

Parliament Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan named Armenia's new Prime Minister



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President Sargsyan introduces newly appointed PM to the members of government

Armenia's newly appointed Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian declined to shed light on the composition of his government and its policies on Monday after being formally introduced to outgoing ministers by President Serzh Sargsyan.

Serzh Sargsyan chaired the cabinet meeting the day after naming former Prime Minister Tirgran Sargsyan's successor. Abrahamian urged the cabinet members to continue performing their duties "with greater vigor" until the formation of the new government before April 24.

"I'm going to cooperate with all political forces represented in the parliament, the civil society and expert circles. I'm going to listen to their opinions," the new premier told reporters afterwards. "I'm going to be very open and transparent to everyone," he said, adding vaguely that there will "all kinds of changes" in the executive.

Asked whether his cabinet will comprise members of political groups who challenged his predecessor, Abrahamian said, "The president of the republic is now negotiating with political forces represented in the National Assembly and we will jointly make decisions."

The remarks suggest that President Sargsyan still hopes to cut a new power-sharing deal with the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP), the second largest parliamentary force that pulled out of the governing coalition two years ago. The PAP representatives have insisted until now that a return to the government is "not on the agenda" of the influential party led by businessman Gagik Tsarukyan.

Naira Zohrabyan reaffirmed this stance on Monday. Ilur.am quoted her as warning that the PAP members accepting ministerial or posts in the new government would be expelled from the party.

Abrahamian's appointment is widely

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Serzh Sargsyan rules out another Presidential Term

President Serzh Sargsyan said on April 10 that he will not seek another reelection but stopped short of categorically ruling out the possibility of becoming prime minister after completing his second presidential term in 2018.

"I, Serzh Sargsyan, officially declare that I will never again run for the post of president of the Republic of Armenia," Sargsyan told a presidential commission of top state officials tasked with proposing amendments to the Armenian constitution.

"If as a result of final discussions [on constitutional reform] a path not corresponding to my wish is chosen -- I mean the parliamentary model of governance -- then I will also not aspire to the post of prime minister," he said. "I believe that one person must not aspire to the reins of power in Armenia for more than twice in a lifetime."

Sargsyan did not specify whether he will be willing to stay in power as prime minister if the commission does not ultimately advocate Armenia's transformation into a parliamentary republic.

He spoke as the ad hoc body headed by Gagik Harutiunyan, President of the Constitutional Court, submitted and publicized what it called a preliminary version of the "concept" of constitutional reform. The 45-page document does not seem to give preference to a radical change of the existing government system that vests sweeping powers in the presidency. Those include the right to appoint key government ministers, top military and law-enforcement officials, provincial governors as well as virtually all judges.

The proposed reform framework does call, though, for curtailing the presidential authority and increasing the role of Armenia's government and the parliament. The president, it says, should have "largely counterbalancing and restraining powers," especially in cases where he or she does not have a loyal majority in the National Assembly.

The reform concept also floats a more far-reaching "possible alternative" whereby Armenia would officially become a parliamentary republic with a powerful prime minister and a largely ceremonial head of state. In that case, the president would be elected by the parliament for a seven-year term and would not be allowed to run for reelection.



The existing constitution, enacted in 1995 and amended in 2005, bars incumbent presidents from seeking a third five-year tenure. The commission did not propose that this restriction be scrapped.

Sarkisian revealed plans for the constitutional reform and set up the commission in September, over six months after securing reelection in a presidential election denounced by his political opponents as fraudulent. His office said the reform is needed for ensuring a "full-fledged balancing" of government branches, improved governance and a stronger protection of human rights.

Opposition politicians and independent observers in Yerevan see more ulterior motives behind it, however. They have speculated that Sargsyan is simply keen to hold on to power after 2018.

Levon Zurabyan, a leader of the opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC), insisted that the planned constitutional changes are aimed at "reproducing the ruling regime," dismissing Sargsyan's assurances to the contrary. The Arminfo news agency quoted Zurabyan as saying that Serzh Sargsyan will not hesitate break his implicit pledge not to become prime minister.

More importantly, the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP), the second largest parliamentary force, also spoke out against any constitutional changes on Thursday. The PAP leader Gagik Tsarukyan discussed the issue with Sargsyan during consultations on the ongoing formation of Armenia's new government.

Speaking to the Kentron TV channel, Former Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian, a senior PAP figure who also took part in the meeting, said Tsarukyan told the president that Armenia has much more urgent needs to be addressed first. According to Oskanian, Tsarukyan also warned that constitutional reform is a "contentious" issue that could "destabilize the country."

U.S. Senate Committee Approves Armenian Genocide Bill



A key committee of the U.S. Senate approved on April 10 a resolution that describes the 1915 Armenian massacres in Ottoman Turkey as genocide and urges President Barack Obama to do the same.

The resolution passed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee says the World War One-era extermination of some 1.5 million Armenians and forcible displacement of 500,000 others resulted in "the elimination of the over 2,500-year presence of Armenians in their historic homeland."

It also says that Obama should ensure that U.S. foreign policy "reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide."

The Senate committee approved the resolution by a vote of 12 to 5 two weeks before the annual commemoration of the genocide in Armenia and its worldwide Diaspora. Sources in the Armenian Assembly of America said it was backed by all Democratic members of the panel as well as some Republicans, notably Senator John McCain. The latter has opposed such measures in the past.

The genocide bill, which is bound to be denounced by Turkey, was drafted by the committee's pro-Armenian chairman, Democrat Robert Menendez, and

Republican Senator Mark Kirk. Prospects for its passage by the full Senate are not yet clear.

"We applaud the leadership of Chairman Menendez," said Bryan Ardouny, the Armenian Assembly's executive director who was on hand when the resolution was adopted. "Today's vote reaffirms America's commitment to genocide awareness and prevention," added Ardouny.

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA), another lobbying group, also hailed the development. "Today's vote affirms America's commitment to truth, deals a serious setback to Turkey's campaign of genocide denial, and sends a clear message to President Obama that he must end his Administration's complicity in Ankara's cover-up of this crime," the ANCA director, Aram Hamparian, said in a separate statement.

Menendez and Kirk introduced similar legislation two years ago. It never reached the Senate floor.

That draft resolution was virtually identical with a bill that was approved by a key committee of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2010. Nancy Pelosi, the then House speaker who has long stood for Armenian genocide recognition, refrained from putting it to a full House vote in disputed circumstances.

Obama has so far avoided publicly recognizing the Armenian genocide despite campaign promises that he gave to the Armenian-American community when running for president in 2008. The Turkish government, which vehemently denies that the mass killings constituted genocide, has repeatedly warned him of severe damage to U.S.-Turkish relations.

Turkey calls on US not to harm ties with Genocide resolution

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has called on US authorities to prevent the deterioration of US-Turkey relations after the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed a resolution commemorating and condemning the Armenian genocide on Thursday.

"Strategic cooperation between Turkey and the US plays a significant role in resolving many disputes around the world. Thus, Turkey-US relations should not be hampered by the activities of any lobby," he said at a press conference on his visit to Japan on April 11.

Sen. Robert Menendez, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Sen. Mark Kirk introduced the resolution last week. Twelve of the committee's 18 senators voted for the resolution and five voted against it, with one abstention. It is now up to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to bring the resolution to the floor of the US Senate.

Davutoglu stressed that Turkey does not expect the resolution to be adopted in the US Senate, while the Turkish Foreign Ministry condemned the resolution on Friday, describing it as biased and calling on US authorities not to provide further support for such resolutions.

Davutoglu said the Turkish ambassador to the US had been given instructions to cooperate with US authorities "to prevent the abuse of such historical issues."

President Sargsyan introduces newly appointed PM...

From page 2

seen as an attempt to halt the PAP's growing cooperation with radical opposition groups. The new premier has a close personal relationship with Tsarukyan.

Abrahamyan said that improving the economic situation in Armenia will be his top priority. "Time and resources are needed for that," he said.

He declined to specify what econom-

ic policy changes he plans to initiate. Serzh Sargsyan stressed on Sunday that Abrahamyan has committed himself to

continuing economic reforms launched by his liberal predecessor.

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US says acknowledges the killing of 1.5 million Armenians as 'historical fact'

The US State Department has said the position of the United States has long been that it clearly acknowledges as "historical fact" and "mourn the loss of 1.5 million Armenians who were massacred or marched to their deaths" in the final days of the Ottoman Empire.

Speaking during a daily press briefing, spokesperson Jen Psaki said "our position has long been that we acknowledge - clearly acknowledge as historical fact and mourn the loss of 1.5 million Armenians who were massacred or marched to their deaths in the final days of the Ottoman Empire."

"These horrific events resulted in one of the worst atrocities of the 20th century, and the United States recognizes that they remain a great source of pain for the people of Armenia and of Armenian descent, as they do for all of us who share basic universal values," she added.

When questioned about President Barack Obama's statements when he was a candidate, Psaki said candidate Obama has his own personal views about this issue.

Psaki also noted that Washington continues to urge both Turkey and Armenia to work together to achieve a full, frank and just acknowledgement of the facts. She said the US believes that by working together to address the shared history, Armenia and Turkey can promote stability and prosperity in the entire Caucasus region. "So we continue to work with them on that," she stressed.

While the normalization protocols may not be moving for-



ward at this time, Psaki said, the US notes that both sides remain committed to the process of normalizing relations and neither side has withdrawn.

"Our greatest interest on this issue is to see Armenia and Turkey heal the wounds of the past and move forward together in a shared future of security and prosperity in the region, and our policy is, of course, naturally guided by that goal," Psaki added.

Psaki's remarks came an hour before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed the Armenian Genocide Resolution, clearing the way for the resolution to come on the Senate's agenda.

Armenian Genocide commemoration at the Pasadena City Hall

The 99th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide will take place on Thursday April 24, 2014 at the Pasadena City Hall, Massis Post reports.

The annual event is organized by the Armenian Community Coalition of Pasadena, in conjunction with the City of Pasadena, and the participation of Community Armenian organizations, churches and local private and public schools student.

The program will start with the presentation of Colors by AGBU scouts followed by the rendition of the anthems of the United States and the Republic of Armenia. The boy scouts of the Armenian General Benevolent Union's

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Boehner reassures Turks House won't pass Genocide

The Speaker of House John Boehner paid a surprise visit to the Turkish capital on April 15 and assured Turkish leaders that Congress has no intentions of passing a pending resolution urging Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

According to Today's Zaman, while in Turkey, Boehner met with Turkish President Abdullah Gul, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Parliament Speaker Cemil Cicek.

"The issue about Armenians comes up from time to time, but don't worry! Our Congress will not get involved in this issue. We don't write history, we are not historians," Boehner told reporters after his meeting with Cemil Cicek, reported Hurriyet Daily News.

Boehner said bilateral ties between the two countries should be enhanced, and that the U.S. was grateful for Turkey's support on issues in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, adding that further cooperation between the two countries could still be developed in trade.

Cicek described the Armenia issue as defamation against Turkey as well as a major burden in US-Turkey relations. He also claimed that Turkey is ready to face its history, yet if legislatures make decisions on historical issues, it may hamper bilateral relations between the countries involved.

On April 10th, the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, in a vote of 12-5, adopted a resolution calling on Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide.



OSCE Minsk Group concerned over continued violence at the Line of Contact



OSCE Minsk Group's U.S. Co-chair, James Warlick is deeply concerned over continued violence on the contact line of Azerbaijani and Armenian troops, and its potential to damage the peace process.

"All sides should focus on reducing violence and rhetoric in order to improve the atmosphere for negotiations. Recent deaths and injuries show this is a dangerous conflict with no winners," Warlick told Trend on Friday, April 11.

He stressed that the OSCE and all of

its institutions support the co-chairs' efforts to help the sides to reach a peaceful settlement of this conflict.

Warlick added that the events in the region have only underscored the urgency of this task.

"The sides should seize this moment to take bold steps to advance the peace process - whether it is implementing confidence building measures or people-to-people programs, eliminating the use of force as an option once and for all," he said.

Warlick also stressed that the co-chairs stand ready to help in any way they can.

"The co-chairs are focused on helping the sides reach a fair and lasting settlement based on core principles of the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, and the elements outlined in our presidents' statements over the last five years. Our neu-

trality is vital to that process," the Minsk Group's U.S. co-chair said.

Warlick went on to say that the co-chairs visit Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories on a regular basis and will continue to do so, although they have no specific dates at this time.

"These visits provide a unique opportunity to better understand the situation there," he added.

James Warlick also touched upon the meeting of presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

"The presidents agree on the need for further high-level talks, and we are working to help them reach agreement on a time and place, but it's up to them. Their summit in Vienna last November was an important step for the peace process, and we look forward to following up soon on the substantive issues raised at that time," he said.

Azerbaijan Frees Armenian Captive



Authorities in Azerbaijan freed and sent home on April 10 a resident of an Armenian border village just over a month after he strayed into Azerbaijani territory by accident.

Arsen Khojuyan, 23, was repatriated with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He was immediately transported to a hospital in Yerevan for a medical examination.

The young man crossed the heavily militarized Armenian-Azerbaijani border on March 7 just three days after the Azerbaijani authorities freed another resident of his Verin Karmiraghbyur village following a more than month-long captivity. The 77-year-old Mamikon Khojuyan is Arsen's distant relative.

The Azerbaijani military officials accused the elderly man suffering from

mental disorders of being part of an Armenian commando squad that allegedly tried to carry out cross-border sabotage attacks. Arsen Khojuyan faced no such accusations laughed off by the Armenian military.

"They just tried to figure out whether or not I'm a serviceman. I said that I'm not," Khojuyan told reporters at Yerevan's Surp Grigor Lusavorich Medical Center. "I got lost and crossed into their territory because of heavy fog," he said.

Khojuyan also insisted that he was not ill-treated in Azerbaijani custody. He described as "normal" conditions in a Baku prison where he was incarcerated. Nevertheless, he said, he ate very little there for fear of being poisoned or drugged.

Gagik Manukian, the hospital's deputy director, confirmed that doctors found no traces of violence on the man's body. Manukian said he will be discharged from the hospital after additional tests on Friday.

By contrast, Mamikon Khojuyan had numerous injuries and required lengthy hospitalization after his release, leading the Armenian government to accuse Baku of torturing the elderly villager. The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry denied the accusations.

Armenian Genocide commemoration...

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Pasadena-Glendale Chapter will stand guard.

Like every year, many local, state, and national elected officials and dignitaries will be in attendance and some will participate in the ceremonies.

The keynote speakers will be Dr. Hampig Sarafian, in English, and Very Rev. Fr. Andon Atamian, in Armenian.

Congresswoman, Judy Chu, will be delivering a message on the Armenian Genocide and the current tragedy in Syria.

Marshall Fundamental School Orchestra will be performing, in a cultural program, to duly mark this somber occasion.



OYP Leaves Coalition, Ministers Leave OYP

The political board of the Rule of Law Party (OYP) decided not to form a coalition government. Members of the party, minister of agriculture Sergo Karapetyan, the minister of urban planning Samvel Tadevosyan and the minister of emergency situations Armen Yeritsyan have left the party.

After the meeting Mher Shahgeldyan read out the statement of the Rule of Law Party according to which the situation in the country requires a determined government that would promote reforms. The OYP states that the coalition government was not effective. Besides, the OYP was dissatisfied that the OYP's nominee for prime minister was not discussed within the coalition.

The journalists asked whether the leader of the Rule of Law Party Arthur Baghdasaryan who is the secretary of the National Security Council will step down. The deputy leader of the Rule of Party Heghineh Bisharyan said opposition is opposition, and there is no and cannot be any other option. "I think this should



be the final decision, and on April 25 Arthur Baghdasaryan will answer this question. If you are opposition, you must resign from government offices," Bisharyan said.

Politician: "RPA deporting Armenians from their motherland"

Hovik Abrahamyan's appointment as prime minister means that the Republican Party of Armenia has no intention to change its manner of government, says Ashot Manucharyan, a member of the Karabakh Committee.

He told media, Wednesday, that in the course of President Serzh Sargsyan's consultations with political forces, more deserving candidates were named. "However, choosing this very candidate for the prime minister the authorities showed that they will continue to rob the country and sell the highest posts in the government system," he said. The politician said the RPA mulls no reforms in the country, because the Republicans, as he thinks, do not care for the citizens at all.

"There is no migration from the country. What we see now is nothing but deportation of Armenians from their motherland. This is what the authorities are engaged in," Manucharyan said. He thinks the civil movements and public interests groups in the country may unite into a political opposition soon to try to overthrow the RPA. Manucharyan is sure that more and more political changes will be happening in Armenia. And these changes will be indirectly connected with geopolitical changes in the world.

Arminfo

CFE Treaty and Vienna Document 2011 do not restrain the arms race, Armenian DM says

On April 16 Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan received the delegation headed by Angelo Gnedinger, OSCE Chairman-in-Office's Special Representative for the South Caucasus.

The Armenian Defense Minister voiced concern over the fact that the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) and the Vienna Document 2011 are not restraining factors, which results in arms race.



During the meeting the parties discussed the implementation of programs in the fields of human rights, ensuring transparency, strengthening of army-society ties and others.

Template Letter to Armenian President for Those Against New Mandatory Pension Law

The Dem Em ("I am against") pressure group has designed a template letter to be sent to Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan for those who, like them, are opposed to the new mandatory funded pension law.

Dem Em issued the following statement [AM] today:

"Today the executive branch of power of the Republic of Armenia, [represented by] the Government of the Republic of Armenia, clearly violates both Article 3 of the Constitution, according to which the state is limited by fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms as a directly applicable right, and the Constitutional Court ruling. Regardless of an individual's will and discretion, mandatory funded pension payments continue to be illegally levied.

"In this situation, when the government violates the Constitution and the Constitutional Court's decision, the country's president is obliged to take immediate steps — to ensure the unconditional fulfillment of the requirements of the Constitution and the Constitutional Court ruling days ago.

"With this letter template (in PDF and DOC), each of us, regardless of age, as a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, for whom the Constitution and principles enshrined therein are absolute values, demands from the country's president to ensure the preservation of the Constitution, compelling the executive branch of power to duly execute the RA Constitution and the Constitutional Court ruling."

Zareh Sinanyan chosen as Glendale Mayor



The Glendale City Council of Thursday voted to select Councilman Zareh Sinanyan as the next mayor of Glendale, during its regular Council session with friends and family in the audience, Asbarez reports.

Glendale Council Members are elected by the public at large while the Mayor is selected by the Council Members on an annual basis. Glendale Council Members serve four-year terms with an election cycle every two years.

Sinanyan was nominated by Councilman Frank Quintero, who was joined by fellow councilmembers Ara Najarian and Laura Friedman in the vote for his nomination. Councilman and outgoing mayor Dave Weaver abstained.

In his remarks, Sinanyan thanked his wife, Lori, his children, family friends and supporters and said he was humbled by the "trust bestowed upon me by the voters of the City of Glendale and my colleagues on City Council."

"The past year has been very educational for me and each of you have played a unique role in that process," said Sinanyan

referring to his fellow City Council members.

"Councilman Quintero, I look forward to serving with you for the next two months. Thank you for your mentorship and support during these 12 months. Councilmember Weaver, I thank you for your leadership in the last 12 months and look forward to working with you in the future. Councilmember Najarian, we have had our disagreements, in fact our votes have seldom aligned on issues, but I look forward to ever-increasing cooperation on all issues that concern Glendale. Councilmember Friedman, thank you for calling in and expressing your support for my candidacy. I think you and I have voted along the same lines on many issues and I look forward to working together for the betterment of our city," added Sinanyan.

He pledged that he will work will all residents and groups in the city to ensure the ongoing projects advance to make the city of Glendale and better place for its residents.

"We shall do everything to ensure that all parts of Glendale, from far North, to South, East to West, homeowners and renters, big businesses and mom and pop shops are increasingly engaged in and well informed about the developments in the City, and that their opinions and needs are heard loud and clear," said Sinanyan.

He also pledged to make city government more transparent proposing to translate city-produced materials in Armenain, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog to increase access to a broader base of Glendale residents.

"Thank you, and let's make this a great year of continued progress in Glendale," concluded Sinanyan.

Sinanyan was elected to City Council in April of 2013 and has since served as the Chair of the Housing Authority. Councilman Sinanyan has been involved with the City of Glendale directly since 2006, when he was appointed to Glendale's Parks, Recreation and Community Service's Commission.

Karen Mirzoyan: Artsakh not satisfied with the level of participation in the talks



By Lusine Avanesyan

The people of Nagorno Karabakh suffer most from the unsettled conflict, Artsakh's Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan said at a meeting with residents of Kovsakan city in Kashatagh region.

"We are interested in registering rapid developments and progress in the negotiation process, but this does not mean it can happen at the expense of the interests of the people of Artsakh," he said.

The Foreign Minister quoted Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan as saying that "no retreat from the achievements of the Artsakh people is possible."

Karen Mirzoyan does not share the opinion that the people of NKR do not participate in the determination of their future. "We participate in the process, but we are not satisfied with the level of this participation. We demand larger involvement of Artsakh in the negotiation process," he said.

He said even the Minsk Group co-chairing countries realize that resolution is

impossible without the immediate participation of Karabakh. It's only Azerbaijan denying this.

Speaking about the international recognition of Artsakh, the Foreign Minister said the Nagorno Karabakh Republic has an advantage compared to other unrecognized countries. "The state we have built is a viable and mighty state with all its shortcomings and unsolved issues," he said, adding that this is the reason of Azerbaijan's hysteric reaction to the visits of foreigners to Karabakh.

Asked why the Republic of Armenia does not recognize Artsakh, Karen Mirzoyan recalled the Armenian President's statement that "Armenia will recognize Artsakh if there is no alternative."



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

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS

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

PREMISES

- ♦1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable

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

LANDS

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦3348.**Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ♦3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- ♦3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.
- ♦3432.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld.- 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms,

study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD

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

♦3606.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system



swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD

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

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

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

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2253. **Abovyan str.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 260sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 3500 USD
- ♦2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- ♦2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, parking.

Price: 2200 USD.

- ♦1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- ♦2249. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 9/7, 186sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, one of which in bedroom, open balcony, capitally repaired, climat control, furnished, equipped., parking. Price: 3500 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
- ♦2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦1191. **Aygestan**, Land-400 sqm, 2 storied bld.- 270 sqm, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathroom, study, capitally repaired, partly furnished, garden, swimming pool, garage. Starting Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m , 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms,



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

4bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

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

PREMISES

- ♦1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- ♦1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦1408. **Zarobyany 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.

Veterans Likely to Leave for Kessab are Invited to NSS

By *Roza Hovhannisyan*

The mass media inform that Serzh Sargsyan has condemned the intention of the Armenian veterans to leave for Kessab to protect the local population. In addition, groundless arguments are provided. For their part, the National Security Service officers talk to volunteers trying to make them believe that whatever they are trying to do is a crime because their actions contradict national interests. They are actually threatened to be arrested as soon as they board the plane. In addition, no legal ground is referred to. Some volunteers have been forced to sign a note stating that they give up on their intention.

Such actions of the Armenian government are certainly in line with the Russian interests because Moscow is not interested in Armenia's involvement in the Near Eastern developments as it would enable Armenia to set up binding relations with the states of the region and the Western community.

On these days the Armenian veterans who wish to leave for Kessab and protect the Armenian community are invited to the National Security Service and asked to refrain from such steps as they would harm the national security of Armenia. The NSS highlights that if the Armenian volunteers are killed or captured there, it will be an international scandal.

In an interview with *Lragir.am* Pavel Harutiunyan, reserve major, Cavalier of Combat Cross, said as they learned about Kessab, he and his friends decided to leave for Kessab and participate in the defense.

"I assumed the main organizational duties. On April 10 a certain Manuk of the National Security Service telephoned me and invited me to the National Security Service. I said I was not going there and asked why they were calling me. He said they wanted my advice, considering my reputation and experience. I said I did not think I knew something that the NSS does not know and I would not step into that building and agreed to meet them anywhere except that building. On April 11 they telephoned me again, and I said I would go if they summoned me. They said what summon, they do not have that right considering my biography and they simply need my advice. Later they called me and said that they agreed to meet with me somewhere else," Pavel Manukyan told.

In one of the cafes he met two NSS officers who did not introduce themselves properly, only said their first names, Arthur and Artak. The NSS officers told Pavel

Manukyan that it is not the right time for their travel to Kessab, and Kessab threatens the state interests of Armenia, and it is necessary to focus on further liberation of Kessab.

"I insisted on the opposite. I said if we are late now, later we will lose the Armenians of Lebanon. They said sharply that I must not participate in the fights in Kessab. I said even if nobody comes with me, I will go there alone. We agreed tentatively that in a small circle, our command, will discuss my not going there. They said I was to warn the guys about the dangers but not mention the National Security Service. I said I promised to telephone them from Kessab and inform them what we were doing. I came back and told the guys we had problems but I did not say that the NSS put forth conditions," he says.

In the meantime, the National Security Service started calling the veterans who agreed to travel to Kessab with Pavel Manukyan. They were all invited to the NSS and told that they need not go to Kessab not to endanger the interests of Armenia.

"Those guys who want to leave for Kessab have gone through deadly circles and had a great contribution to the liberation of Artsakh, and we are going to have a great contribution to the liberation of Kessab. It is the kind of people who never put what they did on the scales and never demand anything in return for that."

Pavel Manukyan notes that the Armenian veterans must stand by the Armenians of Kessab, help them feel that they have defenders. "We are not going to Aleppo or Damascus, we are not interfering any national issues, we are going to a place where Armenians have lived for thousands of years to prevent that genocide. The NSS officer said your son serves in Karabakh, don't you think that he would worry at the border if he learns that he is going to Kessab. I said I could telephone the commander of the regiment and ask him to call my son and I will pass you the telephone, and the first question that my son will ask me will be father, aren't you in Kessab yet? He laughed, I said I would never be captured."

The veteran of Artsakh war Armen Lambaryan was also telephoned and invited to the National Security Service. He refused to go for several times but eventually he also went to the NSS.

"The topic of the conversation was leaving for Kessab. They explained that our visit is not in line with the interests and foreign

policy of Armenia. They say if you are killed or captured, it would cause an international scandal. Funny," Armen Lambaryan told *Lragir.am*.

He says they just want to complete their mission. "We have our duty, the government may have some problems, they are dealing with their material or political issues. I must go to Kessab, it is my mission," he said, adding that he is not going to listen to the NSS officers.

Recently, the NSS officers have also met with Haikaz Yeghishyan and urged him not to travel to Kessab and they asked him to sign a note that he will not go. The NSS officers first went to his home, than work. He works in one of the taxi services of Yerevan.

"I was telephoned from the taxi service and asked him to come up, because the NSS was calling me. The NSS also tried to find him through the chief of police of Kanaker-Zeitun community. I was taken to the police of Kanaker-Zeitun. At the same time, the neighborhood police of Erebuni was looking for me because I live in Erebuni. They asked who Haikaz was. I said it's me. They asked directly if I wanted to go to Syria. I said yes, I did. They said let's go out for a talk. They talked calmly and politely. They said everything is right and I should go but if I go I will harm our national interests," Haikaz Yeghishyan told *Lragir.am*.

He said the NSS officers told him if Turkey learns that the Armenians send troops to Kessab, there will be an international scandal. "I told him how long we should take into account the opinion of their countries, harming our own interests. I said does Turkey cares for our opinion on its actions? They said you will not go anyway, and they will detain me at the airport," he said.

They urged him to list the names of people who organized their trip to Kessab, and the veteran said he learned from the radio that his brothers-in-arms are likely to go and he decided to join them. He was made to sign a note on not going to Syria, and said they would not let him go unless he signed. The veteran says, however, that no note would make him give up on defense of our compatriots. "I said I would sign, will you bring that note and show it to me when I go to the airport?" he said.

The NSS officers told them that the veterans are needed in Armenia. They also inquired about who will cover their expenses and provide them with equipment.

The veterans say they are not afraid of pressure and are not likely to change their decision.

Erdogan Waves Finger at Obama During Heated White House Talk



By Harut
Sassounian

Publisher, The
California Courier

Pulitzer-prize winning American journalist Seymour Hersh, in a sensational article “The Red Line and the Rat Line,” published in the London Review of Books, discloses that the Turkish government had secretly orchestrated the August 21, 2013 sarin gas attack in Syria, killing hundreds of civilians. Prime Minister Recep Erdogan had hoped that the Syrian regime would be blamed for that chemical attack, leading to a retaliatory US strike on Syria, since Pres. Obama had warned Syrian leaders that using chemical weapons against rebel fighters would cross a ‘red line.’

Erdogan’s plot almost worked! In the aftermath of the sarin attack, Pres. Obama began planning a massive US strike on dozens of Syrian targets, even though British intelligence had informed the US joint chiefs of staff that samples of the sarin gas obtained from the site of the attack did not match the chemical weapons in Syria’s possession. A former US intelligence official told Hersh that “Erdogan was known to be supporting the al-Nusra Front, a jihadist faction among the rebel opposition, as well as other Islamist rebel groups.” Hersh revealed that the US Defense Intelligence Agency had issued “a highly classified” document on June 20, 2013, confirming that “Turkey and Saudi-based chemical facilitators were attempting to obtain sarin precursors in bulk, tens of kilograms, likely for the anticipated large scale production effort in Syria.”

Last May, several members of the al-Nusra Front were arrested in Turkey with two kilograms of sarin. A Turkish court accused the group of planning to acquire other related materials to launch a chemical attack in Syria. Five of the arrestees were freed shortly, while the rest were released pending trial. They were not seen again!

After a special UN mission went to Syria to investigate two earlier chemical attacks in Spring 2013, a person with close knowledge of UN’s activity told

Hersh that “there was evidence linking the Syrian opposition to the first gas attack, on March 19 in Khan al-Assal, a village near Aleppo.... It was clear that the rebels used the gas.”

Just before launching the joint US, British, and French attack on Syria in September 2013, Pres. Obama suddenly decided to postpone the strike, using the excuse that he needed congressional approval. The real reason for the delay was the President’s discovery that he was being set up by Turkey for an ‘unjustified’ attack on Syria, but did not want to publicly acknowledge his near blunder with potentially catastrophic consequences for the entire Middle East. Ironically, Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was the one who rescued Pres. Obama from embarrassment by securing Syria’s agreement to hand over its chemical stockpile, thus providing the President a cover for canceling his threatened attack.

Investigative journalist Hersh further revealed that the chemical weapons had reached the Syrian rebels through a CIA operation code named ‘rat line’ -- a secret Turkish-US agreement in 2012 to funnel weapons and ammunition from Libya to Syria through Turkey. After the terrorist attack on its consulate in Benghazi, Libya, the hub of this clandestine activity, the US pulled out of this covert arrangement, yet Turkey continued to supply Libyan weapons to the Syrian rebels.

By the end of 2012, as the rebels were losing the battle against the Assad regime, a former US intelligence official told Hersh that “Erdogan was pissed,” leading him to concoct a scheme to have the rebels use sarin gas and falsely blame the Syrian government, thus instigating an attack by the United States on Syria.

To personally plead his case for a US attack on Syria to save the rebels from defeat, Turkey’s Prime Minister flew to Washington. On May 16, 2013, Erdogan, along with Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and head of intelligence Hakan Fidan, had a working dinner at the White House, with Pres. Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry, and National Security Advisor Tom Donilon. Infuriated by Obama’s unwillingness to take military action against Syria, Erdogan “fucking waved his finger at the president inside

the White House,” Donilon recounted the shocking episode to a foreign policy expert who reported it to Hersh. “The American decision to end CIA support of the weapons shipments into Syria left Erdogan exposed politically and militarily,” Hersh explained. “Without US military support for the rebels, the former intelligence official said, ‘Erdogan’s dream of having a client state in Syria is evaporating and he thinks we’re the reason why. When Syria wins the war, he knows the rebels are just as likely to turn on him -- where else can they go? So now he will have thousands of radicals in his backyard.’”

After the August 2013 sarin attack near Damascus, a former intelligence official told Hersh: “We now know it was a covert action planned by Erdogan’s people to push Obama over the red line.... The deal was to do something spectacular.... The sarin was supplied through Turkey.” Another indication of Turkish officials’ complicity was Hersh’s report that phone calls intercepted by the US revealed their joy with the success of their orchestrated chemical attack!

Hersh concludes his exposé by relaying a most worrisome observation from a former US intelligence official: “I asked my colleagues if there was any way to stop Erdogan’s continued support for the rebels, especially now that it’s going so wrong, the answer was: ‘We’re screwed.’ We could go public if it was somebody other than Erdogan, but Turkey is a special case. They are a NATO ally. The Turks don’t trust the West. They can’t live with us if we take any active role against Turkish interests. If we went public with what we know about Erdogan’s role with the gas, it’d be disastrous. The Turks would say: ‘We hate you for telling us what we can and can’t do.’”

For almost a century, successive US governments have failed to understand a fundamental geostrategic truth -- Turkey needs the US much more than the United States will ever need Turkey. There is indeed something terribly wrong when the tail wags the dog!

[Part 2 of last week’s article on the Turkish deportation of Jewish settlers from Palestine will be published at a later date]

Andrzej Kasprzyk: Situation at the line of contact of Armenian, Azerbaijani troops tense



The situation is tense on the contact line of Azerbaijani and Armenian troops, the Personal Representative of OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Andrzej Kasprzyk said, referring to the information obtained from military authorities and from spokespersons of the ministries of defense.

“The reports reflect a relatively high number of shooting incidents, and also of more serious violations with casualties, each of which is a tragedy for the families of the victims,” he said.

The Personal Representative of OSCE Chairperson-in-Office said that his office continues to monitor the situation along the lines of contact and Armenian-Azerbaijani border with full support and assistance of the relevant authorities.

“As always my reports related to ceasefire regime are received by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and the Minsk Group,” he said.

Asked whether after recent developments in Ukraine, the OSCE should pay more attention to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Kasprzyk said that it is important that the Nagorno Karabakh conflict resolution does not fade into the background due to events elsewhere.

“The Minsk Group Co-chairs are working continuously to present ideas to the sides to move the settlement process forward. In the past month they met twice with the foreign ministers and once with both presidents and ministers” he said.

All this work is done with the aim of moving the process forward and de-escalating tensions, according to Kasprzyk.

The Personal Representative of OSCE Chairperson-in-Office said that he is present in the region on a constant basis.

“Me and my team continuously travel to all conflict affected areas in order to liaise with all stakeholders and ensure that I provide up-to-date information to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and the Co-chairs of the Minsk Group,” he said.

Syria's Grand Mufti visits displaced Kessab Armenians

Syria's Grand Mufti Ahmad Badr Eddin Hassoun said that Syrians will never allow anyone to desecrate their homeland, SANA reports.

Meeting displaced families from Kessab town in Lattakia countryside, who are staying at the Armenian Orthodox Church of Virgin Mary, Hassoun said Armenians have always been loyal to Syria and Armenia alike.

He evaluated victories achieved by Syrian Arab Army against terrorists, the last of which restoring stability to Maaloula in al-Qalamoun in Damascus Countryside. He added victory over terrorism is near and all locals will return to their houses thanks to the sacrifices of the army.

He also hailed efforts of the Syrian youths in providing services to displaced families.

OSCE PA: Developments in Ukraine show the urgency of Karabakh settlement

“We are currently working together with OSCE Chairman to achieve progress in the activity of the OSCE Minsk Group on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, because the recent developments in Ukraine have shown that we should work hard on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and achieve progress on it soon,” President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Speaker of the Montenegrin Parliament, Ranko Krivokapic, told reporters in Baku, APA reports.

The OSCE PA President underlined that they hold a stable position regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: “These are the Lisbon principles adopted in 1996 and the updated Madrid principles.”

Ethnic Armenian soldier killed in Aleppo

An ethnic Armenian serviceman of the Syrian army was killed in Aleppo's Ramusse district on Wednesday.

Gogo Ashnagilyan had not yet turned twenty, correspondent of the Yerevan-based Yerkir Media TV Marina Gabrielyan reported.

His funeral took place today at the Holy Trinity Armenian church of Nor Kyugh (an Armenian neighborhood of Aleppo).



Civil Society in Armenia Issue Call for Collective Public Agenda

**This statement is open for any initiative and entity to join it*

Much of the discourse surrounding the resignation of Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan and the appointment of the new Prime Minister has been based on narrow-minded and primitive speculations about the name of the individual who will take the post. In the meantime, the authorities continue to make declarations that are against the will of the people, and that are instead focused on protecting their own personal interest, while the media and a large segment of society finds itself in a state of passive objection. All the while, the most important issue at hand has been conspicuously absent from the dominant discourse: What will the new government's political reforms agenda be based on, and in what way will it benefit Armenian society? Indeed, what demands will the public place before the new government, regardless of who the individual taking the post of prime minister will be? Considering the fact that the discourse surrounding the new prime minister is meant to divert attention away from this more important issue, we demand that all political forces involved with forming the new government publicly present their policy concepts, and base them on the following demands that have been formulated by civil society:

All policy must be based on reinforcing and supporting the principles of Armenian sovereignty, human rights, and democracy. Policy must be formulated for the public interest, and for the welfare and happiness of the citizenry.

Any person with conflicts of interest must be forbidden from taking up governmental posts, thereby setting a precedent for public servants with clean records, and removing from office all public servants who have abused their position for personal gain.

Genuine anti-corruption measures must be initiated, which will target high-level political corruption and the monopolistic oligarchic economic system, by exposing and prosecuting individuals involved in corrupt activities.

The details of private corporations registered in offshore territories must be exposed.

The economy must be brought into the public sphere, by pulling businesses belonging to oligarchs out of the shadow economy, and aggressively tackling monopolistic practices through strict antitrust legislation. Oligarchic control of small and medium businesses must end, and the tax code must be restructured in favor of low and middle-income wage earners. Tax policy must be based on the principle of social justice.

Anti-social policies adopted by various state bodies must end, such as those on pensions, transport fares, utility prices, and the privatization of public space. State bodies must stop putting pressure on employers and employees to pay into the unconstitutional mandatory pensions fund, which the public has already deemed an unacceptable policy.

New policies for regulating the mining industry must be developed. A state-owned sector must be developed to mitigate foreign exploitation. Strict tax policies must be set for ensuring a fair distribution of the profits created from mining, for the benefit of present and future generations. The damages caused by mining to the environment, economy, and to peoples health must be compensated for. The operations of illegal mines and those that commit violations must be ceased. Policies aimed at improving the health of residents, limiting mining, and environmental conservation must be prioritized.

Student councils at universities must be nonaligned with any political party. Educational institutions must be prohibited from serving the interests of political parties. The development of a critical and quality education system must no longer be hindered.

Measures must be created to prevent unregulated and arbitrary relations within the armed forces. The armed forces must be developed into an institution based on professional expertise, tasked with defending the Republic of Armenia and its citizens

from external threats. Legal guarantees must be set for preventing the intervention of the armed forces in the internal-domestic affairs of the country, and public oversight over the armed forces must be secured.

The destruction of historic heritage sites must be stopped, and measures must be taken for restoring already demolished monuments. All monuments must be returned to their original sites.

The active participation of all stakeholders in the decision making process of all public bodies must be provided for, guaranteeing the presence of citizens in all sessions of those bodies, and regularly publishing detailed accountability reports on public spending.

Today, the task of creating a political agenda by social initiatives has matured to encompass the entire range of issues of importance to the public interest and social welfare. The government must be placed under the supervision of civil society. It must be tasked only with carrying out the demands of the public, and not the bidding of certain individuals.

With this statement, we, the undersigned, are announcing our intention and willingness to work collectively towards realizing this public agenda, which will be implemented by specific and concrete changes in governmental policy.

*“Azatagram” (Liberation) initiative
“Inqishkhan Hayastan” (Sovereign
Armenia) Civic Initiative
Union of Initiatives for Protection of
Yerevan
Pan-Armenian Environmental Front
“We are the Owners of the City” Civic
Initiative
“We Pay 100 Drams” movement,
members
Save Teghut Civic Initiative
“Ecolur” NGO
Transparency International Anti-
Corruption Center
“Asparez” Journalists’ Club
Cooperation for Development NGO
Helsinki Committee of Armenia*

Cyprus House Speaker addresses international community over Kessab

After the recent protest letters sent out by the Representative of the Armenian Community in the Cyprus Parliament MP Vartkes Mahdessian condemning the attacks on the historically Armenian City of Kessab in Syria, the President of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus Mr. Yiannakis Omirou reacted immediately by sending letters to Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament; Abdelwahad Radi, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union; Assunção Esteves, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean; Sen. Francesco Maria Amoroso – President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean;

Sergei Popov – President of the General Assembly of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy and Anastasios Nerantzis, Secretary General of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy.

In the letter Mr. Yiannakis Omirou demands them to look into the issue immediately, so that Turkey ceases to facilitate extremists in any way and takes action to end these attacks launched from within its territory.

Furthermore, Mr. Omirou calls for concerted efforts so that the Armenian population of the Kessab region can return to its homes in conditions of safety and security as soon as possible.



Finally, the letters urges the international community to act decisively so that talks and negotiations bear fruit and a peaceful resolution is finally reached. A resolution which will not only end bloodshed and people's suffering but will insure that the rights of all ethnic and religious groups and minorities in the region are respected and safeguarded.

NKR Parliament adopts statement on Kessab

The factions and groups of the National Assembly of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic adopted a statement on Kessab events.

Noting that they follow with concern the developments in Syria, appreciate the position of the Syrian Armenians and the attitude of the Syrian people, the lawmakers expressed confidence that Syria's future should be determined by the citizens of that country.

Expressing support for the Syrian Armenians, the political forces represented in the NKR National Assembly called the attention of the international community to the issues of Armenians displaced from Kessab.



Syrian Conflict: Armenian college latest to be targeted by attacks

By Sara Khojoyan

While in Armenia measures are taken to ease Armenians' situation from the Syrian community of Kessab, in Damascus, Syria, a new tragedy has occurred.

On Tuesday, some 60 college students and teachers were wounded when the Armenian Catholic Paros College was bombed by armed groups. Six students and three teachers of Armenian descent were wounded, according to information released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Although the Armenian government hasn't officially condemned the recent occurrences, the ruling party representatives didn't ignore the events.

"With pain I learned about Damascus's 'Paros' college bombing, as a result of



which one student died . . .", wrote acting Education and Science minister Armen Ashotyan on his Facebook page. "This act is unforgivable. Educational institutions and children shouldn't become a target for conflicting parties, and no child must die as a result of war."

Prior to the bombing, the Bishops' Synod of the Armenian Church had already transferred \$100,000 from the Church social funds to the account of Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia as a sign of support for Kessab Armenians, as reported by the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin.

The Syrian civil war, ongoing since 2011, has seen more than 140,000 deaths and the displacement of about 2.5 million. Among those affected has been the Armenian population of Syria. More than 70 Armenians have been killed in the war and about 11,000 Syrian-Armenians have relocated to Armenia as a result of the conflict.

Appointment: Ministry of Culture names Opera/Ballet director

By Gayane Mkrtchyan

The Ministry of Culture has announced the appointment of Russian citizen Andranik Arzumanyan, a diplomat and expert in Arabic studies, as director of the Armenian National Academy of Opera and Ballet. For the past ten years Arzumanyan has led a Russian Cultural Center in Egypt.

Former director of the National Academy of Opera and Ballet Kamo Hovhannisyanyan was dismissed, based on his own letter of resignation, after performers refused to go on stage for a performance of the opera "Anush". The artists were protesting the contentious law on pension reform. In total about 700 musicians, dancers, stage personnel and service staff boycotted the performance.

"This was an incident unlike any in my entire professional experience. We have more than 200 young employees among our creative personnel, hence the pension issue was really tense," Hovhannisyanyan told the press.

Three candidates made the final cut, and Arzumanyan was chosen by Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosyan.

The appointment brought criticism from at least one candidate. "Everything was preset and pre-arranged. I knew all about it some twenty days ago, with all



the hues and shades. Twenty days ago I knew he [Arzumanyan] was appointed," Gagik Manasyan, director of the Arno Babajanyan concert hall told RFE/RL, adding that the selection process completes the row of injustice and unfair competition long practiced in Armenia.

The elections of leaders of various creative unions have proceeded with not less clamor and controversy, when intellectuals often threw insults at one another and played the blame game.

Last year's elections of chairmen for the Composers', Painters' and Writers' unions stood out for lengthy statements from rostrums about the 'everlasting and never-changing' union leadership person-

nel and their chairmen.

Painters were calling to take the union "out of Komsomol mentality crisis"; during the election of the chairman for the Composers' Union there were rumors that 10,000 drams (roughly \$25) bribes were offered per vote. It is noteworthy that for 22 years the union had been led by composer Robert Amirkhanyan, and young musicians elected Aram Satyan to replace him. Media wrote about the chairman elections in the Writers' Union that "Luckily, the real fight did not grow into arm wrestling. Even the presidential and parliamentary elections in the country have not been as disgraceful and scandalous as these."

Apartment is for rent

A two room apartment is for rent on the M.Baghranyan Avenue. It is situated on the 2nd floor of a 4 storey stone residential building. During the whole period of staying you can use the furniture and technical equipment. It is being heated with central heating system. The kitchen is furnished with classic wooden and functional furniture. There is the Lovers' park one bus stop down. A little far you can find a supermarket, underground station.

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Syunik Mine Owner: 'Heavy Metals Might be Beneficial to Humans'



Maksim Hakobyan Labels Reports of Two-Headed Babies as Scurrilous Disinformation

Following up on recent rumors in Kapan that a company had started mining exploratory work at the source of the town's water supply, we headed off towards a community called Nor Astghaberd up in the hills.

Within Nor Astghaberd lies the village of Adjabadj and the Hankasar Mine. Rights to operate the mine were purchased in 2012 by an outfit called Ler-Eks LLC. Maksim Hakobyan, General Manager of the Zangezur Copper Molybdenum Combine (ZCMC), bought the rights from former Syunik Regional Governor Suren Khachatryan.

As we were taking photos at Hankasar, a company employee approached and asked us who we were and what we were doing. We told him that we wanted to photograph the tailings dam. We were told to wait since the company management was soon to arrive.

A few minutes later three black SUVs pulled up on the narrow road. The window in the lead car rolled down and we saw it was Maksim Hakobyan. He too asked who we were and the nature of our business. After responding, Hakobyan got out and we had the following conversation.

Why did you purchase Ler-Eks?

To operate it.

It is said that you were forced into the purchase.

No one can force Hakobyan Maxim to do anything. They can make a request and I am always willing to listen. But they can't force me. It is also said that the mine is unprofitable.

That's why we obtained it; to make it profitable.

Is it true that the reserves are scarce?

Yes, but we have taken it over to make it profitable. We are professionals and this isn't the first such case. You are well aware

that the Kapan Combine is managed by staff from the Kajaran Combine and that we relaunched it. Everyone knows this. It's still operating. The same happened at Agarak. In the same way we want to get Ler-Eks up and running. And now it is. There are 350 jobs.

Mr. Hakobyan, if it isn't a business secret, can you tell us the price you paid?

It is a secret. Even though I can announce that info what good would it do?

It's a point of interest.

It was very expensive. So what? You ask why we purchased it. Let me answer. I bought it so that 300-400 families can work here and survive. And if you take a look around you will see the large resources we have spent to install electric cables. We had no need for it but we installed a 10,000 kilowatt cable for all the villages. This will be followed by a 35,000 kilowatt cable. We want to make sure that not even the slightest environmental damage is done to this valley because I have always regarded it as one of the best places in Kapan.

We are also constructing a reservoir in the valley that will have great significance for fish farming and energy production. It's a huge reservoir, some 15,000 cubic meters of capacity that will assist the work of the cascade-hydro plant on the river.

Will you be involved in fish farming here?

Yes, we too will raise fish. At one time I discharged 300,000 fingerlings but there was an accident and they all perished. But we'll bring more.

We want to spur sheep farming in the valley. Steps have been taken. Two livestock pens have already been renovated. One of the local mayors has shown an interest. All this is being done to get the valley up and running, to attract people to come and develop things.

Have you started to extract ore from the Ler-Eks mine?

Not yet. Serious studies have to be carried out to gauge the extent of the reserves.

Do you just have an exploratory license?

No. We have an operator's license, but we've held back.

Why?

We want to complete the studies first and then start operating.

Mr. Hakobyan, the number of accidents

at the ZCMC has gone up during the past two years.

Just the opposite. We have periodic mishaps in a tunnel built 40-50 years ago under the tailings dam. It's going take serious steps to resolve this. We brought in specialists and scientists and even foreign experts.

Why doesn't ZCMC operate transparently with reporters? Don't you have a press office?

No, and we won't.

Why not?

There is no need. I will never allow such a thing.

Fine, so say a reporter needs to verify some info with the ZCMC, who do they contact?

With staff specialists, with anyone working on the issue.

But they always tell us that they first must get permission from you.

That's very commendable; that rules apply. They can't do anything without my consent.

But isn't this a dictatorial approach?

There are places where you have to be a dictator in order to get the work progressing. Are you being a dictator when you tell someone this is the way it must be done and they listen to you?

Mr. Hakobyan, in 2008 children in Lernadzor were tested and high levels of heavy metals were found in their hair and nails.

Perhaps such traces are of greater benefit. No one has yet been able to prove what is beneficial for humans. People living on the slope of the ZCNC mine reach ages of 90 and 100. If the mine is going to have an effect on anyone it would be these people and not someone living seven or twelve kilometers away.

Maybe there is something natural there that caused such traces to appear. I can't say. All I can say with certainty is that the village of Lernadzor has only benefited from the mines in operation.

They spread disinformation that babies are being born with two heads, two feet, or two tails. They themselves are such creatures, the ones spreading the disinformation. Nothing of the sort happens around here.

hetq.am

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

The eclipses of this new 18 month series will draw your attention to your partnerships. Patterns from your childhood history needed to be uncovered repaired or removed in order to allow your growth into a more mature relationship. Psychotherapy may be truly helpful.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

This Libra eclipse pressures you to concentrate on improvement of work related relationships and health maintenance. Diet, exercise and improvement of physical regimen will become imperative. Honing your management systems in personal and work arenas is necessary to create order in your daily work routine.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

This eclipse pattern emphasizes your progeny or other personally creative births. Romantic ventures will be intensely emotional and self-revealing. You will be learning a few lessons in discernment concerning friendships and associations that no longer serve you well.

Cancer (June 21--July 21) :

Matters concerning your family and property will be accentuated for the next 18 months. Old problems in relationships, even with the deceased, will surface for cleansing and healing. A new family member may enter the scene, or you may begin to spend more time with family in general.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

The accent of this eclipse cycle will be on travel, education, care of vehicles and relationships to siblings, roommates, neighbors, or others who daily traverse your life. Habit patterns of thought will be brought to consciousness so negative thinking can be corrected. You will be introduced to new practical life skills.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

During this new 18 month series of eclipses you will be learning to value yourself in new ways. Alongside of that comes education in the management of money and other resources, such as time and energy. There will be less assistance from others in these arenas, but you are creating these resources for yourself.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

Your sense of personal identity will be the subject under consideration. Who

are you becoming and who do you need to be? How do you wish to define yourself before the world? You will be learning what is required for you to hold onto your identity while simultaneously maintaining a personally rewarding relationship.

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

The new series of eclipses emphasize your need to create order, both internally and externally. The development of your projects will call upon you to develop faith in your deepest self. Bringing order out of chaos is done on both the inner and outer levels simultaneously, so while you organized files you will be also organizing your mind.

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

The new eclipse season will be opening your mind and heart to accept a larger circle of friends. You may become a leader or a strong supporter of a community network which has shared ideals. Certainly you will continue to have the friendships you have built in the past. Your attention may be focused on goals greater than your own.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

The new 18 month series of eclipses will bring a certain amount of intensity in the arenas of career (work in the world) and also home, hearth and family. You will be stretching your worldly boundaries to serve a new group of people. Family relationships will include one loss and one gain.

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

Legal, ethical or educational issues will be emphasized by the new 18 month series of eclipses. Travel will be punctuated, whether that is of body, mind, or spirit. Exposure to those of different backgrounds or cultures opens your heart and expands your philosophy. A challenge concerning siblings, roommates, or neighbors may press you to seek a Higher Road.

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

This new eclipse pattern will emphasize issues of sexuality, intimacy, and material accumulation. Reorganization of debt, investments and your estate may be in progress. You may become more conscious than usual about existential matters related to life, death, and what is on "the other side" of normal, waking consciousness.

ARMENIAN POETRY

C. A. TOTOCHIAN

THE WANDERING ARMENIAN TO THE SWALLOW

O, SWALLOW, gentle swallow,
Thou lovely bird of spring!
Say, whither art thou flying
So swift on gleaming wing?

Fly to my birthplace, Ashdarag,
The spot I love the best;
Beneath my father's roof-tree,
O swallow, build thy nest.

There dwells afar my father,
A mournful man and gray,
Who for his only son's return
Waits vainly, day by day.

If thou shouldst chance to see him,
Greet him with love from me ;
Bid him sit down and mourn with tears
His son's sad destiny.

In poverty and loneliness,
Tell him, my days are passed:
My life is only half a life,
My tears are falling fast.

To me, amid bright daylight,
The sun is dark at noon;
To my wet eyes at midnight
Sleep comes not, late or soon.

Tell him that, like a beautiful flower
Smit by a cruel doom,
Uprooted from my native soil,
I wither ere my bloom.

Fly on swift wing, dear swallow,
Across the quickening earth,
And seek in fair Armenia
The village of my birth !

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?**Enjoy your leisure****17 April**

19:00. Richard III. Author: W. Shakespeare. National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan.

19:00. Memorial Prayer. | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

14:30. The Little Prince. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

19:00. Karine. Director: Shushanik Gevorgyann. State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

19:00. Suzanne, Suzette and Jacqueline + 3 men. Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan.

19:00. Royal Concert. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

19:00. Flight. Director: Zhirayr Dadasyan. Yerevan State Pantomime Theater.

18 April

19:00. APO & Dora Serviarian-Kuhn. Conductor: Eduard Topchjan. Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall.

19:00. The Salvation Island. Staging: Nikolay Tsaturyan. Hamazgayin State Theater.

19:00. Like Gods. Yuri Polyakov. Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

18:00. A Tale from the Clouds. Z. Antonyan. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

19:00. Karine. Director: Shushanik Gevorgyann. State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

19:00. Oh Anna, Anna or Passionate Sunday. Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan.

19:00. UNDER GROUND. Author: Ara Yernjakyan. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

19 April

19:00. Ah, Women, Women. Staging: Vigen Stepanyan. Hamazgayin State Theater.

19:00. I Am An Apricot Tree. Author: Alvard Petrosyan. National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan.

13:00. Cat's House. S. Marshak. Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

19:00. I'm Marrying an American Woman. A. Shirvanzade. Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

12:30, 14:00 15:30. Lamb of God. Staging by Anna Elbakyan. State Marionette



Theater.

18:00. A Tale from the Clouds. Z. Antonyan. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

12:00, 14:00, 16:00. That Same Huri. Author: Hovhannes Tumanyan. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

19:00. How Long Will Be Like This. Author: Gurgun Khanjyan. State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

19:00. Jesus of Nazareth and His Second Disciple. P. Zeytuntsyan. Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan.

19:00. UNDER GROUND. Author: Ara Yernjakyan. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

20 April

19:00. Blaise. Staging: Hrachya Gasparyan. Hamazgayin State Theater.

13:00. Tower-Room. Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

19:00. Oh, Those French Things. J. Bricker and M. Laseg. Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

12:30, 14:00 15:30. Lamb of God. Staging by Anna Elbakyan. State Marionette Theater.

19:00. Mea Culpa. Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

14:00. Cinderella. Author: Charles Perrault. State Musical Chamber Theater.

16:00, 18:00. Little Red Riding Hood. Author: Charles Perrault. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

14:00. Under The Bethlehem Star. R. Babayan. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

19:00. Die first, then I'll love you. Authors: Aramashot Papyan. State Theater of

Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

16:00. Magic Ball. Author: Ara Yernjakyan. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

19:00. Gentlemen, Everything is Collapsing but We Can Still Live and Have Fun. Author and Staging Director: Ara Yernjakyan. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

21 April

19:00. Mea Culpa. Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

22 April

18:00. Distance Learning of Driving. Staged by Alex Sachyan. Educational Theater of State Institute Of Theater And Cinematography.

19:00. Ardalion. Author of Play` Zhirayr Dadasyan and Naira Yedigaryan. Yerevan State Pantomime Theater.

23 April

19:00. Me and you. Staged by Liana Avetisyan. Educational Theater of State Institute Of Theater And Cinematography.

19:00. Shekhonts Mihran. Author: M. Kheranyan. Hamazgayin State Theater.

16:00. David of Sasun. Author: Hovh. Tumanyan. State Musical Chamber Theater.

19:00. A Man is Required. Director of the play – Lusine Yernjakyan. Yerevan State Chamber Theater

24 April

19:00. Shekhonts Mihran. Author: M. Kheranyan. Hamazgayin State Theater.

'Armenia and Karabakh' named finalist for Book of the Year Award

'Armenia and Karabakh: The Stone Garden Travel Guide' is one of the best independently published books of the year, according to an announcement by Foreword Reviews, a magazine dedicated to the independent book publishing industry.

'Armenia and Karabakh' is one of just four travel books that were recognized as "groundbreaking" by the magazine's 16th Annual Book of the Year Awards. The subjects of the other finalists were Germany, Switzerland, and The Holy Land.

A panel of more than 100 librarians and booksellers reviewed books published during the past year to determine the finalists. Winners will be recognized at the American Library Association's Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, on June 27.

Matthew Karanian, a lawyer in Pasadena, Calif., is the author of 'Armenia and Karabakh.' He and Robert Kurkjian, a scientist in Los Angeles, illustrated the book with their original photography. Karanian and Kurkjian are both Armenian Americans, and Karanian says they published the book because of their love for their homeland. The book is dedicated to the author's parents, Henry and Agnes Karanian, who are both the children of Genocide survivors.



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