



Prominent Armenian astrophysicist Grigor Gurzadyan dies at 91

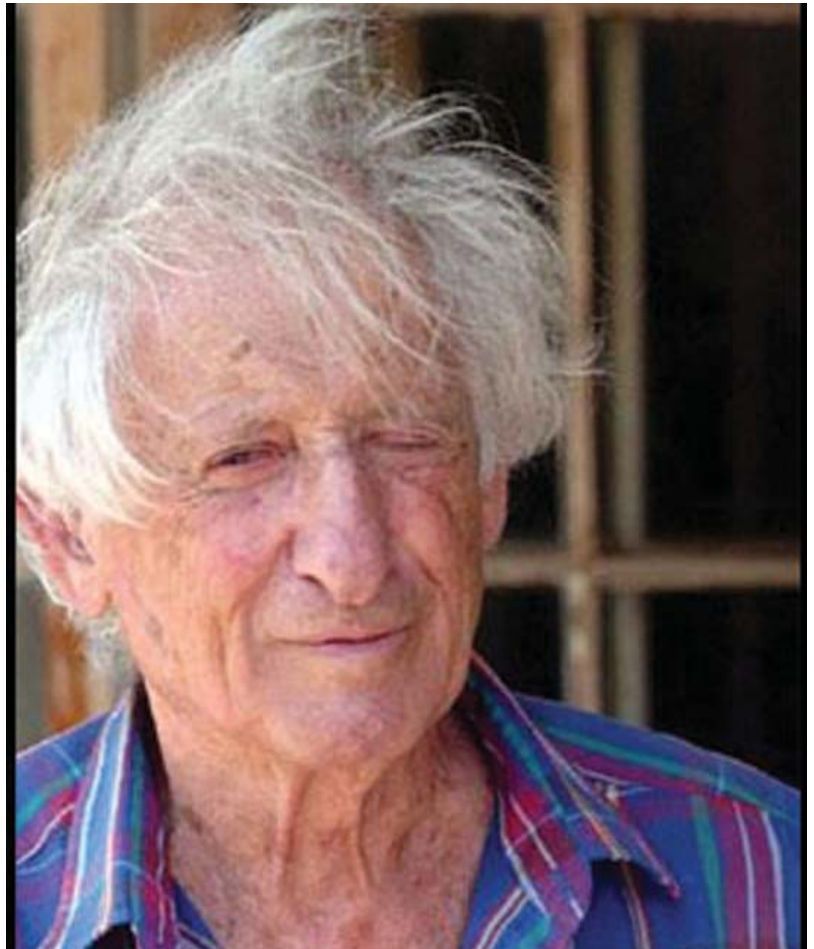
Prominent Armenian scientist, astrophysicist Grigor Gurzadian has died at the age of 91. By a decision of Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, a government commission headed by Minister of Education and Science Armen Ashotyan has been set up for the organization of the funeral of Gurzadyan, who was a member of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia and the International Astronomical Union.

Premier Sargsyan also offered condolences to the family, relatives, friends, colleagues and pupils of Gurzadyan. He described Gurzadyan as "one of the greatest Armenians of our times."

"A scientist whose legacy is enormous in the development of Armenian scientific thought," said Sargsyan, according to the government press service.

Gurzadyan predicted magnetic fields in planetary nebulae in the 1960s, which were actually discovered in 2005 (Jordan, Werner, O'Toole). He authored theoretical papers on flare stars (predicted negative infrared flares), interstellar matter, binary stars. In 1990s he developed the theory of common chromospheres (roundchromes) of close binary stars and of evolution of binary globular clusters.

For decades he lectured in Yerevan State University (theoretical astrophysics, celestial mechanics) and in Yerevan Polytechnic Institute (precise mechanics). He is also known as an original painter and for his essays on philosophy of science and art.



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President received the British Group's delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



President Serzh Sargsyan received the British Group's delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union headed by John Whittingdale.

The President welcomed the guests noting with satisfaction that some delegation members have already visited Armenia a few times, are well informed about the agenda of the British-Armenian relations and have made their contribution to the development of bilateral collaboration. Serzh Sargsyan expressed hope that the other British parliamentarians visiting our country for the first time will have an opportunity to discover Armenia as far as possible during the visiting days. "In the advancement of Armenian-British relations, I stress the importance of inter-parliamentary cooperation, the British-Armenian Group's activity and I am sure that the enlivening which we witness during the last two years is the result of the active participation of the Group's remained parliamentarians. And we are greatly interested in the advancement of those relations,"-

underscored the President.

Serzh Sargsyan also stressed the importance of the parliamentarians' visits to Nagorno-Karabakh and expressed his appreciation to the British parliamentarians who have been to Artsakh, have familiarized the first hand with the state-building process of Nagorno-Karabakh which, according to the President, will certainly help them to present the objective reality about Artsakh to the British society.

Thanking for the reception, the members of the British Parliament expressed willingness to continue and to more activate their support efforts to Armenia and the Armenian people. They said that those efforts are directed to both the consolidation and advancement of the Armenian-British bilateral relations and to the further development of Armenia-EU relations, as well as to the solution of the issues important for Armenia and for the Armenian people. "We all, these members of the British Group's delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, being members of different parties and factions in the British Parliament, make joint efforts to support Armenia and consider ourselves the friends of Armenia, who are going to continue their mission after this visit as well having a more comprehensive and better idea as a result of exhaustive information,"-said the British parliamentarians at the meeting with the President.

During the meeting, President Serzh Sargsyan answered the questions of the guests related to the internal and foreign policy of Armenia, the further consolidation of the Armenian-British bilateral relations, the future of Armenia-EU relations and the intentions and programs of cooperation, the Armenia's decision to join the Customs Union, as well as to regional issues, the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the efforts of Armenia and international community directed to that.

Armenian, Russian PMs discuss the perspectives of economic cooperation

Within the framework of the working visit to Sochi, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan had a meeting with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev.

Tigran Sargsyan first congratulated Medvedev on the successful conduct of the Winter Olympics in Sochi and the achievements of the Russian athletes.

The Heads of Government of the two countries discussed a number of issues on the agenda of Armenian-Russian strategic relations, the implementation of joint programs in the fields of energy, industry and infrastructures.

The interlocutors hailed the growing commodity turnover between the two countries and expressed confidence that it will gain new momentum after Armenia's joining the Customs Union and the Common Economic Area.

Tigran Sargsyan and Dmitry Medvedev praised the process of implementation of the measures envisaged by the "roadmap" of accession to the Customs Union. The

Russian Prime Minister said Armenia's participation in Eurasian integration processes will give new impetus to the development and reinforcement of economic cooperation between the two countries.

In this context the interlocutors discussed a the modernization of a new energy unit of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant and the raise of its security level, as well as

a wide range of issues related to industrial and humanitarian cooperation.

On February 23 Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan attended the closing ceremony of the 22nd Winter Olympic Games. On the sidelines of the event the Armenian prime Minister had a short conversation with Russian president Vladimir Putin.



NKR President: Settlement impossible without Artsakh's participation in all stages of talks

On 19 February President of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic Bako Sahakyan visited the NKR Foreign Ministry and partook in a consultation summing up the activities of the structure in 2013 and outlining the 2014 action plan.

Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan, representatives of the Ministry's different departments delivered corresponding reports.

The President noted in his speech that Artsakh Republic would further conduct comprehensive, balanced foreign policy based on complementarity with influential states and power centers.

According to Bako Sahakyan the destructive policy of Baku is the biggest hindrance on the way of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict settlement, which also threatens maintenance of regional peace and stability.

Referring to the peaceful settlement process, President Sahakyan underlined that the NKR would be consistent in activities towards restoring the full-fledged negotiation format, making it clear that comprehensive settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict would be impossible to achieve without full participation of the official Stepanakert at all stages of the negotiations.

Touching upon the international recognition process of the Artsakh Republic the President noted there positive developments, adding that it's both inspiring and binding. It's inspiring because it demonstrates that recognition process of Artsakh Republic is moving forward and testifying that Artsakh is a full-fledged democratic state and at the same time laying foundations for the republic's international recognition. It's binding because the positive dynamics needs to be maintained in the future.

President Sahakyan gave corresponding instructions for the efficient organization of activities, elimination of shortcomings inside the foreign ministry, adding that the state in its turn would do.

S. Safaryan: Ukraine events inspiring for Armenian opposition

By Siranuysht Gevorgyan

The Ukrainian opposition's victory could be inspiring for the Armenian opposition and add to the fears of the government, says opposition Heritage party member Stepan Safaryan.

Talking to ArmeniaNow, Safaryan said that while people can be excited about it, "the adequacy of the political forces' agenda to public expectations may still remain a problem".

Unlike in Ukraine, where the government's refusal to proceed with the policy of European integration led to massive protests and eventually a regime change, in Armenia only a few political parties (including Heritage and Free Democrats) condemned the decision to join the Russian-led Customs Union of Armenia. Protests staged in that connection in Armenia did not attract many people. The other non-governing forces represented in parliament, including the Armenian National Congress, Prosperous Armenia and Dashnaktsutyun, did not speak against the decision to join the Customs Union at all.

Meanwhile, the street protests that began in Ukraine in November led to a change of power that came at a price of dozens of victims killed during clashes between demonstrators and security forces. Hundreds were injured in street battles. Eventually, Ukrainian President Viktor Yankovych was ousted from his position by the Supreme Rada, the country's legislature, and he fled capital Kiev on Saturday. Yanukovych's whereabouts remain unknown. Meanwhile, former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko was released from prison. She has announced her intention to run for president in elections scheduled for May.

Official Yerevan has not yet reacted to the events in Ukraine in any way. Only lawmakers, at the suggestion of opposition leader Levon Zurabyan, observed a moment of silence for the victims in Ukraine in the National Assembly on Monday.

Heritage's Safaryan says that the Ukrainians have managed to convince Russia that its bullying behavior will lead to even worse consequences.

"What has happened in Ukraine shows that these people are sick and tired



of the Russian yoke, this is the result of [Russia's] policy towards Ukraine. Deterioration of relations takes place because of this policy no matter towards whom it is being conducted," says Safaryan, adding that in Armenia, nevertheless, in the event of a popular uprising the government will first of all fear not the people, but foreign interference.

"Armenia's authorities know that they have been dishonest with Europeans, they know that there is mistrust towards them also in Russia, therefore at this moment they wait and see who will benefit from the situation, who will stir the situation... and they will try to understand how they can save themselves," he says.

Armenian government officials routinely deny that by taking the decision on joining the Customs Union in September Armenia acted dishonestly towards the EU or incurred Moscow's distrust because of its policies in recent years.

Meanwhile, Yerevan-based Caucasus Institute Deputy Director, political analyst Sergey Minasyan believes that after the developments in Ukraine Armenia will be able to negotiate around joining the Customs Union on more favorable conditions. Minasyan also thinks that the European integration process could get a new impetus in the post-Soviet territory in the wake of the events in Ukraine.

"In these conditions Armenia will have an opportunity to broaden its multi-faceted relations with the EU," says the analyst.

U.S. Backs Armenian Pension Reform

The United States voiced strong support on February 20 for a controversial pension reform implemented by the Armenian government, with U.S. Ambassador John Heffern saying that it is vital for Armenia.

Speaking at a conference in Yerevan, Heffern echoed government arguments in favor of a measure that has sparked street protests by young workers now required to save a significant portion of their income for their future pensions. He said this will not only give hundreds of thousands of Armenians "safe and adequate pensions" but also reduce tax evasion and boost the country's fledgling financial sector.

"We believe that the new pension system is prudently designed to protect the interests of future pensioners," Heffern said. "It will provide Armenian workers with the opportunity to improve their financial security in retirement by diversifying their sources of income, including saving for retirement in a private -- private -- pension fund."

"The reality is that the current system in Armenia is not sustainable. Change -- though difficult -- is necessary," he added.

The diplomat acknowledged that many Armenians born after 1973 and therefore covered by the reform strongly oppose it because they do not want to see their net wages shrink by up to 10 percent and lack trust in two private pension funds chosen by



the government to manage their extra social security contributions. But he argued that the funds are run by two European asset management companies with "long track records of success."

One of them is a joint venture between Austria's C-QUADRAT Investment and Germany's Talanx Asset Management. The other, Amundi-ACBA, is a subsidiary of the French banks Credit Agricole and Societe Generale. Armenian officials expect the two asset managers to attract between \$100 million and \$150 million in pension contributions this year alone.

"We must also recognize that many Armenians lost their long-promised pensions when the Soviet Union collapsed," Heffern said, referring to a key reason for the workers' fears. "That memory is still fresh. In addition, there is a lack of trust

among the government, Armenia's institutions and the citizenry."

The Armenian government, continued Heffern, should therefore clearly explain the merits of the reform to the population "not just once or twice, but over and over." "It now needs to provide more information on how the new system will ensure the safety, efficiency, and impartiality of pension contributions for all Armenians," he said.

The government was supposed to do just that through the Pension System Awareness Center Foundation set up by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for the past several years. Friday's conference, which featured speeches by Heffern and Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, was organized by that center.

The conference brought to light not only U.S. but also multilateral donor support for the reform. The Yerevan-based representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund unequivocally defended Armenia's ongoing transition to the new pension system as they addressed the forum.

Mark Horton, an IMF mission chief for Armenia, said earlier this month that the reform would "provide an impulse to financial sector development."

Pension Forum Nearly Disrupted By Activists

A group of anti-government activists gatecrashed an international conference organized by the government in Yerevan on Friday in fresh protests against an ongoing reform of Armenia's national pension system.

The one-day forum was attended by senior Armenian officials, Western diplomats, and representatives of international lending institutions, private finance companies and commercial banks. Titled "New Pension System: Opportunities, Challenges and Expectations," it focused on various aspects of the highly controversial reform implemented by the Armenian government.

Members of the Dem.Am pressure group campaigning against the reform briefly disrupted the discussions, chanting slogans, holding placards, and demanding that they be allowed to address the audience. A government official presiding over the conference refused to allow any of them to take the floor, however.

That did not stop one of the protesters, Davit Manukyan, from appealing to foreign



participants. "Please tell me in which democratic country a reform or law is enforced when 80 percent of the population is against that reform or law," he said in English.

Manukyan and other activists insisted that the Armenian authorities have failed to substantiate the need for additional social security contributions deducted from the monthly wages of some 270,000 workers born after 1973.

The protesters broke into the conference room after Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan

delivered a 30-minute speech and left it along with senior representatives of the donor community. Sargsyan reiterated government arguments that the existing pension system is not sustainable because of Armenia's aging population.

"They say 'we don't trust you, the country is in trouble, there is emigration and poverty,'" Sargsyan said of the reform opponents. "Yes, that is correct. But what is the way to rectify it? There is only one way: reforms. There is no other way out."

President Hollande attends event dedicated to the 70th anniversary of execution of Missak Manouchian

A commemoration ceremony dedicated to the 70th anniversary of execution of Missak Manouchian and his commanders by Nazis was held in Fort Mont-Valérien fortress in one of the suburbs of Paris.

French President Francois Hollande laid a wreath at the memorial and made a speech. Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian laid a wreath on behalf of the Republic of Armenia. The letter Missak Manouchian wrote to his wife Melinee was read out at the event:

My dear Melinée, my beloved little orphan,

In a few hours I will no longer be of this world. We are going to be executed today at 3:00. This is happening to me like an accident in my life; I don't believe it, but I nevertheless know that I will never see you again.

What can I write you? Everything inside me is confused, yet clear at the same time.

I joined the Army of Liberation as a volunteer, and I die within inches of victory and the final goal. I wish for happiness for all those who will survive and taste the sweetness of the freedom and peace of tomorrow. I'm sure that the French people, and all those who fight for freedom, will know how to honor our memory with dignity. At the moment of death, I proclaim that I have no hatred for the German people, or for anyone at all; everyone will receive what he is due, as punishment and as reward. The German people, and all other people, will live in peace and brotherhood after the war, which will not last much longer. Happiness for all ... I have one profound regret, and that's of not having made you happy; I would so much have liked to have a child with you, as you always wished. So I'd absolutely like

you to marry after the war, and, for my happiness, to have a child and, to fulfill my last wish, marry someone who will make you happy. All my goods and all my affairs, I leave them to you and to my nephews. After the war you can request your right to a war pension as my wife, for I die as a regular soldier in the French army of liberation.

With the help of friends who'd like to honor me, you should publish my poems and writings that are worth being read. If possible, you should take my memory to my parents in Armenia. I will soon die with 23 of my comrades, with the courage and the serenity of a man with a peaceful conscience; for, personally, I've done no one ill, and if I have, it was without hatred. Today is sunny. It's in looking at the sun and the beauties of nature that I loved so much that I will say farewell to life and to all of you, my beloved wife, and my beloved friends. I forgive all those who did me evil, or who wanted to do so, with the exception of he who betrayed us to redeem his skin, and those who sold us out. I ardently kiss you, as well as your sister and all those who know me, near and far; I hold you all against my heart. Farewell. Your friend, your comrade, your husband."

Speaking about Manouchian, President Hollande said: "He was one of those survivors of the Armenian Genocide, who settled in France and joined its struggle for liberation. Manouchian was not the only Armenian to sacrifice his life for the freedom of the country."

Attending the ceremony were members of the French Government, the Senate and the National Assembly, politicians and public figures, Charles Aznavour, representatives of the Armenian organizations of France.



USAID and Armenian National Assembly sign MOU



At an official ceremony held in the Armenian parliament on February 21, Speaker of the National Assembly Hovik Abrahamyan and USAID/Armenia Mission Director Karen Hilliard signed a Memorandum of Understanding, marking the beginning of a new year-long commitment whereby USAID will provide technical assistance to the Armenian parliament to improve its procedural operations, public outreach, and the informational, analytical and research capacities of National Assembly deputies and staff. In attendance at the event were National Assembly Chief of Staff Gourgen Dumanyan, heads of parliamentary factions and departments, U.S. Mission staff, partners and guests.

Dr. Hilliard noted at the event that the signing of the Memorandum signifies formalization of a continued partnership that demonstrates the commitment of the United States and Armenia to work together to strengthen democratic institutions in the country.

Speaker Abrahamyan noted that the partnership between the National Assembly of Armenia and the U.S. Government is aimed at reinforcing Armenia's independence and strengthening the capacity of its legislative branch. The Speaker mentioned that the bilateral relations between the two countries are based on common values and interests, and foster the establishment of peace and stability in the region.

Within the framework of the MOU, the Parties will cooperate to strengthen the role and capacity of the Armenian parliament through better representation of citizens' interests by the selected committees; oversight of the executive branch; enhanced analytical capacity of committees; and modernization of rules and procedures governing the selected committees.

Chinese Investors 'Interested' In Armenia-Iran Rail Link

Chinese investors are ready to finance an ambitious \$3 billion project to build a railway connecting Armenia to Iran that could be launched in 2016, according to the Armenian government.

The 470-kilometer railway, which would mainly pass through Armenian territory, has been planned by the two neighboring states ever since the late 1990s. The project was formally approved by the Armenian and Iranian governments in 2009. But it has yet to get off the drawing board mainly because of their failure to attract funding for the Armenian section of the strategic transport link.

Rasia FZE, a little-known investment company based in Dubai, was granted in 2012 a 50-year concession to build and manage the 305-kilometer section to be named the Southern Armenian Railway (SAR). Rasia in turn contracted the China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) group to conduct a feasibility study and recommend a cost-effective route for the railway.

Joseph Borkowski, the Rasia chairman, presented the final results of the study to Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan at a meeting in Yerevan on February 18. According to Sargsyan's press office, the CCCC estimates the total cost of railway construction at \$3.2 billion, a sum equivalent to Armenia's entire 2014 state budget.

"According to the submitted program, the construction work may start in 2016 and end in 2022," the office said in a statement. It said Sargsyan stressed the need for drawing up a "roadmap" to the project's implementation.

Sargsyan and Borkowski already discussed the CCCC's findings when they met last September on the sidelines of an international economic forum held in the Chinese city of Dalian. A statement on that meeting released by Rasia said the government-controlled Chinese firm believes in the "strong economic viability and regional importance of the railway."

"As the key missing link in the International North-South Transport Corridor, the Southern Armenia Railway will create the shortest transportation route from the ports of the Black Sea to the ports of the Persian Gulf," said the statement. "The Southern Armenia Railway will establish a major commodities transit corridor

between Europe and the Persian Gulf region, with conservative long-term traffic volume forecasts of 18.3 million tons per annum."

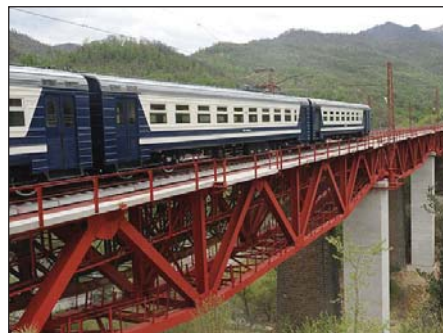
The railway would mainly run through Armenia's mountainous Syunik province bordering Iran. Hence the very high cost of construction, which has long raised doubts about its feasibility. "The railway will have 84 bridges spanning 19.6 kilometers and 60 tunnels of 102.3 kilometers, comprising 40 percent of the total project length," Rasia said in September 2013.

Sargsyan's office quoted Borkowski as saying on Tuesday that his Dubai-based company is already looking for international investors interested in the project. "It was pointed out that Chinese banks ... have expressed readiness to finance 60 percent of the project," it said without elaborating.

Armenian officials have previously referred to Russia as another potential source of funding. The Russian government and RZhd national rail company have not ruled out such possibility.

The issue was apparently on the agenda of September 2013 talks near Moscow between the Armenian and Russian presidents that were followed by the announcement of Armenia's unexpected decision to join a Russian-led alliance of ex-Soviet states. In a joint communique, they pledged "the continuation of joint efforts to realize infrastructure projects, including railway communication, as well as the construction of new logistical and communication routes."

Still, the Russians have so far made no formal commitments on the Armenia-Iran rail link, which is also strongly supported by the Iranian government. The Iranian ambassador to Armenia, Mohammad Reisi, said earlier this month that the expensive project will feature large at the next meeting of an Armenian-Iranian intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation.



CBA predicts a 4% inflation in 2014

The Central Bank of Armenia predicts a 4% inflation in 2014. The GDP growth is expected to stand at 5.4-6.1%, Chief of the Monetary-Crediting Policy Department of the Central Bank of Armenia Vahagn Grigoryan told reporters today.

"According to our forecasts, private consumption and private investment will speed up this year reaching 5% and 4% respectively," he said. "Exports and imports will retain their growth speed – exports will grow faster than imports, and individual money transfers' growth is expected to remain unchanged."

The CBA refrains from predicting the rise in prices after joining the Customs Union, saying the talks are still under way.

Representative of the same department Arthur Stepanyan assured that there are no plans about introducing a common currency in the Customs Union.

Republican MP is sure that GSP+ will not be annulled for Armenia

The Generalised Scheme of Preferences+ will be preserved in Armenia's trade with the European Union, MP from the Republican Party of Armenia Gagik Minasyan told ArmInfo on Monday when asked to comment on the apprehensions expressed by the former President of Armenia Robert Kocharyan in his last interview.

"The EU's decision to introduce this scheme was a response to the serious reforms carried out in our country in the previous years. So, now we must be consistent in our work with the EU so as to preserve this scheme even when we join the Customs Union," Minasyan said.

To remind, Kocharyan said in his last interview that the EU will probably revise the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP+) for Armenia, as EU ambassadors hint at that. Some problems will probably emerge also with the WTO and the coordinated customs duties.

"This will lead to response measures regarding our products. How will this influence Armenia's economy and its long-term investment attractiveness is hard to assess," Kocharyan said.

USAID to support development of country brand for Armenia

On February 20, USAID and the National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia (NCFA) signed an agreement under which USAID and the Government of Armenia will provide financial support to the Foundation to create a country brand for Armenia.

U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern and Prime Minister of Armenia Tigran Sargsyan witnessed the signing ceremony, held in the Prime Minister's Office. Minister-Chief of Staff of the Government of Armenia Vache Gabrielyan, Minister of Economy Vahram Avanesyan, Deputy Minister of Economy Sergey Avetisyan, and U.S. Mission staff were also in attendance.

The branding effort complements



USAID's tourism development activities by positioning Armenia on the world map and generating awareness about the country as a place to visit and invest. Partners are confident a strong brand and effective messaging will significantly benefit Armenia by communicating Armenia's

uniqueness to potential tourists and investors, and distinguishing the country among its competitors.

During the coming nine months, the NCFA will lead the efforts of brand creation and development of a promotional plan for Armenia.

EU-Armenia relations to focus on private sector development, public administration reform



Private sector development, public administration reform and justice sector reform will be the priorities of EU-Armenia relations in the period 2014-2020, as they are expected to be conducive to the country's economic growth, says the Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Traian Hristea, in an interview with the EU Neighbourhood Info Centre.

The interview is part of the series Three Questions to the Ambassador produced by the Info Centre.

1. Which are the three main priority areas of cooperation in your country in the new programming period 2014-2020?

The main priority areas in Armenia for 2014-2020, currently under discussion, are private sector development, public administration reform and justice sector reform. We expect they will be conducive to economic growth in Armenia. A particular focus will be placed on encouraging economic diversification and competitiveness, strengthening SMEs especially in rural areas, securing the rights of business entities, enhancing the

Government's steering and administrative capabilities and independent and effective judicial sector. A horizontal emphasis will be put on civil society support across all these areas.

2. The European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI) will make funding faster and more flexible, allowing for incentives for best performers. What does this mean for your country?

As in other ENP countries, in Armenia the new ENI will contribute to strengthening relations and bring tangible benefits to both the EU and Armenia through bilateral, regional and cross border co-operation programmes. Indeed, by applying the "more for more" principle, we expect to provide more support for those partners genuinely implementing a broad and comprehensive democratisation process. The ENI will also lead to a more simplified and shorter programming process focusing our cooperation on key policy objectives, and will promote further cross-border cooperation, as well as closer links with EU internal instruments and policies.

3. If you had to mention only three concrete examples of successful cooperation in your country which would they be?

The European Union has provided substantial support to reforms in many sectors in Armenia. For example in the area of vocational education and training, it has helped establish strategic structures for reform in the sector, refurbished 12 multifunctional colleges and modernised the curriculum. The EU has also assisted e-governance reforms in Armenia including access to a fast and simple registration of economic entities, a monitoring system for traffic police, and an update of the population registry.

Another project, the EU Advisory Group, has facilitated the development of more effective strategic and legal framework within different Armenian institutions and helped prepare Armenia for technical and political dialogue with the EU.



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1 ROOM

- 683.Argishti str., Glendel Hills, Newly built,14/10, 35.4 sq.m., euro repaired, gas, heating system, beautiful view of canyon. Price: 45.000 USD.
- 667.Nalbandyan str., 7/5, 48 sq.m., 1 bedroom, excellent state, euro repaired, AC, lift. Price: 86.000USD.
- 701.Vardanants str., 9/2, 42 sq.m., 1 bedroom, capittally repaired, gas, heating system, , furnished. Price: 59.000 USD.
- 1698.Aram str., newly built, 14/5, 62 sq.m, 1bedroom, capittally repaired, heating system, , security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD
- 1696.Tumanyan str., 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capittally repaired, heating system. Price: 160.000 USD.
- 1726.Khorenatsi str., 4/4, 35sq.m.,1bedroom, capittally repaired,heating system. Price: 55.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

- 1560.Northern Ave., Newly built,10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capittally repaired,climate control, parking, windows looking to the Northern Avenue. Price: 400.000 USD.
- 1467.Mashtoc Ave., 8/5, 81 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, stone building, special project, old repaired, gas,permanent hot and cold water. Price: 125.000 USD.
- 1440.Northern Ave., Newly built,/3, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m,euro repaired, heating system, ,furnished,parking,. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1459.Baghramyan Ave., 5/3, 55 sq.m., 1 bedroom, capittally repaired, h-3.8 m,permanent hot and cold water,furnished, equipped. Price: 85.000 USD.
- 1715- Sayat Nova Ave., 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capittally repaired, heating system, . Price: 110.000 USD
- 1698-Aram str., Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capittally repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD
- 1680- Mashtots Ave, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repaired, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.

3 ROOMS

- 2682.Aram Str., Newly built,13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms,not repaired/zero state/,2 open balconies, beautiful view, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 1400 USD per sq.m.
- 2747.Northern Ave., Newly built,9/8,150 sq.m.,2 bedrooms,2 bathrooms,one with a jacuzzi,open balcony, furnished, parking. Preliminary Price: 520000 USD.
- 2958.Pushkin str., 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building,4 bedrooms,capittally repaired,gas, . Price: Negotiable.
- 2964.Abovyan str. 5/4, 86sq.m,2 bedrooms, old repaired, gas. Price 130.000USD
- 2895.Northern Ave., Newly built, /3, 300sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capittally repaired, climat control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2818.Northern Ave., Newly built, /3, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, capittally repaired, heating system, Ac, furnished. Price:400.000USD
- 2802.Amiryan str., Newly built,8/4, 166sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capittally repaired, central heating,AC,security system. Price:320.000 USD.
- 1156.Komitas Ave., Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capittally repaired, heating system, , kitchen is furnished. Price:

160.000 USD negotiable..

- 1104.Komitas Ave., Aram Khachatryan str, 5/2, 125sq.m.,stone bld, h-2.75m.,3 bedrooms, a cabinet, 2 bathrooms, old repaired, gas, garage. Price: 140.000 USD
- 2964- Abovyan str. 5/4, 86sq.m,stone bld, old repaired. Price: 130.000 USD
- 2949.Aram str., Newly built, 1st floor, 143 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, zero state, Price: 2000 USD per sq.m.
- 2950.Aram str., Newly built, 5th floor, 176 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, a cabinet, zero state, Price: 310.000 USD
- 2836.Pushkin str., 4/4,5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capittally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 440.000 USD.

PREMISES

- 1710. Sayat-Nova str., Ground floor of the building, 420 sq.m., 2 halls, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price: 1.000.000 USD.
- 1727.Baghramyan str., 2 storied bld., 230 sq.m., capittally repaired, entrance from street, parking. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1725.Hanrapetutyun str., 1storied bld., 171sq.m., 2 entrances, capittally repaired, . Price: 500.000 USD.
- 1703.Northern Ave., 9/7, 66sqm, capittally repaired, heating system, lavatory, view to Teryan street. Price: 220.000 USD.
- 1553.Kasyan str. 170 sq.m., working fashion saloon, facade -15m, window glasses, 1room+foye, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price: 500 000 USD preliminary.
- 1598.Nairy Zaryan str., Ground floor of the building, 180 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, hall-100 sq.m. repaired. Price: negotiable.
- 1383.Nalbandian str. Ground floor of the building,working bar,several degrees above zero level, 90sq.m,+ cellar-30sq.m., capittally repaired,gas, . Price: 512.000 USD.
- 1603.Northern Ave., Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m,zero level, suitable for a shop. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- 1588.Tigran Mec str., 5/1,2 ,256 sq.m., commercial area, stone building, euro repaired,ground floor-trade area - 210 sq.m., 1st floor 46 sq.m.-residential area. Price: 600 000 USD.
- 2036.Amiryan str., Ground floor of the building, 24 sq.m.,1st line, zero level, h-2.70m., capittally repaired. Price: 270.000 USD
- 2035- Tumanyan str.- Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m.,1st line, facade-55m.,capittally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- 2013.Tumanyan str.- Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m.,1st line, capittally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$
- 2012.Mashtots Avenue- 5/1,2, 140sq.m.,window glasses, capittally repaired, AC. Price: 1.200.000\$
- 2011.Teryan str.-Ground floor of the building, 177sq.m.,1st line, window glasses, capittally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 650.000\$

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.
- 1869.Cascade. 720 sq.m., 1st line, building permits, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable.
- 2121.Centre, 1338 sq.m.,building permits. Price: 2million USD.
- 2107.Monument, 2400 sq.m.,building permits, 2 projects for building 3 storied building, water, gas, electricity possibilities, beautiful view

of city and mount Ararat. Price: 500 USD per sq.m.

- 2011.Proshyan str., 400 sq.m. building permits, 2nd line/ near the park/. Price: 700 USD per sq.m.
- 2013.Cascade. 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 580 USD per sq.m.
- 1402.Hr. Kochar Str., 1100 sq. m.,facade -25 m. Price negotiable.
- 1351.Monument, 2000 sq. m.,facade - 17 m, APZ permission, for social purposes: suitable for a restaurant, hotel. Price: negotiable.
- 2090.Lori region, Stepanavan, 6 hectare, 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000USD.
- 2406.Avan, Mher Mkrtchyan block, 1000 sq.m. building permits, electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 2725.Nork-Marash, Land-620sqm,2storied bld+basement- 733.25sqm,basement is a sport room,ground floor- a sitting room, 1 bedroom, cabinet, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, euro repaired,gas,heating system, 2 AC, sauna,swiming pool, fireplace, Price:500.000 USD
- 3348.Blur, Barbyus str. Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, capittally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.5 million USD
- 3059.Vahagni community, Newly built, Land-1200 sq.m., 2 storied bld.-280 sq.m.,ground floor-living room, kitchen,cabinet, 1st floor-3bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capittally repaired,heating system, garage for 2 cars, cellar, security system, possible to sell with furniture. Price: 490.000 USD.
- 3146.Aygestan, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m.,each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, a cabinet, 5 bathrooms,elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- 3313.Blur, H. Emin, Land - 550 sq.m,3 storied bld.- 450 sq.m., capittally repaired,6 bedrooms, furnished. Price: 1 600 000 USD.
- 3583.Nork-Marash, Land-1100sq.m,2 storied bld-520sq.m,6 bedrooms,5 bathrooms, capittally repaired,heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.

NEWLY BUILT

- 74.Cascade, Verin Antarayin. 136-315 sq m.,electricity, water, gas, euro windows,no exploitation fees, parking -15.000 USD. Price:1200 USD per sq.m.
- 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 UDS preliminary.
- 100.Leo str. 16 floors 1st floor - commercial, 2nd floor - office spaces, elevator,central heating system, water, height - 2.80 m, beautiful view. 60-300 sq.m.Price: negotiable
- 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,gajats, 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: 80 sq.m. Price: negotiable.



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1 ROOMS

- ♦1005. **Lalayanc str.**, 11/5, 42sq.m, studio, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600USD per month.
- ♦853. **Amiryan str.**, 10/7. 1 bedroom, 50 sq.m., euro repaired, gas, heating system, modern furnished, equipped. Price: 700 USD.
- ♦1167. **Bayron str.**, 5/4, 42sq.m, studio, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, climate control, newly furnished, equipped. Price: 800 USD.

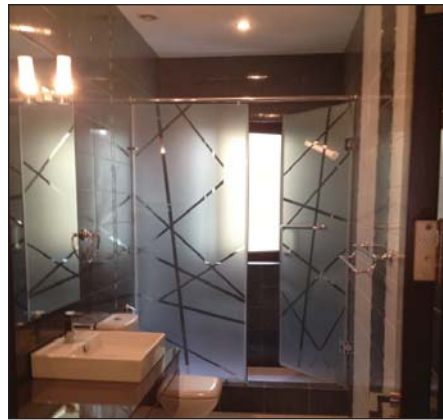
2 ROOMS

- ♦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.
- ♦1961. **Tumanian str.**, 4/2, 86sq.m., 1 bedroom, euro repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1200 USD.
- ♦2186. **Buzand str.**, Newly built, /7, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, gas, heating system, permanent hot and cold water, furnished, equipped, internet, security system, underground parking, beautiful view. Price: 1000 USD.
- ♦2099. **Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 550 USD, 50 USD per day.

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦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, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- ♦1998. **Buzand Str.**, Newly built, 9/6 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, capitally repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, view to Republic Square, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦2008. **Komitas**, Vagharshyan Str., Newly built, 7/3, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4. 3 bedrooms, 170 sq.m., 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦942. **Teryan str.** 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m., h= 3.50m., capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- ♦1950. **Buzand/Mashtots** crossroad. Newly built, /8, 2 bedrooms, 163 sq.m., 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, climate control, furnished, open balcony, view to the park. Price: 2500 USD.
- ♦1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 3 bedrooms, 140 sq m, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, beautiful view, parking. Price: 1700 USD.
- ♦1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m., 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, gas, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦1793. **Teryan street.** Newly built, 3 bedrooms, 260 sq.m., 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished

- (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦1720. -Newly built, 16/10, 3 bedrooms, 179 sq.m, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, parking, possible with or without furniture. Price 3000 USD negotiable
- ♦2249. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 9/7, 3 bedrooms, 208sq.m, 3 bathrooms, one of which in bedroom, open balcony, capitally repaired, climat control, furnished, equipped. Price: negotiable.



- ♦1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 2 bedrooms, 82sq.m, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.

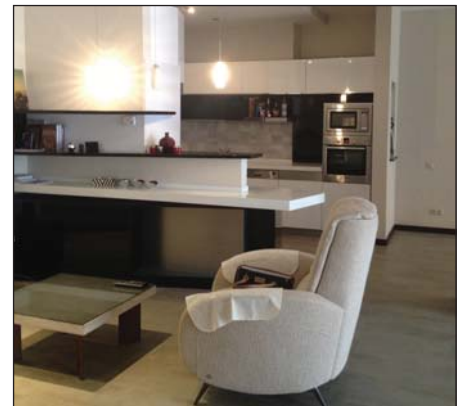
PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦1191. **Aygestan**, Land-400 sqm, 2 storied bld.- 270 sqm, ground floor - living-room, kitchen, cabinet, 1st floor - 4 bedrooms, bathroom, capitally repaired, partly furnished, garden, swimming pool, garage. Starting Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld.- 501 sq.m., built in 2008, ground floor - garage, bathroom, boiler room, 1st floor - living-room, kitchen, bathroom, 1 bedroom with a bathroom inside, big hall, balcony, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms one of which with a bathroom inside, balcony, repaired, gas, central heating, AC, garden, swimming pool, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- ♦1218. **Cascade**, freeway. Land-3700 sq m, 3 storied bld.- 1490 sq m, capitally repaired, 3 AC, heating system, walls - otto chento, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, heating, gas, Price: 10.000 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, capitally repaired, heating system, , furnished, techniques, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- ♦721. **Blur** Qery street, Land-150 sq.m., 2 storied bld.+a cellar-200 sq.m., newly built, 3 bedrooms, 2 lavatories, , a cellar is used as a sport hall, swimming pool, garage. Price : 3000 USD.
- ♦1195. **Nork**, Armenakyan str., Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., capitally repaired, ground floor-living room, study, kitchen, bathroom, sauna, 1st floor - 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd floor - open balcony, 1 bedroom, bathroom, gym, furnished, swim-

- ming-pool, garden. Price: negotiable.
- ♦1142. **Djrvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., ground floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 1st floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 2nd floor- lounge, 1 bedroom, each bedroom has its lavatory, 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-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 8.000 USD

PREMISES

- ♦1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- w1525. **Hanrapetutyayn str.**, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, h-3.20m, repaired, 1 large hall+3 rooms, 2 entrances, kitchen, lavatory. Price 1400 USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦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.
- ♦1482. **North Avenue**, Ground floor of the building, 210 sq.m., h=8m. Price 10.000 USD
- ♦1408. **Zarobyan street**, /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.



- ♦1438. **Komitas str.**, 6 storied building, each floor-120 sq.m., need for cosmetic repair, hanging ceilings, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD. 1596-Teryan str.-Ground floor of the building, 177sq.m., 1st line, window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 4500 USD
- ♦1945. **Mashtots Avenue-** 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.

Schiff to host event honoring America's relief efforts to genocide victims

On March 3, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), a lead sponsor of the Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice Resolution (H.Res.227), will host a Capitol Hill event honoring America's relief efforts to the victims of the Armenian Genocide, a campaign that helped launch a century of unparalleled U.S. leadership in meeting humanitarian needs around the world, Asbarez reports.

This event will serve to educate Capitol Hill lawmakers, staff and the community about America's efforts to help Armenians after they were targeted for genocide, and the continuing need to provide relief to those suffering around the globe.

The spirit of American care and compassion for the victims of the Armenian Genocide is perhaps best symbolized by the Armenian Orphan Rug, a work of art crafted by young survivors and gifted to the White House by the Near East Relief - a charitable organization inspired by President Wilson and chartered by an Act of Congress. Regrettably, this symbol of American generosity has yet to be released for display by the White House, which caused the cancellation of a planned Smithsonian Institution exhibit of the Rug in December of 2013. It is our hope that the White House will agree to provide the rug for this event, but in the absence of a commitment, the event will go forward nonetheless.

"America's role in helping Armenian survivors of the first genocide of the 20th Century is a story worth telling and remembering," said Rep. Adam Schiff. "It's also important to remind policymakers of the significant role the United States



played in assisting the victims of the Ottoman Empire during the dark days of World War I. The Armenian Genocide, which occurred almost 100 years ago, was an event of such catastrophic significance that all nations have a duty to educate their citizens on what took place. Events like this - highlighting America's important humanitarian role - can only help to convince my colleagues of the importance of finally recognizing the Armenian Genocide."

"Efforts to end Turkey's gag-rule and return the U.S. government to the right side of the American movement for a truthful and just resolution of the Armenian Genocide tend to flourish in the bright light of day, growing stronger in the sunshine that public scrutiny brings," said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. "It's for this reason, and many others, that we are so thankful to Congressman Schiff for hosting this Capitol Hill program and for seeking the answers that our Congress and our com-

munity deserve about the White House's decision to keep this unique Genocide-era artwork in the shadows and locked away from public view."

In a letter to the President last year urging the display of the rug, Schiff and 32 other Members of Congress wrote: "The Armenian Orphan Rug is a piece of American history and it belongs to the American people. For over a decade, Armenian American organizations have sought the public display of the rug and have requested the White House and the State Department grant their request on numerous occasions. Unfortunately, Armenian Americans have yet to have their requests granted. We urge you to release this American treasure for exhibition."

The Armenian Orphan Rug measures 11' 7" x 18' 5" and is comprised of 4,404,206 individual knots. It took Armenian girls in the Ghazir Orphanage of Near East Relief 10 months to weave. The rug was delivered to President Coolidge on December 4, 1925, in time for Christmas, with a label on the back of the rug, which reads "In Golden Rule Gratitude To President Coolidge." According to Missak Kelechian, an expert on this topic, the gift of the Armenian Orphan Rug was widely covered in U.S. media, including in the New York Times in 1925 and the Washington Post in 1926. Additional information about the history of the Armenian Orphan Rug is available in Dr. Hagop Martin Deranian's book, "President Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug," published on October 20, 2013, by the Armenian Cultural Foundation.



Grant Contract between the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Armenia and the Orthotic Center "Ortez"

Grant Contract between the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Armenia and the Orthotic Center "Ortez" for the Project for Procuring Equipment for Orthotics Center in Yerevan, Armenia was signed after the approval of application of "Human Health" NGO (President Levon Movsesyan) to the Japanese Government with the Project "Equipment for Orthotic Center "Ortez" in Yerevan, Armenia". The contract states that 114,416 US dollars will be funded for the Project. The purpose of the Project is to provide the equipment for Orthotic Center "Ortez" in Yerevan that will assist in fabrication of orthoses for disabled children and will support Orthotic Center "Ortez" in realization of its goal to establish satellite orthotic centers in the regions of Armenia. The establishment of satellite orthotic centers in the regions of Armenia will make easier the life of children with disabilities and the load of their family members too. It will help them to cease spending time and money for reaching Yerevan each time for fabrication and fitting of orthoses. Orthotic Center will educate and train the specialists for working in similar regional Centers.

The project will be implemented in Orthotic Center "Ortez" in Yerevan, Armenia (Director Ara Tekyozyan). Pediatric rehabilitation and orthotic services in Armenia were established after 1988 devastating earthquake by US NGO "Project HOPE". The same time the orthotic laboratory furnished with equipment, machinery and materials was organized, and local specialists were trained to work as orthotists.



After "Project HOPE" left the local specialists continued the same work and orthotic laboratory functioned as an independent LLC - Orthotic Center "Ortez" since 1997. Now the Orthotic Centre "Ortez" is the only and unique centre in Armenia fabricating orthoses for disabled children.

The beneficiaries of the Project are vulnerable disabled children in Armenia waiting for their turn to have orthoses which they need for normal living, education and work. Within the framework of the given program is planned to provide sufficient quantity of basic equipment to Orthotic Center "Ortez" in Yerevan and to make possible the fabrication of orthoses for disabled children from all over Armenia. Within the frames of this program, significant part of disabled children will improve their living noticeably.

"Procuring equipment for Orthotic Center "Ortez" was selected significant to us, since Japanese Embassy's Grassroots Project will improve the health state of most vulnerable groups of Armenian society and will contribute to their well-being", - says Keisuke Yamagishi, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Russia.

In Grant Contract signing ceremony participated:

*Keisuke Yamagishi
First Secretary
Embassy of Japan in Russia*

*Daisuke Fukumori
Representative
Japan International Cooperation
Agency
Uzbekistan Office*

*Arihiko Hasegawa
Coordinator
Embassy of Japan in Russia*

*Ara Babloyan
Chairman of the Standing Committee
on Health Care, Maternity and Childhood
National Assembly of the Republic of
Armenia*

*Ruzan Khojikyanyan
JICA Armenia Liaison Office
Japan International Cooperation
Agency*

*Ara Tekyozyan
Director
Orthotic Center "Ortez"*

*Levon Movsesyan
President
"Human Health" NGO*



Calif. Assembly Speaker's bill urges Congress, President to recognize Armenian Genocide

California State Assembly Speaker John A. Perez on Thursday introduced a resolution that reaffirms California's strong position on the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, Asbarez reports.

ing his army commanders that the merciless persecution and killing of Jews, Poles, and other people would bring no retribution, declared, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"; and

honoring the survivors as well as other victims of similar heinous conduct, we guard against repetition of such acts of genocide and provide the American public with a greater understanding of its heritage; and

WHEREAS, This measure would provide that the Legislature deplores the persistent, ongoing efforts by any person in this country or abroad to deny the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide; and

WHEREAS, California is home to the largest Armenian-American population in the United States, and Armenians living in California have enriched our state through their leadership in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has been at the forefront of encouraging and promoting a curriculum relating to human rights and genocide in order to empower future generations to prevent recurrence of the crime of genocide; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the State of California commends its conscientious educators who teach about human rights and genocide; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California hereby designates the week of April 20 to 26, 2014, as "California Week of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923"; and be it further

Resolved, That California commemorates California Week of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide through the Armenian Genocide Commemorative Project; and be it further

Resolved, That the State of California respectfully calls upon the Congress and the President of the United States to act likewise and to formally and consistently recognize and reaffirm the historical truth that the atrocities committed against the Armenian people constituted genocide; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature calls upon the Republic of Turkey to acknowledge the facts of the Armenian Genocide and to work toward a just resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, Members of the United States Congress, the Governor, and the Turkish Ambassador to the United States.



The resolution calls on Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide and urges Congress and President Obama to do the same.

This measure would designate the week of April 20 to 26, 2014, as "California Week of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923," and would memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to observe the California Week of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide by participating in the Armenian Genocide Commemorative Project.

Below is the text of the resolution AJR 35

WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923 was the first genocide of the 20th century, in which 1.5 million men, women, and children lost their lives at the hands of the Turkish Ottoman Empire in their attempt to systematically eliminate the Armenian race; and

WHEREAS, In their 3,000 year historic homeland in Asia Minor, Armenians were subjected to severe and unjust persecution and brutality by the Turkish rulers of the Ottoman Empire before and after the turn of the 20th century, including widespread acts of destruction and murder during the period from 1894 to 1896, inclusive, and again in 1909; and

WHEREAS, The massacre of the Armenians constituted one of the most atrocious violations of human rights in the history of the world; and

WHEREAS, Adolph Hitler, in persuad-

WHEREAS, Unlike other people and governments that have admitted and denounced the abuses and crimes of predecessor regimes, and despite the overwhelming proof of genocidal intent, the Republic of Turkey has inexplicably and adamantly denied the occurrence of the crimes against humanity committed by the Ottoman and Young Turk rulers, and those denials compound the grief of the few remaining survivors of the atrocities, desecrate the memory of the victims, and cause continuing pain to the descendants of the victims; and

WHEREAS, Leaders of nations with strategic, commercial, and cultural ties to the Republic of Turkey should be reminded of their duty to encourage Turkish officials to cease efforts to distort facts and deny the history of events surrounding the Armenian Genocide; and

WHEREAS, The determination of those who continue to speak the truth about the Armenian Genocide is tested to this day with some of these speakers of truth being silenced by violent means; and

WHEREAS, The accelerated level and scope of denial and revisionism, coupled with the passage of time and the fact that very few survivors remain who can serve as reminders of indescribable brutality and tormented lives, compel a sense of urgency in efforts to solidify recognition of historical truth; and

WHEREAS, By consistently remembering and forcefully condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians, and

Armenia challenges Turkey's genocide denial at the UN Security Council



By Harut
Sassounian

Publisher, The
California Courier

Foreshadowing next year's Centennial commemorative events, the Armenian Genocide issue was discussed for the first time at the UN Security Council on January 29.

Armenia's Ambassador Garen Nazarian, addressing the main topic of the Security Council session, 'War, its Lessons, and the Search for a Permanent Peace,' began his remarks with a subtle hint to Turkey on UN's peacemaking role: "to forge a deeper reconciliation among peoples, based on a shared narrative and memory of a troubled past. Often this process entails more than simply adopting declarations and resolutions, visiting and laying down flowers at victims' memorials or signing agreements or protocols and shaking hands. To be lasting, reconciliation may require the settling of the past, recognition and acceptance of responsibility for committed crimes."

Regarding lessons learned from the Armenian Genocide, Amb. Nazarian specifically mentioned that the "reconciliation process could be delayed for decades or even generations. This was the first modern genocide perpetrated under the cover of the First World War." Armenia's representative went on to insist that "ending impunity for heinous mass atrocity crimes is vital for restoring justice and normalcy."

Amb. Nazarian also outlined the steps necessary for proper reconciliation between nations: "successfully reconciled societies and nations usually undergo an extensive process of restoring justice, including reparations to victims and their heirs in order to re-establish their national dignity and identity. It is also imperative to speak with one voice against the distortion of history, the denial of historical crimes, and negationism."

In his response, Turkey's UN representative Halit Cevik, not surprisingly, focused on the future rather than his country's bloody past. Without realizing that he was condemning his own country, the Turkish delegate insisted that "those responsible for the most serious crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes, must be held accountable." Amb. Cevik then went on to repeat his government's worn-out denials, claiming that "allegations of genocide regarding the 1915 events have never

been legally or historically substantiated. In this same vein, there is neither political nor legal consensus as to the nature of those events.... We believe that deriving animosity from history by trying to imprint on others an incriminating and one-sided view of the past, and calling for selective compassion, is not the proper way of respecting the memory of many Turks, Armenians, and others who lost their lives during the First World War. It is therefore important to face history in its entirety, and through impartial scientific examination of historical records and archives, so that the right lessons may be drawn from history and the common fair memory can be reached."

Amb. Nazarian, in his right of reply, expressed deep regret to hear the Turkish representative's "distorted explanations about the undeniable fact of the Armenian Genocide which took the lives of 1.5 million Armenian children, women and men living in the Ottoman Empire during the regime of Young Turks.... It began on April 24, 1915, and went on until 1923 - the systematic and planned slaughter of the entire nation."

Describing in detail the deportations and massacres culminating in genocide, Amb. Nazarian asserted that "this crime has been recognized by a number of [UN] member states and international organizations, including the United Nations and its subsidiary body - the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

In a second reply to Amb. Nazarian, Turkey's representative became more subtle in his denialism: "We did not say that nothing happened in 1915. These events do not fit in the description of genocide which was defined in the [UN] Convention of 1948. Now, an Armenian delegation is raising that the 1915 events are genocide in the absence of any resolution or any decision of the International Court. So how do you expect us....," before he could finish his statement, his cell phone rang, interrupting him in mid-sentence.

It is very likely that more such confrontations will take place with Turkey leading up to the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. Turkish officials do not seem to realize that the more they deny and counter the Armenian activities, the more they help publicize the Genocide and the just demands of the Armenian people. Meanwhile, thanks to the Turkish delegation's two responses to Amb. Nazarian statements, the Armenian Genocide was extensively discussed at the UN Security Council for the first time ever.



Armenian Genocide conference to feature Robert Fisk

The Patrons of the Ararat Eskijian Museum present a unique conference titled "Honoring Those Who Helped Rescue a Generation of Armenian Survivors (1915-1930)." The conference will feature special guest speaker and seven-time International Journalist of the year, Robert Fisk from The Independent newspaper, gagrule.net reports.

Mr. Fisk is the author of the award winning book "The Great War for Civilization." Other leading scholars from around the world will also be present to discuss the manner in which the international community, including the American Red Cross, American Near East Relief, and the League of Nations, participated in the first major humanitarian effort of the twentieth century.

On the occasion of the one-hundredth anniversary of World War I, there is an unprecedented opportunity to give long overdue tribute to all the countries and individuals that sacrificed much to aid a perishing nation.

As part of the program, diplomatic representatives have been invited from over twenty countries that took part in the rescue efforts. As part of the commemoration, special guest and former California Governor, George Deukmejian, will be presenting the representatives of these countries with a "Service to Humanity" award represented by a replica of the Mother Armenia statue.

Igor Muradyan: Armenia Has Crossed Itself Out of List of Political Nations

Armenia has unfortunately crossed itself out of the list of political nations, said political scientist **Igor Muradyan** in today's press conference at **Noyan Tapan News Agency**, noting that nothing should be expected in terms of reflection of Ukrainian developments in Armenia.

"The questions must not be what impact Maidan developments will have on the political life of Armenia but what changes may take place in Ukraine's domestic policy and to what extent it is related to us. We know that Ukraine was in close relations with Azerbaijan and Turkey in economic, if not political spheres. Establishment of closer relations between Ukraine and the European political community would limit those relations," **Igor Muradyan** said.

The political scientist noted that without any hope for foreign support the Ukrainian society stood up against Russian colonization. Maidan is an area where national liberation movement is taking place, it is a space of clarity. According to him, Armenia is silent as it faces loss of its sovereignty.

"Everyone is silent, those who proudly called themselves nationalists, patriots, liberals etc. Why are they silent? What's the matter? There is no answer. Everyone hopes to get the last séance with Russia's support. Everyone is waiting for Russia's support," he says.

Igor Muradyan states that political life in Armenia has died. The only thing left to do in Armenia is to follow Ukrainian developments with interest.

He notes that developments in Ukraine were predictable. According to him, the president of Ukraine Yanukovich had an excellent chance to be reelected. There was such a prospect because he was facing the West and he had the green light for association with Europe.

According to the political scientist, Yanukovich was an American project. In the beginning the factor of falling into dependence on Russia was absent, and Yanukovich understood that association with the EU was the future of Ukraine.

According to him, the Russian propaganda now tries to make people believe that the Ukrainians are dissatisfied that



the country denied European integration. "It's not true, it's demagogy. Ukraine is faced with imperial threat, loss of sovereignty. It's impossible, people would not allow, it turns out to be very bad for Russia. What is bad? It's bad that Ukraine has practically assumed a neutral position, neither West, nor East, all by itself. It is also bad that being in a balance between the West and Russia, they will be a little closer to the West. Membership with NATO and the EU is not on the agenda of the government of Ukraine. Even that was impermissible for Russia," he stresses.

According to **Igor Muradyan**, the Western community with some of its Asian partners is blocking Russia, a geopolitical blockade of Russia is underway. Sooner or later it will lead to col-

lapse of economy, shatter inner stability, and Moscow may face Maidan in a certain extent. The Russian government, according to him, would not have this and understands that Ukraine, not the Caucasus or Central Asia is staked.

Igor Muradyan says in Ukraine it will be decided whether a wall will be built between Europe and Russia, who is building this wall, whether it is a British or a German project. According to him, to Russia's dismay a German project is being implemented.

In the result of the developments in Ukraine, according to **Igor Muradyan**, some people may sit down and draw the borders of Ukraine. It is a fact that something interesting and dangerous will happen to Ukraine. The real clash has not started yet. The real clash will happen when they pick up a pencil and start drawing the borders on the map. The clash will go across every village, not just Maidan. One village will stay on one side, the other on the other side, he says.

If the ex-prime minister of Ukraine Yulia Timoshenko were free, a lot would be different. "That lady has more energy than the opposition troika. And now, one way or another, a lot will change, I think. She is a fanatic, though she is rich, money is not the most important thing for her, Timoshenko's purpose of life is politics," the political scientist says.



EU Ambassador handed over prizes to the winners of the first online quiz

The Head of the EU Delegation, Ambassador Traian Hristea presented the prizes to the winners of the first online quiz on Thursday, 20 February at the EU Centre.

The grand prize, a new laptop went to Anush Torosyan from Vanadzor. The second prize, a netbook, went to a translator Ninel Miqayelyan from Yerevan and the third prize, a Kindle eBook, went to the student Verjine Minasyan.

In the words of Ambassador Traian Hristea, it was a positive surprise that so many people took the quiz. "We are promoting EU activities in Armenia in an interactive and fun way to reach out to as many people and possible," the Ambassador said. He reminded that the next quiz will be online in April and encouraged everybody to try again.

The online quiz was taken 1,570 times altogether and 316 people got all the answers right. The quiz in Armenian was taken 1,205 times and 206 people answered all questions correctly. The quiz in English was taken 365 times with 110 people getting all answers right. All main prizes will be drawn from those entries where all 16 questions were answered correctly.

The quiz consisted of 16 multiple choice questions with the links for further information embedded in the website. The



quiz was open to Armenian residents only and was available online from 16 September to 1 December 2013.

EU Centre also invited everyone who participated in the quiz and got all the answers right for a day full of activities. The day focused on informative and fun exercises for the participants, where they could test their own skills when speaking about EU programmes and EU funded projects in Armenia. The topics tackled were visa facilitation agreement, migration, consumer protection, Eastern Partnership and Erasmus+ programme.

The XX participants got EU Centre goody bags and the winning team of the exercise got extra prizes.

The EU Centre is the main feature of the EU funded project "Support to the EU communication on reforms in Armenia". Its goal is to raise awareness on EU development cooperation in Armenia and support education on the European Union. The Centre's website is a gateway to EU cooperation with Armenia. The duration of the project is two years and it is implemented by GOPA-Cartermill S.A in consortium with Altair Asesores and Fainberg LLC.

Apartment is for rent

A two room apartment is for rent on the M.Baghramyán 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 station down. A little far you can find a supermarket, underground station.

093 626744



Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator in January-February: (As Usual) Support to Education & Culture and the Novelties Indeed...

VivaCell-MTS and COAF Partner to Bring Contemporary Educational Opportunities to the Children of Arteni

VivaCell-MTS and the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) helped realize a long-expected dream of Arteni's village schoolchildren. The Arteni School's elementary wing officially reopened after a significant capital renovation. VivaCell-MTS provided AMD 7 mln for the establishment of a technology classroom, Creativity Lab, which will be used by all students. COAF renovated the rest of the classrooms and installed a tooth brushing station, Brushadrom.

The Creativity Lab features a smart board, modern computers, as well as mobile furniture adaptable for working individually, in small or large groups. The Lab provides a multifunctional environment fit for classes, training sessions, lectures, reading, discussions, projects and games, performances and fun.

This is the second Creativity Lab established as part of COAF-VivaCell-MTS partnership, the first one being launched in September 2013 in the Sardarapat community located in the Armavir region.

"By providing the village school with innovative tools encouraging creativity we want to help them reveal and develop skills and knowledge. We have to grow up knowledgeable generation, and in this regard it's very important to ensure that there is no gap between village and town schools", VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** stated.

The Friend of Culture VivaCell-MTS' undertakes the general sponsorship of the "Karine" operetta new staging

The Friend of Culture VivaCell-MTS has allocated AMD 10 million for the new staging of **Tigran Chukhajian's** immortal operetta.

It's the third time that Chukhajian's masterpiece is on the stage of the State Musical Comedy Theater after H. Paronyan. The staging was realized by prominent art workers such as Armenia's People's Artists **Yervand Ghazanchyan** (Director), **Yuri Davtyan** (Conductor), artist **Robert Elibekyan** (Stage Designer), renowned conductor **Shushan Hovhannisyian** and choreographer **Anna Karapetyan**.

With its bright and fresh colors, excellent use of folk melodies, solo performances and humor, "Karine" still remains unequalled.

"VivaCell-MTS gladly undertook the sponsorship of staging this masterpiece. Each young person should have a chance to experience the art of theatre and enjoy the works of well-known Armenian composers. Art is a culmination of feelings, the universal expression of all things beautiful

and right", said VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

And now the turn of surprises for the dedicated Clients of Armenia's leading telecom operator has come...

VivaCell-MTS prepared surprise for the clients of MobiDram

Armenia's Leading Telecommunications Operator has organized a draw for its subsidiary company - MobiDram customers. From December 23, 2013, till February 9, 2014, seven subscribers that had registered in the MobiDram system



and made at least one electronic payment for VivaCell-MTS services received Google Nexus S smartphones.

The special computer program randomly selected the winning 12-digit account numbers of MobiDram clients from the customer database, which means VivaCell-MTS subscribers were not the only participants in the draw. Each winning account number participated in the draw only once.

MobiDram has been operating in Armenia for more than one year and contributes to the development of the financial market by offering a wide range of services - mobile phone payments, instant money transfers, bank transfers, loan payments, payments for goods and various online services, utilities, tax payments and so on.

"The approach of making technologies serve people's needs is used all over the world. A mobile phone gives that possibility. It is a powerful means of communication and a wonderful financial tool for those who value time. MobiDram offers services of instant money transfers at any time of the day and anywhere, without extra effort. This unique e-wallet is a reliable partner

both in the country and out of its borders," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

The winners of the draw had been notified over the phone.

Armenia's largest and reliable Telecommunications network with the unchallenged widest radio coverage, VivaCell-MTS, covers 615 locations (48 towns and 567 villages) in Armenia with the 42.2 Mbps Dual Carrier HSDPA

Throughout 2013, VivaCell-MTS has covered 612 settlements across Armenia with the Dual Carrier HSDPA network with download speeds of up to 42.2 Mbps. The Dual Carrier HSDPA technology commenced operation on January, 2012, initially, and included 3 major towns of the country - Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor. Overall, VivaCell-MTS rolled-out 42.2 Mbps Dual Carrier HSDPA in 615 locations (48 towns and 567 villages) in Armenia.

In 2013, Dual Carrier HSDPA was implemented in all over Tavush, Gegharkunik, Lori, Kotayk, Aragatsotn and Shirak regions as well as in all towns of Ararat, Armavir, Syunik and Vayots Dzor regions. As of today, the Dual Carrier HSDPA network ensures coverage for over 86% of the population of Armenia, with the plans for future expansion in all populated areas.

With the introduction of Dual Carrier HSDPA, VivaCell-MTS customers are offered much richer internet experience while browsing, surfing the internet for business or entertainment such as playing online games and watching online films without disruptions, etc.

This state of the art widely spread network will equally provide VivaCell-MTS subscribers with an excellent quality of service and premium experience.

By visiting any of VivaCell-MTS service centers, the widest network in Armenia, one can purchase a wide range of high-speed 3G/Wi-Fi routers, tablets and mobile phones, by paying cash or on credit, along with any data and voice tariff plan of choice.

When making decisions on the expansion and development of its networks, VivaCell-MTS is not guided by Return on Investment (ROI) consideration only. Installing base stations, and providing innovative mobile voice and internet communication services to remote, mountainous and borderland villages with small population are a priority for VivaCell-MTS as the availability of communication infrastructure is both a social and security issue.

As a responsible operator, VivaCell-MTS is determined to provide with innovative mobile voice and internet services even the most remote areas with small population and potential consumption of services.

Armenian artist keeps medieval drawings alive



The Glendale New Press presents an article about Armenian artist Seeron Yeretzian, who used to sketch fantastical drawings of peacocks, serpents and colorful flora, but is unable to draw now because of a degenerative disease.

The front desk at Roslin Art Gallery used to be where Seeron Yeretzian would sketch fantastical drawings of peacocks, serpents and colorful flora that, with a mix of oils and gold foil, took on an illuminated, glow-in-the-dark quality.

But now, the Glendale artist sits at that same desk, mostly motionless, unable to draw. Her muscles have been frozen by a degenerative disease.

"It's terrible. My hands are gone," Yeretzian said, using her eyes to select each letter of her sentence on a computer screen that repeats her selections verbally, giving her a digital voice.

About two years ago, Yeretzian was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. Before the disease made her muscles decline, though, she became obsessed with drawing ornate Armenian initials, illustrated letters that have their roots in medieval Armenia.

She became famous for an intricate poster of the Armenian alphabet that was printed in 1991. Her drawing can now be found in Armenian households throughout the world, on greeting cards and mouse pads. Several people have had her intricate letters tattooed on their bodies, her son, Arno Yeretzian, said.

Even after the alphabet poster launched

her to stardom within the worldwide Armenian community, she continued painting her illuminated letters. She drew so many over the years that she decided to compile her life's work into a 245-page book that was released to the public this month.

The book, "Seeroon Darer," which translated into English means "Pretty Letters," features hundreds of her drawings as well as historical background and symbolism of the ancient Armenian art form that she repurposed for the 20th and 21st centuries.

Yeretzian's interest in the initials, which were first drawn by so-called "illuminators" as a way to spread the word of God, began when a man, who would later become a lifelong friend, walked into her late husband's Armenian bookstore 25 years ago looking for a complete Armenian alphabet done in



the illuminated style. His search inspired Yeretzian to make one of her own.

At the time, she was mostly drawing paintings of screaming heads, homeless people and crucified women. Her paintings had dark themes related to the Armenian Genocide and her experiences growing up in a refugee camp in Lebanon and later immigrating to Los Angeles in the 1970s, a foreign land with few friends.

But drawing the brightly-colored Armenian letters, and becoming obsessed with incorporating peacocks into the initials, became an escape for the 63-year-old. The detailed nature of the work made her happy.

"They were so beautiful and they were composed with every creative creature alive," said Yeretzian, who jokes that she's drawn so many peacocks and other colorful creatures that she could win a Guinness World Record.

Her son remembers her being obsessed

with drawing the letters. She'd wake up in the morning and head straight to the gallery to work and then at home, she'd continue, long into the night and early morning hours. She'd call her daytime art her sunshine painting and her nighttime art her moonshine painting.

"She'd work like crazy, that's why it's hard to see her like this," Arno Yeretzian said.

Harry Mesrobian, her longtime friend who originally sparked her interest in the decorated letters, remembers a man three years ago walking into the art gallery and starting to cry. He was Iranian-Armenian and a recent immigrant to Glendale. When he asked the man why he was crying, the immigrant pointed to Yeretzian's painting that would later become the famous poster.

The man had received the poster as a gift and, for two years, he labored over a gold-plated copy of Yeretzian's work. He was so elated to meet the mastermind behind the ornate initials, he couldn't stop crying.

Yeretzian has always intended to inspire others to love the ornate letters, whose colors and design each hold a special symbolism, as she does. The book is a way to do that, despite her disease.

"It's her intention that this art form never dies," Mesrobian said. "She was able to keep the art form alive for her generation. She's a time traveler. She goes into the past and brings it into the future."

In addition to drawing decorated Armenian letters, Yeretzian has also used illumination techniques to create artwork of Hebrew, Arabic, English and Cyrillic alphabets.

Although she can no longer physically draw, Yeretzian continues to express herself artistically by writing poetry with the machine that has replaced her voice.

"I'm telling you, she can't stop," Arno Yeretzian said.



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

ARMENIAN POETRY

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

You are restless and want to do anything except the usual routine. Some of you will be looking for a new house, car, or an exciting high tech device. Your eyes may be bigger than your pocketbook, especially if someone offers you a "deal," but it probably won't break the bank if you have used caution in the past.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

Social and romantic life is favored this week, particularly over the weekend. You may be mixing business and pleasure in a pleasant combination. This is a good time to discuss issues within a relationship because you are steady of mind and likely to be realistic, in relation to yourself as well as others. You intend to keep your promises.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

You would be happy to take the first flight to Tahiti and never bat an eye over it. Short of that, you may be taking small mental breaks this week, with lots of daydreaming and drifting. If you are on schedule, you have just finished a big paperwork project, and a vacation is in order. Get some R&R.

Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

Last week's full moon on the 14th might still have you spinning. The nature of a full moon is to bring things from the dark to the light. You may have learned a surprising thing about a lover or your partner. That moon had to do with honesty and intimacy in a relationship. Possibly someone confessed a love for you that you did not previously know.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

This is a week in which you must look at debt, along with taxes, estate matters, or any other type of resource that you share with others. It is possible that you have been operating under an illusion related to these matters. The truth surfaces now so that you can handle your resources with more accurate information.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

Beware of the tendency to obsess and worry over matters that may never happen. You are tempted to see the world through a dark lens this week and you may think that is the true version. It's more likely that the pessimistic view is extreme. If there is something you can actually do to make things better, then hop on it. Otherwise set it on the back burner for review at a later time.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

You may be looking for something beautiful for your home this week. Or perhaps it will simply catch your eye through a store window. Sometimes you would pull out the credit card and happily run it through the machine. Fortunately at this time your practical mind is also operating. That side of you wants this beautiful item to also have a purpose.

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

Beware the liar. The probability is high you will encounter one this week, someone who believes his own story, thus making it unclear if he is telling the truth. Check out the sources and other persons who may know something about the situation. Don't accept anything of importance at face value.

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

This week there is not a new cosmic message. No planetary contacts will interfere with your life. However, your ruling planet, Jupiter, will be exactly square Uranus on the 26th next week. Are you feeling independent and thinking about a leap toward or away from a lover? Uranus can be a trickster and make the grass seem bright green on the unknown side. Think about it.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

You are on the search for information which totally eludes you. Some of the facts are missing and prevent you from moving further. Often while Mercury is retrograde, we have to search through files, folders very carefully. It is all too easy to overlook a mis-filed page. This is not a good time to display your talents and abilities. Try again later..

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

You may be tempted to tell a fib in order to escape the wrath of someone who is stern and critical. Beg some time so you can think. It's easy to tell the fib, but Mercury is retrograding in your sign and you are likely to be caught at some point in the near future. Be creative and tell the truth with charm and apologies, if necessary.

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

Your attitude about yourself is not altogether accurate right now. You may think way too much of your ideas, or alternately, you may see yourself as lower than scum. Neither one is accurate and you should probably not make decisions of any importance this week. Spiritual pursuits are given a "go" signal.

Leo Alishan

(1820-1901)

Weep not

WHY art thou troubled, wandering heart?

Why dost thou sigh with pain?

From whom do all thy sufferings come?

Of whom dost thou complain?

Is there no cure for wounds, no friend

To lend a pitying ear?

Why art thou troubled, wandering heart?

Weep not! See Jesus near!

Sorrow and hardship are for all,

Though differing forms they wear.

The path he gave us teems with thorns.

The feet must suffer there.

What life, though but a day's brief span,

Is free from pain and woe ?

'T is not for mortals born in grief

To live at ease below.

Not for the transient joys of earth

Thy heart to thee was given,

But for an instrument of grief,

To raise thy life toward heaven.

If joys be few, if pains abound,

If balms bring slow relief,

If wounds be sore and nature weak,

Thy earthly life is brief.

This is the vale of death and pain,

Ordained for ancient sin ;

Except through anguish, Eden's gate

No soul shall enter in.

Justice ordained it; mercy then

Made it more light to bear.

Unasked by thee, Christ sweetened it,

His love infusing there.

From heaven's height he hastened down,

Pitying thy trouble sore ;

With thee a servant he became,

Himself thy wounds he bore.

He filled his cup celestial

Full of thy tears and pain,

And tremblingly, yet freely,

He dared the dregs to drain.

Remembering this, wilt thou not drink

Thy cup of tears and care ?

'T is proffered by thy Saviour's hand,

His love is mingled there.

He feels and pities all thy woes,

He wipes away each tear ;

Love he distils into thy griefs;

Weep not, for he is near !

Translated by Alice Stone Blackwell

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?**Enjoy your leisure****26 February**

19:00 Foyer Concert. Vocal Evening. P. Tchaikovsky. Romances and pieces from operas Alexander Spendiaryan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre

19:00 Die first, then I'll love you. Authors: Aramashot Papyan. Comedy in 2 acts H. Paronyan State Theatre of Musical Comedy

19:00 Mea Culpa. Tragic comedy in 2 acts K. Stanislavski State Russian Drama Theatre

19:00 Wednesday Film Night Series. Ninotchka. USA. Comedy Naregatsi Art Institute

20:00 Cafesjian Classical Music Series: Tour to the United Kingdom Cafesjian Center for the Arts

21:00 Crossroads Blues Band (Soloist Amiryman Misho) Malkhas Jazz Club

21:00 Forsh & Friends Stop Music Club

27 February

16:00 David of Sasun. Author: H. Tumanyan. Play The State Musical Chamber Theatre

19:00 Almast. Opera in 2 acts Alexander Spendiaryan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre

19:00 Physiology od Race. Genre: Tragicomedy. Author: A. Ayvazyan Henrik Malyan Theatre

19:00 Love Stir. Marc Camoletti. Play in 2 acts H. Paronyan State Theatre of Musical Comedy

21:00 Jazz Trio (Soloist Aghvan) Malkhas Jazz Club

19:00 Love Stir. Marc Camoletti Play in 2 acts. State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

28 February

14:00 Alice in Wonderland. Play for kids H. Tumanyan State Puppet Theatre

16:00 Anush. Drama. Author: H. Tumanyan The State Musical Chamber Theatre

19:00 Romeo and Juliet. Ballet in 3 acts Alexander Spendiaryan State Academic

Opera and Ballet Theatre

19:00 Hans-Peter Dott: Violin Concerto Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall

19:00 Ah, Women, Women. Robert Lamouret. Staging: Nikolai Tsaturyan, Director: Hrachya Gasparyan Hamazgayin Theatre

19:00 Ah, Anna, Anna, or Passion Sunday, Marc Camoletti. Romantic comedy in 2 acts H. Ghaplanyan Drama Theatre

19:00 Pawnshop. Author: Norayr Adalyan, Fantasmagoria in 1 act H. Paronyan State Theatre of Musical Comedy

19:00 Armenian national song and dance open nigh. Karin folk ensemble Naregatsi Art Institute

20:00 Carlos (Carlos the Jackal) Part III AFG Film Club

21:00 Compass Stop Music Club

1 March

19:00. A Man is Required. Original "Jan & Beatrice" by Carol Freshett. Director of the play – Lusine Yernjakyan. Yerevan State Chamber Theater

2 March

16:00 Magic Ball. Premiere Children's Musica. Author: Ara Yernjakyan. Director of the play: Lusine Yernjakyan. Yerevan State Chamber Theater

3 March

19:00 Concert dedicated to the 15th Anniversary of Khachaturian Trio

State Youth Orchestra of Armenia
Artistic Director and Principal Conductor: Sergey Smbatyan
Khachaturian trio Armine Grigoryan (piano) Karen Shahgaldyan (violin) Karen Kocharyan (cello)
Program: Ludwig van Beethoven: Triple Concerto in C major, Op. 56 Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake Suite, Op. 20A
Conductor: Sergey Smbatyan
Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall
15:00. Price 1000, 1500, 2000 AMD.
Author: V. Stepanyan Hamazgayin State Theater .

4 March

19:00 Don Juan Avia. Staged on the basis of "Boeing-Boeing", a classical farce by 20th century French playwright Marc Camoletti. Lead roles: Hrant Tokhatyan Narek Duryan Tamara Petrosyan Luiza Nersisyan Naira Movsisyan Staging: Narek Duryan. Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

5 March

19:00 Richard Galliano: 4 Seasons. Legendary accordionist Richard Galliano /France/. National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia Artistic Director and Principal Conductor: Vahan Mardirossian
Program: Vivaldi, Piazzolla, Galliano.
Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall
19:00 Richard Galliano: 4 Seasons. Concert Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall
21:00 Crossroads Blues Band (Soloist Amiryman Misho) Malkhas Jazz Club



New documentary tells about the Armenian Church of Gagkashen in Ani

A new film prepared by the Research on Armenian Architecture NGO tells about the Armenian Church of Saint Gregory of Gagkashen in Ani, the replica of Zvartnots Temple - the masterpiece of Armenian architecture. The Church has been under the threat of destruction for about 900 years now. The film will premiere tomorrow at the Union of Architects.

It is thought that King Gagik (who reigned from the year 990 to 1020) chose the architect Trdat (the man who designed the cathedral of Ani) to build his "millennium" church, and it was probably erected between the years 1001 and 1005.

The structure was never very stable, and in 1013 strengthening had to be carried out - including the addition of a substantial amount of extra masonry around the middle two columns of each apse, converting them into piers. These consolidations were unsuccessful and the church collapsed shortly afterwards.

In the 13th century houses were built around and over the ruins, using some of the fallen church's masonry. Later the ruin site became covered with earth, and at the end of the 19th century all that was visible were some walls on a tall mound.

The ruins were excavated in 1906 by Nikoli Marr. His excavations revealed the plan of the church and recovered many objects



of worship, including a bronze candlestick and a chandelier.

Asked whether there is need to build the replica of the Temple of Zvartnots today, expert of monuments Samvel Karapetyan said "We have not reached that level yet."


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HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Newspaper
Since May 4, 1993,
Yerevan, Armenia

President of the Media Holding:
Tigran Harutyunyan
Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding:
Gayaneh Arakelyan
Director of the Weekly:
Marina Harutyunyan
Chief Correspondent: **Gourgen Khazhakian**
Proofreader: **Susanna Mkrtchian**
ISSN 1829-0604

The publisher: NT Holding LTD,
Registration certificate and the date: 273.110.00512, 15.12.1995
Circulation: 1500 print copies and 15.600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format

Address in Armenia: 28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009, RA,
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