

New Armenian Speaker Elected



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Karabakh has a system of government based on European values: President

On April 25 President Serzh Sargsyan took part in the second-day session of the Eastern Partnership Summit in the Czech Republic. At the summit, the president made a statement.

Statement by the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan at the High-level Meeting on the 5th Anniversary of the Eastern Partnership

Dear Colleagues,

Armenia is interested in the further development of the Eastern Partnership format. It should continue to serve its major objective - united Europe that is free of dividing lines, stable and prosperous. It is important for the Eastern Partnership to be responsive to the vital interests of all the participating states. For Armenia it is first of all the unblocking of the closed border with Turkey.

It is an unfortunate reality that there is still no full-fledged collaboration between the partner states. Sometimes, we not only evade cooperation to achieve shared objectives but even display enmity and hatred towards each other. Yesterday's statement by the President of Azerbaijan is the striking illustration of my words. Of course, his absence from today's session deprives me of an opportunity to touch upon his speech in details. Instead of speaking about present day's numerous issues he tried to assume the role of Turkey's advocate. Instead of making a constructive proposal on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict he touched upon the four twenty one-year-old UN Security Council resolutions whose implementation had been brought about an abortion by Azerbaijan at that time.

The peaceful settlement of the conflicts in the European continent is of primary importance for the peace and prosperity. The settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains to be of vital importance for Armenia.

It is a matter of plain fact that Nagorno Karabakh has got a system of government based on the European values and corresponding to the democratic principles. It is long overdue to affirm de jure the factual exercise of the Artsakh people's right to self-determination.



Honorable friends,

Assessing the road covered by the Eastern Partnership we can note that at the end of the day it was successful. As I said on numerous other occasions, it first of all provided the partner countries with an opportunity to coordinate and expand their domestic reforms. We have grounded it in shared values and consolidated the foundation for our collaboration.

Over the past five years Armenia and the European Union have done an extensive work: our political dialogue has been consolidated, we have taken joint efforts at responding to multifarious challenges. We have agreed upon and applied a visa-facilitation mechanism, which is one among the first tangible outcomes of our partnership.

Armenia has got an opportunity to participate in different EU programs and thus enlarged the framework of its sectoral cooperation. We are committed to taking further steps with our EU partners in order to form a new legal foundation regulating our relations, which on one hand will reflect the contents of Armenia's preceding discussions with the EU, and on the other hand will be compatible with other formats for cooperation.

It is our conviction that none of the partner countries should be forced to pay a price for the decision it makes regarding its participation level in this or that integration process. We do not want to make a choice between friends, but we want to have as many friends as possible.

I believe that we have chosen the right path. The Eastern Partnership is not solely about an association agreement. It is basically an instrument. When we declared our approach of "both... and..." we meant an opportunity that envisages alternative, and not a choice of this or that instrument of cooperation. I am confident that if we continue to abide by shared values and respect each other's decisions and choice our cooperation will proceed by the right path.

We sincerely believe that only through the avenue of cooperation and joint steps it is possible to materialize the vision of the united Europe in peace and prosperity.

In the end, I would like to note once again that the Eastern Partnership had some problems in its formation period yet. Particularly, the criterion of grouping partners was not clear: the countries differed in their approaches, their goals and I think that this is the reason that at least of the Eastern Partnership's components - the regional cooperation component - was doomed to failure. I still do not understand the criterion of grouping Armenia and Azerbaijan into one partnership - different opportunities, different approaches, different goals - and this is the reason that component did not work. I am confident that in any case the partnership will continue and I am sure that there will be difficulties as they exist today, but I am also confident that all those difficulties will be addressed by peaceful means.

I thank you.

Obama once again fails to recognize the Armenian Genocide

Statement by US President Barack Obama on Armenian Remembrance Day



Today we commemorate the Meds Yeghern and honor those who perished in one of the worst atrocities of the 20th century. We recall the horror of what happened ninety-nine years ago, when 1.5 million Armenians were massacred or marched to their deaths in the final days of the Ottoman Empire, and we grieve for the lives lost and the suffering endured by those men, women, and children. We are joined in solemn commemoration by millions in the United States and across the world. In so doing, we remind ourselves of our shared commitment to ensure that such dark chapters of human history are never again repeated.

I have consistently stated my own view of what occurred in 1915, and my view has not changed. A full, frank, and just acknowledgement of the facts is in all of our interests. Peoples and nations grow stronger, and build a foundation for a more

just and tolerant future, by acknowledging and reckoning with painful elements of the past. We continue to learn this lesson in the United States, as we strive to reconcile some of the darkest moments in our own history. We recognize and commend the growing number of courageous Armenians and Turks who have already taken this path, and encourage more to do so, with the backing of their governments, and mine. And we recall with pride the humanitarian efforts undertaken by the American Committee for Syrian and Armenian Relief, funded by donations from Americans, which saved the lives of countless Armenians and others from vulnerable communities displaced in 1915.

As we honor through remembrance those Armenian lives that were unjustly taken in 1915, we are inspired by the extraordinary courage and great resiliency of the Armenian people in the face of such tremendous adversity and suffering. I applaud the countless contributions that Armenian-Americans have made to American society, culture, and communities. We share a common commitment to supporting the Armenian people as they work to build a democratic, peaceful, and prosperous nation.

Today, our thoughts and prayers are with Armenians everywhere, as we recall the horror of the Meds Yeghern, honor the memory of those lost, and reaffirm our enduring commitment to the people of Armenia and to the principle that such atrocities must always be remembered if we are to prevent them from occurring ever again.

ANCA: President Obama continues to outsource his policy on the Armenian Genocide



Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Executive Director Aram Hamparian issued the following statement regarding President Obama's April 24th "Armenian Remembrance Day" message, which once again stops short of properly characterizing the crime as 'genocide.'

"President Obama continues to outsource his policy on the Armenian

Genocide, effectively granting Turkey a veto over America's response to this crime against humanity."

"It's a sad spectacle to see our President, who came into office having promised to recognize the Armenian Genocide, reduced to enforcing a foreign government's gag-rule on what our country can say about a genocide so very thoroughly documented in our own nation's archives."

"The fact remains that any durable improvement in Armenian-Turkish relations will require that Ankara end its denials, accept its moral and material

responsibilities, and agree to a truthful and just international resolution of this still unpunished crime against all humanity."

"While we do note that the President chose to join in today's national remembrance, we remain profoundly disappointed that he has, once again, retreated from his own promises and fallen short of the principled stand taken by previous presidents. For our part, we remain committed to aligning U.S. policy on the Armenian Genocide - and all genocides - with the core values and humanitarian spirit of the American people."

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Turkey's Erdogan appeals to Armenians

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan offered on April 23 first-ever condolences to the descendants of some 1.5 million Armenians massacred in the Ottoman Empire during World War I, signaling a further softening of Turkey's decades-long genocide denial.

"The incidents of the First World War are our shared pain," Erdogan said in a landmark statement issued ahead of the 99th anniversary of the genocide that will be marked by Armenians around the world on Thursday.

"It is our hope and belief that the peoples of an ancient and unique geography, who share similar customs and manners will be able to talk to each other about the past with maturity and to remember together their losses in a decent manner.

"And it is with this hope and belief that we wish that the Armenians who lost their lives in the context of the early 20th century rest in peace, and we convey our condolences to their grandchildren," added the statement released in eight languages, including Armenian.

But while acknowledging that April 24 "carries a particular significance" for the Armenians, Erdogan implicitly stood by Ankara's denial of a premeditated government effort to wipe out the Armenian population of Ottoman Turkey. He said that many Turkish, Kurdish and Arab subjects of the crumbling empire also died during the war.

"Certainly, neither constructing hierarchies of pain nor comparing and contrasting suffering carries any meaning for those who experienced this pain themselves ... It is a duty of humanity to acknowledge that Armenians remember the suffering experienced in that period,

just like every other citizen of the Ottoman Empire," Erdogan said.

Even so, the statement represents a major change in a policy of aggressive genocide denial that has been pursued by successive Turkish governments. They have for decades insisted that Armenians died in much smaller numbers and as a result of civil strife. Some Turkish leaders, including Erdogan, have even alleged that it was Armenians who massacred Turks.

"In 1915 and before that, it was the Armenian side that pursued a policy aimed at exterminating our people, which led to hunger, misery and death," the Turkish premier declared in March 2010. He has reacted furiously to resolutions by foreign parliaments and U.S. congressional committees recognizing the Armenian genocide.

Ankara appeared to have begun softening its hard line on the issue two years ago. Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said in February 2012 that the Turkish state is ready to "share the pain" of the Armenians.

Significantly, Erdogan implied on Wednesday that his government will not crack down on a growing number of Turks who publicly acknowledge the genocide and urge Ankara to do the same. "Some may perceive this climate of freedom in Turkey as an opportunity to express accusatory, offensive and even provocative assertions and allegations," he said. "Even so, if this will enable us to better understand historical issues with their legal aspects and to transform resentment to friendship again, it is natural to approach different discourses with empathy and tolerance and expect a similar attitude from all sides."



In that regard, Erdogan renewed his calls for the creation of a commission of Armenian, Turkish and international historians that would look into the events of 1915 "in a scholarly manner."

Erdogan had first proposed such a study in a 2005 letter to then Armenian President Robert Kocharyan. The latter effectively rejected the idea as a ploy designed to keep more countries from recognizing what many historians regard as the first genocide of the 20th century.

However, Armenia's current President Serzh Sarkisian seemed to have accepted it shortly after succeeding Kocharyan in 2008. U.S.-brokered normalization agreements signed by Ankara and Yerevan in 2009 envisaged the creation of a Turkish-Armenian "subcommission" on historical issues.

The Turkish government has since made parliamentary ratification of the two protocols conditional on a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict acceptable to Azerbaijan. Erdogan reaffirmed this linkage during an April 7 visit to Baku.

Erdogan statement hailed by West, dismissed by Armenia

Official Yerevan dismissed on Thursday Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's condolences extended to the descendants of Armenians massacred in the Ottoman Empire, saying that Ankara is simply switching to a "more sophisticated" tactic of genocide denial.

Erdogan's unprecedented statement was welcomed by the United States and the European Union, however, with the

U.S. State Department calling it "historic."

"We welcome Prime Minister Erdogan's historic public acknowledgement of the suffering that Armenians experienced in 1915," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told a daily news briefing in Washington late on Wednesday.

"We believe this is a positive indica-

tion that there can be a full, frank, and just acknowledgement of the facts, which we hope will advance the cause of reconciliation between Turks and Armenians," Psaki said.

Stefan Fuele, the EU's enlargement commissioner, also praised the Turkish premier. "Reconciliation is key EU value. Hope steps in this spirit will follow,"

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US Congressmen pay tribute to the memory of Armenian Genocide victims



The delegation of US Congressmen visited the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial on April 24 to pay tribute to the memory of the Armenian Genocide victims.

"The reason our delegation is here is to recognize the Armenian Genocide. We are here for that reason 99 years after the tragedy," Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives Ed Royce told reporters.

The Congressman reminded that US President Ronald Reagan recognized the Armenian Genocide. "It is something the Americans know. It is in our textbooks, it is taught to our children in the schools. There is a reason why this lesson is so important and is taught in the United States," he said.

"It is very difficult for the world to accurately assess the future, if a wrong evaluation is given for the past. It is therefore important to speak honestly about the Armenian Genocide of 1915. It was the first genocide of the previous century. Adolf Hitler, when planning the second genocide - the Holocaust, mentioned: and who remembers the annihilation of the Armenian people? We remember and we are here to express our solidarity and support to the Armenian people," said Royce.

U.S. Representative David Cicilline (D-RI) said, in turn, it's an honor for him to be here on this day. "This was a very solemn occasion to be here both to acknowledge the genocide and the slaughter of 1.5 million martyrs and to bring the world's attention to this historical fact, and also to honor the resilience of the Armenian people, the strength of this country," he said.

"We are here not only to honor and remember this horrific moment in Armenian history, in world history, but also to commit ourselves to working together to ensure that Armenia remains a strong and vibrant country," Rep. Cicilline said.

Rep. Eliot Engel said "the American people acknowledge the Armenian Genocide." He voiced hope that the Turkish government would also recognize the Armenian Genocide. "There is a very strong and vibrant Armenian American community stretching from California to New York and all the states in the middle, and the American Armenian community has been very vocal, very positive and very effective in letting all Americans know about the Armenian Genocide," he added.

"When we look to the future, we have to learn from the past, and the past has to be acknowledged. It cannot be denied; truth and facts cannot be denied. We are here today to acknowledge the past, to express our condolences to the Armenian people and to let you know that the United States stands with the people in Armenia in condemning this horrific genocide that happened nearly a hundred years ago," the Congressman said.

"I am honored to be here today with a strong delegation of Members of Congress of the United States," US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern said. "I'm here today on behalf of President Obama and Secretary Kerry to honor the victims of the tragedy of 1915.

"In a few hours President Obama will make his statement on Remembrance Day. And I'm confident that once again President Obama will honor the memory of 1.5 million Armenians massacred and marched to their death on the final days of the Ottoman Empire. "I'm confident that he will again condemn these massacres as one of the worst atrocities of the 20th century," Ambassador Heffern said.

"The President's statement will be a strong statement that acknowledges the facts of what happened between 1915 and 1923," he added.

The US Congressmen planted fir trees in the Memory Alley of Tsitsernakaberd.

Erdogan statement hailed by West, dismissed by Armenia

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Fuele wrote on his Twitter page.

In his unprecedented statement issued ahead of the 99th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, Erdogan admitted that Armenians suffered "inhumane consequences" during their "relocation" ordered by the Ottoman government. But he seemed to equate their suffering to the wartime deaths of many Turks and other Muslim peoples of the crumbling empire.

Erdogan also spoke out against "using the events of 1915 as an excuse for hostility against Turkey," an apparent reference to the decades-long Armenian campaign for international recognition of the genocide.

Not surprisingly, reactions to his appeal from Armenia and its worldwide Diaspora were overwhelmingly negative. President Serzh Sargsyan's chief of staff, Vigen Sargsyan, called it "yet another, probably more sophisticated manifestation" of the Turkish policy of genocide denial.

"Turkey is required to do something else: to recognize history and unequivocally condemn its crimes. That is called repentance in Christianity," Vigen Sargsyan told the official Armenpress news agency.

Sargsyan brushed aside Erdogan's calls for a Turkish-Armenian dialogue on the sensitive issue. He pointed to Ankara's refusal to unconditionally implement the 2009 Turkish-Armenian normalization agreements that implicitly envisaged a joint examination of the 1915 events.

Armenian Diaspora groups and, in particular, influential lobbying groups in the United States also scoffed at Erdogan's condolences. "While this statement is the first of its kind, it falls far short of acknowledging the Armenian Genocide and simultaneously adds to the layers of denial that have emanated from official Ankara," the Armenian Assembly of America said in a statement.

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) likewise accused Ankara of "repackaging its genocide denials."

Serzh Sargsyan reaffirms plans for closer ties with U.S.

Armenia remains committed to stepping up its cooperation with the United States in various areas, President Serzh Sarkisian told visiting members of the U.S. House of Representatives on April 24.

The 4-member congressional delegation headed by Ed Royce, the pro-Armenian chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, arrived in Yerevan late Wednesday on a three-day visit involving meetings with Armenian officials, businesspeople, pundits and civil society members. It also took part in official ceremonies marking the 99th anniversary of the Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey.

Serzh Sargsyan praised the U.S. lawmakers for their participation and again thanked the United States for its large-scale economic assistance and "active engagement on issues vital to Armenia." "Serzh Sargsyan assured the U.S. Congress members that Armenia is determined to continue deepening and developing Armenian-American bilateral relations," the presidential press office said in a statement.

According to the statement, the meeting focused on Armenia's foreign policy priorities and "regional issues and challenges." It did not elaborate.

In a July 2013 letter to U.S. President Barack Obama, Sarkisian said that U.S.-Armenian relations are now closer than ever before and serve as a "strong prerequisite" for Armenia's security and economic development.

He sent the message less than two months before unexpectedly deciding to make Armenia part of a new Russian-led alliance of ex-Soviet states. John Heffern, the U.S. ambassador in Yerevan, said afterwards that Sarkisian's U-turn will have no fundamental impact on U.S.-Armenian ties.

"We want to strengthen Armenia economically," Royce told reporters after the talks with the Armenian president. The Republican congressman said that he and his three colleagues, all of them Democrats, are exploring ways of facilitating U.S. investments in the Armenian economy.

Royce spoke as the congressional delegation visited the Tsitsernakabert memorial in Yerevan during the annual remembrance of 1.5 million Armenians massacred in the Ottoman Empire. The lawmakers laid flowers, toured the adjacent genocide museum and planted symbolic trees in the memorial complex.

"The reason we are here today is to memorialize the Armenian genocide," said Royce. "We feel that it is very hard for the world to get the future right if we get the past wrong. So it is important that we speak frankly about the genocide of 1.5 million Armenians in 1915. That was the first genocide of the last century.

"As Hitler said when he was planning the second genocide, the Holocaust, 'Who speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenian people?' Well, we speak today of the annihilation of the Armenian people."



Royce is known as a strong supporter of official U.S. recognition of the Armenian genocide, having co-headed the Congressional Armenian Caucus until being elected as chairman of the House committee in 2012. Two of the other congressmen visiting Armenia, Eliot Engel and David Cicilline, are also affiliated with the bipartisan grouping.

Royce, whose California constituency has many ethnic Armenian voters, has co-sponsored several genocide resolutions in the House of Representatives. None of them was adopted by the full House.

The current House speaker, John Boehner, reportedly assured Turkish leaders in Ankara earlier this month that pro-Armenian legislators will fail to push through genocide bills anytime soon.

Royce declined to comment on Boehner's stance. He emphasized instead the fact that the late U.S. President Ronald Reagan officially recognized the genocide in 1981.

Armenia Remembers Genocide Victims

Tens of thousands of people joined by Armenia's top political and spiritual leaders visited the Tsitsernakabert memorial in Yerevan on Thursday to mark the 99th anniversary of the start of the Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey.

An incessant stream of mourners marched to the hilltop memorial and laid flowers by its eternal fire throughout the day in the annual remembrance of 1.5 million Armenians massacred during World War I.

As always, the silent procession began after a prayer service led by Catholicos Garegin II, the supreme head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, in the presence of President Serzh Sargsyan and other top state officials.

"Today we bow to the memory of the innocent victims of the Armenian Genocide," Sargsyan said in a written

address to the nation issued on the occasion.

"They were killed simply because they were Armenians," he said. "The crime designed minutely and in advance pursued a clear goal: to take possession of the home country, the property and the millennium-old heritage by exterminating the native people living there. By this they committed a monstrous crime seeking to once and forever annihilate Armenians as a political factor."

"In contrast to the past, we are ready to confront such calamities both psychologically and in terms of an organization degree especially in our homeland. Nowhere in the world is as safe for an Armenian as it is under the auspices of his own state," added the Armenian leader.

Serzh Sargsyan asserted at the same time that the Armenian genocide remains "alive" because of its "utter denial" by Turkey, the

successor state to the Ottoman Empire. "We are convinced that the denial of a crime constitutes the direct continuation of that very crime," he said. "Only recognition and condemnation can prevent the repeat of such crimes in the future."

That the mass killings and deportations, which began with the arrest on April 24, 1915 of several hundred Armenian intellectuals in Constantinople, constituted genocide is acknowledged by many Western historians. The parliaments of about two dozen countries, including France, Italy and Russia, have passed resolutions recognizing the genocide.

Successive Turkish governments have claimed, however, that Armenians died in smaller numbers and as a result of internal strife, rather than a genocidal government policy.

Yerevan 'committed' to NATO ties



Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan reaffirmed on April 23 Armenia's stated commitment to continue deepening ties with NATO even after its forthcoming accession to a Russian-led alliance of ex-Soviet states.

"Our relations with NATO are continuous," Ohanyan said after talks with his visiting Lithuanian counterpart, Juozas Olekas. "We remain committed to cooperation in the agreed areas. We will take those measures in full."

Speaking at a joint news conference, Olekas said Lithuania, which joined NATO a decade ago, strongly supports growing cooperation between the U.S.-led alliance and Armenia. He said it should not be affected by NATO's recent decision to freeze cooperation with Russia because of the Russian "aggression" against Ukraine.

NATO's ties with Yerevan have been developing in accordance with an Individual Partnership Action Plan repeatedly updated in recent years. The cooperation framework envisages, among other things, Armenia's participation in NATO-led multinational missions and sweeping reforms of its armed forces.

Ohanyan's first deputy, Davit Tonoyan, briefed members NATO's Political and Partnership Committee on those reforms at a meeting in Brussels held on April 14. The Armenian Defense Ministry said the NATO officials praised progress made by Yerevan in boosting the civilian oversight over the Armenian army.

As part of those reforms, the Armenian military is steadily increasing the number of its non-commissioned officers serving on a contractual basis. Military instructors from the United States and Britain have trained dozens of such servicemen.

New Armenian Speaker Elected

The National Assembly voted overwhelmingly to elect Galust Sahakyan, the longtime parliamentary leader of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), as its new speaker on April 29.

Sahakyan, whose candidacy for the vacant post was proposed by President Serzh Sargsyan, was backed 103 members of the 131-seat parliament. His sole challenger, maverick opposition deputy Hrant Bagratyan, received only 3 votes.

The vast majority of other opposition lawmakers boycotted the vote in line with separate decisions made by the Armenian National Congress (ANC), the Heritage party and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun).

By contrast, most deputies from the opposition-leaning Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP), the second largest parliamentary force, joined their pro-government colleagues in voting for



Sahakyan. One of them, Karo Karapetyan, said of the new speaker, "He is a wonderful person. I love and respect him a lot."

The BHK chose to effectively back Sahakyan despite having increasingly cooperated with the established opposition forces in recent months. Naira Zohrabyan, a senior PAP lawmaker, said members of her parliament faction were given a free vote because the four parties did not formulate a common position on the new speaker.

Sahakyan thanked his PAP backers as well as President Sargsyan and fellow Republicans after the announcement of the vote results. "I like fighting and have always achieved success in my life through fighting," the 66-year-old declared.

The previous parliament speaker, Hovik Abrahamyan, was appointed Armenia's prime minister earlier this month. He too is a senior member of the ruling PAP.





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1 ROOM

w1696.**Tumanyan str.**, 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 160.000 USD.

w1726.**Khorenatsi str.**, 4/4, 35sq.m., 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 55.000 USD.

w1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m, euro repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 350.000 USD.

w1715-**Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD

w1680-**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.

w1674.**Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor, 70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD

w1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

w1560.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.

w2818.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished. Price: 400.000 USD

w1156.**Komitas Ave.**, Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, kitchen is furnished. Price: 150.000 USD negotiable..

w2949.**Aram str.**, Newly built, 1st floor, 143 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, zero state, Price: 2000 USD per sq.m.

w2300.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.

3 ROOMS

w2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built, 13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capially repaired, heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.

w2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building, 4 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.

w2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable

w2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, AC, security system. Price: 320.000 USD.

w1104.**Komitas Ave.**, Aram Khachatryan str., 5/2, 125sq.m., stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD

w2950.**Aram str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 176 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, office, zero state, Price: 310.000 USD

w2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4, 5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.

PREMISES

w1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement,

capially repaired, parkings.

Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable
w1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capially repaired. Price: negotiable.

w1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.

w2035.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable

w2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable

w2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable

w2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking. Price: 3.600.000 USD

w2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m, without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable

w1986.**Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.

w2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq.m, capially repaired. Price: 200.000 USD

LANDS

w2122.**Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.

w2121.**Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m., building permits. Price: 2million USD.

w2013.**Cascade**. 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 460.000 USD

w1402.**Hr. Kochar Str**, 1100 sq. m., facade - 25 m. Price negotiable.

w2090.**Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000 USD.

w2406.**Avan**, Mher Mkrtchyan block, 1000 sq.m., electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price: 30USD per sq.m

w2310.**Monument, Babayan str**, 1000 sq. m, facade-25m, privatized, Price: 350 USD negotiable

w2107.**Monument**, 2400sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: 400 USD per sq.m.

w2413.**Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable

w2414.**Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price: 750.000 USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

w3348.**Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD

w3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.

w3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.

w3432.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m , 3 sto-

ried bld.- 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD

w3576.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 USD

w3606.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system



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

w3574.**Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD

w3590 **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD

w3651.**Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 1.700.000 USD.

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

w74.**Cascade**, Verin Antarayin. 136-315 sq m., walls plastered, electricity, water, gas, euro windows, no exploitation fees. Price: 1200 USD per sq.m, parking -15.000 USD.

w107.**Monument**, Verin Antarayin. inhabited, 8 floors, gas, windows, street view -1000 USD per sq.m., city looking -1500 USD per sq.m., parking - 4 million USD preliminary.

w87.**Sayat-Nova str.**, 21 floors, 3 bedrooms -188 sq.m., 199 sq.m., Price 1900 USD per sq.m., 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight - 117 sq.m., 120 sq.m., 124 sq.m., Price: 1700 USD per sq.m., climate control, gas.

w93.**Kievyan str.**, Given to the operation in October 2011, 16 floors, walls plastered, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas, parking. Price: 1500-1600USD per sq.m, parking-12 000 USD. Possible with mortgage, for 13 years term.

w94.**Masiv**. 3floors, 8 flats, each flat has 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking. Price: negotiable.

w130.**Antarayin str.**, 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m, available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable

w131.**Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

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

Price: 2200 USD.

- ♦1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- ♦1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- ♦2249. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 9/7, 186sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, one of which in bedroom, open balcony, capitally repaired, climat control, furnished, equipped., parking. Price: 3500 USD negotiable.
- ♦2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

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



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

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

- ♦1142. **Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitally repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- ♦1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price 7.000 USD
- ♦327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- ♦1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- ♦1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- ♦1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- ♦1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- ♦1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- ♦1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- ♦1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦1408. **Zarobyanyan str.**, /parallel to Baghranyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitally repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitally repaired, AC, parking, Price: 10.000 USD.
- ♦1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- ♦1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- ♦1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- ♦2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitally repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.

President attends opening ceremony of new subsidiary building of the Chamber of Advocates new subsidiary building



On April 22, President Serzh Sargsyan attended the opening ceremony of the new subsidiary building of the RA Chamber of Advocates, the Law School and the Public Defender's Office. The President of Armenia toured the newly opened building, familiarized with the working and training conditions of the aforementioned institutions and activities projects, President's Press Office reported.

The building has been repaired and put into operation in the framework of the 2009-2012 legal and judicial amendment project. At present, 63 students study at the Law School which also conducts advocates' trainings. The executives assured that in the future distance learning programs were to be implemented for the School's students and advocates.



Government again discusses pension reform with opposition



Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan made a surprise appearance on Friday at a meeting of the parliamentary leaders of Armenia's main opposition parties to again discuss with them uncertainty surrounding the government's controversial pension reform.

Abrahamyan reaffirmed afterwards a "de facto suspension" of the reform that was announced by him on Wednesday. "I stand

by all of my statements," he told journalists.

However, a corresponding government bill submitted to the National Assembly does not explicitly require tax authorities to stop collecting extra social security contributions deducted from the monthly wages of workers born after 1973. Abrahamyan pledged to scrap this "mandatory component" of the reform in line with a recent Constitutional Court ruling.

The bill was discussed on Friday at a meeting of the Armenian parliament's committee on social affairs. Its pro-government chairman, Hakob Hakobyan, confirmed that the proposed legislation allows the authorities to continue enforcing the highly unpopular measure that has sparked street protests in Yerevan in recent months. This led opposition members of the committee to accuse the recently appointed premier of not honoring his pledge.

Abrahamyan declined to comment on the apparent discrepancy between his state-

ment and the government bill as he emerged from the separate meeting with the leaders of the parliament's four minority factions. He said only that the government will look into alternative legal amendments proposed by the opposition minority. Those call for a complete halt to Armenia's ongoing transition to a new pension system.

"Frankly, Hovik Abrahamyan's visit was very unexpected for us," said Stepan Markarian, a senior deputy from the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) who took part in the meeting also attended by two other government members. "They presented their views and we presented ours."

According to Markaryan, Abrahamyan promised to alter the government bill in order to address the opposition concerns. He warned that the PAP and the three other opposition forces will seek an emergency parliament session on their own bill if those changes stop short of really freezing the reform.

Armenian, Iranian FM's discuss bilateral relations, Karabakh issue

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif announced Tehran's preparedness to play a stronger role in the region to establish peace and stability, Fars News reports.

"Iran hopes that our region will become a region of peace and friendship and the Islamic Republic has spared no effort to this end and is ready to play a stronger role in the establishment of peace and stability in the region," Zarif said in a joint press conference with his Armenian counterpart Edward Nalbandian in Tehran on Monday.

Zarif said that he discussed with Nalbandian different issues pertaining to the two countries' bilateral relations in political, economic, parliamentary and cultural fields, and expressed hope that Tehran and Yerevan would witness expansion of ties in all these areas.



Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian praised Iran for its logical stance on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

"I appreciate Iran for its moderate and balanced stances on the issue," Nalbandian said in a joint press confer-

ence with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif in Tehran on Monday.

The Armenian foreign minister reiterated that during his talks with Zarif they discussed achievement of a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

Zvartnots Airport reports 40% increase in flights

For the past months there has been a regular increase in the number of passengers and flights, this being the result of the "open sky" policy adopted by the RA Government, press service of the "Armenia" International Airports" CJSC reports.

As compared to April 2013, a 17% increase in passenger flow was observed at the "Zvartnots" International Airport of Yerevan in the 4th month of 2014. In April 2014 the Airport served 136 730 passengers against 116 838 last April.

The number of flights in the same period rose by 40%. Instead of the 1 175 flights last April the number of flights operated in April 2014 was 1 643.

If 27 airlines operated regular flights to Zvartnots in April 2013, now their number is 33. Also most of the airlines increased frequencies to all destinations, which resulted in reduction of air ticket prices.

Ambassador James Warlick visits Western Prelacy



Western Prelate Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian on Friday welcomed the OSCE Minsk Group US Co-Chair, Ambassador James Warlick to the Prelacy, Asbarez reports.

The Prelate thanked the honored guest for his meetings and dialogue with the Armenian community, and commended his objectivity and commitment to truth. His Eminence expressed concern about the destruction of Armenian churches, cemeteries, and other treasured ancient sites, thus erasing Armenian identity from where Armenians have lived for centuries.

The Ambassador agreed that the destruction of property is troubling, and that steps must be taken to preserve cul-

tural heritage. As for the Artsakh conflict settlement, he stated that though it is a very difficult issue, he is hopeful that with real negotiations there can be a resolution of status and security issues, and affirmed his commitment to achieving lasting peace and stability.

The Prelate thanked the Ambassador for his efforts, and added that the Diaspora has concerns and expectations which must be taken into consideration as well. As a token of appreciation for his visit, the Prelate presented Ambassador Warlick with Hrair "Hawk" Khatcherian's photo book "Yergir 2 Yergir: A Journey to Historic Armenia" and "From the Book of One Thousand Tales: Stories of Armenia and Her People 1892-1922", a book by Diana Aparcar, who was Armenia's Honorary Consul General to Japan during the first Armenian Republic and also the first Armenian woman diplomat and first woman diplomat in the 20th century.

On Thursday, May 1, the Prelate attended a reception and private briefing with the Ambassador, hosted by the ANCA-WR at the ACF headquarters in Glendale.

Prime Minister promises support to farmers



Accompanied by Minister of Agriculture Sergo Karapetyan, Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan visited Verin Artashat and Norashen village communities in Ararat Marz on May 4, government's press service reported.

The Premier met with local farmers in a bid to get acquainted with their problems and answer the questions of interest, if any. Addressing the farmers, Hovik Abrahamyan said that agriculture is seen as a priority area in order to boost farming in Armenia. "We will support farmers with specific programs and actions. This may call for sizeable financial resources,

but we have the political will to take the necessary steps. Most of the government members will travel to the regions, trying to communicate with the farmers in order to understand the existing bottlenecks," the head of government pointed out.

The Premier said his government will be abiding by the "promised, done" principle, adding that, in turn, the farmers should accept that this may take some time and financial resources.

"At the same time, every community should know the exact timing of a specific program. Everything will be done to raise the needed financial resources, the

Prime Minister assured.

Coming down to the frost-hit communities, Hovik Abrahamyan stressed that the government is going to provide the affected farms with full land tax refund. Water fees will be halved; loan maturities will be extended, with subsidies to be made available for fertilizers, diesel fuel and seeds.

Turning to the upcoming programs, the Prime Minister said they will be aimed at developing cooperatives and infrastructures in the provinces. The possibility of enabling long-term and low-interest loans for farmers is under discussion at this point of time.

The residents of the aforementioned two communities touched upon the need to refurbish the local outpatient clinic, overhaul the irrigation system and rebuild the existing motor-road. Hovik Abrahamyan promised to discuss the problems and find appropriate solutions.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister promised to get the government members to discuss with the representatives of fruit processing companies the possibility of raising the procurement price for grapes. The farmers in attendance congratulated Hovik Abrahamyan on appointment to the office of Prime Minister and wished him every success.

Eduardo Eurnekian plans New York share sale next year

Argentinean Armenian businessman Eduardo Eurnekian is preparing to sell shares for the first time in New York as Argentina's second-richest family expands its global conglomerate spanning airports to semiconductors, Bloomberg reports.

Eurnekian's Corporacion America is studying the structure of assets to be marketed in initial public offerings next year and will open a New York office by March, the 81-year-old billionaire said in an interview from his offices in Buenos Aires.

"A first stage is opening to the market and showing the company's will to grow," he said. "It's not a cash-out situation."

Eurnekian, whose Armenian immigrant parents owned a textile business, introduced cable television to Argentina through Cablevision SA and founded television networks including America TV. Today, Corporacion America is the world's largest private airport operator by number of licenses with more than 50 and about \$2 billion in



annual sales.

Most recently, the company won bids to operate the Pisa and Florence airports in Italy and is bidding for as many as 21 airports in Greece as the country accelerates a privatization process to recover from its economic crisis. The company said April 25 that it won bidding to build and operate a new airport to service Cuzco and Machu Picchu in Peru.

Eurnekian will wait for "the right

moment" to decide the size of equity to be sold on the stock exchange, while keeping control of the ventures, he said.

The group "will obviously have to adapt" to regulations as an international publicly traded entity, he said. Eurnekian declined to give a valuation for Corporacion America, saying he doesn't think about how much his assets are worth.

"It may be worth \$15 billion, or \$20 billion or \$40 billion, I don't know," he said. "When you work all day you don't think about valuations."

Eurnekian, who was born in Argentina, has invested heavily in his ancestral home of Armenia, running the main airport, postal service, a bank and vineyards.

In Argentina, he sees considerable potential in energy and said his newly acquired Cia. General de Combustible will seek partners with oil and gas concessions to form ventures and to exploit wind energy potential in Patagonia.

Head of the Armenian Evangelic Community of Aleppo confident the Syrian Army will regain control of Kessab



The developments in Ukraine seem to have overshadowed the events in Syria. The attention of the international community is focused on the developments in Slavyansk, Odessa and other cities of Ukraine.

Ukraine is going to hold presidential elections on May 25, which means it will be relatively calm in Syria.

Head of the Armenian Evangelic Community of Aleppo Harutyun Selimyan views the events in Ukraine and Syria as a whole and says that what's happening is a third world war.

Speaking about the socio-economic conditions of Syrian Armenians, he said there are only 20 thousand Armenians left in the country. They are in a hard condition because of the lack of jobs.

More than 1,000 have moved to Armenia, many have settled in Lebanon, he added.

Head of the Armenian Evangelic Community of Aleppo said some Syrian Armenians have savings, therefore they feel well in the Motherland. Others have reached Armenia empty-handed and need job.

Harutyun Selimyan is confident that the Syrian national army will regain control of Kessab, but it's unclear in what condition the city will be returned. He fears Armenians will refuse to return to Kessab if it is destroyed.

California Assembly panel votes to support Artsakh independence

The California State Assembly Rules Committee on Monday cast a historic vote supporting and encouraging Artsakh's (Nagorno Karabagh) continuing efforts to develop as a free and independent nation, and urging the President and Congress of the United States to support the self-determination and democratic independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, reported the Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region. AJR 32, introduced by Assemblymember Mike Gatto, was adopted by a vote of 9 yes, 1 no, and 1 member who did not vote and will now move to the full Assembly floor for a vote scheduled for May 8, 2014.

“We are grateful to Assemblymember Mike Gatto for introducing this important resolution calling on the state of California to take a moral stand in line with American ideals of self-determination and freedom by recognizing the independence of Artsakh,” states ANCA-WR Chair, Nora Hovsepien, who offered testimony in support of the resolution at the committee hearing. “We look forward to California joining the States of Rhode Island, Maine, Massachusetts and Louisiana in supporting the righteous quest of our brethren in Artsakh for a life of peace and prosperity on their ancestral lands.”

AJR 32 lead author, Assembly member Gatto was joined by Co-Author Assembly member Katcho Achadjian (R-CA), Assembly members Adrin Nazarian (D-CA), Scott Wilk (R-CA) and Cheryl Brown (D-CA) in offering testimony in support of the measure. Joining Hovsepien in testifying on behalf of California's over 1 million Armenian American community were Alina Nalbantyan, who hails from the Shahoumian region of Artsakh, and Sevak Khatchatourian from the Armenian Council of America.

The Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region (ANCA-WR) has been instrumental in the passage of AJR 32, working closely with Assemblymember Mike Gatto and the Rules Committee to ensure a sound understanding of the facts. “It has been my privilege to work with the leaders of

the local Armenian American community and their outstanding representatives on this important resolution,” said Gatto. The ANCA-WR launched an action alert on this resolution and in a matter of a few days, Armenian-Americans from all parts of California contacted their representatives on the Rules Committee urging their members to vote in favor of AJR 32, in support of the Republic of Artsakh's independence. More than 2,500 letters were sent to the members of the Rules Committee.

California is home to tens of thousands of Armenian-Americans who are refugees of pogroms against Armenians in Sumgait (1988), Kirovabad (1988), and Baku (1990), and the ethnic-cleansing of the Armenian population of Azerbaijan. These pogroms set the stage for two decades of aggression by Azerbaijan, during which it launched and lost a war against Nagorno Karabakh, and later used its oil wealth to buy a massive military arsenal that its leaders, to this day, vow to use to renew their attempts to conquer a Christian people that have lived on these lands for thousands of years and, after great challenges, has flourished in freedom from Soviet oppression for more than 20 years.

“I stand with the freedom loving people of Artsakh in support of AJR 32. We will continue to speak out until Artsakh is free,” stated Assemblymember Scott Wilk who set the record straight during the hearing and refuted the fallacies presented by the Azeri lobby.

Since declaring independence in 1991, Artsakh has successfully conducted five parliamentary and five presidential elections that have been praised by international observers as free, fair and transparent. The most recent presidential election held in July 2012 was favorably received by more than 80 international observers from two dozen countries, including the United States. Election observers included the former Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick Lynch and Canadian Parliamentarian Jim Karygianni.

On Thursday, May 8, 2014, AJR 32 will be voted on by the full California State Assembly.

Armenians Should Thank Erdogan for... NOT Recognizing the Genocide



By Harut
Sassounian

Publisher, *The
California Courier*

Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan's statement on the 'events of 1915' released in nine languages last week was a major propaganda coup for Turkey, generating worldwide publicity. The announcement was so cleverly crafted that it fooled many in the international community -- and regrettably, some Armenians -- into believing that he came close to recognizing the Armenian Genocide or at least took 'an historic' step in the right direction.

In reality, Erdogan's statement was nothing more than rephrased denial or old wine in a new bottle. Carefully avoiding the term 'Armenian Genocide,' he conveniently borrowed Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's deceptive terminology of 'shared pain' and 'just memory,' words that sound conciliatory, but actually equate the murderers with the victims. The Turkish Prime Minister's reference to millions of Turks and others who also died during World War I is an insult to the memory of the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide. Millions of Germans also perished in World War II, but no one in their right mind and good conscience would equate their deaths with the extermination of six million Jews!

Erdogan's call for a "joint historical commission to study the events of 1915" is another worn out and shrewd delay tactic. If Turkish officials are sincere in wanting to learn the facts of the Armenian Genocide, all they have to do is review the extensive documentation available in their own archives as well as studies conducted by countless historians and genocide scholars around the world. Why did the Turkish government wait for almost 100 years to show an interest in researching this topic? Why are some of the most sensitive Ottoman archives still kept under lock and key, not to mention those that were shredded long ago?

I have written many times for sever-

al years that:

1) Despite Turkish denials, the Armenian Genocide is a recognized fact by the international community and there is no need to wait for Pres. Obama, Prime Minister Erdogan or anyone else to acknowledge it.

2) Genocide recognition cannot right the wrongs committed by uprooting and decimating the Armenian people. A more appropriate objective would be to seek justice through legal channels, demanding restitution, both financial and territorial.

3) The Turkish offer for 'reconciliation' is nothing but a sinister ploy to bury the past with a meaningless acknowledgment and apology. True reconciliation is achieved by undoing the enormous damage inflicted on the Armenian nation.

It is imperative that Armenians remain vigilant and not be deceived by fake Turkish offers of reconciliation. Between now and April 24, 2015, the Turkish government will probably announce many more publicity stunts to win over the sympathy of the international community and minimize the damage to Turkey's already tarnished reputation by accusations of genocide.

One such Turkish plan is Davutoglu's cynical statement that the Armenian Diaspora is also Turkey's Diaspora! There have been media reports that the Turkish government is preparing to grant citizenship to the descendants of former Ottoman subjects, including Armenians.

Surprisingly, some naïve Armenians are fooled into thinking that this is a positive step! Just imagine settling in one of the towns of Turkish-occupied Western Armenia or Cilicia as a citizen of Turkey, and having your sons drafted into the Turkish military to 'defend the Turkish nation' and take part in the invasion of Kessab or Aleppo or even Armenia! How about being jailed, under article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code, because you made the mistake of speaking about the Armenian Genocide to one of your Turkish neighbors!

Erdogan's real intent in issuing his April 23, 2014 statement is to undermine the worldwide Armenian efforts to seek justice as they prepare for the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide.

The fact that the State Department and some European officials reacted positively to Erdogan's statement is an indication that this was a coordinated attempt to provide cover for the Obama administration and European countries not to deal with the Armenian demands on the genocide issue, using the excuse that Turkey's leaders are in the process of reconciling with Armenians.

Armenians should resist the pressures by third parties to abandon the pursuit of their historic claims. The views of the US government or the EU on Armenian demands from Turkey should be irrelevant. Armenians should be the masters of their own fate and not allow other nations to dictate what is acceptable or unacceptable to them in the pursuit of their national interest.



Erdogan Claims it's not Genocide Because not All Armenians were Killed



By Harut
Sassounian

Publisher, The
California Courier

Within days of releasing a shrewdly-worded statement on April 23, misleading some into thinking that he was acknowledging the Armenian Genocide, Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan reversed course on a major American TV program, claiming that the 1915 mass killings of Armenians was not genocide.

When asked by veteran reporter Charlie Rose if it would be possible for the Turkish Prime Minister to characterize these killings as genocide, Erdogan became the laughing stock of TV viewers worldwide by declaring: "It would not be possible, because if such a genocide occurred, would there have been any Armenians living in this country [Turkey]?"

It is greatly embarrassing that the leader of a major country like Turkey is clueless about the universally-accepted definition of genocide. Foreign Minister Davutoglu (a former professor) and other learned Turks must have cringed watching their Prime Minister expose his ignorance before millions of TV viewers!

Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1948, defines genocide as "acts committed with the intent to destroy in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or

religious group, as such."

One does not have to be a genocide scholar to comprehend that it is not necessary to wipe out every single member of a particular group to be accused of committing genocide. Did Hitler manage to kill all German Jews? Would Erdogan dare to go on American Television and make a similarly outrageous remark about the Jewish Holocaust, claiming that it is not genocide because some Jews are living in Germany today? In a fitting response to Erdogan, Armenia's Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian urged him to follow Germany's example of Holocaust acknowledgment through "recognition, condemnation, and apology." Nalbandian should have also added 'restitution' -- an imperative demand --- without which the rest are hollow words.

Erdogan should be reminded that only a few days earlier he had called for a joint commission to study the 'historical facts'. What is the point of asking for a study, if he has already concluded that there was no genocide? The Prime Minister cannot be serious and he definitely is not sincere!

At the end of his interview with Charlie Rose, Erdogan made additional contradictory statements, shifting the blame for the genocide to the Ottomans: "This is not something that happened during the Republic of Turkey. This was during the Ottoman Empire.... If the documents show that our ancestors made a mistake...if the historians can show that, then we would pay whatever consequence of that is."

While no one in Armenia and Diaspora was fooled by Erdogan's deceptive statements, the reaction of some Armenians in Turkey was understandably more accommodating. Archbishop Aram Ateshian, Vicar General of the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul, rushed to Ankara with his entourage for a 'pleasant' chat with the Turkish Prime Minister and a congenial lunch with Foreign Minister Davutoglu. Abp. Ateshian thanked the Turkish leaders for their expression of "shared pain" in reference to Armenians and Turks who died during World War I.

Such laudatory words are not surprising, given the Armenians' status in Turkey as hostages of an authoritarian and brutal regime, as journalist Hrant Dink found out by paying with his life for bearing witness to the truth of the Genocide. Some Turkish Armenians, however, have learned to manipulate the country's oligarchic system for their personal gain. They are willing to go along with Turkish genocide denialism to enrich themselves through covert business deals with government officials and/or secure their leadership positions in the local Armenian community. Indeed, several prominent Turkish-Armenians have suggested that Erdogan be nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for his April 23rd statement! Two Armenian businessmen have even placed self-deprecating ads in Turkish newspapers thanking the Prime Minister and offering apologies for the Turkish 'deaths' during World War One!

At the end of the day, it matters not what Erdogan's statement or Davutoglu's op-ed in The Guardian say or don't say about the Armenian Genocide. The more fundamental question is: are Turkish officials willing to atone for the crimes committed by their ancestors against the Armenian people? What matters most for Armenians is restitution and justice, not empty rhetoric! Erdogan's words are too little and too late. His statement is simply a clever ploy at damage control given the growing sentiments and calls worldwide to accept responsibility for the Armenian Genocide, and to deflect attention away from the scandals swirling around Turkey and its Prime Minister.



Shoah Foundation to digitize the testimonies of Armenian Genocide witnesses by 100th anniversary

A Los Angeles-based foundation launched by Steven Spielberg 20 years ago to document the Holocaust is now expanding its reach to study other genocides and the impacts of mass violence, the director announced Friday at the organization's USC headquarters, the Los Angeles Daily News reports.

Spielberg founded the Shoah Foundation in 1994, a response to his in-depth research on the Oscar-winning Holocaust epic "Schindler's List," which brought him to the gates of Auschwitz. He brought what is now called USC Shoah Foundation - The Institute for Visual History and Education to the university in 2006.

Now the foundation is adding a Center for Advanced Research. Over the next five years, the Center will focus research and scholarship on resistance to all genocides - not just the Holocaust - as well as mass violence's psychological impacts, and will digitize those studies. The center will host annual conferences, and offer archived testimonies that will lend insight into genocide.

"The world now has a beacon of hope in breaking the cycle that leads to mass violence," Spielberg said at Friday's announcement.

Currently, the Shoah Foundation is home to 51,444 audiovisual genocide survivor and eyewitness accounts conducted in 58 countries and 34 languages. The Armenian Film Foundation recently donated an extra 400 testimonies recalling the 1915 Armenian Genocide, which began 99 years ago Thursday.

Wolf Gruner, Center director, said the new initiative will show the connection between survivors and witnesses to several genocides, including Armenia, Darfur and Rwanda.

"With the Holocaust, we're in a stage of diverse research and scholarship over the years. Genocide (studies), not so much," Gruner said. "The scholarship on genocide developed much later. It really took off in the last 10 years."

USC president C.L. Max Nikias said the university's involvement has helped the organization organize and preserve its collections.

"He understood that, for these precious archives to have eternal life, they needed to be preserved by a university such as USC," Nikias said at the announcement. "He believes the testi-



monials...give voice to the voiceless, and life to the lifeless."

Bringing the Shoah Foundation to USC helped both the college and Spielberg, according to foundation executive director Stephen D. Smith.

"What it brought to USC was one of the richest archives in Holocaust history," Smith said.

With USC's guidance, the footage was digitized. Further footage, such as the Armenian Film Foundation's recent donation, will take another year to integrate into the database, but align nicely with the Armenian Genocide's 100th anniversary next year.

"What we've done is revolve very strongly around digital literacy," Smith said. "This digital archive is used to teach about the Holocaust and other mass violence, but used to also teach about digital leadership."

On May 7, the Shoah Foundation's 20th anniversary will be marked at the Ambassadors for Humanity gala, hosted by Conan O'Brien and featuring "Schindler's List" star Liam Neeson and a performance by Bruce Springsteen. President Barack Obama will be the featured speaker.

According to Spielberg, 20 years still isn't long enough.

"We've made tremendous progress in the 20 years we've been in existence, but every single year it seems our work has hardly begun," Spielberg said at the announcement. "So much to finish, and there's no end in sight, sadly."

About 1,000 Syrian Armenian families have been provided with temporary housing

The issues of Syrian Armenians were discussed today at a conference titled "On the Paths of Assimilation" organized by the Center for Coordination of Syrian-Armenians' Issues NGO. Accommodation and employment remain the main problems Syrian Armenians face in the Motherland. The participants referred also to the events in Kessab.

About 12 thousand Syrian Armenians have arrived in Armenia since 2012. Ever

since more than 1,000 families have applied for temporary housing. A number of international and pan-Armenian organizations and private entrepreneurs have supported them by paying the rent, Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan said. She reminded about plans to build the "New Aleppo" district in the city of Ashtarak for Syrian Armenians.

The Minister said "1,765 Syrian Armenians have applied for job, more

then half of them are now employed." Steps have been taken to support the business circles, which will, in turn, contribute to the development of Armenia's economy, she added.

"The government has allocated about 0.5 million AMD to representatives of small and medium-sized businesses," Hranush Hakobyan said, adding that 70 business programs have already been called to life.

New type of surgery for infants introduced in Armenia



The AECP/USAID project "Center of Excellence for the Prevention of Childhood Blindness" (CEPCB), which combats childhood blindness through the prevention and treatment of the Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), is approaching one of the most challenging phases of the program - ROP surgeries, which have never been performed in Armenia or the region before. The AECP referred to Dr. Sui Chien Wong (Moorfields Eye Hospital and Royal Free London Hospital (London, UK) for high quality and very specific expertise in this area to join the AECP medical team in this effort. The AECP local doctors are in attendance to observe and assist in these cases.

The first surgeries took place at the CEPCB operating room at the Republican Institute of Reproductive Health, Perinatology, Obstetrics, and Gynecology on April 28. Dr. Thomas Lee, Director of the Retina Department at the Vision Center of Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and the AECP mentor of the

CEPCB program, used an innovative online monitoring system to observe the surgeries in real time and discussed the overall surgery procedure with Dr. Wong and other colleagues in the operating room.

The episodes of the surgeries have been presented today at Noyan Tapan information center by Dr. Sui Chien Wong (Moorfields Eye Hospital, Royal Free London Hospital), Dr. Roger Ohanesian (AECP President), Prof. Alexander Malayan (Chief Ophthalmologist of Armenia, AECP Medical Director), Prof. Razmik Abrahamyan (Director, Republican Institute of Reproductive Health, Perinatology, Obstetrics, and Gynecology) and Nune Yeghiazaryan (AECP Country Director).

"The continuing involvement in the program of the finest retina and ROP specialists in the world is elevating the treatment of ROP in Armenia to a level that we hope will qualify Armenia as a regional center in the nearest future. The project is committed to ensure excellence both in treatment and in service. We hope very much that after the experience with their international colleagues the Armenian doctors will continue successful operations in Armenia"- said the AECP President, Dr. Roger Ohanesian.

The AECP, in cooperation with the USAID and the Ministry of Health, launched the three-year program, "Center of Excellence for the Prevention of Childhood Blindness," in 2012. The vision of the program is to make specialized eye care accessible to all children in Armenia and surrounding countries and eliminate childhood blindness caused by ROP. It is the logical continuation of the "National Screening and Treatment Program on Retinopathy of Prematurity in Armenia" that the AECP has implemented since 2010. Over 2,000 infants have been screened and 70 kids have received free-of-charge quality laser procedures.

Date for Armenian entry into Ex-Soviet bloc still unclear

The presidents of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan reaffirmed their support for Armenia's membership in their Customs Union but set no definite date for it at a meeting in Minsk late on April 29.

Viktor Khristenko, the head of the union's executive body, reportedly said after the summit that they instructed his Eurasian Economic Commission to submit a draft accession treaty with Yerevan to them by June 1. He did not say when it could be signed.

According to the Itar-Tass news agency, Khristenko told reporters that Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Belarusian and Kazakh counterparts will hold another summit in Kazakhstan's capital Astana on May 29. He said they will likely sign there an agreement to transform the Russian-led trade bloc into a Eurasian Economic Union.

Khristenko added that the three leaders praised the implementation of a "roadmap" to Armenia's accession to the Customs Union that was agreed with them in December. But he said nothing about sweeping trade preferences sought by the Armenian government in the ongoing membership talks.

Yerevan has presented the union with a long list of imported goods which it wants to be exempted from considerably higher customs duties jointly enforced by Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. President Serzh Sarkisian's unexpected absence from the Minsk summit suggests that the negotiating parties have not yet reached an agreement on this key issue.

Opening the summit, Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko made clear that he is against granting new member states "any special terms or sta-

tuses." "I believe that this will be fair towards our countries, which have fully gone through, endured all stages of the integration process," Lukashenko was quoted by the official BELTA news agency as saying.

Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev appeared to back this stance. "I agree that they ... must carry out what we have gone through, the whole package," Nazarbayev said, according to BELTA.

Landlocked Armenia is heavily dependent on imports, the bulk of them coming from countries other than Russia, Belarus or Kazakhstan. Analysts warn that the cost of living in the country will rise dramatically unless the Armenian authorities are allowed to continue levying existing low duties from foodstuffs and other key imported goods.

AI-Monitor: Israel has moral duty to recognize Armenian Genocide

An article by Akiva Eldar published by AI-Monitor explores the possibility that Israel will revisit and possibly revise its enforcement of Turkey's gag-rule against her open acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide. The article is provided below:

At the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, the message of condolence issued by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the Armenian people on April 23, the eve of the 99th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, was closely examined. What will Israel do now? Will it continue to fence-sit on the issue of recognizing the disaster that befell the Armenian people, caught between taking a moral stand and avoiding angering the Turks? If Erdogan can afford to change the Turkish attitude toward this sensitive issue, perhaps it's time for Israel to adopt a clearer and more decisive stance.

On the other hand, how will it look for the Israeli government to be dragged along in the wake of a Turkish leader who doesn't miss a chance to lash out at it? How will the Foreign Ministry explain a decision to recognize the Armenian genocide, after arguing for years that one must examine this sensitive issue "through an open debate based on data and facts, and not on political decisions or declarations." This is what Likud Minister Gilad Erdan said in a 2009 speech delivered at the Knesset, asking in the government's name to remove from the agenda the issue of recognizing the Armenian genocide.

At that same debate, Erdan said, "Israel asks not to determine conventions as to what occurred, since these are ... supporting the political position of one of the sides." Is the slaughter of the Armenians in fact a political matter? Twenty-two years ago, the deputy foreign minister in the national unity government of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and President Shimon Peres said, "There are things that go beyond politics, and there are things that go beyond diplomacy. Holocausts of nations are a clear case in point." These comments were made in response to a question by then-Knesset member Yair Tzaban of the now-defunct Ratz party. He was seeking the government's reaction to reports that Israeli officials were cooperating with Jewish-American organizations to derail a congressional initiative to mark the commemoration of the Armenian

genocide in the United States. That deputy foreign minister who answered the question on the part of the government was none other than current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Several months later, in April 1990, it turned out that for the Foreign Ministry, the genocide committed against the Armenian people was most certainly a diplomatic issue. Under pressure from the ministry, Israel's public television station backed out of its plan to air Theodore Bogosian's documentary "An Armenian Journey." Following the uproar that ensued, the board of directors of the Israel Broadcasting Authority ordered that the film be screened. Representatives of the establishment appealed the decision and the film was shelved.

Despite pressure from successive Israeli governments, leftist politicians led by Tzaban and former Minister Yossi Sarid and a handful of right-wingers, among them Knesset members Benny Begin and Reuven Rivlin, refused to drop the matter. In 2011, Tzaban, this time as a private citizen, was invited to the Knesset to take part in a debate on the subject of the Armenian genocide, held by the Knesset's Committee on Education.

"We are fighting with all our strength, justifiably so, against denial of the Holocaust, but we're not fighting properly and not doing what needs to be done on the issue of denial of the Armenian genocide," said the man who was formerly the minister of immigration and absorption. "We have interests; we're not ignoring them, but we cannot do the opposite of what we have demanded that others do in our case." In the 1940s, when we implored the world for help and didn't get it, Tzaban said, supposedly good people told us, "You're right, but we have interests; we have existential interests that prevent us from lending you a helping hand."

Tzaban quoted the profound lines written in 1945 by poet Natan Alterman, in "Interests":

"The hands of the ignorant and the wicked nurtured an illusion of an imaginary world, where each people were commanded to protect a group of interests, and to honor them with prayer, drink and food. Buildings and giant altars were erected to those interests (we will visit their ruins). In the 20th century, children were sacrificed for those

interests. Empires bowed their heads, and eternal truths, bound in ropes, were sacrificed to those interests."

The Marmara flotilla affair and the deterioration in Israel's relations with Turkey since the humiliation of the Turkish ambassador in the office of former Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon changed the interests map: Turkey out, the Armenian genocide in.

In June 2012, Erdan returned to the speaker's podium with a new position regarding the genocide. No neutrality this time, no fact-checking or other fig leaves for economic and defense-related interests. This time, the minister determined that "There's a problem with turning the recognition into a political debate, and the issue should be looked at from the point of view of the value of human life." Not only that, but, "As Jews and Israelis, we should have a special obligation to learn about human tragedies." That same government representative who had previously asked to remove the subject from the Knesset agenda announced, "It would be fitting for the Knesset to discuss it in depth and if it deems it appropriate, to express recognition of the genocide."

This time, he did not suggest examining the data and the disputed facts, saying, "There's something of the ridiculous in the debate, because I did not hear any historic arguments on the question of whether the murder occurred. ... The government did not deal with this issue, probably out of a desire to prevent it from turning into a political issue, and it's fitting for the government to officially recognize the holocaust of the Armenian people."

These lines are being written on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day. As I do every year, tomorrow I will commune with the memory of my uncles and aunts and their sons and daughters who perished in Auschwitz. I recall that there are those in the world who deny that my family members and my people were murdered, and I congratulate those fighting against those contemptible people. True, no event in modern history can compare to the horrors perpetrated by the Nazi regime against the Jewish people, but Adolf Hitler's deeds do not give us permission to ignore the tragedies of other peoples. We don't require a seal of approval from a Turkish tyrant to be moral Jews.

Composer Konstantin Orbelian dies aged 86



Renowned composer Konstantin Orbelian died in the US on April 24 aged 86.

A talented composer of classical music (symphony, ballet, chamber ensemble), jazz, and popular songs, Konstantin Orbelian is one of the brightest phenomena of Soviet and post-Soviet musical culture. He is the recipient of significant awards in the former Soviet Union, the Armenian Republic, and the international musical community. He has received the highest accolades from the three Soviet presidents: the award "For Services to Labor" from Khrushchev; the title "People's Artist of the USSR" from Brezhnev, and, finally, the "Friendship of Peoples" prize from Gorbachev in 1989.

Konstantin Orbelian has been acknowledged as a pianist and improviser since he was in his teens. At age fifteen, he was invited to perform with the Armenian State Pop Orchestra; and subsequently became its conductor. Under his able direction for thirty-six years, the Orchestra rose to become one of the most accomplished of its kind. As a result, it came to represent Soviet jazz in more than thirty countries in Eastern and Western Europe, the Near East, Africa, and Southeast Asia. One of the Orchestra's highlights was its American tour in 1975, which included twenty-five concerts in major cities from coast to coast.

Graduating in composition and piano from Edward Mirzoyan's class of compo-

sition at Yerevan's Komitas Conservatory in 1963, Orbelian achieved early recognition for his String Quartet, winning the coveted First Prize at the International Competition in Moscow, where the chairman of the Competition's panel of judges was the composer Dmitri Shostakovich. As a result, Orbelian's rising talent and success were noted with great appreciation by the doyen of Armenian music of the time, Aram Khachaturian. Next followed the premiere of Orbelian's First Symphony in Moscow's famous Tchaikovsky Hall by the USSR State Symphony Orchestra. For this Symphony, Orbelian was awarded the title "Laureate of the All-Union Competition." His subsequent Celebration Overture achieved the same acclaim. His ballet symphony "Immortality" was composed in 1975 and performed by the Yerevan Opera and Ballet Theater. This work, too, won First Prize in an All-Union Competition devoted to music for the stage.

Ever versatile in the scope of his repertoire, Konstantin Orbelian has written musical scores for a number of films, including Krkesi Chanaparhin [On the Way to the Circus] and Sirte Yergum e [The Heart Sings]; music for the theater; pop songs; jazz; and scores for stage musicals. Several of these compositions have won prestigious prizes. The subject of two documentary films in Russian, Orbelian is currently vice-president of the International Association of the Union of Musicians in Moscow.

Apartment is for rent

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

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Armenian-Australians raise \$40,000 for Kessab



The Armenian-Australian community raised over \$40,000 for #SaveKessab at gatherings in Sydney and Melbourne over the weekend of 5-6 April, 2014, Horizon Weekly reports.

On March 21st, armed rebel groups attacked the heavily Armenian-populated region of Kessab, Syria, by crossing the

taken hostage, while churches and homes have been destroyed.

As a follow-on from the 1,000-person midweek Protest at the Turkish Consulate in Sydney, over 150 community members gathered to raise over \$10,000 at the Armenian Cultural Centre in Willoughby - organised by the Armenian Youth Federation of Australia and supported by the Armenian Relief Society, Homenetmen and Hamazkaine.

The Armenian community of Melbourne also raised an impressive \$18,000. The Armenian Relief Society of Australia, along with its chapters, contributed \$12,000.



Turkish border into Syria. Under the threat of slaughter, the entire Armenian population of the region was forced to flee their homes into neighbouring towns, including Latakia and Bassit. Some were not so lucky and have reportedly been

The MC at the luncheon held in Sydney on the 6th of April was AYF Australia member, Narine Akillian, who said: "We thank Armenian-Australians for donating both their time at the protest and now digging deep into their pockets

to support the Armenians of Kessab."

Narine also outlined the significant



role that Armenian diaspora have in ensuring the long-term safety and well-being of their brothers and sisters in less fortunate surrounds.

Nishan Basmajian, spokesperson of the joint Kessab relief in Australia, then gave the community a recent update about the current climate in Kessab, stating that those who are affected believe that they will return to their homes in the future.

As well as collecting donations, AYF Australia sold #SaveKessab wristbands, with all proceeds going towards the total raised.

AYF Australia ended the Luncheon by thanking all individuals and organisations, who generously donated and supported their work in order to raise awareness and funds for the Armenians in Kessab.

Italian edition of Varujan Vosganian's "Book of Whispers" presented in Vatican

The presentation of Italian edition of Romanilan Armenian writer, politician, Senator Varujan Vosganian's "Book of Whispers" was held at Centro Russia Ecumenica cultural center in Vatican. The event was organized by the Armenian Embassy in the Holy See.

In his opening remarks Armenian Ambassador to Vatican Mikael Minasyan stressed the importance of presenting the memories of the ancestors that have survived the Armenian Genocide to the world.

Attending the event were the Vatican 'Chief of Justice' Cardinal Francesco Coccopalmero, other high-ranking representatives of the Holy See, the Ambassadors of Peru, Russia, Romania, Uruguay, Croatia, Bulgaria and other countries accredited to the Vatican, culture figures, scholars, representatives of the Armenian community.



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

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

You may be totally tied up in knots during this period. You want to change things within the framework of your partnership(s), but it feels as though you dare not take the initiative to do so. Unfortunately, the world around you may take things out of your hands and force you to confront the situation before you are ready.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

Early in the week the flow is really good for you with both friends and partner(s). Then one of these people requests a stronger commitment. Right away you are challenged by new thoughts. The eclipse in your sign this week on April 29 demands that you get in touch with your truest self. Do you really want this commitment?

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

There is a shift of your attention to matters of your personal history that may go back quite a long time. You will be looking inside yourself for meditative peace, answers to serious questions, and encouragement from your source. Journaling, hypnosis, meditation or counseling are favored activities now.

Cancer (June 21--July 21) :

On Tuesday the 29th there is a new moon eclipse in Taurus, your sign of friendships and community activities. The "new" moon symbolizes new starts and fresh beginnings. Because the new moon occurs in the dark and is invisible, your new activity may not even be clear to you for a time.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

The new moon eclipse on April 29th suggests a fresh beginning in your career or life direction. Look for a slight shift in your path. It may look very small now, even unnoticeable. But this is the nubbin of a new branch on the tree. Such changes are often seen in hindsight, as a minor decision that ultimately reshapes your route.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

Your new focus for the next two weeks will be mind expanding. You may be researching a new interest, gazing over travel brochures for your next adventure, or pursuing an interest in philosophy or religion. Love and social life have green lights. Your creativity is in high gear. Activities involving children are favored.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

You dropped the ball on an important project in self-work during February. It created a type of vacuum within and prevents you from moving forward. Has your confidence waned? Are you fearful of how the world will react to your plan? Explore deeply enough to find the problem so you can wrestle with its root.

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

You have carried so much stress over the last few months that you are similar to a ticking bomb. One more problem to solve and you may be on the verge of exploding. Circumstances in your work or a change in your life routine might press the button. All of this is hard on the body, so it may stop and refuse to go further until you rest.

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

If you have been channeling your energy into a project that has positive value for many you may be receiving recognition and applause now. If, instead, you are working on something that is purely to glorify your ego, you will find the powers are fighting you every step of the way.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

You are bombarded by multiple problematic situations and you may be trying to control them all. Tough work, isn't it? Pace yourself. The challenges will go on for another year or two before it releases you. Transformation is at hand if you will allow yourself to let go of part or all of it. Your body may rebel if you don't.

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

In case anyone "attacks" you on the road or via the law, you need to remain aware that you are in the right, or within legal parameters. Legal interests are favored. Hold your ground. While shopping for practical needs, you may find what you want at a good price, well within reason.

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

This is an ideal time to travel with another, to talk things over and stretch your perspective. It is also a good time for any activity connected to writing or education, whether learning or teaching. Good fortune may come to you via the internet. The muse is nearby and will assist you with intuition or creative work.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Petros Durian (1851-1872)

To Love

A galaxy of glances bright,
A sweet bouquet of smiles,
A crucible of melting words
Bewitched me with their wiles!
I wished to live retired, to love
The flowers and bosky glades,
The blue sky's lights, the dew of morn,
The evening's mists and shades;
To scan my destiny's dark page,
In thought my hours employ,
And dwell in meditation deep
And visionary joy.
Then near me stirred a breath that
seemed
A waft of Eden's air,
The rustle of a maiden's robe,
A tress of shining hair.
I sought to make a comrade dear
Of the transparent brook.
It holds no trace of memory;
When in its depths I look,
I find there floating, clear and pale,
My face! Its waters hold
No other secret in their breast
Than wavelets manifold.
I heard a heart's ethereal throb;
It whispered tenderly:
"Dost thou desire a heart?" it said.
"Beloved, come to me!"
I wished to love the zephyr soft
That breathes o'er fields of bloom;
It woundeth none, - a gentle soul
Whose secret is perfume.
So sweet it is, it has the power
To nurse a myriad dreams;
To mournful spirits, like the scent
Of paradise it seems.
Then from a sheaf of glowing flames
To me a whisper stole:
It murmured low, "Dost thou desire
To worship a pure soul?"
I wished to make the lyre alone
My heart's companion still,
To know it as a loving friend,
And guide its chords at will.
But she drew near me, and I heard
A whisper soft and low:
"Thy lyre is a cold heart," she said,
"Thy love is only woe."
My spirit recognised her then;
She beauty was, and fire,
Pure as the stream, kind as the breeze,
And faithful as the lyre.
My soul, that from the path had erred,
Spread wide its wings to soar,
And bade the life of solitude
Farewell forevermore.
A galaxy of glances bright,
A sweet bouquet of smiles,
A crucible of melting words
Bewitched me with their wiles!

*English translation by
Alice Stone Blackwell*

An Unprecedented Event in Music Life of Yerevan Staatskapelle Berlin in Yerevan

With almost 450 years of tradition, Staatskapelle Berlin is one of the oldest orchestras in the world. Originally founded as court orchestra by Prince-Elector Joachim II of Brandenburg in 1570, and at first solely dedicated to carrying out musical services for the court, the ensemble expanded its activities with the founding of the Royal Court Opera in 1742 by Frederick the Great. Ever since then, the orchestra has been closely tied to Staatsoper Unter den Linden.

Many important musicians have conducted the orchestra, both in the opera and in the regular concert series that have been held since 1842: Gaspare Spontini, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Giacomo Meyerbeer, Felix von Weingartner, Richard Strauss, Erich Kleiber, Wilhelm Furtwangler, Herbert von Karajan, Franz Konwitschny, and Otmar Suitner are just a few of the conductors who have decidedly influenced the instrumental and interpretive culture of Staatskapelle Berlin.

The works of Richard Wagner, who himself conducted the Koniglich Preussische Hofkapelle in 1844 at the premiere of his Flying Dutchman and in 1876 during the preparations for the Berlin premiere of Tristan and Isolde, have represented a pillar of the repertoire of the Staatsoper and its orchestra for some time.

Since 1992, Daniel Barenboim has served as the orchestra's general music director, and in 2000 the orchestra voted him as conductor for life. At numerous guest appearances that have brought the orchestra not only to the great European music centers, but also to Israel, Japan, and China, as well as North and South America, the international top position of the ensemble has proved itself over and over. The performance of all symphonies and piano concertos of Beethoven in Vienna, Paris, London, New York, and Tokyo, and the cycles of symphonies of Schumann and Brahms, the ten-part cycle of all important stage works by Wagner, and the three-part performance of

Wagner's Ring cycle in Japan 2002 are some of the most outstanding events of recent years. As part of the Staatsoper's FESTTAGE 2007, the symphonies and orchestral songs of Gustav Mahler were performed under the batons of Daniel Barenboim and Pierre Boulez at Berlin's Philharmonie. This ten-part cycle was also performed in the 2008/09 season at Vienna's Musikverein as well as New

York's Carnegie Hall. In 2010 the Staatskapelle Berlin and Daniel Barenboim gave sold out concerts in London, Birmingham, Paris, Essen, Dusseldorf, Madrid and Granada. At the beginning of 2011 the Staatskapelle Berlin gave guest performances in Abu Dhabi and in the new opened opera house in Doha (with Daniel Barenboim as soloist and conductor) followed by concerts in Vienna and Paris. During the season 2011/12 the orchestra and Daniel Barenboim performed in Essen, Baden-Baden, London, Bucarest, Lucerne, Munich, Hamburg, Cologne, Paris, Madrid, Barcelona and Geneva. As high-

light a nine-part cycle with symphonies by Anton Bruckner took place in June 2012. In 2013/14 Staatskapelle Berlin will give concert performances in Bucarest, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Vienna, Mailand, Paris, and Madrid. Staatskapelle Berlin was named "Orchestra of the Year" in 2000, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2008 by the journal Opernwelt, and in 2003 the orchestra was awarded the Furtwangler Prize. A constantly growing number of recordings in both the operatic and symphonic repertoires documents the work of the orchestra. Their recording of all the Beethoven symphonies in 2002 was awarded the Grand Prix du Disque, their 2003 recording of Wagner's Tannhuuser was awarded a Grammy, and their 2007 live recording of Mahler's Ninth Symphony was awarded an Echo Prize. In addition, a DVD production was released of Beethoven's five piano concertos featuring Daniel Barenboim as both soloist and conductor. Most recently, recordings of several Bruckner symphonies (on CD and DVD), of the piano concertos by Chopin and Liszt as well as the cello concertos by Elgar and Carter were released.

In the Orchesterakademie, founded in 1997, young musicians receive the opportunity to gather professional experience in both opera and concert performance. Members of the Staatskapelle are here active as mentors. Furthermore, many musicians volunteer at Musikkindergarten Berlin, founded at the initiative of Daniel Barenboim. In 2010 musicians of Staatskapelle Berlin founded the Stiftung NaturTon e.V. organizing benefit concerts with outstanding artists to support international environment projects.

Beside their performing at the opera performances and in the large symphony concerts, numerous instrumentalists have also dedicated themselves to working in chamber music formations as well as in the ensemble Preu?ens Hofmusik, which focuses primarily on the Berlin music tradition from the eighteenth century. This rich musical activity can be experienced in several concert series in Berlin.



Abraham retains WBO belt despite 'broken hand'

Arthur Abraham retained his WBO super middleweight belt by defeating Nikola Sjekloca of Montenegro by unanimous decision on Saturday, AP reports.

The judges awarded it 117-113, 116-112, 119-110 to the defending champion, who relied primarily on his left jab after suggesting during the bout that he broke his right hand.

"I don't want to make excuses but I had to box the fight with my left," Abraham said. "The fingers were already broken from the last fight. I had to do a lot with the left in training. That's why it was so close, though he's also a good fighter."

The Armenian-born German improved to 40-4 (28 KOs) after defending the title he won back from Robert Stieglitz by split decision on March 1.

Abraham relied increasingly on his left jab as the bout went on. He indicated his right hand was broken only to be told



by Ulli Wegner, his trainer, to carry on.

"It's all the same to me if your hand is sore," the veteran trainer said. "It's about staying the champion. You've enough time afterward to heal it."

Abraham did enough to hang on.

Sjekloca, who dropped to 26-2 (8 KOs), suggested he wasn't fully focused as he's about to become a father to twins.

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