

Noyan Tapan

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HIGHLIGHTS

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Krzysztof Penderecki's 80th Birthday Celebrated in His Ancestors' Motherland



On Jan.13 for the third time Penderecki Days started in Armenia with a Youth Orchestra concert. See p.12

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Photo exhibition in Tbilisi on Parajanov's 90th birthday p.18

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Armenia, Cuba willing to expand bilateral cooperation



Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian started his official visit to Cuba by laying a wreath at the memorial to José Martí, a national hero of Cuba.

In Havana the Armenian Foreign Minister was hosted by Vice-President of the Cuban Council of Ministers, Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz. Minister Nalbandian stressed that the visit aimed to reinforce friendly relations and explore new avenues of cooperation.

Ricardo Ruiz briefed Edward Nalbandian on the reforms the

Cuban government intends to implement to modernize the country's economy. He underlined that Cuba was ready to deepen the cooperation with Armenia in the political, economic and other domains.

The parties discussed the steps to be taken to expand the bilateral cooperation in the field of trade and economy, healthcare, education, science and culture.

At a meeting in Havana, the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Cuba Edward Nalbandian and Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla stresses the willingness of the two countries to take practical steps towards reinforcement, deepening and expansion of relations based on mutual respect. The parties emphasized the importance of visa facilitation for the development of tourism.

The Cuban Foreign Minister presented the processes taking place in the Latin American region and the role and approaches of his country.

Minister Nalbandian, in turn, briefed Mr. Parrilla on the priorities of the Armenian foreign policy, the efforts of Armenia and the international community towards the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict.

The interlocutors exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues.

Armenian Officials Warned To Stick To Customs Union 'Roadmap'

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan told senior government officials on January 14 to prevent any delays in the implementation of an action plan for Armenia's accession to the Russian-led Customs Union.

Sargsyan met with the heads of ad hoc "working groups" set up by the Armenian government to discuss measures stemming from a membership "roadmap" agreed with Russia and the union's two other member states: Belarus Kazakhstan. A statement by the government's press office said they briefed him on legislative and administrative changes planned as part of the process.

"Tigran Sargsyan instructed the representatives of state agencies to organize their work in a way that will rule out any deviation from the defined timetable and, in case of the emergence of problems, present them at periodical meetings," the statement said. It gave no further details.

The "roadmap" was approved by the presidents of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan as well as their Armenian counterpart, Serzh Sargsyan, at a December 24 summit in Moscow. Dozens of Armenian economic laws and regulations are due to be amended and



brought into conformity with the Customs Union's legislation as a result. This process is expected to be complete by May, in time for the trade bloc's transformation into a Eurasian Economic Union.

Tigran Sargsyan had repeatedly spoken out against Armenian membership of the union before President Sargsyan's unexpected decision last August to join it. The prime minister defended the volte-

face at a news conference held late last month. He said joining the Russian-led alliance will create "grounds for sustainable economic growth" in Armenia.

The premier cited no figures or growth estimates to back up his assurances, however. His cabinet has made no upward revisions of its mid-term economic growth forecasts as a consequence of the Armenian foreign policy U-turn.

Kocharyan Continues To Attack Armenian Government

Former President Robert Kocharyan kept up his strong criticism of the Armenian government's economic policies on Monday, in a continuing war of words with Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan which is fuelling growing talk of his political comeback.

Kocharyan slammed the government for secretly subsidizing the price of natural gas purchased from Russia and warned that its recent agreement with Gazprom could turn the Armenian energy sector into a "hostage" of the Russian gas monopoly. He also deplored an ongoing controversial reform of the national pension system that has sparked street protests in Yerevan.

In fresh remarks posted on his unofficial website, 2rd.am, Kocharyan remained coy about what many see as his desire to return to power. "I have spoken out and will speak out on pressing issues related to Armenia's present and future regardless of my return to active politics," he said. "I cannot look at problems accumulated in the country with indifference and am frankly expressing my attitudes to them."

Kocharyan went on to launch another scathing personal attack on Tigran Sargsyan, which will be widely construed as a broadside also aimed at his successor, President Serzh Sargsyan. "It is pointless to debate with someone who has spent the past six years constantly justifying his failings with his predecessors' actions," he said. "The main criterion for evaluating the work of any government is very simple: have the people become better off or worse off under that government?"

The attack came just two days after Tigran Sargsyan issued another statement meant to substantiate his recent claims that Armenia's double-digit economic growth during much of Kocharyan's 1998-2008 presidency

mainly resulted from a construction boom which proved to be a "bubble." Kocharyan, who had not spoken up since January 2013, reacted angrily to such claims on December 30, accusing the government of mismanaging the economy.

In a detailed statement released through a spokesman on Saturday, the Armenian premier insisted that the economy became "very vulnerable" in 2004-2008 because of its excessive dependence on construction. "The real picture of the construction sector in Armenia was fully exposed by the global financial cri-



sis," the statement said, pointing to a more than 14 percent drop in GDP recorded in 2009.

The statement also said that despite the sector's continuing decline, mortgage lending in the country has expanded dramatically and become more affordable for Armenians since then. "The total amount of outstanding mortgage loans made up around 141 billion drams (\$350 million) as of November 2013, almost three times the 2007 level of 49 billion drams," it said.

Kocharyan dismissed these figures as misleading, however, suggesting that rescheduled loans make up a large part of the mortgage portfolios of Armenian banks. "If we have so much housing credit why do we have so little construction?" he asked.

The 59-year-old ex-president also hit out at the government's recent controver-

sial moves, notably its gas dealings with Russia. He denounced it for keeping a 2011 sharp rise in the Russian gas price secret until after the February 2013 presidential election. The government cleared a resulting \$300 million debt to Gazprom by ceding its remaining 20 percent stake in the Armenian gas distribution network to the Russian giant and granting the latter unprecedented 30-year privileges.

A corresponding agreement with Gazprom was signed during Russian President Vladimir Putin's December 2 visit to Armenia. The agreement was strongly condemned by the leading Armenian opposition groups. They say that the government lied to the public about the gas tariff to boost President Sargsyan's and the ruling Republican Party's chances in the last national elections. The authorities in Yerevan deny this.

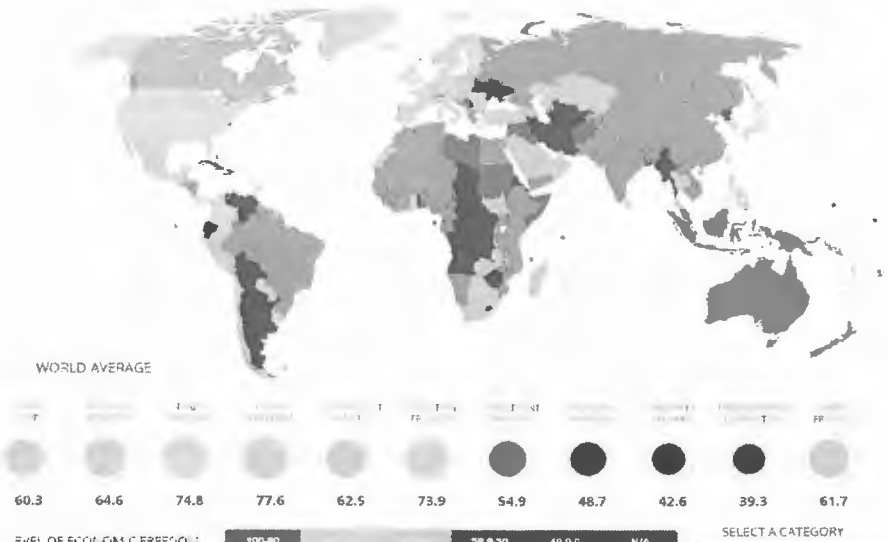
Kocharyan described government explanations as "extremely unconvincing." "It would have been easier to simply apologize," he said, accusing the Sargsyan administration of further under-

mining "the remnants of public trust" in government. "The society is accustomed to the unprincipled behavior of many politicians, but such public 'dexterity' shown by one of the state institutions is shocking," he said.

Kocharyan also expressed serious concern over exclusive rights which Gazprom will enjoy until 2044, saying that they will turn the Armenian government into a mere "observer" in the domestic gas market. "I tried in vain to find examples of similar agreements with natural monopolies in the international practice," he said. "Will the country's energy sector become hostage to this agreement?"

The ex-president himself was criticized by his political opponents for giving Gazprom and other Russian companies ownership of key Armenian energy facilities during his decade-long rule.

2014 Index of Economic Freedom: Armenia 18th among 43 countries in the Europe region



Armenia is ranked 18th among the 43 countries in the Europe region in the 2014 Index of Economic Freedom released by the Wall Street Journal and the Heritage Foundation.

According to the report, Armenia's economic freedom score is 68.9, making its economy the 41st freest in the 2014 Index. Its overall score has declined by 0.5 point from last year, primarily due to combined deteriorations in investment freedom, business freedom, and fiscal freedom.

Armenia is ranked 18th among the 43

countries in the Europe region, and its score is above the world and regional averages.

Over the 20-year history of the Index, Armenia has improved its economic freedom score by 26.7 points, the fourth largest score increase. Recording score improvements in eight of the 10 economic freedoms, including monetary freedom, management of public finance, trade freedom, and financial freedom, Armenia has advanced from economic repression 20 years ago to economically "moderately free" today. Facilitated by the broad advancement of

economic freedom, diversification of the economic base has enhanced Armenia's economic dynamism and reduced poverty.

Nonetheless, substantial challenges remain, particularly in implementing deeper institutional and systemic reforms that are critical to strengthening the foundations of economic freedom. Both the protection of property rights and freedom from corruption are far below world standards, and the legal framework continues to be weak.

For 20 years The Heritage Foundation, in partnership with The Wall Street Journal, has tracked the march of economic freedom around the world with the influential Index of Economic Freedom based on 10 quantitative and qualitative factors, grouped into four broad categories, or pillars, of economic freedom: Rule of Law (property rights, freedom from corruption); Limited Government (fiscal freedom, government spending); Regulatory Efficiency (business freedom, labor freedom, monetary freedom); and Open Markets (trade freedom, investment freedom, financial freedom).

Armenia's neighboring countries and Customs Union member states are ranked as follows: Georgia – 22nd, Iran – 173rd, Azerbaijan – 81st, Turkey – 64th, Russia – 140th, Belarus – 150th, Kazakhstan – 67th.

Azerbaijani side fails to lead the OSCE mission to its front-lines

On January 15, in accordance with the arrangement reached with the authorities of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, the OSCE Mission conducted a planned monitoring of the Line of Contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan in the northern direction of the Kuropatkino settlement of the NKR Martouni region.

From the positions of the NKR Defense Army, the monitoring was conducted by Field Assistants of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Khristo Khristov (Bulgaria) and Jiri Aberle (Czech Republic), as well as by staff member of the Office Peter Svedberg.

From the opposite side, the monitoring was conducted by Field Assistants of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Yevgeny Sharov



(Ukraine) and William Pryor (Great Britain).

The monitoring passed in accordance with the agreed schedule. No violation of the cease-fire regime was registered. However, the Azeri side did not lead the

OSCE mission to its front-lines.

From the Karabakh side, the monitoring mission was accompanied by representatives of the NKR Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense.

Serzh Sargsyan Promises More 'Powerful Weapons' For Armenia



Armenia will boost its military strength in the coming years with new and powerful weapons which many other countries do not have at their disposal, according to President Serzh Sargsyan

Visiting Armenian army units deployed along the heavily fortified border with Azerbaijan on New Year's Eve, Sargsyan also expressed confidence that a full-scale Armenian-Azerbaijani war will not break out in 2014.

A short video released by the presidential press office through leading Armenian TV channels showed him inspecting the army's border posts in northeastern Tavush province, talking to soldiers and officers serving there and handing awards to some of them.

"One or two more years, and you will be able to proudly say that the Armenian army possesses weapons which other states 20, 30 or 40 times our size do not possess,"

Sargsyan said as he shared a meal with military personnel in a tent. He did not elaborate, saying only that "any powerful weapon derives its power from its soldiers and officers."

It was thus not clear if the arms delivery promised by Sargsyan stems from a five-year plan to modernize the Armenian Armed Forces that was adopted by his administration in late 2010. The plan puts the emphasis on the acquisition of long-range precision-guided weapons.

The Armenian military is currently equipped with Scud-B and Tochka-U ballistic missiles that have firing ranges of 300 kilometers and 120 kilometers respectively. It also reportedly purchased in 2011 Chinese ARIA multiple-launch rocket systems with a firing range of up to 130 kilometers. The military makes no secret of its readiness to use such weapons against Azerbaijan's oil and gas installations in

case of a renewed war for Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Soviet-era Scud and Tochka missiles are less advanced than Iskander-M systems which Russia reportedly deployed at its military base in Armenia in 2013. Designated by NATO as SS-26 Stone, Iskander-M can strike targets more than 400 kilometers away and is regarded by military analysts as one of the most potent weapons of its kind in the world.

A Russian-Armenian defense agreement signed in August 2010 commits Moscow to helping Yerevan obtain "modern and compatible weaponry and special military hardware." Armenia relies heavily on this and other security arrangements with Russia in trying to offset oil-rich Azerbaijan's massive military buildup.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev claimed earlier this week that his country has "one of the strongest armies in the world." "Our military might will play a decisive role in a just resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict corresponding to international norms," Aliyev said during a cabinet meeting in Baku, according to Azerbaijani news agencies.

Serzh Sargsyan, for his part, sounded confident that Azerbaijan will not attempt to regain control over Karabakh and Armenian-controlled territories surrounding the disputed enclave in the months ahead. "Rest assured that there will be no hostilities in 2014 as well," he told soldiers in Tavush. "I am sure about it."

"But in order to prevent those hostilities you must stand firm," added the Armenian leader. "As soon as the enemy feels that you don't stand firm problems would arise."

Jailed Kurdish Leader Commemorates Dink Murder

ANKARA-Abdullah Öcalan, the imprisoned leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), has honored the memory of Hrant Dink, an Armenian-Turkish journalist killed seven years ago in an ultranationalist plot. "I greet the memory and the struggle of the precious child of the Armenian people, our brother Hrant," Öcalan said in a message which was conveyed to the public on Jan. 11 following a visit to ?mral? Island by Kurdish members of parliament from the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) and the

People's Democratic Party (HDP).

"I hope to address our Armenian citizens with a comprehensive letter and have it ready for the anniversary of the murder of Hrant," Öcalan said.

Dink, the renowned editor-in-chief of Agos, which has been the voice of the small Armenian community in Istanbul for several years, was shot dead by Ogün Samast in front of his office in Istanbul on Jan. 19, 2007. Samast was sentenced to over 22 years in jail for the murder.



Two concerning survey results

By **Tigran Harutunyan**

President of Noyan Tapan Media Holding

Rating researches among politicians during the elections is nothing new, and have always captured the public's attention, because they enable to compare their own sympathies and antipathies with others, to understand how much this or that political or public figure "progressed" or vice-versa, and how much he enjoys the public confidence, etc.

However, the surveys conducted during election periods have a significant drawback. Politicians' "real" assessments" clearly begin to interfere with certain expectations and pre-election estimates and certain propaganda effect.

Another thing is when surveys are conducted during not election periods. Similar interesting survey was recently conducted in RA. The aim of the survey was aimed at



finding out on the one hand those who are the most influential people in Armenia, and on the other hand those who shape the public opinion in Armenia.

Moreover, the saying "influential people" we mean the people with serious influence and leverage in the state governance, economic and social life and who are able to use these leverages.

The survey was conducted among 1204 citizens in Yerevan city, taking into account the distribution of the different classes and social groups. The survey was conducted by "Noy" company, and according to the company's president sociologist **Gagik Sargsyan**, the survey sample corresponds to the public distribution.

According to the survey, three of the top ten most influential people in the country are the following:

1. **Serj Sargsyan** - RA President
2. **Levon Ter-Petrosyan** - RA 1st President
3. **Gagik Tsarukyan** - Head of "Prosperous Armenia" Party
4. **Gagik Khachatryan** - Head of the State Revenue Committee

5. **Hovik Abrahamyan** - RA National Assembly Speaker
6. **Vladimir Gasparyan** - RA Chief of Police
7. **Robert Qocharyan** - RA 2nd President
8. **Aghvan Hovsepyan** - RA former Attorney General
9. **Sashik Sargsyan** - Businessman (RA President's brother)
10. **Samvel Karapetyan** - Businessman (Russia)
11. **Ruben Hayrapetyan** - Businessman (Russia)
12. **Tigran Sargsyan** - RA Prime Minister
13. **Samvel Aleksanyan** - Businessman, NA Deputy
14. **Mikael Minasyan** - Ambassador of RA in Vatican (RA President's son-in-law)
15. **Armen Gevorgyan** - Minister of Territorial Administration of RA, Vice Prime Minister
16. **Vigen Sargsyan** - RA President's Chief



- of Staff
17. **Karen Karapetyan** - NA Deputy
18. **Seyran Ohanyan** - Minister of Defense of RA
19. **Arthur Bagdasaryan** - Secretary of National Security Council at the President's Office
20. **Vahan Hovhannissyan** - The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Party)
21. **Karekin II Catholicos of All Armenians**
22. **Gagik Beglaryan** - Minister of Transport of Communication of RA
23. **Taron Margaryan** - Mayor of Yerevan city
24. **Eduard Sharmazanov** - NA Vice Chairman
25. **Armen Sargsyan** - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of RA in the United Kingdom
26. **Surik Khachatryan** - Former governor of Syunik region
27. **Ishkhan Zaqaryan** - Head of Control Chamber of RA
28. **Armen Rustamyan** - The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Party)
29. **Gorik Hakobyan** - Head of RA

- National Security Service
30. **Mihran Poghosyan** - Head of RA Compulsory Enforcement Service
31. **Mher Sedrakyan** - NA Deputy
32. **Arthur Javadyan** - Head of Central Bank of RA

Analyzing the survey results, it is possible to come up with some important and interesting conclusions:

First, as expected, the President of Armenia tops the list of most influential people in the country. This is natural, because according to the Armenian laws, a big power is granted to the president, and society traditionally considered the president as the "king" with unlimited authority.

It was a little strange to see the first president of the RA, ANC leader Levon Ter - Petrosyan on the second horizontal, because according to many analyzes, ANC should have been substantially lost its ranking in



last year's presidential elections, as a result of his policy, which was not to run for the presidential elections.

But the fact of the recognition by the society Levon Ter - Petrossian as the second person by his influence can be explained in the following way: during the previous presidential election for a short period of time Raffi Hovhannissian became the publicly trusted opposition force, with whom society had certain hopes. According to the official data, he got one-third of the votes, but at the same time he was not able to justify the trust because of his strange political behavior.

And the opposition-oriented mass again turned their look to Levon Ter-Petrosyan, moreover by not observing him as the ANC party's leader, but as a former "King" and the only "real" opposition of the current government.

Note that Raffi Hovannissian's name was not mentioned in the first three of the ten most influential people list, while less than a year passed after the election.

It is also quite understandable to see the name of the head of "Prosperous Armenia"

party Gagik Tsarukyan on the third place, as being a very influential in our society is often understood as a result of the availability of financial resources, and Gagik Tsarukyan is now one of the richest men in the country, who works hard for constantly reminding the society about himself to keep the attention of the public. One of the TV stations in Armenia, "Center", which is funded by the Gagik Tsarukyan, often begins its news programs by Tsarukyan's meetings with people, or broadcasting about different charitable events, organized by him. Similar advertising reportages about Gagik Tsarukyan are also broadcasted by ARF-funded "Yerkir Media" TV. Thus, Tsarukyan's "influentiality" is constantly propagated and advertised, which gives its results.

The next names on the list, however, give rise to serious reflection.

The Head of the State Revenue Committee Gagik Khachatryan is the fourth on the list, which can only be influential in



the eyes of the public due to the possibility of the position abuse.

Fifth on the list is the second face of the country, the National Assembly Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan, who tries to stay in the shadows, unlike Gagik Tsarukyan, who always likes to be publicly seen.

The names of the Chief of Police Vladimir Gasparyan and the former Attorney General Aghvan Hovsepyan displayed in the top 10 of the list, also shows the public fear of their positions.

Interestingly, the name of the Prime Minister is only the 12th, and the Catholicos's name - the 21st.

Such condition could be reconciled, if accepted, that the presence of the leaders of power structures on the top list of influential people relates not to the official position they hold or relative-friendly links, but more to their human, personal and strong organizational qualities. But, unfortunately, it should be recorded, that it is not, in Armenia influential considered not people, but their positions, such as the President (former President), a rich businessman, the head of the State Revenue Committee, the chief of

Police and the Attorney General and several positions held by people who are in friendly relations with the current president.

In this regard the second part of the above mentioned survey is interesting, where the same respondents made another rating list. It's the list of people who shape the public opinion and towards whom our society feels confidence.

Here's the list:

1. Serj Sargsyan - RA President
2. Aram Abrahamyan - Journalist, Editor in chief of "Morning" newspaper, commentator of "A1+" TV station and analyst of "Horizon" news release at "Shant" TV station, and commentator of "Sunday Horizon" program. Aram Abrahamyan, by the way, was the first president Levon Ter-Petrosyan's Press Secretary.
3. Gagik Tsarukyan - Head of "Prosperous Armenia" Party
4. Nikol Pashinyan - NA Deputy, opposi-



tion figure

5. Artsvik Minasyan - NA Deputy, The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Party)
6. Aleksandr Iskandaryan - Political expert, Head of "Caucasus" Institute
7. Satik Seyranyan - Editor in Chief of "168 hours" daily newspaper, author-presenter of "R-Evolution" program at "Armenia" TV.
8. Hrant Bagratyan - NA Deputy, former Prime Minister
9. Vardan Petrosyan - Actor
10. Karen Beqaryan - President of "European Integration" NGO
11. Naira Zohrabyan - NA Deputy, "Prosperous Armenia" Party
12. Levon Mutafyan - Artist
13. Petros Ghazaryan - TV Journalist, author of "Urvagits" program at "Center" TV station
14. Karen Qocharyan - Journalist
15. Stepan Grigoryan - Political expert
16. Larisa Alaverdyan - Executive Director of "Fund Against Violation of Law" NGO. In 2004-2006 she was Human rights

defender (Ombudsman) of Armenia.

17. Gagik Makaryan - President of Union of Employers of Armenia
18. Stepan Safaryan - NA Deputy, "Prosperous Armenia" Party
19. Arthur Simonyan - Word of Life Church Pastor
20. Ruben Aghuzumtsyan - Psychologist
21. Gevorg Altunyan - Journalist, commentator at "H1" TV Station
22. Komitas Vardapet - Priest
23. Levon Ter-Petrosyan - RA 1st President
24. Levon Shirinyan - Political Expert
25. Zaruhi Postnanyan - NA Deputy, "Heritage" Party
26. Hrant Vardanyan - Filmmaker
27. Hramush Kharatyan - Ethnographer
28. Raffi Hovhannissian - Leader of "Heritage" Party
29. Sergey and Narek - "Armcomedy" program at "Armenia" TV station
30. Armen Rustamyan - The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Party)
31. Ashot Manucharyan - Political figure



32. Aram Manukyan - NA Deputy
33. Cilicia Catholicos Aram The 1st

As it can be seen in the second list, where the same respondents indicated the people who shape the public opinion, mostly are completely new names, which were not in the first, "influential people" list. Moreover, among the people who shape the public opinion are mentioned TV commentators, experts, and even the actor, famous by his sharp-critical monologues.

This means that the people who have the impact on public opinion, in fact, lack of a real impact, and on the other hand, it is true that the real figures in political arena, apart from a few exceptions, do not enjoy the public confidence and can not shape or form the public opinion.

The results of this survey need a deeper and thorough research, perhaps they should be checked by means of other similar surveys, but if we proceed from the published data of this survey, it can definitely be claimed that our society is multi-layered and is in a deep crisis.

Switzerland again urged to appeal ECHR ruling on Armenian Genocide denier

A delegation of the Armenian National Committee of Belgium (ANC Belgium) paid a visit to the Ambassador of Switzerland to Belgium, His Excellency Benedict de Cerjat in the presence of attaché Mrs. Ursina Eggenschwiler. The delegation asked the Ambassador to submit a request of the ANC Belgium to his government in Switzerland to appeal against the ruling of the European Court for Human Rights on the Perincek vs. Switzerland case as of December 17, 2013.

The Armenian National Committee presented to Ambassador de Cerjat the main points and arguments of Perincek vs. Switzerland case on the grounds of which the verdict of the Federal Court of Switzerland was appealed against.

The Ambassador was informed about

the general circumstances of the case, the position of the Armenian people as well as on the necessity for this ruling to be appealed against. It was also mentioned that Perincek went on purpose to Switzerland, to effect his declarations, calling the Armenian Genocide an "international lie", to challenge Switzerland's respective law.

Such a ruling, being the first legal court decision classifying the denial of Armenian Genocide to the right of freedom of expression, on the eve of 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide paves the way, mainly through contradictions and groundless announcements, towards not only anti-Armenian rhetorics, but empowers Turkish extremist movements in Europe and elsewhere, hampering the calls for justice and the

basic principles for reconciliation.

The Armenian National Committee has expressed its readiness to support Switzerland by any means to the process of appealing. Switzerland should appeal against the abovementioned ruling based on its fundamental principles of democracy and justice in order to have the opportunity that such a disorienting decision adopted against the Armenian people to be corrected. Switzerland should protect its legislation from anyone's objectives to provoke hatred and racism.

At the end of the meeting the delegation of the ANC Belgium assured the Ambassador that he will be kept informed on the developments of the issue, expecting that Switzerland will appeal against the abovementioned ruling.

Programme de la première Session de l'Assemblée Nationale (Parlement) d'Arménie Occidentale

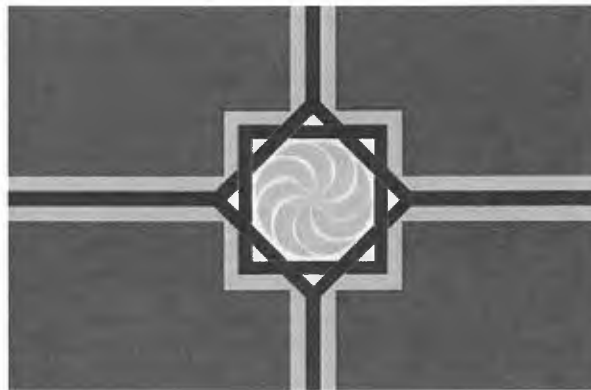
Le Samedi 18 Janvier 2014 de 10h00 à 17h00 : MDA Paris16ème

Ouverture de la 1ère Session sur des questions relatives à la constitution de l'Assemblée Nationale de l'Arménie Occidentale.

Interventions des députés du Parlement et de diverses personnalités.

Le Dimanche 19 Janvier 2014 à 10h00 : Paris 8ème
- Dépôt de gerbe devant la statue du R.P. Gomidas, Place du Canada - Paris
- Messe en l'honneur de nos Combattants
- Dépôt de gerbe devant le monument d'Antranig OZANIAN, Cimetière du Père-Lachaise
- 94ème anniversaire de la Reconnaissance officielle de l'État d'Arménie (1920)

Le Lundi 20 Janvier 2014 de 10h00 à 18h00 : Paroisse Alésia (M4)
Le gouvernement d'Arménie Occidentale en exil et ses prérogatives
Présentation des résolutions de l'Assemblée Nationale d'Arménie Occidentale
Conférence de presse



Արևմտեան Հայաստանի Ազգային ժողովի (Խորհրդարան) առաջին նիստի ծրագիր

Շաբաթ, հունվարի 18, 2014 ժամը 10:00 - 17:00 – MDA16
Առաջին նիստի բացման արարողություն, քննարկումներ Արևմտեան Հայաստանի Խորհրդարանի սահմանադրության հարցերի վերաբերյալ Խորհրդարանի պատգամավորների և այլ անձանց ելույթներ,

Կիրակի, հունվարի 19, 2014 ժամը 10:00 - Փարիզ 8-րդ

Ծաղկեպսակ դնելու արարողություն Կոմիտասի Արձանի մոտ
Պատարագ՝ ի պատիվ մեր մարտիկների և մարտիրոսների
Ծաղկեպսակ դնելու արարողություն զորավար Անդրանիկի արձանի մոտ (Պեղ լա Շեզ)
Արևմտեան Հայաստանի պաշտոնական ճանաչման '94-րդ Տարեդարձ' (1920 թիվ)

Երկուշաբթի, հունվարի 20, 2014 ժամը 10:00 - 18:00
- Պաղոազ Ալեգյա (Մ4)
Արևմտեան Հայաստանի Վտարանի կառավարությունը և նրա արտոնությունները Արևմտեան Հայաստանի Ազգային Խորհրդարանի բանաձևերի հաստատում

Armenians Should Counteract Countless Congressional Trips to Turkey



By Harut
Sassounian

Publisher, The
California Courier

The Turkish government, its lobbying firms, and Turkish-American organizations have spent millions of dollars to take members of Congress and their staffs on all-expenses-paid trips to Turkey with the intent of buying their allegiance.

This is standard practice for Washington's influence peddlers. Understandably, Turkish power brokers would want to sway congressional decision-making, as long as the trips follow proper legal procedures. However, as investigative journalist Shane Goldmacher revealed last week in the National Journal, members of Congress and their paymasters often manipulate the nebulous rules to accomplish their self-serving interests.

Goldmacher begins his article, 'How Lobbyists Still Fly Through Loopholes,' by describing the globe-trotting adventures of a pair of political odd fellows chasing the almighty dollar: "Dennis Hastert and Dick Gephardt couldn't stand each other when they led Congress a decade ago. But now they've moved to K Street, where the flood of money tends to wash over such personal differences. These days, they work hand in hand as two of Turkey's top lobbyists, with their respective firms pocketing most of a \$1.4 million annual lobbying contract." Not surprisingly, Republican Hastert and Democrat Gephardt accompanied eight members of Congress on an "all-expenses-paid journey" to Turkey last April.

The National Journal article covers congressional trips to several countries, including Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Israel. Under the subtitle, 'Turkey Exploits the Biggest Loophole,' Goldmacher discloses the extensive preparations made by Hastert's firm for the congressional trip to Turkey, even though lobbyists are prevented under the rules from planning or paying for lawmakers' visits: "Lobbyists have been intimately

involved in the months of planning for the trip, with dozens of back-and-forth emails, phone calls, and meetings on Capitol Hill. As the trip neared, one lobbyist at Hastert's firm, Laurie McKay, held conference calls and emailed daily with the schedulers of the eight House members who participated: Republicans Virginia Foxx, George Holding, Adam Kinzinger, Todd Rokita, Lee Terry, and Ed Whitfield; and Democrats Sheila Jackson Lee and Chellie Pingree. McKay even escorted three of them to Washington Dulles International Airport and helped them check in with Turkish Airlines."

Ignoring the ban on lobbyists accompanying members of Congress on overseas excursions, Hastert, Gephardt, Robert Mangas, Janice O'Connell, and an undisclosed lobbyist with the Caspian Group joined the congressional delegation in Turkey. Goldmacher explains that "the Turkey trip was sanctioned under a 1961 law, the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act, [MECEA] which allows foreign governments to shuttle members of Congress and their staffs abroad if the State Department has approved the destination nations for 'cultural exchange' trips. About 60 countries have such clearances." Azerbaijan and Turkey are among the 60, Armenia is not! The Armenian government should make the necessary arrangements to include Armenia in the MECEA program.

The National Journal further reports: "A long list of nonprofits supportive of Turkey have paid for congressional travel there." One such prominent group is the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA). Interestingly, besides running TCA as a nonprofit, its president, Lincoln McCurdy, "dishes out campaign cash to pro-Turkey politicians as treas-

urer of a political action committee."

The National Journal's revelations are reinforced by LegiStorm.com, a website that closely monitors congressional travel and finances. It discloses that 615 congressional visits were made to Turkey since 2000, at a cost of \$3.5 million, paid by the following nonprofit organizations: American Friends of Turkey, Council of Turkic American Associations, Institute of Interfaith Dialogue for World Peace, Istanbul Center, Maryland Institute for Dialogue, Mid-Atlantic Federation of Turkic American Associations, Pacifica Institute, Rumi Forum for Interfaith Dialogue, Turkic American Alliance, Turkish-American Business Council, Turkish-American Business Forum Inc., Turkish American Federation of Midwest, Turkish Coalition of America, Turkish Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists, Turkish Cultural Center NY, Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Board, and Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians.

In 2013 alone, 87 congressional visits were made to Turkey at a cost of \$640,000, and 36 trips to Azerbaijan at a cost of \$262,000. During that same period, no member of Congress was sponsored to visit Armenia. Only one trip was organized to Armenia and Artsakh (Karabagh) for California State Assemblymen and Los Angeles City Councilmen by the ANCA-Western Region, in collaboration with the Armenian Consulate.

Clearly, such trips make members of Congress more sympathetic toward their host country. Unless Armenian-Americans and Armenia begin sponsoring similar trips, members of Congress could become more favorable toward Turkey and Azerbaijan, and less supportive of Armenia and Artsakh.

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Helping Create Simple and Efficient Regulations for Armenian Food Producers - a Win-Win Scenario

Interview with Arsen Nazaryan, The Armenia Investment Climate Reform Project Manager, World Bank Group

Frequent, non-coordinated and inappropriately organized inspections were highlighted as number one problem in the Concept on Inspection Reforms in Armenia approved by the Government of Armenia in 2009. Other problems included non-transparent process of inspections, inefficient complaint mechanisms, burdensome regulations, and duplication of functions in inspection process.

Recognizing the need to improve the obsolete inspection system, the Government of Armenia initiated a number of reforms aimed at improving the regulatory framework and legislation in line with international good practice.

Inherited from the Soviet period, outdated inspection system in food safety area hindered development and growth, especially hurting small and medium businesses. The average small business spent the lion's share of its time and resources trying to comply with the exaggerated requirements and specifications during annual inspections, which often did not result in improved food safety, but rather created additional paperwork and increased bureaucracy.

Since 2011, International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, has been assisting the Government of Armenia in implementing reforms in the area of food safety. Noyan Tapan Highlights conducted an interview with Mr. Arsen Nazaryan, the Manager of Armenia Investment Climate Reform Project, World Bank Group, to learn more about the project.

Please provide an overview of the Project's role in food safety reforms currently implemented in Armenia?

The Armenia Investment Climate Reform Project implemented by IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, collaborates with the Government of Armenia to improve the investment climate in Armenia by reducing the administrative burden and regulatory barriers, as well as the time and cost of doing busi-



ness in the areas of taxation, trade logistics, business inspections and food safety. The project is supported with funds from the Ministry of Finance of Austria and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

The food safety regulatory reform component provides assistance in the development of legislation in line with international principles and implementation of the risk-based inspections system in the State Service for Food Safety.

A risk-based inspection system will allow the state agency to identify which businesses pose the greatest safety risks and concentrate their resources on helping those businesses minimize risk.

Please talk about the major results of the work carried out during the last two years.

In regards to the implementation of the risk-based inspections system, the Project helped the Government prepare the necessary legislative ground for the implementation of food safety inspections. As a result, businesses will be grouped into three categories: low risk, medium risk, and high risk. The number of inspections for businesses in the low and medium-risk categories will be reduced significantly, saving businesses time and resources and making the

inspection system more efficient. The inspections will be performed based on newly accepted checklists that streamline and standardize inspection procedures using a comprehensive list of requirements to be checked by inspectors. The new risk-based inspection system requires all documentation to be publically available, making the process of inspections more transparent.

In the area of legislative reforms, the Project helped the Government identify gaps in the existing Armenian food safety legislation in comparison with the EC regulations. In addition, procedures for border inspection of imported food, as well as the draft law on Food Safety and draft law on State Service for Food Safety in line with international good practice, were developed.

How will Armenian businesses benefit from the legislative and inspection improvements that you have mentioned?

These laws in line with international principles will contribute to the improved safety of food produced in Armenia, thus ensuring the health of Armenian consumers, increasing the competitiveness of Armenian food producers and enhancing their access to new markets, both domestic and foreign. Implementing risk-based inspections, in turn, will result in more effective inspections, reducing the time and cost of a running business for food producers. Another important benefit would be the increased accountability of the State Service for Food Safety to the public.

Besides changes in the legislation, have you provided practical assistance to the businesses?

The Armenia Investment Climate Reform Project has published a basic and practical Guideline on the implementation of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and Good Hygiene Practice (GHP) intended for all areas of food pro-

duction. In addition, further to request of the SME Development National Center of Armenia a similar guideline is currently being produced for the producers of dried fruit and vegetables. The guidelines will help businesses comply with internationally accepted minimum requirements on hygiene, thus improving food safety.

Further, the Project trained over 100 businessmen and representatives of state agencies (mostly employees of the State Service of Food Safety) on the requirements and implementation of GMP, GHP, and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) system.

Also, in 2011, in partnership with the Ministry of Finance of Austria, IFC launched its Armenia Food Safety Improvement Project. It aims to help Armenian food producers improve their food safety management systems, facilitate access to markets and build the capacity of local consultants to implement international best practices in food safety. The project has already helped one of the largest juice producers in Armenia implement a food safety management system based on international standards.

In your opinion, should the reforms in the food safety area be a priority when there are many other issues that need to be solved? Why is food safety important when the regulations of many countries where Armenian companies export their products are not very stringent?

Food safety reforms are a "win-win" scenario, benefitting both business and state agencies with efficiencies while increasing public protections.

Food producers benefit by saving time and resources. This helps them expand production and grow. The government benefits significantly from saving resources spent on inspections. Most importantly, all consumers will benefit from the improved safety of food.

The growth of private companies is critical to job creation and economic growth, the key drivers for improving living standards. Therefore, we believe that the faster the efficient regulations in food safety are in place, the better for everyone. The Armenia Investment Climate Reform Project is committed to continue supporting the government in this important endeavor.

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Krzysztof Penderecki's 80th Birthday Celebrated in his "Second Motherland"

The world famous Maestro applauds standing Youth Orchestra of Armenia



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**
Chief Correspondent

Outstanding Polish composer and conductor **Krzysztof Penderecki** is in Armenia again.

Our country holds grandiose celebrations on the 80th birthday anniversary of the world music's legend of Armenian origin. Due to the "Yerevan Perspectives" International Festival, the 15th already, a row of events/concerts will be held in Armenia within traditional "The Krzysztof Penderecki Days" on January 13-16.

At a news briefing held on Jan.13 Krzysztof Penderecki expressed his gratitude for the invitation to the organizers of the Festival and noted he was happy to be in Armenia again. *"This is already my third visit to Armenia which is my second Motherland. I remember all the other festival days held on a high level of performance, with a wonderful audience attended. I am particularly impressed by "Hover" Choir, especially when performing my "Ecloga". I always enjoy coming back to Armenia. I am hopeful I'll pay a visit to Armenia again. My Grandmother was an Armenian. She came to Poland from Isfahan due to certain reasons. I used to go to Armenian Church in Krakow with her."*

In turn, Mrs **Elzbieta Penderecka** stated: *"We are closely connected with the Armenian community of Poland; we receive Armenian newspapers. I see an Armenian sight every time I look at my daughter."*

Especially for the Armenian Genocide 100th anniversary world famous composer who received The Best Living Composer Award, Grammy - for three times, numerous Polish and intl most prestigious awards, orders and titles and who has performed with the world leading orchestras, conductors and musicians such as **Mehta, Maazel, Rostropovich, Bashmet** and many others, and who is an

honorary member of numerous world academies, currently works for creation of a choral work based on the Armenian Psalms. Notably, his Third Quartet is of the Armenian theme.

Armenia, the historical motherland of Penderecki, marked his merits on the highest state level: in 2009 Maestro Penderecki was decorated with the Order of Honor of the Republic of Armenia, and

on Nov.23 2013, during his 80th birthday celebration in Warsaw, on behalf of the President **Serzh Sargsyan** Minister of Culture **Hasmik Poghosyan** handed to Krzysztof Penderecki RA Medal "For Services Contributed to the Motherland" of the I rank.

And in the evening of the same day the series of events entitled "Days of Krzysztof Penderecki in Armenia" commenced solemnly

in "Aram Khachaturian" Concert Hall with the joint performance of State Youth Orchestra of Armenia with its Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor **Sergey Smbatyan** and cellist **Bartosz Koziak**.

The Spouse of the RA Prime Minister **Gohar Sargsyan**, the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia **Hasmik Poghosyan**, Maestro Krzysztof Penderecki with his spouse **Elzbieta Penderecka** attended the concert. Due to offer of Artistic Director of "Yerevan Perspectives" Fest composer **Stepan Rostomyan** the audience congratulated the birth anniversary of the Great

Maestro Krzysztof Eugeniusz Penderecki standing up.

During the concert they performed Penderecki's Serenade for Strings, Concerto for Cello and Strings, Percussion and Celesta, and in the second part of the concert Symphony No.4 "Adagio" was played.

It is well-known, especially for the music world people that it is not very easy to perform Penderecki's works, but that night our young musicians and the soloist did their very best, and the best proof of their "best" was the fact that the genius Maestro Penderecki was applauding them standing and then was "forced" to go down from a "VIP-box" to the stage and thank the orchestra conductor, the soloist and the musicians personally.

*Acknowledgement: Armenpress
Photos by hayyer.com*

This story was written on Jan.14



VivaCell-MTS Starts the Year with Investing in the Nation's Future...

VivaCell-MTS' neonatal care project expands to new regions of Armenia

VivaCell-MTS and BirthLink continue their partnership to improve Neonatal care in Armenia, this time Ararat region

On Jan.10 VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**, BirthLink NGO Director **Kathy Mellor** and Dr **Pavel Mazmanyant**, the Chief Neonatologist of Armenia, visited neonatal departments in Vedi and Artashat hospitals, Ararat region. These hospitals have received equipment for immediate reanimation and warming of sick and small babies, monitoring and management of respiratory difficulties and equipment for delivering intravenous fluids.

All maternity hospitals need essential equipment for saving the lives of the newborn, when unexpected complications occur in pregnancy or the woman delivers prematurely.

This essential equipment is necessary for maintaining the baby's temperature and stabilize or sustain the baby until transfer can be undertaken to a regional center or to Yerevan. Some babies with potentially life-threatening problems, who receive immediate and appropriate care after delivery, may need no further intervention. This equipment can be the difference between life and death.

"In the long-run, the neonatal care project is aimed at the reduction of infant mortality in Armenia. And as an important step in this direction is improved access to medical services in the regions. All hospitals in the regions and capital Yerevan included in the project have been provided with vital equipment and devices. The issue of geographical access persists particularly in the regions, especially those that are socially vulnerable and include the borderland settlements. Too often, taking a newborn to the well-equipped hospital in the capital to provide the necessary care can prove inefficient, because of the loss of time. Project will result in drastic reduction in the rate of transfers to hospitals in Yerevan, which is connected to expenditures. People in the regions should have equal opportunities to receive medical services, especially when it comes to infants," VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** commented.

To remind, for the sixth year in a row VivaCell-MTS together with BirthLink NGO makes efforts aimed at reducing the level of infant mortality in our country. More than 465 million drams have already been invested by VivaCell-MTS for equipping 34 maternity hospitals



throughout Armenia - 12 in Yerevan and 22 in the Marzes.

Every year, more than 4 million infants die in the first year of life. 98 percent of the cases are registered in the developing countries. 65 percent of lethal cases are registered within the first month, with two third of them - during the first week, and more than half - within the first 24 hours after the birth. The World Health Organization says the level of infant mortality in Armenia exceeds the level in countries like US and Great Britain for four times.

And, as usual for these days, on the same day...

Armenia's leading mobile operator VivaCell-MTS announced the number of SMS messages and calls on its network on December 31, 2013 and January 1, 2014

VivaCell-MTS' network handled **4,205,447** SMS messages on December

31, the New Years Eve before midnight, with a further **3,336,833** on January 1, 2014. At the same time, **19,552,223** calls were handled through VivaCell-MTS network on December 31, 2013 before midnight, and another **20,594,997** on January 1, 2014.

In total **7,542,280** short messages and **40,147,220** calls were handled by VivaCell-MTS network on December 31, 2013 and January 1, 2014.

Compared to the same period of the previous year, the number of calls increased by 3.33% and the number of SMS increased by 18%.

VivaCell-MTS wishes all the best to Armenia in 2014.

Well, we the subscribers also wish to Armenia's leading telecom operator, - its staff and General Manager **Mr Ralph Cesar Yirikian** all the best things and further effective and fruitful work in the name of prosperity of our beloved Hayreniq (Motherland).

Congratulations!

On 13 January Prime Minister of Armenia **Tigran S. Sargsyan** handed RA Prime Minister's Memorable Medal to The Highlights Chief Correspondent **Gourgen James Khazhakian**, - for the book on legendary Soviet Armenian intelligence agents Soviet Union Hero **Gevorg A. Vardanyan** and his spouse and colleague **Gohar L. Vardanyan** "*Heroes of Undercover Intelligence Gevorg and Gohar Vardanyan: TOUCHING THE LEGEND, Part II*".



The Noyan Tapan staff congratulates wholeheartedly its long time colleague for his next, already the third Award and wishes him health, happiness and further success in his creative activities.



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FOR SALE

1 ROOMS

- ♦ 683. Argisht street, Glendel Hills, 14/10, 35.4sqm, newly built, euro repaired, gas in the building, permanent water, beautiful view of ravine. Price 45.000USD
- ♦ 667. Nalbandyan street, 7/5, 48sqm, 1room changed into two, excellent state, euro repaired, AC, lift. Price-86.000USD
- ♦ 684. Mashtoc avenue. 5/4, 37.4 sq.m., 1 room, stone building, a need to repair, old tiles, no water and gas, balcony looks at the avenue. Price: 70.000 USD
- ♦ 69. Khajaznuni street. 9/2, habituated. 50.6 sq.m, 1 room, capitally repaired, euro windows, Ariston, permanent hot and cold water, no balcony. Price: 52.000 USD
- ♦ 645. Baghranyan Street, 5/1, 48 sq/m, newly repaired, iron door, euro windows, doors, AC, cabin, water tank. Price: 72.000USD

2 ROOMS

- ♦ 1579 Krtu str. 17/11, 100 sq.m, newly built, 2 rooms, euro repaired, furnished, not inhabited, swimming-pool, tennis court, view to canyon. Price: 270.000 USD
- ♦ 1560 Northern Ave., 10/3 130 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, climate control, parking, windows looking to the Northern Avenue, exploitation rent 28.000 AMD. Price: 400.000 USD
- ♦ 1445. Sayat-Nova street. 5/4, 73 sq.m. 2 rooms, stone building, capitally repaired, furnished, h-3 m. Price: 150 000 USD
- ♦ 1467. Mashtoc av. 8/5 81sq.m. 2 made 3 , stone , special project , old but repaired, always running hot and cold water, looking at the Sun. Price 125.000\$
- ♦ 1440. North Avenue, 3rd floor, 110sqm, 1 bedroom, newly built, euro repaired, furniture, parking, h-3m, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, heating system. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ 1459. Baghranyan Avenue. 5/3, 55 sq.m., 2 rooms, capitally repaired, h-3.8 m, balcony, iron door, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, furniture and techniques. Price: 49. 000.000 AMD
- ♦ 1458. Bryusov street. 9/8, 68 sq.m., 2 rooms, normal state, Baxi system, Czech tiles, showcases, wood doors and parquet. Price 75.000 USD
- ♦ 1469 Tumanyan st. 4/3 50sq.m. 2 rooms, repaired, furnished. Price 47.5mln. AM dram
- ♦ 1357. Pushkin street, 8/6 floor, 77 sq.m., 2 rooms, newly built, furniture, techniques. Price 165000\$

3 ROOMS

- ♦ 2682 Aram Str. 13/6 187sq.m, newly built, 4 rooms, 3 bedrooms, drywall, buclde, 2 open balconies, beautiful view, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 1sq.m 574 000 AMD
- ♦ 2676 Amiryan Str. 16/12 259 sq.m, 4 rooms, 3 bedrooms, N-3 meters, capitally euro repaired, view to yard, concrete floor, heating system, water, gas, AC, underground parking, separate furnished kitchen Price: 550.000 AMD % included
- ♦ 2674 Qeru Str, 17/3 103 sq.m, 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, N-3U meters, elite building, 2 bathrooms, swimming-pool, tennis court, parking (not included in the price) heating, gas, water, AC, sold with and without furniture Price: without furniture 160000 USD with furniture 175000 USD
- ♦ 2747 Northern Ave., 9/8 150 sq m, 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, living-room, open balcony, 2 bathrooms, one with a jacuzzi, furnished, parking. Preliminary Price: 520.000 USD

PREMISES

- ♦ 2474. Koryun Street. 5/3, 100 sq.m., 3 turned into 4, euro repair , euro windows, permanent gas, balcony, 2 AC, opportunity. Price 160.000 USD
- ♦ 2453. Koryun str., 6/4, 100sqm, 4 rooms, euro repaired, 2 lavatories. Price negotiable
- ♦ 2429. Elanalyan street, 10/9, 178sqm, 3bedrooms, 3lavatories, capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price-360.000USD
- ♦ 2393. Moskovyan street, 5/3. 110 sq.m., euro repair, logha balcony 17 sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, cube 700 l, electric heating system, natural gas, Ariston, 2AC, satellite. Price: 400 000 USD
- ♦ 2335. Mashtots Avenue. 4/4, 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, stone building, euro repair, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquet, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 125000 USD
- ♦ 2348. Abovyan Street, 4/2, 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, concreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system, Price: 250000 USD preliminary
- ♦ 2395. North Avenue. 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD
- ♦ 1710. Sayat - Nova str., 1st floor, 420sqm, 2 rooms, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price 1.000.000USD
- ♦ 1727. Baghranyan str., 2 storied, 230sqm, capitally repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ 1725. Hanrapetuyan str., 1storied, 171sqm, 2 entrances, capitally repaired, permanent hot and cold water. Price 500.000USD
- ♦ 1703. Northern Avenue, 9/7, 66sqm, capitally repaired, heating, lavatory, 30000AMD service rent, view to Teryan street. Price 220,000USD
- ♦ 1553. Kasyan street. 170sq.m., working fashion saloon, large windows, facade-15m, 1room+foye, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500 000 USD preliminary
- ♦ 1598. Nairy Zaryan street, 180 sq.m., 1st floor, a working restaurant, hall-100 sq.m. 1st line, repaired, tonir. Price: negotiable
- ♦ 1383. Nalbandian St, cellar + 1 story, 30 sq. m. cellar, 90 sq. m. story, Euro repair, hall, kitchen, lavatory, 24-hour hot and cold water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- ♦ 1603. North avenue, 159 sq.m., 1st floor. Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1 sq.m. 10 000 USD
- ♦ 1588. Tigran Mec street, 256 sq.m, 5/1.2 , trade area, stone building, euro repair, 1st floor trade area - 210 sq.m., 2nd floor 46 sq.m. residential Area. Price: 600 000 USD

LANDS

- ♦ 1756 H. Qochar str. 1000 sq m, 2-storey brick building - 1200 sq m, old repaired. Price: 1.200.000 preliminary
- ♦ 2122. Davitashen, 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- ♦ 1869. Cascade. 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- ♦ 2121. Centre, land-1338sqm, 1100 sqm has permission for building. Price-2million USD
- ♦ 2107 Monument, 2400sqm, permission for building, 2 projects to build 3 storied building, possibility of water, gas, electricity, beautiful view of city and Ararat. Price-500USD per sqm.
- ♦ 1939. Kotayk region, Aghavndzor district. Land 5000 sq.m, suitable for building a resort place. Price negotiable
- ♦ 2011. Proshyan street. Land 400 sq.m. for building a house, privatized, 2nd line/ near the garden/. Price 1 sq.m. beginning from 700 USD

- ♦ 2013. Cascade. Land 1000 sq.m. For public construction needs, First line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price for 1 sq.m. 580 USD
- ♦ 2028. District of Erebuni, Arin-Berd street. Land 2 acr. With a 2 storied partially built building, water, electricity plastered. h=4.20m. Price 1 sq.m, 50 USD
- ♦ 1402. Hr. Kochar St, 1,100 sq. m, personal plot, front -25 m, privatized, empty, possibility for building communications. Price negotiable.
- ♦ 1351. Monument, 2,000 sq. m, privatized, front - 17 m, APZ permission, for social purposes: suitable for a restaurant, hotel. Price negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ 2725. Norik-Marash, building - 733.25sqm, land-620sqm, semi-basement + 2floors, euro repaired, semi-basement is sport room, sauna, summer room, pool, fireplace, 1st floor- sitting room, 1 bedroom, cabinet, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Spanish tiles, 2 AC. Price - 500.000 USD
- ♦ 3348. Blur, Barbyusi. 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, building-700 sq.m, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.5 million USD
- ♦ 3059. Vahagni community, total-1500sqm, building-280sqm, 2.5 storied, newly built, not lived in, 1st floor-living room-44sqm, kitchen, family room-24sqm, 2nd floor-3bedrooms, 3 lavatories, garage for 2 cars, cellar, security system, possible to sell with furniture. Price 490.000\$.
- ♦ 3210 Aygestan community. 2 stories, land: 480 sq.m, building: 310 sq.m, 1st floor is not repaired, garage, 2nd floor: repaired, kitchen, lavatory-tiled, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi system, a place for barbeque, garden, trees Price: 270.000 USD
- ♦ 3292. Arabkir, 2 floors, land - 1200 sq.m, building - 340 sq.m, 4 rooms, newly built, repaired, euro windows and doors, sauna, 2 swimming-pools, 5 bathrooms, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, Jacuzzi, fireplace, laundry room, cameras, 2 satellites, garage for 2 cars, basement, fruitful garden, brick fence. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ♦ 3313. Blur, H. Emin, 3 floors, land - 550 sq.m, building - 450 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 6 bedrooms. Price: 1 600 000 USD
- ♦ 2916. Ashtarak highway, village Nazrvan. 3 storied building. Land 3500 sq.m., building 760 sq.m., euro repair, 3 tiled lavatories, a sauna, billiard, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, garden, pool, garage. The building is ramparted. Price 50000 USD

NEWLY BUILT

- ♦ 74. Cascade, Verin Antarayin. electricity, water, gas, euro window, drywall, no exploitation fees, parking - 15.000 USD. 136-315 sq m. 1 sq m - 1200 USD
- ♦ 107. Monument, Verin Antarayin. inhabited, 8th floor cockdoft, gas, window, street view -1 sq m -1000 USD, city looking - 1 sq m -1500 USD, parking - 4 million preliminary, price: started from 40 sq m
- ♦ 100. Leo str. half basement parking, 1st floor - shops, 2nd floor - office spaces, elevator, equipped kitchen, central heating, water, height - 2.80 m, beautiful view, will be ready to for use at the end of 2013. 60-300 sq m. 16 floors
- ♦ 87. Sayat-Nova street, newly built building Given to the operation in December 2012. Climate control, gas, the fasad sector has 3 bedrooms-188 sq.m, 199 sq.m, 1 sq.m- 1900 USD, 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight- 117 sq.m, 120 sq.m, 124 sq.m, 1 sq.m-1700 USD Price: 1 sq.m- 1900-1700 USD
- ♦ 93. Klevyan street, newly built building Given to the operation in October 2011, gajats, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas supply, the second floor has a parking lot, parking is possible for sale. Price 12 000 USD possible with mortgage, for 13 years term
- ♦ 94. Masiv. Newly built, , coupling, 8 flats, in each cot-

tege 4 flats, total-2000 sq.m, each flat has 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking: 80 sq.m. Price: 160 000 USD

FOR RENT

1 ROOMS

- ♦ 1005. Lalayanc str., 11/5, 1room changed into 2, euro repaired, furniture, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique. Price 600USD per month, 40USD per day
- ♦ 853. Amiryanc street, 10/7. 1 turned into 2, 50 sq.m., euro repair, Italian furniture, bed, utensil, techniques, permanent water, gas, antenna, Baxi system. Price 700 USD, 50 USD per day

2 ROOMS

- ♦ 2037. Baghramyan str., 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, modern furniture, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, AC, technique. Price 100USD per day
- ♦ 2189 Vardanants str, 24/12, 1 bedroom, newly built, 90 sqm, repaired, furnished, with elevator. Price: 450 000 AMD
- ♦ 1961. Tumanian street, 4/2, 86sq.m., 1 bedroom, Euro repair, Euro windows, Furnished, permanent hot and cold water. Price: 1200 USD, 1day: 70USD
- ♦ 2186 Buzand str, 7th floor, 2 rooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, equipped, internet, security system, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, underground parking, beautiful view. Price: 900 USD, 20 000 AMD per day.
- ♦ 2099. Sayat-Nova Ave., 12/6, 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 220.000 AMD, per day - 50\$

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦ 2087 Northern Ave., 9.5, 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 120 sq.m, capitally repaired, , 2200 USD
- ♦ 2021 Teryan Str, building 8, 9/8,9 4 bedrooms, newly built, 245 sq.m, capitally repaired, euro doors and windows, not inhabited, 3 bathrooms, 2 halls, heating system. Preliminary price: 3500 USD
- ♦ 2043 Saryan Str., 24 aptt 8/2 3 bedrooms, 147 sq.m, 2 bathrooms, tiled floors, AC, heating system. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ 2005. Northern Ave., 8/8, 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD
- ♦ 1998 Buzand Str., 9/6 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, water, gas, heating, view to Republic Square, parking, no service fee. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ 2008 Komitas, Vagharshyan Str., 7/3, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired, furnished, heating, 2 bathrooms. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ 1739. Pushkin str. 6/5, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, parking, price: 1600 USD
- ♦ 1723. Northern Ave. 8/4. 3 bedrooms, 170 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, newly built, repaired, furnished, open kitchen, Falkon system. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ 1942. Teryan str., 4/2. 3 bedrooms, 120 sq.m, repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ 942. Teryan str. 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m, concrete, Hgt. 3.50, loggia-2, tile/ital., renovation. Price: 1500 USD
- ♦ 1969. Amiryanc str, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed, climate control. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦ 1967. Pushkin str., 8/6. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ 1966. Ekmalyan str., 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed. Price: 1300 USD
- ♦ 1951. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad. /13, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 122 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, usage fee included. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ 1950. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad. /8, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 163 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, open bal-

conry, view to the garden, usage fee included. Price: 2500 USD

- ♦ 1981. Vardanants Str., 14/14, 3 bedrooms, newly built, 140 sq m, recently capitally repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, 2 bathrooms, 3 open balconies, heating system, beautiful view, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦ 1681 Northern Ave., 6/2 2 bedrooms, 130 sq m, repaired, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, euro windows, AC, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ 1793. Teryan street. 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ 1564. Tumanyan street, 7/4. 110 sq.m., euro reparaire, 2 lavatories, Spanish tyles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.
- ♦ 1720. Amirian Street., 18/10, 2 bedrooms, 190 sq/m, newly built, euro windows, permanent hot and cold water, gas, central heating, 2 open balcony, nice view to the city, possible with or without furniture, parking for 3 cars. Price 3000USD per month negotiable, for long term - 6 months and more.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ 1191 Aygestan, 2 floors, land 350-400 sqm, building - 270 sqm, 1st floor - living-room, kitchen, study, 2-nd floor - 4 bedrooms, bathroom, storage room, partly furnished, summer garden, garage, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦ 1248 Aygedzor, 3 floors, land - 1021 sq m, building - 501 sq m, built in 2008. 1st floor - garage, bathroom, boiler room, 2nd floor - living-room, kitchen, bathroom, 1 bedroom with a bathroom, big hall, balcony, 3rd floor - 4 bedrooms one of which is with a bathroom, balcony. Garden - summer kitchen, swimming pool - half-repaired, entrance from 2 sides, alarming system, security system, gas, central heating, AC, garden house. Price: 8000 USD
- ♦ 1218. Cascade, freeway. 3700 sq m, 3 floors brick building - 1490 sq m, capitally repaired, walls - otto chento, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, heating, gas, Price: 12.00 USD
- ♦ 999. Aygedzor 1st lane, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors - 310 sqm, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, living room, hall, 4 bathrooms, new furniture, equipped, 3 AC, Baxi, sauna, swimming-pool, house garden, barbecue equipment. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ 1094. Noy block, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD
- ♦ 1095. Aygestan, 1 storied building - 105sqm, 3bedrooms newly built repaired, furniture, technique 1 lavatory, garden. Price 1000USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ 1096. Blur, 4 storied building, each floor-160sqm, total-400sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor- garage, sport room, swimming pool, 4 bedrooms, summer kitchen, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, furnished, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 4000USD
- ♦ 1152. Baghramyan, 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, each floor - 200 sq.m, 10 rooms, 7 bathrooms, newly capitally repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, 3 TV, heating system, garage. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ 1197. Blur str, 2 floors, land -779 sqm, building-720 sqm, first floor from the yard, basement on the street side, swimming-pool, sauna, living room, 1st floor - hall, study, dining room, 2 bathrooms, 2nd floor -4 bedrooms, 1 study, 4 bathrooms, barn, no furniture. Price 8000 USD
- ♦ 1096. Blur, Qeru, 5 floors, each floor 160 sqm, land-400 sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor-gym, garage, 3rd floor-4 bedrooms, open bakory, nice view, summer kitchen, fireplace, swimming-pool, 5 bathrooms, Jacuzzi. Price: 4000 USD
- ♦ 674. Antaryan Str., newly built, 4 floors, 320 sq m, euro repaired, 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, shower cabin, heating system, furnished. Price: 4000 USD
- ♦ 721. Blur Qery street, land 150 sq.m., 2 stories+ a cellar, 200 sq.m., newly built, telephone, refrigerator, washing machine, 3 bedrooms, garage, 2 lavatories, a pool, camin, permanent hot and cold water, a cellar is used as a sport hall. Price : 3000 USD
- ♦ 1117. Aygestan, land-420 sq.m., building 646 sq.m., 3 storied, 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, euro repair, new tiles, furnished, techniques. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ 1195. Nork, Armenakyan str, 4 floors, land - 2000 sqm, building-520 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished,

basement, 1st floor-1 living room, study, kitchen, bathroom, living room, swimming-pool, sauna, 2nd floor - 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3rd floor - open balcony, 1 bedroom, bathroom, gym, garden. Price: negotiable

- ♦ 1142. Djrvej, Bagrevand community. 3 storied, land-1000 sq.m., building-700 sq.m., 1st floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3rd floor- resting room, 1 bedroom repaired, each bedroom has its lavatory, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary/garage for 2 cars, parquet, Spanish tiles. Price: 4 000 USD.
- ♦ 1114. Gulakyan Str. in parallel with Baghramyan Str. 3 storied building 500 sq.m., euro repair, 1st floor: sauna, a pool, kitchen, 2nd floor: kitchen, dining room, 3rd floor 3 bedrooms, lavatories in each floor. Price: 3300 USD
- ♦ 1190. Aygestan str, 3 floors, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ 1203. Blur, H. Emin str, 3 floors, land - 550 sqm, building-450 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 6000 USD.
- ♦ 1219. Monument, Aram Cholakyan str, 3 floors, land - 800 sqm, building - 300 sqm, newly capitally repaired, partly furnished, euro windows and doors, 1st floor - 2 rooms, garage, 2nd floor - 1 bedroom, 2 rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathroom, 3rd floor- 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, water, gas, heating system. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ 1085. Aygestan district. 2 storied stone building, land 500 sq.m., each floor 12 X 14, 3 bedrooms, a cabinet, 3 lavatories, a cellar, a sauna, kitchen with cupboards, Baxi system, AC. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ 1139. Komitas, Sundukyan street, 2 stories, stone building, land : 700 sq.m, each floor 185 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, cellar 185 sq.m, , capital repair, Baxi system, swimming pool, a place for barbecue, 2 lavatories, garden, 1 cabinet. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ 333. Nork, 3 storied, 250sq.m, euro repair, 4 bedrooms, 7 lavatory, permanent hot and cold water, central heating, natural gas, garden, pool. Price negotiable.
- ♦ 1014. Nork Marash district. 2 storied, a cellar, capitally repaired, land 567sq.m., building 551 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 1 cabinet, furnished, a heating system. Price 2500 USD primary.
- ♦ 1076. Nork, 2 storied, 220 sq.m., euro repair, in the 1st floor 2 rooms, kitchen, lavatory, in the second floor, separate entrance, open kitchen, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, furnished, view to city, garage, garden. Price: 2000USD
- ♦ 990. In Monument, Papazian street, 2 storied stone building + half-cellar, has mansard, 5 bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathrooms, laundry, permanent hot and cold water, gas, plot of land 250sq.m, the size of whole construction is 370 sq.m. Price 2500USD

PREMISES

- ♦ 1694. Komitas, H. Qochar str, newly built, vitrines, front 20 m, 196 sq m, Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ 1693. Malatia-Sebastia, 4th floor, repaired, stone building, 2 entries, no artificial walls separating the territory, climate control, 2 elevators, storage space at the ground floor, parking, two-sided parking in the street. 1200 sq.m. Price: 10.000 USD
- ♦ 1525. Hanrapetutyan street, 1st floor, 3steps up, h-3.20m, repaired, 1 large hall+3 rooms, 2 entrances, kitchen, lavatory. Price 1400USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ 1526. Byuzand street, 5/semi-basement, 170sqm, 4-5 step down. cellar-50sqm, has 6 rooms, the largest is 30sqm, 2 entrances, 2 lavatories, 6 windows from street side. Price 2000USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ 1528. North Avenue, 9/1, 2 floors, total area 159sqm, 1st floor-66sqm, 2nd floor 93sqm, newly built, euro repaired, has the entrance from the street, security system, heating system. Price 7500USD per month.
- ♦ 1482. North Avenue, 210 sq.m., 1st floor, with 2 floors, h=8m. Price 10.000 USD
- ♦ 1408. Zarobyan street, parallel to Baghramyan, 2 storied, 300sq.m construction, 600 sq.m. land, in a first floor hall and kitchen, in a second floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capital euro repair, gas, baxi system, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, garage, fruit garden. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦ 1438. Komitas, 6 floors, cellar, mansard. Each floor is 120 sq.m., hasa need for cosmetic repair, walls are plastered, floor is leveled, hanging ceilings, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price: Negotiable
- ♦ 1462. Teryan street, 3 storied, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Price: 10.000USD

ANNUAL HOROSCOPE

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Aries:

Your ruling planet is Mars, the planet of war. It is retrograding from now through July 13. During this period it may feel as though you are moving two steps forward and three steps back. There are special challenges and lots of attention needed in the arenas of your primary partnership(s), and clientele. This is especially important in Jan. and March when challenges become apparent. In May compromise and cooperation is mandated lest you and Another separate. Truth telling is mandatory, but make an effort not to be brutal about it. Life is smoother in July-until late Aug. Repayment of debts owed to you is especially slowed in Aug. Sep. brings a welcome change of pace from the clouds of the earlier part of the year. In Nov. you are likely to grab a new career goal and run with it. It is one you have considered all year but couldn't get off the ground.

Taurus:

As we enter 2014, your ruling planet, Venus, is already retrograding in the house that is associated with children, love affairs, and creative work. You are essentially going back over old ground in any one of these areas and forward motion will be a challenge. Perhaps you need to make corrections. Or maybe you need to take a break while internal quarrels work themselves to closure. Anything that is out of order in these areas will wave red flags of "help". Mars is retrograding in the house concerning health, coworkers, rental properties, and pets. Repairs and attention will be needed here. Saturn has been in your 7th house of relationship(s) for 1.5 years and will continue through 2014. It is requiring you to have a sense of purpose and direction in this area. Frivolous relationships will not "work" for you now. Critical times of correction occur in Jan. and May. You will have to negotiate, cooperate, or separate if necessary. You may be "called" back into a former relationship this year.

Gemini:

Given Mercury as your ruling planet, you have three times every year in which you back up and make improve-

ments in an arena you thought was complete. Activities begun after Jan. 24 may require much of Feb. to complete. With this one you will be working on things legal or scholastic. The next retrograde begins on May 18 and concludes the shadow period on July 22. Much of this one is in your own sign, so you will probably back out of previously made decisions here. The third retrograde of the year begins Sep 6 and will be completed early in Nov. Your backtracking will emphasize creative work, your progeny, and perhaps your love life. Watch your temper and your accelerating foot during April, July and Sep. Saturn continues its trek in your 6th house, suggesting the importance of keeping up with exercise and diet routines in order to maintain your health. Right now you are not in your brightest moments of career, but this will begin to change for the better during 2015.

Cancer:

Jan., Feb., and March are months in which your primary focus is on children, creative works, and romantic encounters. This is much the same as it has been for the past year. In latter March much of your focus shifts to matters of home, hearth, and perhaps your family of origin. There may be a startling event near the eclipse of April 15th that causes your attention to shift. From this point forward in 2014 matters of career or life direction take a back seat while you deal with your inner world and family. The second eclipse period occurs in Oct. which may also be unsettling for you. In the Sep-Oct period Mercury will be retrograding in the same territory, causing you to deal with home repairs and "fixing" formerly broken relationships. Give rapt attention to advice that comes your way in Oct. It may be inaccurate microscopically, but if you look at the big picture, this information could help you transform a challenge into an opportunity.

Leo:

Jan 1 bursts forth with a powerful New Moon in your 6th house of work, health, and coworkers. It is likely something will be rearranged in these areas and probably a return to former

conditions that you did not see ahead of time. Much of the year calls for you to correct for imbalances in all areas. Travel, communication, and education processes are emphasized, particularly near early April, early July and early Oct. If your vehicle is an older model, you may be doing multiple repairs. Avoid buying a new one until mid-July. Saturn remains in your 4th house of home, hearth, and family. Elderly homes or people are in need of care and attention. Jupiter, the planet of expansion and hope, moves into your sign for a full year on July 16. This will take some of the clouds away and give you room to breathe. As a rule, Jupiter in your sign is good for your health although it can bring "expansion" of too many goodies in life. Watch your weight.

Virgo:

Your planetary ruler is Mercury and thus there will be three times during the year in which you need to turn around and review. It is generally best not to make big decisions during these periods, but rather to research the subject at hand. The first begins on Jan. 25 and continues through Mar. 16. It will be important to reorganize the details of your life, even to include closets or desks. For you, reorganizing is a way to settle your mind and clear it for projects that follow. The middle retrograde, from late May until mid-July involves rethinking your career or life direction. The third retrograde begins in mid-Sep and requires you to evaluate your financial picture. During the first half of the year you will be really active with friends and community responsibilities. A shift occurs in July and you will prefer to be with your more introverted self. A prime focus on proper and efficient communications or education has one more year and then you will move on.

ANNUAL HOROSCOPE

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Libra:

Your primary ruling planet is Venus and during the first half of the year your co-ruling planet is Mars. As we enter 2014 Venus will already be retrograde and Mars is in the shadow of its upcoming retrograde period. Essentially the first half of 2014 is a time to take good care of yourself and your personal boundaries. Others may be attempting to influence you in ways that are just off center from your intended direction. Libras are most always kind and want to keep the peace. You may be required to tell others to back off in Jan, March, and especially in May. The retrograde planets in your sign suggest going back to the past re: family matters, old history, and uncovering secrets. In Sep. and Oct. Mercury is retrograde in your sign as well, further emphasizing the need to take care of yourself. There may also be repairs needed in your home or property. It will be best to let others come to you rather than putting yourself forward. Preserve income for the future. Scarcity will continue one more year.

Scorpio:

Your ruling planets are Mars and Pluto. Your forward motion will be slowed almost to a standstill during the first half of the year while Mars is retrograde. Respond to what comes to you, but do not go on the attack in any area. Aggression may be harmful to your best interests. Take really good care of your physical self this year. Jan. and March bring challenges in relationship(s). In May you could feel the need to separate from someone or a situation in your life. Mid-July will bring a turning point, a time in which you can see your way to move forward with greater strength. You are going through a long term period of developing a new identity and sense of yourself. It is possible you feel directionless. Your present condition will change in 2015 and life will look much different to you.

Sagittarius:

Your planetary ruler, Jupiter, changed signs in June to Cancer. This is a location which represents happiness and greater control for you. It brings improvements related to loans, alimony, the fortunes of your partner, inheritance, and good instincts with investments. It is possible you will experience challenges in these areas near Jan 31 and April 20. On July 16 Jupiter will transition into Leo and so will the emphasis in your life. Travel, philosophy, activities related to the church and educational processes become the next loci of your attention. The Mars retrograde occurs in your 11th house of community, organizations, and 2nd tier friendships. Some of these may fall away during the first half of the year. In late Sep-early Oct. a favorable opportunity comes in the form of a new lover or a fresh creative idea. You have enjoyed a favored position in your career or life direction for 1.5 years. This will continue for one more year. In 2015 you may become bored with the status quo and be ready for a change, even if it is only to break loose from the normal routine.

Capricorn:

On Jan. 1 there is a powerful new moon in your sign, right alongside Pluto, planet of Mega Power, which has been slowly moving across your sign since 2008. Clearly something new is on your horizon. Stay awake and let yourself be creative. All that power in your sign must be used, lest it make you ill. Pluto will accept nothing less than the truth from you and it demands that you share what you have with others. Change is inevitable. Don't resist it. Pluto continues to do the dance with Uranus on its right hand square as it has since 2010. I could just about list every month, but I will identify the ones which stand out: Jan, April-May, and Nov-Dec. This year is one more year of dramatic change in your life that began in 2008. Multiple areas are involved and there may be conflict all around you. Specifically the challenges point in the directions of your career, your home, family and property, your partner, and your personal health. Fortunately your

friends and the community at large are willing to offer help when and if you need it. Your name is becoming better known.

Aquarius:

Everyone will be challenged this year by the numerous retrograding planets which represent a decrease in forward motion for at least the first half of the year. One of the things you want to finish, but can't seem to complete, is a legal issue that cannot be settled until the second half of the year. Mercury will be retrograding in your sign between Jan 24 - Mar 22. During this period it is wisest not to make a big decision because you don't have all the facts, even if you think you do. This year you are preparing to make a big transition toward a new direction that begins in 2015. You will see the evidence at the end of Aug when it is "time" to complete projects and let go. There could be a sudden "stop" sign at that point. Use caution with your resources all year and save what you can. Late Nov and earliest Dec may cost you. Perhaps that is when you will need to spend money on the upcoming transition.

Pisces:

Neptune is firmly in your sign and is bringing to light any possible health problems. You may have increasing allergies and physical problems with the environmental pollutants. It is possible you have "lost" your internal sense of direction. Even if that is so, give attention to things the people you know are telling you. They will volunteer suggestions without your asking because your talents are so visible. Don't blow them off. You are unable to see yourself clearly right now. Count on those who know you well. Accept the suggestions of those who are straight up and without underlying motives to exploit you. Share your talent and don't buck the system near Jan 31 and April 20. The Powers That Be are stronger than you are. Health issues improve in the second half of the year. Many will adopt pets in the last two quarters. The Sun will shine brightly on your job situation beginning in July.

Photo exhibition in Tbilisi on Parajanov's 90th birthday

By Gita Elibekyan, Tbilisi

An exhibition of photos by Sergey Parajanov has opened at the "Hayartun" Cultura Center in Tbilisi on the 90th birthday of the renowned Armenian film director. Ron Holloway's film "Parajanov: A Requiem" will be screened within the framework of the event.

"I'm an Armenian living in Tbilisi accused of Ukrainian nationalism," Parajanov once said about himself. "Wherever I live, I shoot good films. Even if I'm sent to Africa, I'll shoot good African movies," he added.

Parajanov gained international fame after the "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors" (1964), which won a number of international awards. However, his masterpiece was *The Color of Pomegranates* about Armenian ashug Sayat-Nova. Both films faced severe Soviet censorship.

Famous photographer Yuri Mechitov, who considers Parajanov his first teacher, says: "In reality, no one knows him well: he was an abnormal man, and this was his talent."



Speaking about his house in Tbilisi on a visit to France, Parajanov once said: "I live in my Armenian home in Tbilisi, where I have to sleep with an umbrella as the roof leaks during the rain, but I'm happy as in Fellini's films."

Today Parajanov's house has been renovated, but belongs to one of his neighbors, who bought it from the director's son.

However, more than 20 years after his death people from all over the world still visit the house, although few things remind about Parajanov there today.

The influential Paris-based "Le Figaro" daily calls Parajanov a "super talent," considering him the most gifted director of our times. His name is included in the top 100 of the best directors of all times.

Ara Güler's exhibition opens in Washington

Twenty black-and-white photographs of lesser-known sites in Turkey — the work of Turkish Armenian photographer Ara Güler, — are on display in the intimate exhibit "In Focus: Ara Güler's Anatolia," at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, The Washington Post reports.

A legend, Güler, 85, is called the "Eye of Istanbul" for his 1950s and '60s photos of street scenes that are among the most iconic representations of the city.

The Istanbul native, whose photographic archive includes some 800,000 images, got his start in the 1950s as a photojournalist for *Hayat* (the Turkish "Life" magazine) and went on to a distinguished career that included working at Magnum Photos with luminaries including Henri Cartier-Bresson and publishing his work around the world.

The works in "In Focus" — never previously shown — come from a set of 53 photographs donated to the museum in 1989 by Raymond Hare, U.S. ambassador to Turkey from 1961 to 1965. Hare had a keen interest in Middle Eastern architecture, and the photos were a gift from colleagues when he left Turkey.

Shot at locations across Anatolia, the photographs mainly portray medieval Seljuk and Armenian monuments, along with a few other sites including the stunning



IshakPasaPalace in Dogubayazit, built by the Ottomans in the 18th century.

The photos of Armenian sites, including the 10th-century Church of the Holy Cross on Akdamar Island in Lake Van, are especially poignant because Güler himself belongs to Istanbul's Armenian community.

By the time he photographed the remote ruins of Ani in northeastern Turkey — capital of the Bagratuni Armenian Kingdom in the 10th and 11th centuries — the buildings had badly deteriorated, caused by both natural forces and centuries of neglect. The facade of the crumbling Church of the Redeemer — only half of which remains erect after a lightning strike — appears sur-

rounded by thick, overgrown grasses, as if it had stood untouched for years.

Güler has a distinctive photographic style, and the exhibit treats his photos as "art," emphasizing aesthetic elements such as dramatic lighting, composition, texture and framing. Labeled only with names, locations and dates, the works are divided into four (slightly contrived) thematic sections, each paired with a quotation from Güler and commentary that encourages viewers to contemplate the artistic qualities of the images.

While presenting Güler's photos as art is valid, to a certain extent it removes them from their cultural and historical context. A wide shot of the Church of St. Gregory of Tigran Honents in Ani, for example, shows a deep river valley that snakes between two hillsides directly behind the church. What isn't revealed is that this river forms the boundary between Turkey and Armenia; the border itself is lined in places with mines and has been closed since 1993.

"Nevertheless, even without an in-depth examination of their political and historical significance, Güler's photographs are compelling in their beauty and narrative power. Whether viewed as "art" or "documentation," they capture a moment in Turkey that has long since vanished," the article reads.

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

16 January

19:00 Penderecki- 80: Concert 4 Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall
 20:00 UPrakadUPra Uptown
 21:00 Jazz Trio (Soloist Aghvan) Malkhas Jazz Club
 21:00 Forsh & friends Stop Music Club
 21:00 Suren Arustamyan Special Project Ulikhanyan Club
 21:30 Lupe y la Band Mezzo Classic House Club

17 January

19:00 Report-Public Lecture Naregatsi Art Institute
 19:00 Love Rectangle. Staging director: Ara Yernjakyan Yerevan State Chamber Theatre
 20:00 Live Music Night AMIGO Latino Club
 21:00 Paquito el Fuego. Los Locos & Levon Puchinyan Ulikhanyan Club
 21:00 Voastan hayots Stop Music Club
 21:30 Imagine Band Mezzo Classic House Club
 22:00 DJ Hamlet from St. Peterburg Kami Club

18 January

12:30 14:00 15:30 Little Red Riding Hood. Play for kids Yerevan State Marionette Theatre
 14:00 The Dog and the Cat. By H. Tumanyan. Play for kids H. Tumanyan State Puppet Theatre
 19:00 Aida. Opera in 4 acts. G. Verdi Alexander Spendiaryan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre
 19:00 Love Rectangle. Staging director: Ara Yernjakyan Yerevan State Chamber Theatre
 20:30 Dance Night Friend Barclub
 21:00 Group Fiesta (Soloist Sona) Malkhas Jazz Club
 21:00 Bambir Stop Music Club
 21:30 Hayway Band Mezzo Classic House Club

19 January

12:30 14:00 15:30 The Real Friend. Musical Performance Yerevan State Marionette Theatre
 14:00 Cock-a-doodle-doo. Play for kids H. Tumanyan State Puppet Theatre
 18:00 Honoring Hrant Dink Naregatsi Art Institute

19:00 It Doesn't Matter With Whom. Original "Butterflies Are Free" by Leonard Gershe. Director Lusine Yernjakyan Yerevan State Chamber Theatre
 21:00 Sunday Concert. Jivan Khachatryan & Gentleman's Band Kami Club
 21:00 Sonet Band Ulikhanyan Club
 21:00 Vahagn Hayrapetyan Jazz Trio Malkhas Jazz Club
 21:00 The Birds Stop Music Club
 21:30 Anushik Alaverdyan and Karen Mamikonyan Band Mezzo Classic House Club

20 January

19:00 Aida. Opera in 4 acts. G. Verdi Alexander Spendiaryan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre
 19:00 The Nubar Traditional Song And Dance Ensemble Naregatsi Art Institute
 19:00 It Doesn't Matter With Whom. Original "Butterflies Are Free" by Leonard Gershe. Director Lusine Yernjakyan Yerevan State Chamber Theatre
 21:00 Group Remino and Forsh Malkhas Jazz Club
 21:00 Jam Session With our musicians Stop Music Club
 21:30 Nuance Ethno Jazz Mezzo Classic House Club

21 January

21:00 Jazz quartet (Soloist Zara) Malkhas Jazz Club
 21:30 Free Form jazz Band & Marine Hakobyan Mezzo Classic House Club

22 January

19:00 Wednesday Film Night Series. Namus Naregatsi Art Institute
 21:00 Crossroads Blues Band (Soloist Amiryan Misho) Malkhas Jazz Club

23 January

19:00 Royal Concert. Musical-amusing show. Author and director of the play Ara Yernjakyan Yerevan State Chamber Theatre
 21:00 Jazz Trio (Soloist Aghvan) Malkhas Jazz Club
 21:00 Forsh & friends Stop Music Club

24 January

16:00 Day of Russian Culture

Naregatsi Art Institute
 19:00 Liana Zurabyan, I'm inviting and enjoying. Poetry, Evening of literature and music Maxima Complex
 19:00 Royal Concert. Musical-amusing show. Author and director of the play Ara Yernjakyan Yerevan State Chamber Theatre
 21:00 Katuner band Stop Music Club

25 January

12:30 14:00 15:30 Gndlik-Bokonik (Gingerbread Man). Play for kids Yerevan State Marionette Theatre
 14:00 Little Red Riding Hood. Author: Charles Perrault. Play for kids H. Tumanyan State Puppet Theatre
 19:00 Gentlemen, Everything is Collapsing but We Can Still Live and Have Fun. Pessimistic Comedy. Author and Staging Director Ara Yernjakyan Yerevan State Chamber Theatre
 19:30 The Beautified Project unplugged Concert Ulikhanyan Club
 21:00 Group Fiesta (Soloist Sona) Malkhas Jazz Club
 21:00 Anushik Alaverdyan & Karen mamikonyan Stop Music Club

26 January

12:30 14:00 15:30 The Tailless Fox. Hovhannes Tumanian Yerevan State Marionette Theatre
 14:00 Sweet Bite Operation. Play for kids H. Tumanyan State Puppet Theatre
 16:00 Magic Ball. Children's Musical Yerevan State Chamber Theatre
 19:00 A Man is Required. Original "Jan and Beatrice" by Carol Freshett. Director of the play Lusine Yernjakyan Yerevan State Chamber Theatre
 19:30 The Beautified Project Ulikhanyan Club
 21:00 Vahagn Hayrapetyan Jazz Trio Malkhas Jazz Club
 21:00 Madhouse blues band Stop Music Club

27 January

19:00 Concert dedicated to Mikayel Tariverdiev Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall
 21:00 Group Remino and Forsh Malkhas Jazz Club
 21:00 Jam session With our musicians Stop Music Club



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