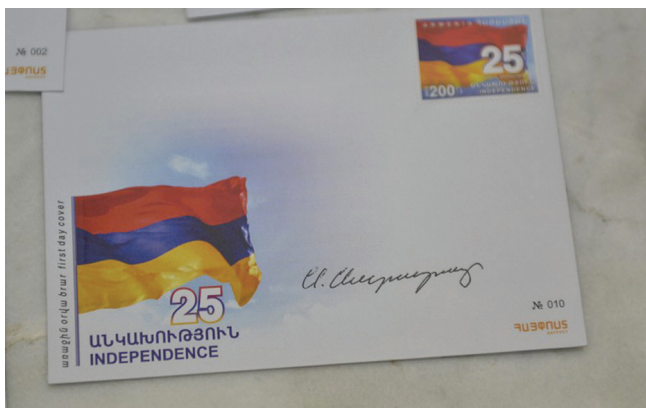
“If there is a reduction in the gas price at the border, we will revise the [retail] tariffs,” he said.

Gazprom, which provides the bulk of Armenia’s gas, already lowered its price by 9 percent, to \$150 per thousand cubic meters, as recently as in April. Yerevan had requested a price cut earlier in 2016, citing the collapse in international oil prices tied to the cost of gas.

Russian as well as Iranian gas account for roughly one-third of electricity generated in Armenia.

Karapetyan has lived and worked in Russia for the last five years, holding senior executive positions in Gazprom’s Russian subsidiaries. He ran Armenia’s Gazprom-controlled gas distribution network from 2001-2010.

Two stamps dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Armenia’s Independence put into circulation



On September 21, 2016 “HayPost Trust Management” B.V., put into circulation two stamps dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Armenia.

The official cancellation ceremony of the stamps took place at the Presidential Palace. The cancellation was carried out by the Presidential of the Republic of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan.

The stamps have been printed in “Cartor” Printing House, France, with face values of 200 and 300 Armenian drams.

The stamp with face value of 200 drams depicts “25th anniversary” and “INDEPENDENCE” texts, as well as the waving tricolor flag of the Republic of Armenia on the background of blue sky symbolizing the twenty five years of independence and statehood

of the country.

The stamp with face value of 300 drams depicts “25th anniversary” which consists of a collage made with the sights of Yerevan showing thus the advancement of the country through twenty five years of its independence.

The stamps have been designed by the Managing Director of “HayPost Trust Management” B.V., Juan Pablo Gechidjian and the designers of “HayPost” CJSC Vahagn Mkrtchyan and David Dovlatyan.



Armenian PM receives IMF delegation

Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan received a delegation led by Head of IMF Armenia Mission Hossein Samiei.

The Prime Minister and the Head of the IMF Mission discussed issues related to bilateral cooperation, current state of Armenia's economy, upcoming changes in the tax code, improvement of the business environment, attracting investment, as well as fiscal and monetary policy.

Karen Karapetyan and Hossein Samiei stressed the importance of continued implementation of steps and programs aimed at improving the business environment and infrastructure.

Referring to the 2017 State budget bill, Prime Minister Karapetyan stressed that the Government is going to propose a realistic budget, without exaggerating the existing difficulties or overestimating the possibilities. Karen Karapetyan highlighted the need to ensure proper control and



increased predictability from the perspective of effective functioning of government.

During the meeting, the interlocutors touched upon a number of other issues of mutual interest.

Russia has started delivery of weapons to Armenia under \$200 mln loan agreement



Russia has started the delivery of weapons to Armenia under the \$200 mln agreement, Russia's Ambassador to Armenia Ivan Volynkin said in an interview with Radio Liberty.

The Ambassador also commented on the sale of Iskander ballistic missile system, noting that the fact is a testament to the allied nature of the Armenian-Russian relations.

According to Amb. Volynkin, the sale of the Iskander means that "the relations between Armenia and Russia are allied and friendly."

As for the \$200 mln loan agreement, the Ambassador said it's in the process of implementation. "It is being implemented according to the plan, the delivery has already started," Ivan Volynkin said.

Armenia climbs to 79th spot in Global Competitiveness Report 2016-2017

Armenia is ranked 79th (up from 82nd last year) in the Global Competitiveness Report 2016-2017 released by the World Economic Forum on September 28.

Switzerland tops the ranking followed by Singapore and the United States. Armenia's neighbors in the region are placed as follows: Georgia – 59h, Azerbaijan – 37th, Turkey 55th, Iran – 76th.

Armenia's partners in the Eurasian Economic Union Russia and Kazakhstan are ranked 43rd and 53rd respectively. Kyrgyzstan is 111th, no data is available for



Belarus.

The Global Competitiveness Report 2016-2017 assesses the competitiveness landscape of 138 economies, providing in-

sight into the drivers of their productivity and prosperity.

This year's edition highlights that declining openness is threatening growth and prosperity. It also highlights that monetary stimulus measures such as quantitative easing are not enough to sustain growth and must be accompanied by competitiveness reforms. Final key finding points to the fact that updated business practices and investment in innovation are now as important as infrastructure, skills and efficient markets

HayPost launches new regular cargo and postal transportation service to and from Europe



The National Postal Operator of Armenia “HayPost” CJSC on September 29 announced the launch of an unprecedented service in the history of Armenia. Starting from the 1st of October 2016, HayPost will carry out regular scheduled mail and cargo transportations to and from Europe.

The new program and the vehicles imported for the program implementation were presented on the 29th of September in the Republic Square, Yerevan. The Minister of Transport and Communication of the Republic of Armenia Vahan Martirosyan and the Managing Director of “HayPost Trust Management” B.V. Juan Pablo Gechidjian handed the symbolic keys to the drivers, wishing them a good journey.

The new service is meant to expand the connectivity of Armenia, by means of weekly mail and cargo transportations from Yerevan to the hub in Frankfurt and vice versa. This innovative reliable, fast and secure service facilitates the process of export and import of products to and from Armenia, enabling the Armenian companies to expand their business. At the same time, the new service will

help to dramatically increase the volumes of the online commerce in Armenia.

In order to provide the new service, HayPost introduced 2 brand-new Mercedes-Benz Actros 2530 GigaSpace 6×4 trucks with 530 horsepower, with the capacity to carry 27 tonnes of cargo each one, and with their extra fuel tanks they have a range of 4,500 km with no refueling.

The trucks dispose of the latest equipments from the industry leaders and provide the drivers with the most comfortable conditions

for long distance drive. The flexible configuration of the refrigerated cargo holds allows the transportation both of perishable and of general cargo. The trucks correspond to the highest European Euro-6 emission standards, ensuring the lowest level of CO emissions up today.

Together with the mentioned trucks, today HayPost adds to its fleet 12 brand-new Renault Dokker vans, the routes of which will reinforce the connectivity within Armenia. The vans are eco-friendly, they run with compressed natural gas, minimizing the level of CO emissions.

The total amount invested in these 14 new vehicles made about 1.000.000 USD.

This new service continues the series of innovations made by the Trust Manager of HayPost. During the last 7 years HayPost with the leadership of “HayPost Trust Management” B.V. has added 140 new vehicles to its fleet. This enlarged fleet runs 3.500.000 km per year, interconnecting the whole territory of Armenia up to Nagorno Karabakh. The Company has also renovated 250 Post Offices all over the country and created the largest online network in Armenia, with more than 700 Post Offices connected up today.



Brussels Airlines to launch Armenia service

Brussels Airlines will launch flights to Armenia from March 31st next year, according to Business Traveller. The new route will be served by an Airbus A320, flying from Brussels airport to the capital city Yerevan once a week, with a second flight to operate in July and August. Between December and March,

Brussels Airlines will launch charter flights between Brussels to Yerevan as part of a partnership with Belgian-Armenian tour operator Armwings. The flights will depart from Brussels airport in the evening on Friday, with the summer service departing on Tuesday. The return flight will leave Yerevan’s

Zvartnots airport on Saturday morning, with the summer service departing on Wednesday. The schedule will allow connections to destinations in France, Switzerland, Germany, Poland, Scandinavia, Spain, Italy, the UK, US and Canada. Bookings can be made from mid-October.



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1 ROOM

- 1792.**Amiryan str.** Newly built, /10th floor, 78sq.m, 1 bedroom, one bathroom and a guest toilet, open kitchen, capitally renovated.
- 1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m,euro repaired, heating system, ,furnished,parking.. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1715-**Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- 1680-**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

- 3003.**Sayat-Nova str**, 5/3, 105sq.m, 2bedrooms, stone building, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1560.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built,10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired,climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- 2818.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, Ac, furnished. Price: 400.000USD
- 1156.**Komitas Ave.**, Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, kitchen is furnished. Price: 150.000 USD negotiable.
- 2949.**Aram str.**, Newly built, 1st floor, 143 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, zero state, Price: 2000 USD per sq.m.
- 2300.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC,parking. Price: 400.000 USD.



3 ROOMS

- 3090 **Dzorap Newly built**, 190sq.m, 2 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, capitally renovated,parking, Price: 460.000 USD
- 3090. **Busand str, /Near Republic Square/**, Newly built, /6th floor,116sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms one in master bedroom, capitally renovated, open balcony. Price: 350.000 USD negotiable
- 3012.**Aram str**, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price:300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998.**North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built,13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally repaired,heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- 2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building,4 bedrooms,capitally repaired,heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,capitally repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built,8/4, 166sq.m,3bedrooms, 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
- 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

- 2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally repaired. Price: 200.000 USD

- 2175.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground and 1st floorof the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m., - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,

- 2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

- 2122.**Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.

- 2121.**Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m.,building permits. Price: 2million USD.

- 2013.Cascade. 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 460.000USD

- 1402.**Hr. Kochar Str.**, 1100 sq. m.,facade -25 m. Price negotiable.

- 2090.**Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000USD.

- 2406.**Avan**, Mher Mkrtchyan block, 1000 sq.m., electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price:

30USD per sq.m

- 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

- 3802.**Vahagni distr.** Newly built, land- 1550 sq.m, 3storied bld-880sq.m, 9bedrooms, capitally renovated. Price: 880.000 USD.

- 3739.**Nork Marash** Land- 2000sq.m, two separate houses, total bld-600sq.m,capitally repaired, swimming pool, sauna, guard house. 2 car parking, garden. Price: 950.000 USD

- 3348.**Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD

- 3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m.,each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, hjeating 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

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

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

- 3590 **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m.,4 storied building-470sq.m.,3bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD

- 3651.**Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m.,5 storied building-800sq.m.,4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price:1.700.000 USD.

- 3401.**Antarayin str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capitally repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

- 142. **Verin Antarayin str.**, 14 floors, 65-133sq.m, capitally renovated, parking. Price: 900-1300 USD

- 74.**Cascade**, Verin Antarayin. 136-315 sq m.,walls plastered, electricity, water, gas, euro windows,no exploitation fees. Price:1200 USD per sq.m, parking -15.000 USD.

- 107.**Monument**, Verin Antarayin. inhabited, 8 floors, gas, windows, street view -1000 USD per sq.m., city looking -1500 USD per sq.m., parking - 4 million USD preliminary.

- 87.**Sayat-Nova str.**, 21 floors, 3 bedrooms -188 sq.m., 199 sq.m., Price 1900 USD per sq.m., 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight - 117 sq.m., 120 sq.m., 124 sq.m.,Price: 1700 USD per sq.m., climate control, gas.

- 93.**Kievyan str.**, Given to the operation in October 2011, 16 floors, walls plastered, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas,parking. Price: 1500-1600USD per sq.m,parking-12 000 USD. Possible with mortgage, for 13 years term.

- 94.**Masiv**. 3floors,8 flats,each flat has 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking. Price: negotiable.

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

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

- 2362. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, /5th floor, 160sq.m, 2bedrooms, a study, 2 bathrooms, capitally renovated, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnisred, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, furnisred, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2243. **Buzand str.**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2373. **Tumanyan str.**, 6/3, stone bld, 100sq.m, 3bedrooms, capitally renovated, furnished. Price: 1300 USD
- 2363. **Arami str**, Newly built, /4th floor, 120sq.m, 2 bathrooms and a guest toilet, a dressing room, capitally renovated, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 2358. **V. Sargsyan str**, Newly Built, 7/4, 145sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, one guest toilet, capitally renovated, furnished, underground parking. Price: 3000 USD negotiable
- 2347. **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable
- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500

USD

- 2303. **Hanrapetutyun str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD

- 1142. **Djrvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitally repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- 1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable



PREMISES

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335. **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336. **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathroom, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337. **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m , 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- 999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- 1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

Edward Nalbandian: Armenia deeply concerned by the situation in the Middle East



Acting Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian participated in the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to Address Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. The Minister's full speech is provided below:

Honorable Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The convening of this meeting at such a high level indicates the growing prominence of the problem of migrants and refugees on the global agenda, including within the UN system and the strong determination to tackle it.

Armenia has been facing the challenges relating to refugee hosting for almost 3 decades. In the late 80s and beginning of 90s Armenians were massacred and expelled from their homes in Azerbaijan and found refuge in Armenia. This year again, in early April Azerbaijan unleashed another large-scale military offensive against Nagorno-Karabakh that resulted in a number of casualties among civilians and another wave of displacement.

In this context we would like to stress the significance of addressing the root causes of large movements of people through the prevention of conflicts and crisis situations, peaceful settlement of disputes and achievement of long-term political solutions. Likewise, we would like to highlight the importance of providing equal, prompt and un-

hindered access to international humanitarian assistance for refugees and displaced persons in all affected parts of the world, without distinction to their current political status.

Mr. President,

Armenia is deeply concerned by the situation in our immediate neighborhood – the Middle East. On numerous occasions Armenia has condemned the crimes committed by DAESH and other terrorist groups, which threaten the people of the region and beyond. The war in Syria has a devastating impact on its civilian population, including national and religious minorities who face existential threats due to identity based crimes perpetrated by terrorists and foreign fighters.

The violence in the Middle East has not bypassed Syrian Armenians, many of whom lost their lives in terrorist attacks. The Armenian settlements, churches, schools and cultural institutions were destroyed. One hundred years ago Armenian refugees found shelter in many Arab countries after the Armenian Genocide. Today thousands of Armenians, together with other people of the Middle East, again are forced to abandon their places of residence. From Syria alone more than 20 thousand Armenians found refuge in Armenia, making our country the third largest recipient of Syrian refugees in Europe on per capita basis. Therefore, we have first-hand knowledge about what it means to be a refugee and to host refugees.

The challenges of receiving, accommodating and integrating refugees from Syria are high on the agenda of the Armenian Government. We have been offering a variety of protection options of accelerated asylum procedures, facilitated provision of residence permits and naturalization. The State supports them in setting up businesses, provides durable housing, free medical assistance and scholarships.

Armenia is committed to making its utmost to address the issues of Syrian refugees, however no State can manage such large movements on its own. We believe that greater international cooperation is needed to assist host countries. To this end, we welcome the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and believe that the full implementation of our collective commitments, particularly those referring to a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility, could make a real difference for the benefit of refugees.

Thank you.



A Unique Eye-Opening Visit to Iran



Harut Sassounian

Along with 16 other Armenian journalists from Armenia, Artsakh, the Czech Republic, France, Lebanon, Syria, and the United States, I was invited to attend the 85th anniversary celebration of Alik daily Armenian newspaper, published in Tehran since 1931.

As this was my first visit to Iran, I quickly discovered that the country was a lot different than what I had heard and read about in the United States. It is an important country with an ancient civilization that is often misunderstood by outsiders.

Tehran is a large city with millions of inhabitants trying to cope with the maddening traffic. Making matters worse, tens of thousands of motorcyclists zip around cars in every direction, while pedestrians dart through several lanes of heavy traffic, foolishly risking their lives. Basically, the scariest part of visiting Iran is neither the regime nor the militants, but the simple act of crossing the street!

I also found out that both Iranians and Iranian-Armenians are extremely hospitable, gracious and polite. They go out of their way to help total strangers. Armenians, as a Christian minority, enjoy their full freedoms of education and worship. They have their own schools and churches all over the country. There are Prelacies of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Tehran, Isfahan, and Tavriz.

One of the stunning Armenian community centers is the Ararat Armenian Cultural Association's center which encompasses several acres of sports facilities, including a soccer stadium, basketball and tennis courts, swimming pools, and a chapel in the one of the most prestigious parts of Tehran. Our visit to Iran coincided with the opening ceremonies of the 48th annual Pan-Armenian games

with Armenian scouts and athletes participating from various parts of Iran, Armenia, Artsakh, and Javakh, Georgia. The next day, Azerbaijan's Embassy in Iran dutifully complained to the Iranian government about the inclusion of athletes from Artsakh in the Pan-Armenian games.

Iranian-Armenians serve as a vital bridge between their twin homelands: The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Armenia. Despite Azerbaijan's complaints and its persistent efforts to undermine relations between Armenia and Iran, the Iranian government steadfastly maintains a balanced relationship with the two neighboring states. Armenia's Ambassador to Iran, His Excel-

lency Ardashes Toumanian, the Armenian Cultural and Athletic Association, two major Iranian media outlets, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, the Minister of Culture, and the Institute for Political and International Studies. The visitors were received everywhere with much warmth and respect!

The visiting journalists had also the pleasure of meeting with the two Armenian members of the Iranian Majlis (Parliament) who play a key role as the intermediary between the government and the Armenian community.

Last Saturday night, the journalists attended the official celebration of the 85th anniversary of Alik where they took the podium

to congratulate the unique accomplishments of the newspaper that has educated and informed several generations with great sacrifices by dedicated editors, journalists, staff, benefactors and community organizations.

The highlight of the visit was the tour of the historic cities of Isfahan and Tavriz, including a special 'pilgrimage' to the ancient monasteries of Sourp Tadeh and Sourp Stepanos monasteries.

The most emotional part of the trip was driving along the Arax River on the border between Iran and Nakhichevan, formerly a part of Armenia, currently an autonomous region of Azerbaijan. Many of the journalists had tears in their

eyes as they observed across the border an empty field that used to be an ancient cemetery with thousands of Armenian Khachkars (cross-stones) which were cruelly destroyed by the authorities of Azerbaijan, thus committing a cultural genocide and a crime against humanity!

In recent decades, even though many Iranian-Armenians have immigrated to other countries, mostly Glendale, California, the bulk of the community remains deeply committed to doubling its efforts in order to continue its role as a critical bridge between Iran and Armenia!



lency Ardashes Toumanian, a highly competent and seasoned diplomat, is another important link between the Republic of Armenia, the government of Iran, and the local Armenian community.

The management of Alik newspaper had organized a hectic schedule for the incoming journalists which included visits to Armenian schools, an Armenian medical clinic, the Gulestan Palace, the Royal Jewelry Museum, and the Charmahal Society Center where a Talk-Show was held for the community. The journalists also met with the Armenian National Committee of Tehran, the

The 25th Independence Day Celebrated with Independence Generation Gala Concert



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

Chief Correspondent

The main event marking the 25th anniversary of Armenia's independence celebrated on 21 September was undoubtedly a concert at the Karen Demirchyan Sports and Concerts Complex that stood out in terms of its scale any concert held ever in Armenia.

"Independence Generation" - that was the title of this concert in which over a thousand young musicians from all the Marzes of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh Republic participated. The Highlights has written for several times on this hugest and unprecedented project.

It was a really unique enchanting show that combined music, video and light effects, dances and that was received by everybody – the old and the young, male and female, a Government minister and a "simple" spectator very warmly, and often round of applause turned into long ovation by standing spectators.

The event included works by Armenian composers, premieres were also held which were written especially for this concert. **Nune Yesayan** and **Iveta Mukuchyan** accompanied by a girl choir performed the First Lady **Rita Sargsyan's** song (lyrics by **Avet Barseghyan**). Singers **Davit Amalyan**, **Sophia Tumanyan**

and others were that night at the stage as well. (This author and I believe the most of spectators were amazed by brilliant performance of the "Hayastan" (Armenia) song (authored by **Armen Smbatyan**) by bariton **Gevorg Hakobyan**).

As it was announced before, the huge orchestra and choir consisting of musicians who were born mostly in the years of Armenia's independence was led by the author of this megaproject **Sergey Smbatyan**. Specifically for this event the best young Armenian soloists from around the world who honorably

Deputy PM **Vache Gabrielyan**, cabinet ministers, MPs and other religious leaders, senior civil and military officials, foreign diplomats and guests. By the end of the festive concert the Armenian young people who have had outstanding achievement in various spheres – the Homeland defense, science and arts, sports and other appeared at the stage, and President **Sargsyan** welcomed them. He had a congratulatory speech essential extracts of which you could find below:

"...The independence generation in our country has high standards and high demands. They also have discontent, and that discontent is an important and necessary element of progress. Could you imagine what it would be like if they were content and happy with the existing reality? They show discontent, they protest, criticize, and demand because they want to live in a better country; they want to live in a freer, more lawful, more prosperous country. They do not let the representatives of the senior generation lose vigilance and thereby, they are speeding up the reforms.

Why this is the most important thing for me? State is a tool which is called to serve people and not vice versa. The independence generation wants to improve that tool. And that generation is on the right path. We are walking down a very complicated but the most promising path of building democratic stability. It is indeed very difficult to cover in a couple of



represent Armenia at the most prestigious stages such as, for instance, talented cellist **Narek Hakhnazaryan** were invited.

The concert was attended by the Armenian President **Serzh Sargsyan** and the First Lady **Rita Sargsyan**, NKR President **Bako Sahakyan**, Catholicos of All Armenians **Karekin II**, Catholicos of the Great Cilician House **Aram I**, Prime Minister **Karen Karapetyan**, the Natl Assembly Speaker **Galust Sahakyan**,



decades a distance which others covered in hundreds of years. But it is possible because the course is charted. Dear Compatriots, Last twenty-five years of Armenia's independence have proved once again that nobody is going to solve our problems for us. We are able and will be solving them in the order of priority. We have wonderful friends, partners and allies all over the world. We thank them for cooperation, but let us not forget that responsibility still rests with us, only and only with us. The independence generation is gradually coming to assume that historic responsibility. Before speaking of the mote in one's eye, they speak of a beam in our own. This is the right path because solutions to all problems are within us. The more mature we as a society, the faster we will solve our problems. Dear Compatriots, We are following the path of honest work, honest earning, and the truth telling path. Our

renovate its house, it will do it. Nothing will make us deviate from that route, while the amended Constitution will become a bright beacon illuminating that route.

The Armenia-Artsakh-Spyurk trinity is our strength. Whatever we have done in a quarter of a century, we have done together. Tomorrow we will do even more. In the process we have not only used the existing potential but have also accumulated new experiences and new potential. We have formed new platforms and tools which open new horizons before us. I once again congratulate us all on the occasion of Independence Day. The realization of our national aspirations is in our own hands. It will take time and work to do. I wish us all peaceful skies and new achievements for the glory of our country and our nation. National Hero of the Republic of Armenia Movses Gorgissian used to



society is our wealth. Whatever good there is in our country, it's been done by them – the citizens of the Republic of Armenia, regardless of who was leading the country. Today our country has entered a new, accelerated phase of reforms. These are not just personnel changes as some would like to think. These are structural changes which will bring about a qualitatively new state. This is not just wishful thinking; this is a succession of the preset, defined steps. We know where we are going and how to get there. If an entire nation wants to



say, "Long live the Armenia which will come tomorrow." He was speaking of an independent and free Armenia. Today we are saying, "Long live the Armenia which has come", but immediately follow by saying "Long live the Armenia which will come tomorrow," and we mean a more prosperous and secure Armenia. Long live the Armenian nation!

Long live the Republic of Armenia!"

Photos by the RA President Press Office and Erit.am

VivaCell-MTS Last Week...

“From Genocide to Restoration of Independence”

Armenia’s leading telecom operator is the General Partner of the exhibition dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Independence of Armenia

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Independence of Armenia, the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute has opened a temporary exhibition entitled “From Genocide to Restoration of Independence” which features rare historical flags and coat of arms dating from 18th-20th centuries, the years of the Armenian national liberation struggle. Among the rare exhibits are flags and coat of arms prepared by Armenian orphans after the Genocide.

Most of the exhibits compiled from a number of museums in Armenia and the Diaspora have been presented at an exhibition for the first time. The exhibition also features carpets, engravings, posters, silver items, stamps, greeting cards, books and albums that have images of Armenian coat of arms and flags, as well as compositions with the image of the “Mother Armenia”.

Besides its educational and cultural significance for the young generation of Armenians, the exhibition is also a tribute to the highest value of our nation – independent statehood - and to its symbols.

Exhibition items have been provided by the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, museum of the ARF (Armenian Revolutionary Federation) Bureau, “Ararat Eskijian” Museum, Los Angeles, the Armenian Museum in Boston, the National Archive of Armenia, the Memorial Museum of Karen Jeppe, Denmark, The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Boston, and the

results of yet another joint program implemented within the framework of The Alternative Energy Project. An outdoor lighting system, consisting of 54 LED lamps, has been installed in Amraki community of Lori region. As a result of the implemented project, two main streets of the community have been provided with a street lighting system about 1,900 meters.

General Engineer and Project Manager Martin Maralchyan, VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian, head of Amraki community Arthur Nerkararyan, and community residents attended the launch of the system.

The environmentally friendly and energy efficient LED lights will reduce outdoor lighting costs up to 80%.

Outdoor lighting will be provided from 20:00 to 00:00 in summer, and from 18:00 to 23:00 in winter. On holidays,



Armenian Diocese Museum in Romania.

The General Partner of the exhibition is VivaCell-MTS.

Street lighting system has been provided in Amraki community

The Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) and VivaCell-MTS have summed up the



street lighting will be provided all night long. LED bulbs are efficient and durable, and last much longer than the regular ones.

“Creating solutions for environmental protection and applying them in real life is among the top priorities in the agenda of the developed countries in the world. The caring attitude towards nature and the denial of consumerism are important criteria for measuring the level of consciousness of a person, a nation, or a country. The usage of alternative energy sources, apart from its financial benefits, is a huge step towards a more responsible and civilized life-style,” VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** said.

The use of latest technologies in environmental protection initiatives promotes nature conservation, energy efficiency and community development.



VivaCell-MTS: A Solar Water Heater Installed in “Gugarq” Children and Youth Camp of Lori Region

The Foundation for Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) and VivaCell-MTS have summed up the results of the serial joint program implemented within the framework of “The Alternative Energy Project”. A solar water heater was installed in “Gugarq” children and youth camp of

and the usefulness those technologies bring. Besides instilling careful attitude toward the nature, it will also prompt them that solutions in whatever sphere of activities require more responsible, innovative and alternative ways, which are based on both one’s own interest and the care for the well-being of the envi-

ronment,” VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** said.

The use of the supply system in the kitchen of the camp will provide hot water supply throughout the year, exclusively due to the solar water heater. The first time a solar water heater is used in Armenia; there are vacuum



Lori region.

The launching ceremony of the system was attended by the Founding General Manager of VivaCell-MTS Mr Ralph Yirikian, the Head of FPWC Ruben Khachatryan, and the Deputy Director of “Gugarq” camp Gevorg Khanamiryan.

“Children and youngsters have to be familiarized with technologies used for the environmental preservation; they have to know the importance



tubes of 100 mm diameter, which are more effective and occupying less space, give more heat energy.

The solar water heater has two accumulators with 12 vacuum tubes (24 pieces total), which provides 200 liters of hot water of 70-80 C.

Depending on the weather conditions, the system reduces the costs spent on hot water up to 85-100%.

More than 1000 pupils attend the “Gugarq” children and youth camp each year.

Vahe Andonians, SCDM Founder Participates in the World Famous Marathons to Help Children in Armenia with Cancer

By Gourgen James Khazhakian
Chief Correspondent

In The Highlights issue #25 (1113, 04.07.2016), under title "Vahe Andonians, SCDM Founder: "We've Started in Armenia and Today We Have a Wonderful Team Here" (and subtitle "An originally Armenian company grown into a market leader in offering risk management services for credit investors"), we've published interview with Vahe Andonians, Founder of the SCDM ("Structured Credit Data Management"), the second largest company resided at the Viasphere Technopark in Yerevan that provides in fact all the types of risk management services for banks/other financial institutions worldwide.

Recently The Highlights has got knew that Mr Andonians participated in the following international sports competitions:

- 28.08.2016: Half Ironman Zell Am See.

This is a triathlon being held in Austria which includes the swim taking place in a Lake Zell surrounded by "glacier-covered mountains that is so clean you can drink the water, the new bike course provides athletes stunning views of the Austrian Alps, and the distractingly scenic run course circumnavigates the Lake, finishing in the picturesque old town of Zell am See", as the official website of the IRONMAN World Championship says. (www.eu.ironman.com).

- 25.09.2016: Berlin Marathon

And on 13.11.2016 Vahe Andonians, 40, will take part in the Athens Marathon.

Below we put posts from Mr Andonians' FB page:

"...The reason for going out is to raise money for a good cause.

For every competition you can donate money and the day after the last marathon we will be donating the raised money to children at the On-

cology Hospital of Armenia in Yerevan".

And... "I just finished the Berlin Marathon in 4h29m59s. Although I feel proud, in my humble opinion the Marathon has really nothing to do with body fitness. I have seen today runners much fitter than I am, failing or being slower than I was. I have also seen runners that seemingly did not look very fit but were faster than I was. In my opinion, the Marathon is a test of will. No matter how fit you are, at some point, the pain will start. #jantfrodono can say to himself - "if I am in pain, others must be in agony". Unfortunately, we are. So it takes a strong will to continue step after step, knowing before your foot touches the ground - it will hurt. Although running a Marathon is an achievement (#iamproud), it is something I chose for myself.

Unfortunately, there are many people in this world that are being tested for their will not in a sports event they chose, but in sickness. Cancer is a terrible disease that tests the will for survival in an inhumane way. Especially children that suffer from cancer have to go through this torture without having ever really enjoyed life - at least not in an appropriate length. Let's give these children joy, because only joy can increase their will for survival to combat this terrible disease.

I have over 700 friends on Facebook, if each of you donates at least 3 Euro that will make more than 2100 Euro. #SCDMfinancial pledges to double that amount and it will all be donated to an Oncology hospital in Armenia.

Just order a coke less next time you dine (coke is unhealthy anyway) and donate this money. These children need joy. Just follow this link: <https://www.leetchi.com/c/soziales-von-kindern-at-the-oncology-hospital>

and you can find the following statement by Vahe Andonians:

"...Dear friends, family and colleagues,

In the next couple of months I will be participating in the three following endurance competitions:

P.S. Every amount donated in September will be doubled by us (SCDM Financial) at the end of the project!

Thanks everybody for your help! "

We've got knew that by the moment they've donated more than 2,500 Euros, and the donation process is going on.

P.S. The last, but not the least: just a couple of days ago Mr Andonians registered for the Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon to beld on 18-19 March 2017.



Vahe and Bella Andonians with their daughters Jenya and Athena

Photos by Bella Andonians



Armenia Strongly advocates for fight against Impunity for Genocide

Speaking the 71st General Assembly of the United Nations on September 23, Armenia's acting Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian strongly advocated for the international fight against impunity for genocides around the world.

Below is his presentation:

Mr. President,
Secretary General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to congratulate and wish success to Peter Thomson, the President of this session and to thank his predecessor Mogens Lykketoft.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our high appreciation to the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his able leadership.

Mr. President,

Two days ago, Armenia celebrated the 25th anniversary of its independence. In this relatively short period of time much has been done to strengthen democratic institutions, rule of law, good governance, protect human rights and advance economic reforms.

We have been able to make a significant progress also with regard to the social and economic development agenda. However, challenges still remain. The needs of the most socially vulnerable groups have been placed in the center of Armenia's Prospective Development Strategy for 2014-2025. Likewise, our Government has launched the Plan of Actions for its National Strategy on Human Rights Protection. In this regard, Armenia continues actively working with all UN human rights mechanisms, including special procedures and treaty bodies.

Our new constitutional reform, which followed an inclusive process of broad public discussions aimed at achieving a new and improved governance system with increased transparency and accountability, was approved at a nation-wide referendum last December and welcomed by relevant international bodies.

Mr. President,

The United Nations has a considerable role to play in changing the environment conducive to intolerance, racial discrimination, xenophobia, violent extremism and terrorism.

On numerous occasions Armenia has condemned the crimes committed by DAESH, other terrorist groups, which threaten the peoples of the region and beyond. The war in Syria has a devastating impact on its civilian population, including national and religious minorities who face existential threats due to identity based crimes. The violence has not

bypassed Syrian-Armenians, many of whom lost their lives. The Armenian settlements, churches, schools and cultural institutions were destroyed. One hundred years ago Armenian refugees found shelter in many Arab countries after the Armenian Genocide. Today thousands of Armenians, together with other people of the Middle East, again are forced to flee their homes. From Syria alone more than 20 thousand found refuge in Armenia. Therefore, we know what it means to be a refugee and to host refugees.

The Government of Armenia has undertaken considerable efforts in assisting the refugees and facilitating their integration. We believe that wider international cooperation is needed to adequately address the challenges posed by massive displacement. The full implementation of the commitments of the New York Declaration on refugees and migrants adopted few days ago by this august body stands as an important milestone in this regard.

We would like to stress the significance of addressing the root causes of large movements of people through the prevention of crimes against humanity, peaceful settlement of disputes and achievement of lasting political solutions.

Mr. President,

Armenia has been continuously supporting and contributing to the elaboration of the mechanisms of prevention, in particular by regularly initiating Resolutions on the Prevention of Genocide in the Human Rights Council.

As a nation that experienced the first genocide of the 20th century and continues to face the denial of this horror, Armenia reaffirms its strong support to the fight against impunity for genocide. 2016 marks the first anniversary of the UN General Assembly Resolution initiated by Armenia, proclaiming December 9th as an International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of Genocide.

As the threat of violence continues to spread in different parts of the world it is crucial to make our joint efforts for peace and security more efficient. It is with this understanding that Armenia has participated in a number of UN and UN-mandated Peace Operations, thus actively contributing in the most direct way to the building of international peace and security. As the UN Assistant Secretary General noted "Armenia's support is important not only for its contribution but also for the Armenian history and the challenges overcome during it". Indeed, history teaches us that the security of one is closely connected to others.

continued on page 18

Armenia Strongly advocates for fight against Impunity for Genocide

from page 17

Mr. President,

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights, as well as the 30th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development. These major documents proclaim that “All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.” It is well known that the UN Charter underlines the respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples as a purpose of this organization.

Aggressive military response of the state to the peaceful aspiration of people to exercise their right to self-determination only legitimizes such aspiration and deprives the aggressor of any claim to authority over such people. The UN Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order rightly stated that rather than perceiving self-determination as a source of conflict, armed conflict should be seen as a consequence of the violation of the right to self-determination.

Azerbaijan stubbornly refuses to recognize the right of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh to self-determination. As part of Azerbaijan’s policy of ethnic cleansing and aggression, starting from the late 80s and beginning of 90s Armenians were massacred and expelled from their homes. Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov called it a threat of a new genocide of the Armenian people.

This year again, in early April in blatant violation of the cease-fire agreement, Azerbaijan unleashed another large scale aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh, indiscriminately targeting civilian infrastructures and population. Among the victims were a 12 year old boy and 92 year old woman. Three captive soldiers of the Nagorno-Karabakh armed forces were beheaded in DAESH style, which was subsequently demonstrated in towns and villages and publicized through social networks. Furthermore, the leader of Azerbaijan publically decorated the perpetrators of this crime. During the exchange of bodies of the deceased between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan, carried out through the mediation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, it was registered that the corpses transferred from the Azerbaijani side had undeniable signs of torture and were mutilated. Such despicable atrocities go beyond elementary norms of the civilized world and constitute gross violations of international humanitarian law.

The April aggression severely undermined the peace process. To restore the trust in peaceful resolution of the conflict measures should be taken to prevent the use of force and to create conditions conducive to the advancement of the peace process. This was the main aim of two Summits on Nagorno-Karabakh

held in Vienna in May and in St. Petersburg in June. First of all, it is imperative to implement what was particularly emphasized and agreed upon at these Summits – first, the full adherence to the 1994-1995 trilateral ceasefire agreements, which do not have time limitations; second, the creation of mechanism for investigation of ceasefire violations; third, the expansion of the capacity of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office.

Against all odds the people of Nagorno-Karabakh have been able to defend themselves and create a free and democratic society.

Armenia, together with the mediator countries – Russia, the United States and France – the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, will continue its efforts towards exclusively peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The Co-Chairs have proclaimed a rather civilized formula for the settlement – ballots instead of bullets. The proposal outlined by the presidents of the Co-Chair countries stipulates future determination of the final legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh through a legally binding expression of will of its population. The mentality that supports medieval barbarism, as witnessed in April, can hardly accept the civilized approaches of the modern world.

Mr. President,

Armenia welcomes the integration of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries into the Agenda 2030 as an important step to promote sustainable and inclusive development. To ensure the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and mainstream it into our policies, the Government of Armenia has recently adopted a national strategy for its implementation. We deplore policies that stipulate unilateral economic measures as an instrument of political pressure.

Agenda 2030 reconfirms once again that such measures are detrimental to sustainable development. The unilateral land blockade of Armenia by Turkey is a gross violation of international law. It continues to severely hamper regional transit communication routes, economic cooperation and integration.

Mr. President,

Armenia welcomes the central role of the United Nations in the implementation of the new and comprehensive Agenda. We do not underestimate the challenges facing all of us – equally we should not downplay the opportunities. More than seven decades on, we must show the same insight and vision to safeguard the future of this Organization and ensure the best possible future for the peoples of the United Nations. Armenia is fully committed to these goals.

Thank you.

DNA hints at earlier human exodus from Africa



Hints of an early exodus of modern humans from Africa may have been detected in living humans, the BBC reports.

Present-day people outside Africa

were thought to descend from a group that left their homeland 60,000 years ago.

Now, analysis of nearly 500 human genomes appears to have turned up the

weak signal of an earlier migration.

But the results suggest this early wave of *Homo sapiens* all but vanished, so it does not drastically alter prevailing theories of our origins.

Writing in the academic journal *Nature*, Luca Pagani, Mait Metspalu and colleagues describe hints of this pioneer group in their analysis of DNA in people from the Oceanian nation of Papua New Guinea.

After evolving in Africa 200,000 years ago, modern humans are thought to have crossed through Egypt into the Arabian Peninsula some 60,000 years ago.

Until now, genetic evidence has shown that every non-African alive today could trace their origins to this fateful dispersal.

Yet we had known for some time that groups of modern humans made forays outside their “homeland” before 60,000 years ago.

The Weather Channel: 15 reasons Armenia should be your next vacation spot

“When you dream about your next big trip, your immediate response isn’t likely to be Armenia. But that’s where you are woefully overlooking a beautiful spot that hasn’t yet been overrun by tourists,” the Weather Channel writes.

In honor of Armenian Independence on September 21, the website presents 15 reasons why Armenia should be the next vacation spot.

Excerpts from the article are provided below:

With its rich cultural heritage, scenic landscapes, and tasty local cuisine, Armenia is a perfect spot for a long trek or a short trip. Throw in the friendly atmosphere (and copious opportunities for extreme sports) and it is clear that Armenia’s reputation is due for a change.

The first Christian country in the world,

Armenia officially took on the religion on a statewide level in 301 at the encouragement of Gregory the Illuminator. That century, the country began abolishing their pagan temples and building Christian temples and monasteries, some of which are still active and can be visited today.

Travelers can visit the Monastery of Tatev, a gem of medieval Armenian architecture and spiritual life. The monastery can be accessed via the longest ropewalk in the world or Wings of Tatev cable car, the world’s longest non-stop double track cable car, according to the Guinness World Records.

Where culture is concerned, as Armenia is situated snugly between on the border between Europe and Asia, their identity is a unique blend of east and west. People are extremely kind and tend to appreciate tourists. It is not uncommon for locals to invite a traveler over for sweets, tea, or even a meal.

If none of that sold you on Armenia, I could always remind you it’s the land of Andre Agassi and Kim Kardashian.



Members of Congress toast 25 years of Armenian Independence

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA), Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), and the bipartisan leadership of the Congressional Armenian Caucus joined the Armenian American leaders in toasting Armenia's 25th anniversary of independence, at a Capitol Hill celebration hosted by the Embassy of Armenia, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

The program featured warm toasts by legislators, congratulating Armenia on a quarter century of independence and pledging continued partnership in further developing the U.S.-Armenia relationship, supporting Artsakh's freedom, and ending U.S. complicity in Ankara's denial of the Armenian Genocide. Ambassador Grigor Hovhanissian hosted the Congressional program, offering his own inspirational

in which America has assisted Armenia – from post-earthquake humanitarian aid to technical economic assistance and an aid-to trade transition that has brought unprecedented levels of U.S. investment to Armenia.

Hamparian emphasized the Armenian people's commitment to regional peace, highlighting the commitment of both Yerevan and Stepanakert to the OSCE peace process for Nagorno Karabakh and the Royce-Engel proposals to strengthen the cease-fire. He closed by emphasizing Armenia's reciprocation of American generosity, noting the high level of Armenian participation in peacekeeping operations – from Iraq and Afghanistan to Kosovo and Lebanon, Armenia's partnership with the United States on nuclear safety challenges, and Armenia's leadership in addressing the



words regarding the U.S.-Armenia partnership, and inviting each legislator to offer their toast to mark this historic occasion.

In his remarks, ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian noted that, "when the Armenians look back up on the early years of their homeland's reborn independence, they will surely remember and fondly recall the help of their American friends." He went on to share the many ways

Syria crisis by serving as a safe haven for at risk minorities.

Members of Congress joining Chairman Royce and Senator Menendez in toasting Armenia's 25th anniversary were Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chairs Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Jackie Speier (D-CA), Vice-Chairs Adam Schiff (D-CA) and David Trott (R-MI), Judy Chu (D-CA), Jim Costa (D-CA), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), and Brad Sherman (D-CA).

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

The year brings improvements in all your most intimate relationships. This may be the year to get married or develop a beneficial business partnership. Those with client bases will note considerable expansion. The period is favorable for attracting positive assistance through professional consultants, e.g., doctors, counselors, etc. Travel and/or education are on the increase.



Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Jupiter will increase the physical vitality, heal anomalies, and offer improvements in work conditions. Relationships to coworkers will be enhanced and equipment may be updated. This is the time to look for a better job (or it may find you). Any type of self-improvement program, but especially those relating to the physical body, will have highly beneficial results. Many will adopt pets.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

The time has come to relax and remember how to play. All types of creative work will be enhanced and those with children will find greater satisfaction and a more rewarding relationship in the next year. Those who want children or a new love affair will likely be granted their wish. Give yourself permission to explore new possibilities in creative self-expression.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

Jupiter will bring improvements to your domestic life. This may manifest in a new home or other property, such as a car. It especially favors home decorating or expansion projects. Domestic problems of the past may be improved or resolved during this period. Opportunities to improve and augment relationships to the family of origin will be presented.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

During the next year opportunities for travel will probably increase. Relationships with siblings, roommates and/or neighbors will be more rewarding and your overall daily attitude becomes more optimistic. Focus of attention on communication (written or oral) will be highlighted. Educational opportunities are attractive and expanded. You may become a teacher in your field.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

You will likely have improvements in financial income or other personal resources. This may develop either as the result of general good luck or increased effort. Optimistic attitudes concerning money might lead you to overextend resources. Your sense of self-esteem is increased by several notches as you demonstrate what you have learned in recent years.



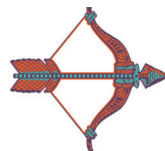
Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

Jupiter in your sign will lighten any load, renew your sense of optimism and reinforce your self-esteem. Help and cooperation of others will be more available to you, especially if you make your requests in person. The spiritual dimension of your life will improve and travel or education becomes more prominent. The only difficulty with this transit is the tendency for weight gain.



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

Any effort toward becoming more acquainted with the deeper parts of your self will be well rewarded. Positive results can be achieved through psychotherapy, dream work, meditation, hypnosis and/or prayer. Assistance will come to you through unexpected (and possibly mysterious) sources. Your desire to contribute to the greater social good will increase and yield good "karma".



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

Effort invested in organizational or group social causes will be returned in bounty. Networking with friends and acquaintances may play an active role toward helping you attain personal goals in life. Relationships with stepchildren (and more generally to other people's children) will improve and become a source of pleasure. Corporate financial resources may increase.



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

Any reasonable effort in the area of profession, career or social status should meet with favorable results during the next few months. There may be additional travel, or educational/teaching opportunities associated with career endeavors. Relationships to superiors will be more supportive. Opportunities develop to improve relationships with the family of origin.



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

Jupiter augurs improvements and good fortune through any or all of the following: legal or ethical issues, contacts with foreign lands or people who live at a distance, the internet, higher education, teaching, publishing and long distance travel. Events of the next year will broaden your perspective on all of life and expand your sense of connection to a larger circle of others.



Pisces (February 18–March 19)

Gain comes to you through areas of shared financial resources. These may include: compensation from insurance or other group holdings, increases in partner's income, sale of property, gains through inheritance or gifts, increase in the value of stocks, bonds or other mutually held property, or tax benefits.

DigiTech Expo-2016 opens in Yerevan

President Serzh Sargsyan visited on September 30 the DigiTech Expo-2016 annual technological exhibition opened at the Yerevan Expo Exhibition Complex of the Yerevan Scientific and Research Institute of Mathematical Machines.

The main goal of the Exhibition, which will be held September 30-October 2 under the title A Feast for the Technological Armenians, is to create a favorable communication environment for the companies, customers and the public engaged in the technological sphere as well as to present the real situation with the Armenian information and telecommunication technologies, achievements, and prospects.

The President of Armenia toured the exhibition hall, familiarized with the products and services presented by the companies, conversed with the representatives of the companies about their work and future development programs. Among over 120 companies participating this year at the DigiTech-2016 besides the prominent local companies, there are leading firms from the Russian Federation, US, China, and India.

At a separate hall of the Yerevan Expo the organizers and responsible officials of the exhibition presented to Serzh Sargsyan the process of implementation of the innovative technologies in the military equipment production, reported on the results of this stage of the cooperation established by the Presidential directive between the companies engaged in the military production and companies producing information technologies, forthcoming plans aimed at the full utilization of the potential existing in the area of information technologies for the benefit of development of the military industry of Armenia.



Vahe Torossian is new President of Microsoft France

Microsoft Corporate Vice-President Vahe Torossian was appointed President of Microsoft France, Horizon Weekly reports.

According to the announcement by Microsoft France, he has been the acting President from July 1 this year.

“France is the country of research and innovation, knowledge and best engineering training, with powerful entrepreneurial ecosystem. Together with our team we will strengthen loyalty to our clients and partners and accelerate their digital transformation towards cloud technologies,” Vahe Torossian noted.

It is worth mentioning that Vahe Torossian visited Yerevan last year to participate in the 8th Armtech-2015 High Tech Conference.



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