

Armenians worldwide mark 104th anniversary of Genocide



Tens of thousands of people marched to the Tsitsernakaberd memorial in Yerevan and laid flowers there on April 24 as Armenia marked the 104th anniversary of the 1915 genocide of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey.

As always, the annual procession began with a prayer service held by Catholicos Garegin II, the supreme head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, by the eternal fire of the hilltop memorial overlooking the city center. The ceremony was attended by President Armen Sarkissian, Prime Minister Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and other senior state officials.

“It is the day to recall once again the tragedy of our compatriots who had suffered ferocities and had been expelled from the land of their ancestors ... to tell the world once again about the Genocide -- the most hideous crime against humanity -- and to call for soberness and a fight against denial,” Sarkissian said in a written statement issued on the occasion.

“Impunity that followed the Armenian Genocide had opened the doors for other grave crimes against humanity and genocides: remember the Holocaust, the tragedies in Cambodia and Rwanda,” he said.

A separate statement released by Pashinyan noted not only the slaughter of some 1.5 million

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<p>Pashinyan slams Erdogan who said Armenian deportations were “reasonable”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 2</p>	<p>France marks first national commemoration of Armenian genocide</p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 4</p>	<p>Tens of Thousands March for Justice at the Turkish Consulat</p> <p style="text-align: right;">p.9</p>	<p>Colorado Senate commemorates Armenian Genocide, recognizes Artsakh</p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 5</p>
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Pashinyan slams Erdogan who said Armenian deportations were "reasonable"



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has strongly condemned Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's latest public denial of the 1915 Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire, saying that it amounts to "extreme hate speech."

Erdogan again lambasted France and other nations recognizing the genocide on Wednesday when he spoke at a conference in Ankara apparently timed to coincide with the annual remembrance of some 1.5 million Ottoman Armenians who lost their lives during the First World War.

Erdogan claimed that Armenians themselves massacred Muslim civilians and that

their mass deportations to the Syrian desert was "the most reasonable action that could be taken" by the Ottoman government. "Relocation is one thing, massacre is another thing," he said.

Pashinyan reacted angrily to Erdogan's remarks on his Twitter page. "Calling victims of the Armenian Genocide, the Ottoman Empire's entire Armenian population, which was sent to death marches, 'Armenian gangs & their supporters' ... is not just a new high in denialism but justification of nation murder," he wrote.

"Above all, doing this on April 24 is an ultimate insult to the Armenian people and

to humanity," the prime minister added, urging the international community to condemn Erdogan's "extreme hate speech."

Throughout his long rule, Erdogan has stuck to successive Turkish governments' strong denial of a premeditated effort by the Ottoman regime of "the Young Turks" to exterminate the empire's Armenian population. In April 2015, he likewise said that "the relocation of the Armenian population in Anatolia to southern lands" was a legitimate response to violence by "Armenian gangs provoked by various powers."

The Turkish leader referred to the Syrian desert where hundreds of thousands of Armenians -- mostly women, children and elderly people -- were killed or starved to death. Scores of others died on their way to the Deir ez-Zor camps.

In his latest speech, Erdogan lashed out at France, which officially recognized the genocide in 2001 and held its first "national day of commemoration of the Armenian genocide" on Wednesday. French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe led the commemorations in Paris on Wednesday, laying flowers at a monument to the genocide victims erected in 2003.

"France intends to contribute to the recognition of the Armenian genocide as a crime against humanity, against civilization," Philippe said, according to the AFP news agency. "It will not be impressed by any lies, by any pressure, what we are looking for is historical accuracy and reconciliation."

Portugal's Parliament Recognizes Armenian Genocide

Lawmakers in Portugal on April 26 voted overwhelmingly to recognize the Armenian Genocide, saying in a resolution passed at the Assembly of the Republic that "the systematic extermination by the Ottoman authorities directed at the Armenian minority in its territory is considered by the international community of historians as the first genocide of the twentieth century."

The resolution, backed by all political forces represented in the parliament, also serves as a remembrance of the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

"This remembrance should serve as a lesson for our time, because, given the current level of nationalism, xenophobia and intolerance worldwide, it is essential to remember the tragedies of the past. It is also through the culture of memory that the Assembly is committed to upholding human rights and emphasize the importance of strengthening dialogue among peoples, religions, cultures and civilizations," the resolution said.

The text of the resolution also includes a historic reference to the events of the day, saying that it was



on April 24 that "the outbreak of massacres against the Armenian population is marked annually, since it was at on this day in 1915 that the Ottoman authorities arrested and executed 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople under

orders of the government of the 'Young Turks'."

The resolution also points out that "in the years during and after World War I it is estimated that between 800,000 and 1.5 million people were killed as a result of the genocide."



Armenians but also the destruction of Armenian cultural heritage in the Ottoman Empire.

“We were consistently deprived of the land on which Armenian culture and Armenian identity were formed and developed over thousands of years,” read the statement. “The cultural heritage that constitutes the Armenian identity -- thousands of schools, churches and monasteries -- was erased from the face of the earth.”

Nikol Pashinyan also recalled the World War One-era massacres of hundreds of thousands of Greeks and Assyrians perpetrated by the Ottoman Turks. Armenia officially recognized them as genocide in 2015.

Both the president and the prime minister made clear that Yerevan will continue to seek greater international recognition of the Armenian genocide.

Turkey continues to deny a premeditated government effort to exterminate the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire. Its vehement denials are dismissed by most scholars outside Turkey.

“The historical record on the Armenian Genocide is unambiguous and documented by overwhelming evidence,” the International Association of

Genocide Scholars said in 2007.

Pope Francis and his predecessor John Paul II prayed at Tsitsernakaberd when they visited Armenia in 2016 and 2001 respectively. They both officially recognized the genocide, as did more than two dozen nations, including France, Germany and Russia.

Armenia, France have a huge untapped potential for development of economic ties - FM



Armenia's Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan received on April 26 the delegation led by Lyon's Deputy Mayor Georges Kepenekian.

Minister Mnatsakanyan hailed the rich Armenian-French agenda and voiced hope that the reciprocal visits on different levels will contribute to the further expansion and

deepening of decentralized cooperation.

The Foreign Minister noted that the Armenian people highly appreciate French President Emmanuel Macron's decision to declare April 24 as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day as a step aimed at restoring the denied justice.

Zohrab Mnatsakanyan briefed Georges Kepenekian on the Armenian government's reforms agenda aimed at promoting a technology-driven economy.

The parties stressed the importance of developing and deepening mutually beneficial cooperation in IT, innovation and creative education.

The interlocutors agreed that there is an untapped potential for the development of economic ties.

France marks first national commemoration of Armenian genocide



We commemorate the Armenian Genocide to ensure that history does not repeat its errors, French President Emmanuel Ma-

niversary of the Armenian Genocide.

"Today, on April 24, we officially commemorate the Armenian Genocide to re-

when he forgets what binds him to his neighbor, and to ensure that history does not repeat his errors," Macron wrote.

On April 24 France held its first official commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Prime Minister Edouard Philippe participated in the commemoration in Paris.

President Emmanuel Macron signed a decree earlier this month designating April 24 as the day of commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Under the decree, every year on April 24 a commemoration ceremony will be organ-



cron said in a Twitter post on the 104th an-

member that man is capable of the worst

ized in Paris. Besides, ceremonies can be organized in each department at the initiative of the prefect.

The Prime Minister will be responsible for the implementation of this decree.

Donald Trump: We stand with Armenians in recalling the lives lost during Meds Yeghern



US President Donald Trump has issued a statement, welcoming the "efforts of Armenians and Turks to acknowledge and reckon with their painful history."

"Today, we commemorate the Meds Yeghern and honor the memory of those who suffered in one of the worst mass atrocities of the 20th century. Beginning in 1915, one and a half million Armenians were deported, massacred, or marched to their deaths in the final years of the Ottoman Empire. On this day of remembrance, we

again join the Armenian community in America and around the world in mourning the many lives lost," Trump said in a statement.

"On this day, we also honor and recognize the work of those who tried to end the violence, as well as those who sought to ensure atrocities like this would not be repeated, like human rights activist and lawyer Raphael Lemkin. We recall the contributions of generous Americans who helped save lives and rebuild Armenian communities. As we honor the memory of those who suffered, we also draw inspiration from the courage and resiliency of the Armenian people who, in the face of tremendous adversity, built vibrant communities around the world, including in the United States," the US President added.

"We pledge to learn from past tragedies so as to not to repeat them. We welcome the efforts of Armenians and Turks to acknowledge and reckon with their painful history. And we stand with the Armenian people in recalling the lives lost during the Meds Yeghern and reaffirm our commitment to a more peaceful world," Trump stated.

Former Armenian official "seeking political asylum in Russia"

(Yerevan -RFE/RL) - A Russian lawyer apparently representing Mihran Poghosyan, a former senior Armenian official facing corruption charges in Armenia, on April 25 did not deny reports that he has applied for political asylum in Russia.

Poghosyan was arrested in the northern Russian region of Karelia late last week just days after being indicted by an Armenian law-enforcement body. A local court reportedly allowed the Russian police to hold him in detention for up to 40 days, pending a decision on his extradition to Armenia demanded by Armenian prosecutors.

News reports said on Wednesday that Poghosyan, who denies the corruption charges as politically motivated, has asked Russian authorities to grant him asylum.

Mikhail Yamchitsky, the head of Karelia's bar association described by Russian media as Poghosyan's lawyer, refused to confirm or refute those reports. Speaking to RFE/RL's Armenian service by phone, Yamchitsky said he is not allowed to comment



on the matter.

Under Russian law, political asylum can only be granted by President Vladimir Putin. Russia's Interior Ministry can recommend such decisions after consulting with the Foreign Ministry and the Federal Security Service.

Armenian investigators claim that the 42-year-old Poghosyan embezzled at least 64.2 million drams (\$132,000) in public funds when he ran a state agency enforcing court rulings from 2008-2016. They also accuse him of giving privileged treatment

to a real estate valuation firm that was contracted by the Service for the Mandatory Execution of Judicial Acts (SMEJA) in 2014.

The firm was allegedly a subsidiary of shadowy companies set up by Poghosyan in Panama in 2011. Citing leaked documents

widely known as the Panama Papers, an Armenian investigative website reported in April 2016 that Poghosyan controls three such companies registered in the Central American state.

Poghosyan dismissed the report. Nevertheless, he resigned as SMEJA chief shortly afterwards despite continuing to deny any wrongdoing. A year later, he was elected to the former Armenian parliament on the ticket of ex-President Serzh Sargsyan's Republican Party.

Colorado Senate commemorates Armenian Genocide, recognizes Artsakh



Colorado's State Senate unanimously voted to designate April 24 as "Colorado Day of the Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide" through a strongly-worded resolution that also recognized the Republic of Artsakh and the recent cultural genocide in Nakhichevan.

"We are grateful for Colorado's ongoing remembrance of the Armenian Genocide and we are so proud of this year's coura-

geous resolution that recognizes the ongoing genocidal repercussions faced by the Armenian homeland," remarked the Armenian National Committee of America Western Region (ANCA WR) chair Nora Hovsepien, Esq.

"The resolution is particularly commendable for referencing and effectively recognizing the Republic of Artsakh," continued Hovsepien. "This success, which builds upon the Sardarapat Highway and the Capitol Khachkar Memorial, is another testament to the effectiveness of the determined and persistent activism pursued by Colo-

rado's vibrant Armenian American grassroots."

Championed by Democratic Senator Dominick Moreno and Republican Senator Jack Tate, Senate Resolution 19-012 recounts the historical background of the Armenian Genocide, recalls Colorado's WWI-era efforts in support of the Armenian National Committee of America Western Region (ANCA WR) chair Nora Hovsepien, Esq.

This recognition increases the number of American states that have recognized Artsakh to nine.

FCEM World Congress: Pashinyan calls for greater women's involvement in business



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan believes women's activities and inclusion in all sectors should be encouraged in Armenia.

The PM delivered the remarks during the FCEM - Femmes Chefs D'Entreprises Mondiales – World Congress that is taking

place in Yerevan, Armenia.

FCEM is the pioneer association uniting women business owners from the world over founded in France in 1945.

“This is among our government’s priorities, and I have voiced about this back in May of 2018 when I was speaking at parliament still as a candidate for prime minister,” Pashinyan said, adding that many sectors in Armenia – ranging from public administration to business management and service, require women’s care.

Speaking about the 2018 Ar-

menian Velvet Revolution, Pashinyan emphasized that since then women's role and level of activeness has grown significantly.

“This revolution wouldn’t become reality without such large-scale participation of women. Their role in the revolution was indeed a milestone. Nearly half of the economically active population of Armenia are women. It is difficult to imagine that the signaled economic revolution in Armenia will succeed if we will not be able to encourage women’s en-

trepreneurship," the PM said.

PM Nikol Pashinyan expressed hope that women's role in the economic revolution will be equally decisive and important and called on all women in Armenia to make their step also in the economic revolution.

"I am sure that women can be more effective in entrepreneurship and they have an ability to move forward with more prudent, balanced and substantiated steps," the PM said, hoping that soon the involvement of women in Armenian politics and economy will grow.

Yerevan Reports more agreements with Russian Arms Exporter



Armenia will continue to acquire Russian weapons “very vigorously,” Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan said on Wednesday after holding fresh talks with the head of Russia’s state-owned arms exporter, Rosoboronexport.

Tonoyan and Rosoboronexport's Alexan-

der Mikheyev met on April 23 on the sidelines of an international security conference held in Moscow.

“The parties reached a number of new agreements on expanding the scope of co-operation and ensuring its continuity,” the Armenian Defense Ministry said in a short statement on the meeting. It did not elaborate.

Tonoyan, who was appointed as defense minister in May 2018, and Mikheyev met on at least two occasions last year. Their latest talks came two months after Russian and Armenian officials signed fresh defense contracts in Moscow. Their details have still not been made public.

Earlier in February, Yerevan confirmed

the signing of a Russian-Armenian contract for the purchase of four Sukhoi Su-30SM fighter jets to the Armenian Air Force. The total cost of the deal remains unknown.

Speaking to Russian journalists on Wednesday, Tonoyan reiterated that the multirole jets will be delivered to Armenia by the beginning of 2020. The Armenian side has already made first payments for them, he said, according to the TASS news agency.

The minister also reaffirmed Yerevan's plans to buy more such Russian warplanes. "We will be arming and rearming ourselves very vigorously," he added. "The purchases of Russian weaponry will continue."

Chinese producer to make bottled mineral water in Armenian town



The Chinese “New Ida” Company will open a bottled mineral water factory in Katnaghbyur, Lori Province, Armenia, Governor of Lori Andrey Ghukasyan told ARMENPRESS in Beijing during the One Belt One Road summit.

“Lori already has the first cooperation

with China. There are natural sources in Katnaghbyur community and Chinese experts have researched the water and assessed the quality and will open a factory there. The production will be entirely exported. Initially, nearly 60 jobs will be created, they will build a gas pipeline and a road, which the village will use in the future. Investments will total 3-4 million dollars,” the Governor said.

He said the company executive has traveled to China from Armenia with them to encourage other Chinese businessmen in investing in Armenia.

Ghukasyan participated at the regional forum at the One Belt One Road summit.

He is expected to sign a MoU with the Shanxi Province of China.

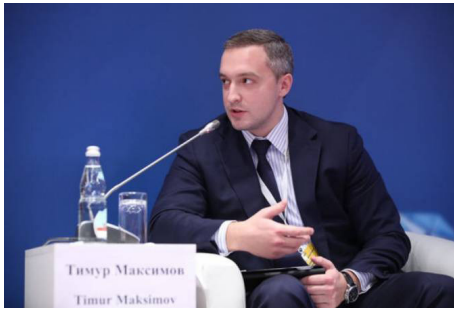
“The Province of Lori and the Province of Shanxi are sister provinces since 2011. Bilateral meetings and visits have taken place. We are now trying to boost these relations,” he said.

The Governor will also have meetings with authorities and businessmen of the Chinese province.

He said he will invite Chinese businessmen to visit Lori to explore investment opportunities.

Reported by Karen Khachatryan, Beijing, China

EAEU market supply can easily meet domestic demand without increase of prices of goods - Russian deputy minister



Whether the instalment regime of EAEU customs tariffs in terms of several goods for Armenia will change or not, is still unclear,

Russian deputy minister of economic development Timur Maksimov said during Moscow-Yerevan video conference, adding that if the talk is about the change or extension of this regime, it must be considered based on the domestic demand and supply existing in the market.

"I cannot say what was the situation when the decision on this regime was adopted, but I think that currently we are at a stage that the supplies in the domestic market can meet the demand. Therefore, it's necessary to look at the opportunities of the domestic

market, consider the demand, including that of Armenia. If the main concern is that by the change of the regime the prices of certain goods will increase, I can state that the supply of the domestic market of the Union can easily meet the demand without the increase of prices", he said.

In the first years of its membership to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Armenia has received instalment of introduction of EAEU customs tariffs for a number of goods. The EAEU tariffs are expected to enter into force in January 2020.

CSTO set to discuss Armenia's proposal on changing the statute

Armenia's proposal to change the statute of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) will be discussed at the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Bishkek on May 22, RBC reports.

Armenia offers defining the procedure of terminating the powers of the organization's Secretary General. Under the proposal, the post should be held by the country, whose representative had been appointed to the post until a three-year mandate expires, RBC quotes diplomatic sources as saying.



The post of the OSCE Secretary General has been vacant since October 2018, after Armenia recalled its representative Yuri Khachaturov, who is charged with overthrowing constitutional order in March

2008 unrest that followed the presidential elections.

Armenia insisted that its representative was to be appointed until the expiration of its mandate in 2020, but member states failed to reach an agreement on the issue.

Deputy Secretary General Valery Semerikov assumed the duties of the CSTO chief after the decision on early termination of powers of Yuri Khachaturov came into force on October 30, 2018

Idram with a new image and new opportunities



"Idram" payment and settlement system has come up with a new look and opportunities introducing the updated and improved mobile application and website.

According to Idram director Arsen Kdenyan, these changes are in more correspondence with the new stage of development announced months ago. "For many years

being engaged in the activities of the Armenian market, Idram has always been a leader and locomotive of the e-money field. We have tried to take a step forward and offer our users relevant international standards, advanced services that have been imperative for the time. Today, Idram has already reached a point out of which we need not only internal changes but also external ones in order to offer our users a new ideology and qualitatively different level of environment and services, so rebranding is a very logical continuation of the changes made last year regarding the creation of a new digital platform", said Arsen Kdenyan.

Let's remind, a few months ago Idram already announced the creation of a new

digital platform with IDBank, which will enable users to get access to both payment and banking services on a unified platform via mobile and web-based interface, offered by Idram and the other partners of the platform respectively. In addition, the mobile application will enable you to make non-contact payments in partner stores and restaurants via QR-code, NFC, receiving instant Cashback on Idram wallet. The platform has also other advantages.

Idram has also introduced an updated and improved mobile app and website, the list of services and tools included in which, will be continuously updated over the coming weeks.

Armenia committed to contributing to peacekeeping undertakings - Defense Minister



Armenia, as a country that has felt the price of international security and stability in practice, has accumulated considerable experience in the field of peacekeeping over the past 15 years, Armenian defense Minister David Tonoyan said at the Moscow Conference on International Security. He noted that Armenia, peacekeepers started their mission in Kosovo and Iraq, and are currently represented in four international missions.

The Defense Minister noted that when participating in international peacekeeping missions, the international community should strictly adhere to two fundamental UN principles:

1. An international mission should be conducted at least with the consent of the legal authorities of the host country.
2. Peacekeeping forces perform tasks for their intended purpose without prejudice and are completely impartial.

He added that the peacekeeping forces should have a rationalized mandate and composition and be prepared for any development of events, acting solely within the international humanitarian law and the tasks and obligations assigned to them.

Armenia, he said, being in an unstable and unpredictable security situation, when the concepts of “war and peace” are very shaky, has been moving forward with the consistent development of defense capabilities and developing national capabilities for maintaining peace and international security.

“Armenia, as a country that has felt the price of international security and stability in practice, has accumulated considerable experience in the field of peacekeeping over the past 15 years, the acquisition of which began in Kosovo and Iraq. Currently, Armenian peacekeeping forces are represented in four international missions,” he said.

“We also demonstrated a consistent commitment to helping to

ensure positive changes in the regions affected by the full-blown crisis, which was reflected in our recently launched National Humanitarian Mission in Syria, the decision on which was taken in accordance with the official request of the host country - the Syrian government, and the request by the Armenian community of Aleppo and their religious leaders, with the assistance of the Russian Ministry of Defence, for which we are very grateful to the Russian Government,” the Defense Minister added.

He stressed that the deployment of the Armenian humanitarian contingent in this region is justified by the historical factor of the Armenian presence in the Middle East from time immemorial and the desire to preserve our roots in the Middle East, taking into account the bitter experience of the past ten years of instability, resulting in a massive exodus of Armenians from Iraq.

“The humanitarian mission comprises medical personnel and demining specialists who, in cooperation with their Russian colleagues, provide assistance to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic affected by a long-lasting war,” David Tonoyan stated.

He emphasized that the Republic of Armenia intends to continue to make its feasible contribution to the UN-sanctioned peacekeeping undertakings of various formats, carried out in various geographic, climatic, ethnic and confessional operational environments. To this end, we are ready to use all the potential that we have, and above all, the field hospital and specialists in the fight against improvised explosive devices.

He assured that Armenia is a champion of the equivalent application of the norms of international law and the right to free choice, reasonable globalization and international security architecture based on abstaining from the policy of “force” and maximalist approaches, hate speech and belligerent statements.

Tens of Thousands March for Justice at the Turkish Consulate



Tens of thousands of community members were joined on April 24 by leading elected officials and more than 50 coalition partners at the annual March for Justice in front of the Turkish Consulate General in Los Angeles to demand justice and righteously condemn Turkey's continued denial of the Armenian Genocide, Asbarez reports.

Raising their voices on stage in solidarity with the Armenian Cause were representatives Adam Schiff and Brad Sherman, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz in whose district the demonstration was taking place.

In his remarks, Garcetti praised the Los Angeles Armenian community and highlighted its crucial role in the advancement of the city. He also pledged that the city will continue to advance the Armenian Genocide recognition issue, to serve as an example for the White House to follow suit.

"From Mt. Hollywood to Mt. Ararat, today we weep, together, as one people who say we are all Armenian and not only 'Never Again', we will not rest until the truth is spoken: not just from the streets of L.A. but from the Nation's Capital, in Washington," said Garcetti.

Councilmember Koretz, who introduced Garcetti said, "As a Jew, we are compelled that there is no continuing denial of the Armenian Genocide."

"You should know that the LA City Council is a hundred percent behind you, we have your back and we will keep fighting, along with the Mayor, along with our City Attorney, along with our controller until the Armenian Genocide is recognized worldwide," added Koretz.

Rep. Sherman, a staunch supporter of Armenian-American issued in Congress, as well as a decades-long advocate for Armenian Genocide recognition, said that Turkey will not advance as a modern nation or a democracy until it recognizes the Armenian Genocide.

"Turkey will never be a modern state, Turkey will never be a prosperous democracy, until Turkey recognizes the Armenian Genocide," said Sherman who added, "Genocide denial is the last step of the genocide. First, they murder 1.5 million people, and then they try to expunge the record of that brutal act."

"Turkey has Erdogan, a man who came to the capital of the greatest democracy in the world and had his thugs beat up Amer-

ican citizens in Washington D.C., and he calls himself our ally. A man who's buying S-400 rockets from Russia and wants our F-35 planes so he can show the technology to Russia, and he calls himself our ally. It is time to come to grips: Turkey can never be a modern state until it recognizes the Armenian Genocide," Sherman chastised Turkey.

Rep. Schiff, a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian issues and the co-author of the most recent resolution calling for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, not only chastised the current administration, but also those that preceded it for failing to recognize the Genocide.

"It was an effort at nothing less than the annihilation of an entire people, and it failed, and we bear witness to that terrible effort to exterminate the Armenian people, and we will not be denied," said Schiff.

The March for Justice, organized by the Armenian Genocide Committee—a coalition of the major community organizations and religious denominations—featured a short program that was guided by Masters of Ceremonies Armen K. Hovannisian, Esq. and Tenny Khachatourian, each of whom drew on their personal experiences as descendants of Genocide survivors to advance the call for justice and recognition of the Genocide. The program began with invocation offered by clergy headed by the leaders of all Armenian denominations.

The Armenian rapper and activist R-Mean rallied the crowd during a march through a performance of his signature song "Open Wounds," while children holding the tai-color flooded on stage. The American and Armenian National Anthems were performed by students from area Armenian schools. The program also featured a moving performance by the Element Band.

Speaking on behalf of the youth was Raffi Jivalagian whose impassioned speech highlighting the role of the new generation in advancing the Armenian Cause, closed the program.

President Trump Doubles Down on "Turkey First" Armenian Genocide Policy - ANCA



For the third year, President Donald Trump failed to properly condemn as ‘genocide’ the Ottoman Turkish government’s annihilation of millions of Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, and other Christians in his annual April 24th commemorative statement.

“This is a cut-and-paste policy, set in Ankara by Turkish dictators and enforced in Washington by American presidents,” said Armenian National Committee of America ANCA Executive Director Aram Suren Hamparian, whose complete response is provided below:

“President Trump has once again granted Turkish President Erdogan – an authoritarian and increasingly anti-American dictator – a veto over honest U.S. remembrance of Turkey’s WWI-era genocide of millions of Armenians and other Christians.

“This is a cut-and-paste policy, set in Ankara by Turkish dictators and enforced in Washington by American presidents.”

-- Having promised an America First presidency, he has pursued a Turkey First pol-

icy on the Armenian Genocide.

-- Having pledged to protest the persecution of Christians, he has enforced a foreign gag-rule against honest remembrance of a century-old crime.

-- Having vowed to restore U.S. leadership, he has, instead, outsourced American moral standing to a foreign dictatorship.

We look now to the U.S. Congress to provide the leadership that the White House has failed to deliver.”

US President Donald Trump said in a statement he welcomes the “efforts of Armenians and Turks to acknowledge and reckon with their painful history.”

“Today, we commemorate the Meds Yeghern and honor the memory of those who suffered in one of the worst mass atrocities of the 20th century. Beginning in 1915, one and a half million Armenians were deported, massacred, or marched to their deaths in the final years of the Ottoman Empire. On this day of remembrance, we again join the Armenian community in America and around the world in mourning the many lives lost,” Trump said in a

statement.

“On this day, we also honor and recognize the work of those who tried to end the violence, as well as those who sought to ensure atrocities like this would not be repeated, like human rights activist and lawyer Raphael Lemkin. We recall the contributions of generous Americans who helped save lives and rebuild Armenian communities. As we honor the memory of those who suffered, we also draw inspiration from the courage and resiliency of the Armenian people who, in the face of tremendous adversity, built vibrant communities around the world, including in the United States,” the US President added.

“We pledge to learn from past tragedies so as to not to repeat them. We welcome the efforts of Armenians and Turks to acknowledge and reckon with their painful history. And we stand with the Armenian people in recalling the lives lost during the Meds Yeghern and reaffirm our commitment to a more peaceful world,” Trump stated.

Turkish HDP Party issues statement on Armenian genocide anniversary



On the 104th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the Turkish Peoples' Democratic Party has issued a statement, saying they "share the sorrow and pain of 104 years, and commemorate with grief and respect all those who have fallen."

"104 years have passed since the Great

Catastrophe (Metz Yeghern), a planned genocide of an ethnicity and faith, which began on 24 April 1915. More than two hundred Armenian intellectuals were taken from their homes and sent to death; the process continued with the exile of hundreds of thousands of Armenians, and many of them were systematically slaughtered," the Party said.

HDP said "no ethnic identity, language, culture or belief is superior to another on these lands in which different peoples and beliefs live together -but this simple fact has still not been accepted. And as a result,

a confrontation with the crimes and shame that have made our land poorer has always been postponed."

"Lamenting crimes against humanity and facing historical facts; apologizing to victims and communities and resorting to restorative justice; understanding each other and healing the wounds with a sincere approach are essential steps for a common future. Developing feelings of conscience and justice, and sharing this great pain is also the path to build a democratic, peaceful and equal future together," the Peoples' Democratic Party said.

Canada's Trudeau honors the memory of Armenian Genocide victims



The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, on April 24 issued a statement on 104th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

"Today, we join Armenian communities in Canada and around the world to honor the

memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide, a dark chapter in human history which must never be forgotten," Trudeau said

"Although more than a century has since passed, the memory of those who unjustly lost their lives and suffered reminds us that we must never respond to hatred or violence with indifference," the Canadian Prime Minister added.

"As we observe this solemn day and pay tribute to the strength and spirit of the Armenian people, we also look forward to a

future built on peace and mutual respect," he added.

"The Government of Canada pays tribute to the victims of this tragedy and reaffirms its commitment to strive for a world in which nobody – regardless of faith or ethnic background – fears discrimination or persecution because of who they are," Justin Trudeau stated.

Canada's Prime Minister visited the Tsitsernakaberd memorial within the framework of his visit to Yerevan in October 2018.

Garo Paylan makes inquiry to Turkey's vice president Fuat Oktay over documents on Armenian Genocide kept at Turkey's State Archive



Turkish-Armenian lawmaker of Turkey's parliament Garo Paylan has made an inquiry to vice president of Turkey Fuat Oktay over documents on the Armenian Genocide kept at Turkey's State Archive.

Noyan Tapan reports the inquiry runs as

follows,

"We have sent the following inquiry to vice president of Turkey Fuat Oktay, expecting a response.

It's mentioned in the April 24, 2019 speech of the president of the Republic Erdoğan on the occasion of the 104th anniversary of the Metz Yeghern, "The doors of our archives are open before all those who aim to discover the truth. We have no secrets". So, he emphasizes that all the state archives are open before all the researchers.

Hence, we inquire about the fate of the records of the Turkish court-martial that operated from 1919-1922 aimed at bringing to justice the perpetrators who committed

crimes against the Armenian people. The researchers inform that those records are not available for them.

Aren't the records of the court-martial kept in the state archive? When were the mentioned records first submitted to the archive? Where and in which archive's catalogue were the data of the records for the last time? Where and in which archive are kept those records, if the calls that the original records are absent or unavailable do not correspond to the reality? By what means can the researchers, who "want to discover the truth", reach those records?" reads the text of the inquiry.

2019 Aurora Humanitarians announced



The Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity's Selection Committee has named three outstanding 2019 Aurora Humanitarians, recognized for performing acts of exceptional courage and their commitment to saving human life. The 2019 Aurora Prize Laureate will be announced at a ceremony in Armenia on October 20, 2019. With a \$1 million award the Laureate will get an opportunity to continue the cycle of giving and support the organizations that have inspired their work.

The 2019 Aurora Humanitarians are:

- Mr. Mirza Dinnayi, Co-Founder and Director of Luftbrücke Irak (Airbridge Iraq), a humanitarian organization that flies Yazidi victims from Iraq to Germany for medical treatment. Mirza Dinnayi has helped several hundred women escape from the territories controlled by ISIS, personally taking part in missions to bring them back to safety, and delivered food and water to the Yazidis in isolated areas. Driven by his passion to save lives, he has found a way to overcome numerous bureaucratic and logistic obstacles to help the most vulnerable. Mr. Dinnayi has nominated three organizations that provide educational opportunities to underserved students and disaster relief: Air Bridge Iraq, SEED Foundation and Shai Fund.
- Mr. Zannah Bukar Mustapha, lawyer, Director and Founder of Future Prowess Islamic Foundation – a school that provides education to some of the most deprived children in Maiduguri, Nigeria. In October

later, supported by ICRC, the Swiss government and the Nigerian authorities, he negotiated the additional release of 82 girls. Zannah Bukar Mustapha has nominated three organizations that aim to reduce conflict through strong community effort and good governance: Future Prowess Islamic Foundation, Adab Community Renewal Foundation and Herwa Community Development Initiative.

- Huda Al-Sarari, lawyer and activist. Huda Al-Sarari is a brave and inspiring Yemeni human rights activist, who singlehandedly investigates, exposes and challenges a clandestine network of secret prisons run by foreign governments in Yemen, where thousands of men and boys have faced arbitrary detention. She has amassed incontrovertible evidence of the abuse that takes place within the prisons and succeeded in convincing Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch to take up the cause. She has nominated an international organization that defends victims of extreme human rights abuse and two organizations that combat discrimination and promote equality: Reprieve, Equal Rights Trust and Wethaq Foundation for Civil Orientation.

“These are awe-inspiring humanitarians, fighting the good fight for our common humanity. The Aurora Prize acknowledges the immense humanitarian impact that can be made by the persistence and commitment of single individuals and deserves the world's

2016, he secretly traveled to meet with Boko Haram rebels in their Sambisa forest hide-out during a media blackout and left with 21 children. Thirteen months

gratitude for the way in which it highlights their achievement and maximizes their capacity. This Prize, like no other, gives these heroes the recognition they deserve and empowers them to continue their work,” noted Gareth Evans, Aurora Prize Selection Committee member and President Emeritus of the International Crisis Group.

The Selection Committee had chosen the three Aurora Humanitarians from 719 nominations for 523 unique candidates submitted from 72 countries.

Dr. Tom Catena, Inaugural Chair of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and the 2017 Prize Laureate said, “The three heroes chosen by the Aurora Prize Selection Committee are extraordinary individuals who have worked to better people's lives at huge personal risk and cost. As an Aurora Prize Laureate, I have first-hand experience of the impact the Aurora Prize has made on the lives of local actors pursuing humanitarian causes in places around the world that are often overlooked. Perhaps most importantly, the cycle of giving supported by the Prize – the opportunity to divide the award between other humanitarian organizations – is a true demonstration of gratitude in action.”

The 2018 Aurora Prize was awarded to Mr. Kyaw Hla Aung, a lawyer and Rohingya Muslim leader who, despite being imprisoned for a collective 12 years for peaceful protests against systematic discrimination and violence, uses his legal expertise to fight for equality, improvements in education and human rights for his community. Mr. Kyaw Hla Aung has decided to support international organizations that provide medical aid and assistance to refugees in Myanmar.

The 2019 Aurora Prize ceremony will take place during the first Aurora Forum, an ambitious and sweeping week of activities, which will be held on October 14-21, 2019, in Yerevan, Armenia, highlighting the best of the world's social, scientific, educational and humanitarian practices.

Nothing is worth as much as the idea - PM Attends Conference on International Intellectual Property Day



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan was present at the opening of the conference dedicated to the International Intellectual Property Day, referred to as “The Importance of Intellectual Property in Economic Revolution.”

As Noyan Tapan was informed from the Office of the Prime Minister of Armenia, congratulating those present on the International Intellectual Property Day, the Prime Minister particularly mentioned: “Intellectual property and intellectual property protection are among the most urgent, most discussed and most common themes in the modern world. This is not accidental because mankind eventually came to an undeniable conclusion that nothing is worth as much as ideas because the developments in the last century led to the conclusion that intellectual property is much more important than material property. And this is why no summit, no international event is held without addressing the problem of intellectual property protection. It should be said that this is not only about the field of creative art, it concerns everything because there is nothing more expensive than the idea.”

According to Nikol Pashinyan, the importance of intellectual property goes in tune with the ideology which triggered changes in Armenia. The Prime Minister touched upon his frequent statement that nothing can happen in reality if the process did not take place in our minds first. In this context, the head of government said: “Anything

that surrounds us is a reality, it exists physically, all of it first existed in our minds, in the minds of each of us, with high-tech art from the art. There is nothing that does not form in the minds of the human being and then becomes a reality. No creator can first unmask what he /she wants to get from the stone, on the canvas. Any architect cannot think of what he / she wants to get in the real world without the thought of starting the process from beginning to end. And this is the reason why I myself have repeatedly stated that all the solutions are in our head, all the solutions are in our minds, all our problems are problems of the intellectual sphere.

Intellectual property protection is also of vital importance for our economic revolution, because not only is it important for us to encourage and inspire creativity. Moreover, by saying a work, I want to emphasize that the peculiarity of the 21st century is that creativity is no longer merely a work of art: any economic activity is, first of all, a work because if it is not a work, it may appear in a deadlock. State governance, everything, modern life is first and foremost a creation. It is no coincidence that one of the most frequently used terms in the 21st century is the “creative” concept, creativity and creative thinking.”

Emphasizing the importance of the International Intellectual Property Day, the Prime Minister noted that the protection of intellectual property should be a priority for the Government of Armenia because the

modern economy and the global economy are based on intellectual property.

“Any activity is always based on intellectual property, but the economy of the modern world is based on the facts that have never existed in nature and have been shaped exclusively as a result of human thought. The Internet, modern technology, smartphones, computers were not in place, and the man went and discovered, but it was created as a result of the human mind. When we say an economic revolution, first of all, we mean this. Now it’s no longer the time that matters, whether we have oil or not, the times are not important, whether we have gas or not, whether or not we have gold and molybdenum.

Today’s question is the following: do we have the idea or not, we have an idea or not, we have the ability to work mentally or not? We state that there is no greater resource than the human mind, there is no greater force than human creativity, there is no greater potential than human courage, which is also a very important intellectual tool. Because we need great human courage today and we have made the first steps in that bold challenge to challenge the poor, despair, the deadlock, which, unfortunately, has been our country for a long time.

We have that idea; we have that will and we have the necessary courage. This is the most important guarantee that the process of the Armenian people’s victory will be continued because the Armenians are talented and creative.

Congratulations on the occasion of Intellectual Property Day. I am convinced that today we have enough potential for building intellectual wealth, strengthening our country’s security, its wellbeing and its future on our intellectual treasury,” Nikol Pashinyan said.

Round-table discussions on intellectual property, economic development, on the problems faced in this sphere and ways of dealing with them will be held on the margins of the conference dedicated to the International Intellectual Property Day.

Members of the Armenian government, MPs, Ambassadors, scholars, lawyers and private sector representatives attended the conference.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

Watch your pennies. On the weekend there may be a surprise car expense. 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 is accurate and you should probably not make decisions of any importance this week.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

Don't allow yourself to be tempted into grandiosity. You'll be inclined to spend more than you have, take ill-conceived risks, lecture others about your belief systems, and present your viewpoint as the final word. It is an attitude that keeps you overly excited and it is difficult to sleep. You have been there before and you know how hard it is to step off that pedestal.



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

This is a time in which your exuberance and enthusiasm may carry you farther than you really intended to go. You will certainly have more energy to do whatever you choose, but take care that you don't promise way more than you can deliver. Your warm and generous heart could get you in trouble.



Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)

Drive and handle tools carefully early in the week. Exercise judiciously. You are likely to be edgy and irritable, thus making an accident of some kind more likely. As the week moves onward, you will feel better.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

Whatever you do to promote healing for yourself and others will be favorable. Now is the time to consider your habit patterns and whether or not they bring you better health, mentally and physically. Don't allow circumstances to pull you off track.



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

You may be changing your mind about your next direction. Read the opening path carefully because it clearly applies to you and your plans. This week Saturn turns retrograde for the next several months. This will reduce the pressure or weight of your concerns. The cosmos allows for a pause while you reflect on potential outcomes.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

This is not a time to be aggressive or attempt to press your way forward. You can only take small steps in the direction of your choice. It is as though there is some invisible element that keeps you spinning your wheels. Go with that which flows easily and take things slowly for a couple of weeks until your path clears.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

You are tempted to abandon a promise or to avoid an obligation that someone lays upon you. Maybe you laid it upon yourself and now wish you had not. You will be dishonoring your spirit if you truly felt the sense of devotion to this promise. But if it was for show, apologize and move on.



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

You are knee deep in concerns and complications. In your heart of hearts, you want a sabbatical and rightly so. The Waterbearers frequently take on too many responsibilities for their own good. At this time in your life it is truly a challenge to uncomplicate anything because everything depends on everything else. Take the best break you can.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

It is probably time to let one of your business situations or associates flow back into the ethers. You may be "ahead of your time" or "behind the times", but somehow this one is out of sync with today's trends. If it seems to you that some minor tweaking could salvage the situation, by all means begin now.



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

This is a powerful time to consider your spiritual purposes. It is all too easy for the maya, the things of the world, to overwhelm every waking minute, leaving no time for the higher goals. If you notice fatigue, disappointment, or depression at this time, stop.

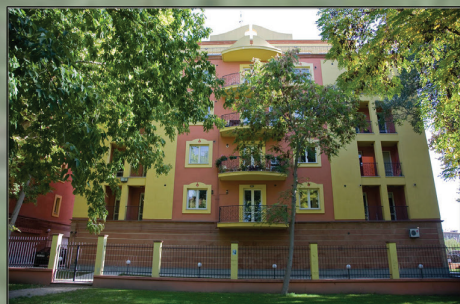


Pisces (February 18–March 19)

Pisces (February 18–March 19) This is a week in which your physical cycle is "off". Don't press your body beyond what it wants to do, just because it could do the same thing last week. Pay special attention to your temporary boundaries right now and in a few days, things will return to your personal normal.

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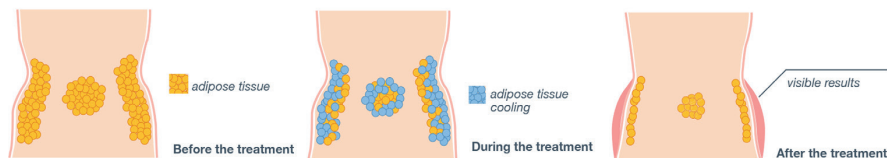
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