

Hostages Released In Yerevan



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Armenian FM meets US Congressman Jim Costa

On July 21, Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, received Jim Costa, U.S. House of Representatives Congressman.

Welcoming the guest, Minister Nalbandian highly appreciated the friendly partnership between Armenia and the United States, as well as the steps being undertaken in that direction. In this regard the Foreign Minister of Armenia attached importance to the intensive cooperation established between the legislative bodies of the two countries. Edward Nalbandian thanked Jim Costa for his efforts towards the recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Expressing gratitude for the reception, Congressman Costa mentioned that for years he has been pursuing issues of high importance for Armenia and the Armenian people in the U.S. Congress, and he is glad to visit Armenia to get first-hand information and exchange views on the regional problems and the ways to resolve them.



During the meeting a wide range of issues on the expansion of cooperation between Armenia and the United States was discussed.

Minister Nalbandian and Congressman Costa exchanged views on regional issues.

Edward Nalbandian informed Jim Costa on the efforts being undertaken towards the settlement of the Nagorno-

Karabakh issue and the overcoming of consequences of the large-scale military actions unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) this April.

Jim Costa mentioned that as the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair country, the United States will continue its efforts aimed the exclusively peaceful settlement of the issue through negotiations.

Hostages Released In Yerevan

The anti-government gunmen holed up in a police station in Yerevan released on July 23 all four police officers held hostage by them after negotiations held with the Armenian government through a mediator.

The mediator, Vitaly Balasanyan, announced the impending release of the hostages in comments to the Armenian TV station Shant aired in the morning.

Two rank-and-file policemen were the first to regain their freedom shortly afterwards. The two other, high-ranking officers, Vartan Yeghiazaryan and Valeri

Osipyan, were set free in the following hours.

Balasanyan, who is a retired Nagorno-Karabakh army general, said it was also agreed that in return for the hostages' release, Armenian security forces will allow the gunmen's leaders to talk to journalists at a "neutral zone" around the seized police compound. The journalists will work there "around-the-clock," he added without elaborating.

Late in the afternoon, some 40 reporters, including an RFE/RL correspondent and cameraman, were transported

there in three police minibuses. None of them was allowed to provide a live broadcast the gunmen's news conference that was apparently continuing as of 5 p.m. local time.

The agreement on the hostages' release is understood to have been reached at a secret meeting between the two leaders of the armed group and the director of Armenia's National Security Service (NSS), Georgi Kutoyan. The meeting was mediated by Balasanyan.

"The negotiation process is continuing," NSS spokesman Samson Galtsyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service shortly after the two lower-ranking hostages were freed. "I can't give any other information at this point in the interests of the negotiation process," said Galtsyan.

Balasanyan did not specify whether the authorities are ready to meet the hostage-takers' key demands: the release from prison of the jailed leader of their Founding Parliament opposition group, Zhirayr Sefilian, and President Serzh Sargsyan's resignation.

Serzh Sargsyan on Friday urged the armed oppositionists to lay down their arms and give up themselves, saying that they cannot effect any political change in Armenia through violence.



Pashinyan, armed oppositionists trade accusations



A leader of the armed group that seized a police station in Yerevan accused Nikol Pashinyan, a mainstream opposition politician, on Saturday of seeking to hijack their "rebellion" against Armenia's government.

A furious Pashinyan rejected the accusations, saying that he will stop trying to lead and expand anti-government street protests staged by Armenians sympathetic to the gunmen.

Pashinyan has tried to prevent more bloodshed since the armed members of the Founding Parliament movement stormed the police station on Sunday, killing one policeman and taking four others hostage. He has met with senior law-enforcement officials, the gunmen, and Zhirayr Sefilian, Founding Parliament's jailed leader, to try to defuse the crisis.

On Wednesday night, Pashinyan helped to stop violent clashes between angry protesters and riot police in Yerevan. He said afterwards that Founding Parliament representatives have told him to stay away from the protests taking place near the seized police station.

Pashinyan unexpectedly rejoined the protests on Friday, urging more Armenians to take to the streets and demand President Serzh Sargsyan's resignation. He said he and his Civil Contract party will try to expand the campaign into other parts of Armenia.

Varuzhan Avetisyan, one of the two

leaders of the gunmen, denounced Pashinyan's attempts to lead the movement when he spoke to reporters on Saturday. He charged that the 41-year-old politician is using the fallout from the armed attack to further his own political agenda.

"We launched this movement by means of an armed uprising which Mr. Pashinyan and all other Armenian politicians objected to and are not capable of," said Avetisyan. "And now the fact that Mr. Pashinyan or any other politician is trying to take over ... the popular movement and use the course and results of that movement for personal, partisan or other parochial purposes is outrageous and condemnable."

"We are urging Mr. Pashinyan not to use such techniques," the senior Founding Parliament figure added on the seventh day of his group's standoff with security forces. He suggested that Pashinyan join instead a collective body

set up by Founding Parliament to coordinate the protests.

Pashinyan responded by delivering an angry speech to hundreds of people that again rallied near the seized police station on Saturday evening. He accused the armed oppositionists of failing to appreciate his efforts to reinvigorate the demonstrations held in support of their attack.

"Let nobody think that I or the Civil Contract party is vying for leadership," Pashinyan said. "Let those who want to lead [the protests] lead. But nobody can force us to give up our principles and beliefs."

Pashinyan also expressed concern at reports that Sefilian has dropped Founding Parliament's demands for President Sargsyan's resignation. Sefilian's statement, if true, would mean a "nightmare," he declared.

The rally continued in Pashinyan's absence.

Alek Yenigomshyan, another Founding Parliament figure not involved in the armed attack, assured the crowd that Sefilian remains committed to regime change. He urged Pashinyan to join the campaign's coordinating body "on an equal footing"

"We don't need idols and "saviors," another speaker said in a clear jibe at Pashinyan.

In his speech, Pashinyan also reiterated that only a peaceful nationwide campaign backed by the majority of Armenians can force Sargsyan to quit.

Avetisyan strongly disagreed. "You can fight against a dictatorship only with arms," he said earlier in the day. "There is no other option."

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Serzh Sargsyan "ready" to meet jailed opposition leader

Yerevan -(RFE/RL) -President Serzh Sargsyan is ready to meet the jailed opposition leader Zhirayr Sefilian if the armed member of his organization occupying a police station in Yerevan lay down their arms, a politician who has negotiated with them said on July 24.

Vitaly Balasanyan, a retired Nagorno-Karabakh army general, also insisted that Sefilian no longer supports the gunmen's key demand - Sargsyan's resignation -- and has set other conditions that have been communicated to the president.

"[Sargsyan] has expressed readiness to invite Zhirayr Sefilian and explain to him the reality and prospects immediately after the guys lay down arms and surrender," Balasanyan said in a statement cited by the Armenpress news agency.

Sefilian, who leads the Founding Parliament radical opposition movement, was arrested on June 20 for allegedly cobbling together an armed group that planned to seize government buildings in Yerevan. He denied the government allegations as politically motivated.

Around two dozen armed men affiliated with Founding Parliament demanded Sefilian's release immediately after seizing a police compound in Yerevan's Erebuni district on July 17. They also demanded that Sargsyan free other "political prisoners" and step down.

The gunmen took several police officers hostage in the unprecedented armed attack that left another policeman dead. They released the four remaining hostages on Saturday as part of a deal with the Armenian authorities brokered by Balasanyan. In return, they were allowed to talk to more than 60 journalists transported to the seized police premises.

Balasanyan condemned the gunmen for carrying weapons



while speaking to the journalists. "They engaged in a demonstration of weapons and militancy and then fired gunshots in the air during live broadcasts [provided by some of the reporters,]" he said. "I find this unacceptable."

Balasanyan went on to urge the gunmen to surrender to security forces "before it" s too late." "For that purpose the authorities are ready to organize another contact with the media for you," he said, appealing to them.

The two leaders of the gunmen, Varuzhan Avetisyan and Pavel Manukyan, said on Saturday that they have no intention to give up themselves. They also insisted on Sargsyan's resignation.

A senior Founding Parliament representative dismissed Balasanyan's statement on Sunday evening when the opposition group again rallied supporters on a Yerevan street leading to the Erebuni police station surrounded by security forces. Addressing the crowd, Alek Yenigomtsyan said the gunmen have no plans to surrender.

Yerevan hosts third pan-Armenian festival

The third pan-Armenian festival "My Armenia" opened on July 23 afternoon at the National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet, bringing together Armenian dance groups from 25 world countries.

This year's event, organized at the

high patronage of the Armenian president, is dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Armenia's independence, says a press release by the Ministry of Diaspora.

Singers Gevorg Hachyan, Arsen Grioryan and Masis Minasyan greeted

the participants with their performances.

Young people aged 25 later went on stage to share their thoughts of the independent statehood's achievements over the past years.

Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan later delivered a speech to wish the participants a success and great achievements.

"Culture reflects our image; it is the unique passport of the Armenian around the world. And it is remarkable that this festival hosts compatriots from 25 countries conveys a great message, as we have dedicated it to the 25th anniversary of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh's independence. I express my special gratitude to you for filling your spare time with art, remaining true to your culture," she said.



U.S. Condemns Armed Attack on Armenian Police



The United States strongly condemned on July 19 the deadly attack on a police station in Yerevan launched by armed members of an Armenian radical opposition group.

The U.S. State Department at the same time urged the Armenian authorities to show "restraint" in dealing with the gun-

men holding four police officers hostage in the compound.

"We offer our thoughts and prayers to the families of the police officers who were killed or injured during -- I think the incident took place Sunday in Yerevan's Erebuni district," said Mark Toner, a department spokesman.

"We obviously condemn strongly the use of violence to effect political change in Armenia or anywhere," he told a news briefing in Washington. "We encourage Armenian authorities to handle the situation with appropriate restraint."

"We want to see political change through democratic processes," added Toner. "And so we would certainly want to caution anybody who thinks that violence is a plausible way to achieve any political aims."

The gunmen reportedly numbering 18 are demanding the release of Zhirayr Sefilian, the leader of their Founding Parliament opposition movement who was arrested last month for allegedly plotting to seize government buildings.

EU, Russia also condemn armed attack on Armenian Police

The European Union and Russia on July 21 joined the United States in condemning the deadly attack on a police station in Yerevan launched by gunmen affiliated with an Armenian radical opposition group.

"We stress that the use of force to achieve political change is unacceptable and offer our condolences to the family of Colonel Artur Vanoyan, Deputy Commander of the Patrol Regiment of the Yerevan Police Department [killed in the attack,]" the EU Delegation in Armenia said in a statement.

"We regard as unacceptable these criminal manifestations that pose a direct threat to the life and security of the country's citizens," said the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova.

According to the RIA Novosti news agency, Zakharova said Russia supports the Armenian authorities' to end a continuing standoff with the gunmen. "We expect that those measures will help to resolve the situation very soon," she told a news briefing in Moscow.

By contrast, the EU expressed concern over "excessive" use of police force against hundreds of people that have rallied in Yerevan in support of the gunmen still occupying the police compound. It also criticized protesters that resorted to violence.

The U.S. State Department on Tuesday similarly condemned "the use of violence to effect political change in Armenia," commenting on the seizure of the police station by armed members of the Founding Parliament movement.

The gunmen are demanding the release of Founding Parliament's arrested leader, Zhirayr Sefilian, and President Serzh Sargsyan's resignation. Some 200 people sympathetic to them clashed with riot police in Yerevan on Wednesday.

At least 136 of them were detained in the following hours. It was not clear how many of them remained in police custody as of Thursday afternoon.

"With concern we note reports on excessive use of force and mass arrests by the police," read the EU Delegation statement

endorsed by the Yerevan-based ambassadors of France, Germany and several other EU member states.

"In that regard, we call on the authorities to observe the principle of proportionality in handling public manifestations, which applies to both peaceful and violent gatherings," it said. "Likewise, demonstrators need to refrain from violence in the exercise of their civil rights."

Several protesters were punched and kicked by law-enforcement officers as they were detained early on Thursday.

A team of Armenian civic activists visited some detainees later in the morning. One of its members, Suren Iskandaryan, said they were allowed to interview a 22-year-old man suspected of assaulting police officers during the late-night clash.

"He said that he didn't fight or throw stones," Iskandaryan told RFE/RL's Armenian service. "He said he only shouted at policemen."

The civic monitors found no traces of violence on the young man's body, added Iskandaryan. Nevertheless, he insisted that the police did use excessive force while pushing back the angry crowd on a Yerevan street leading to the seized police station.



Oil prices rise as market shrugs off Turkey coup bid

Oil prices rose in Asian trade on July 18, following gains last week, as traders shrugged off the impact of Friday's attempted coup in Turkey, while a weaker dollar and upbeat economic data from the United States lent price support, Reuters reports.

Brent crude futures rose 26 cents to \$47.87 a barrel as of 0402 GMT after closing up 24 cents in the previous session, having gained nearly 2 percent for the week.

U.S. crude futures climbed 10 cents to \$46.05 a barrel after ending the previous session up 27 cents, gaining more than 1 percent for the week.

Both benchmarks rebounded after declining early in Monday's session as investors digested the impact from the coup bid.

"The market is looking past the coup," said Ric Spooner, chief market analyst at Sydney's CMC Markets.

"There is no disruption to shipping. There is nothing in terms of short-term risk (to oil supply)," he said.

Istanbul's Bosphorus Strait, a key chokepoint for oil which handles about 3 percent of global shipments, mainly from Black Sea ports and the Caspian region, was reopened on Saturday after being shut for several hours after Friday's attempted military coup.

The dollar index slipped against a basket of currencies in early trade on Monday. A weaker greenback makes dollar-priced commodities cheaper for holders of other currencies, boosting demand for crude.

Buoyant economic data from the U.S. and China on Friday, the world's two biggest economies, lent support to oil prices.

U.S. retail sales rose more than expected in June as Americans splurged on motor vehicles and other goods, while U.S. industrial production recorded its biggest increase in 11 months in June, official data on Friday showed.

But Morgan Stanley raised concerns about the longer term outlook for oil con-



sumption as demand for petrochemicals rather than fuels such as diesel and gasoline is clouding the outlook for crude demand, according to a report on Monday.

"Fundamental headwinds are growing, supply-demand rebalancing is likely still a mid-2017 event, but tail risks are admittedly large in both directions, as geopolitics add to uncertainty," the report said.

"A rapid rise of non-petroleum products is boosting total product demand, but this is unhelpful for crude oil. Based on the latest data, even our tepid 800,000 barrels per day growth estimate for global crude runs looks too high," the report added.

Armenia to host ArmHiTec 2016 exhibition of arms and defense technologies

Yerevan will host ArmHiTec 2016 international exhibition of arms and defense technologies October 13-15. The doctrine of the first ArmHiTec 2016 expo has been approved by Minister of Defense Seyran Ohanyan, Press Service of the Defense Ministry reports.

The list of the expositions includes the whole arsenal of arms and technologies used in practice, with a special focus on the development of innovative technologies



and precision weapons.

Battle management systems, communication equipment, automated troop control systems, robotic systems, unmanned flying vehicles, search and inspection technolo-

gies, precision weapons, laser technologies, optical-electronic equipment and systems, air defense systems will also be on display.

The exhibition aims to present the newest military equipment, innovative military production means used in Armenia and abroad. The event will open new perspectives for exchange of experience, contribute to the expansion of Armenia's military-technical cooperation and reinforce the export potential.

Fitch applies criteria changes to Armenia's ratings

Fitch Ratings has affirmed Armenia's Long-Term Foreign and Local Currency IDRs at 'B+' with Stable Outlooks. The issue ratings on Armenia's senior unsecured Foreign-Currency bonds have also been affirmed at 'B+'. The Country Ceiling has been affirmed at 'BB-' and the Short-Term Foreign Currency IDR at 'B'. Fitch has assigned a new Short-Term Local Currency (STLC) IDR rating of 'B'.

Assignment of STLC IDR

In line with the updated guidance contained in Fitch's revised Sovereign Rating Criteria dated 18 July 2016, and as part of a broader portfolio review, the assignment of

a STLC IDR of 'B' to Armenia is consistent with Fitch's approach to assigning ST ratings by using its Long-Term/Short-Term Rating Correspondence table to map the STLC IDR from the LTLC rating scale. According to Fitch's Rating Definitions, the Fitch Rating Correspondence Table is "a guide only and variations from this correspondence will occur". However, variations to this approach are rare in the case of sovereign ratings.

Armenia's STLC IDR is derived from the mapping to its LTLC IDR of 'B+'.

KEY RATING DRIVERS

The 'B+' rating is supported by

Armenia's favourable business climate, relatively high per capita income level, IMF Extended Arrangement programme, and the extended maturity profile and low interest burden of public debt. Conversely, the ratings are weighed down by high net external debt, the large share of public debt denominated in foreign currency, a highly dollarised banking sector and tensions in relations with some neighbouring countries.

Armenia's economy continues to grow at a healthy rate, and Fitch expects this to remain the case during the forecast period, despite the continued negative external shock from Russia and the wider CIS

region. The economy has faced significant external headwinds since late 2014, as the plunge in oil prices saw major contractions in the economies of energy exporters across the CIS. Nevertheless, in 2015 the Armenian economy grew by 3%, with a strong net export adjustment outweighing weakness in domestic demand. Although remittance inflows plunged and export demand fell, a depreciation of the dram, diversification of export destinations and increased export capacity in the mining sector helped offset this.

2016 started strongly, with the economy growing by 4.4% year on year in 1Q16. Industry, agriculture and some service sectors made the biggest positive contributions, pointing to the continued importance of the external sector. Growth in exports to countries outside the region, notably Iraq and China (8.8% and 11.1% of exports, respectively, in 2015), was particularly strong. Fitch expects the economy to grow by 3.5% in 2016, up from 2.0% at the time of our last review, although still below the 'B' median of 4.2% (five-year average). Growth is expected to average 3.6% in 2017-18, as the Russian economy returns to positive growth and demand in the immediate region picks up more broadly.

The current account deficit narrowed to 2.7% of GDP in 2015 ('B' median: 7%), compared with 7.3% in 2014, thanks to significant import compression. In US dollar terms, merchandise imports fell by 26% year on year in 2015, compared with a much more moderate 4.2% fall in exports. The relative resilience of exports was supported by some export diversification.

Despite the sharp narrowing of the current account deficit, net external debt rose to 46.8% of GDP at end-2015, from 40.7% of GDP a year earlier (and well above the 'B' median of 18.6%), largely thanks to revaluation effects. Fitch expects the current account deficit to average 2.3% of GDP in 2016-18, owing to strong export performance and relatively subdued import growth. This will help net external debt to fall to 40.7% of GDP by 2018. International reserves (including gold) reached USD1.8bn at end-2015, equivalent to 4.2 months of current external payments (CXP), above the 'B' median of 3.6 months. Fitch expects reserves to remain at around 4.6 months of CXP in 2016-18.

Fiscal dynamics deteriorated in 2015, as weakness in the tax-rich domestic economy weighed on revenue and expenditure continued to grow strongly. The fiscal deficit

reached 4.8% of GDP, compared with an original target of 2.3%, and above the 'B' median of 4.3%. The deterioration continued at the beginning of 2016, with the deficit widening on the central government measure widening to AMD64.4bn, compared with AMD40.3bn in the same period in 2015. Fitch now expects a general government shortfall equivalent to 4.5% of GDP this year, well above the original 3.5% target. Beyond that the deficit is expected to narrow, to 2.8% of GDP by 2018, as tax-rich domestic demand growth recovers. Fitch expects the general government debt/GDP ratio to reach 52.4% of GDP in 2016, from 48.7% in 2015 ('B' median: 51.8%).

Tensions with neighboring Azerbaijan continue to weigh on the rating, and the security environment in the region has deteriorated since our last review. In April, armed conflict in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh reached its most serious level since the 1994 ceasefire, and dozens of soldiers were killed on both sides. A truce was called on 3 April, but tensions remain high. Although a permanent solution to the conflict appears some way off, the continued active involvement of the OSCE Minsk Group, chaired by Russia, France and the US, indicates that a prolonged outbreak of fighting is unlikely. Fitch's base case is that the conflict will remain frozen during the forecast period. Armenia's border with Turkey has been closed since 1993, depriving Armenia of a major potential trade partner. Fitch does not expect a normalization of relations between the countries during the forecast period.

In the context of a sharp fall in the dram at the end of 2014, and with dollarization of loans at above 65%, the situation in the banking sector remains manageable. Asset quality has deteriorated, with the non-performing loan ratio reaching 10% at end-May. Profitability remains under pressure, but should improve gradually during the forecast period as the situation in the domestic economy improves. Banks keep open currency positions within the 10% of capital limit set by the central bank, which minimizes direct market risks from the high level of dollarization.

High reserve requirements for FX liabilities introduced in December 2014 have helped keep the level of liquid assets well above 100% of short-term liabilities. Banks' external liabilities are high (foreign funding makes up over 30% of total liabilities, the highest in the CIS and Georgia), but risks are mitigated by the fact that 75% is long

term, and most is raised from IFIs and foreign shareholders. Sector capitalisation is adequate, with a capital ratio of 17.2% at end-May and Fitch expects it to improve further as a result of new minimum capital requirements.

SOVEREIGN RATING MODEL (SRM) and QUALITATIVE OVERLAY (QO)

Fitch's proprietary SRM assigns Armenia a score equivalent to a rating of 'B+' on the Long-Term FC IDR scale. Fitch's sovereign rating committee did not adjust the output from the SRM to arrive at the final LTFC IDR.

Fitch's SRM is the agency's proprietary multiple regression rating model that employs 18 variables based on three year centered averages, including one year of forecasts, to produce a score equivalent to a LTFC IDR. Fitch's QO is a forward-looking qualitative framework designed to allow for adjustment to the SRM output to assign the final rating, reflecting factors within our criteria that are not fully quantifiable and/or not fully reflected in the SRM.

RATING SENSITIVITIES

The Stable Outlook reflects Fitch's assessment that upside and downside risks to the rating are currently balanced.

The main risk factors that, individually or collectively, could trigger positive rating action are:

- A sustained improvement in external economic conditions and Armenia's continued resilience to them.
- A firm downward path in the government debt-to-GDP ratio.
- A sustained improvement in the external balance sheet.

The main risk factors that, individually or collectively, could trigger negative rating action are:

- Severe adverse spill-over from worsening economic conditions in Russia or lower commodity prices.
- A marked drop in foreign exchange reserves.
- Fiscal slippage leading to a significant rise in the government debt-to-GDP ratio.

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

Fitch assumes that Armenia will continue to experience broad social and political stability and there will be no prolonged escalation in the conflict with Azerbaijan regarding Nagorno-Karabakh to a level that would affect economist and financial stability. Fitch assumes that the Russian economy will contract by 0.7% in 2016, before growing by 1.3% in 2017.



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1 ROOM

- 1792. **Amiryan str.** Newly built, /10th floor, 78sq.m, 1 bedroom, one bathroom and a guest toilet, open kitchen, capitally renovated.
- 1440. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m, euro repaired, heating system, ,furnished, parking,. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1715- **Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- 1680- **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

- 3003. **Sayat-Nova str**, 5/3, 105sq.m, 2bedrooms, stone building, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1560. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- 2818. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished. Price: 400.000USD
- 1156. **Komitas Ave.**, Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, kitchen is furnished. Price: 150.000 USD negotiable.
- 2949. **Aram str.**, Newly built, 1st floor, 143 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, zero state, Price: 2000 USD per sq.m.
- 2300. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.



3 ROOMS

- 3090 **Dzorap Newly built**, 190sq.m, 2 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, capitally renovated, parking, Price: 460.000 USD
- 3090. **Busand str, /Near Republic Square/**, Newly built, /6th floor, 116sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms one in master bedroom, capitally renovated, open balcony. Price: 350.000 USD negotiable
- 3012. **Aram str**, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price: 300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998. **North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682. **Aram Str.**, Newly built, 13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally repaired, heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- 2958. **Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building, 4 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, security system. Price: 320.000 USD.
- 1104. **Komitas Ave., Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m., stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- 2836. **Pushkin str.**, 4/4, 5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms,

3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.

•2990. **North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- 1789. **Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598. **Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capitally repaired. Price: negotiable.

•1603. **Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.

•2035. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable

•2013. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable

•2012. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable

•2155. **Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking. Price: 3.600.000 USD

•2020. **Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m, without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable

•2167. **Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally repaired. Price: 200.000 USD

•2175. **Tumanyan str**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor 300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,

•2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

•2122. **Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.

•2121. **Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m., building permits. Price: 2million USD.

•2013. **Cascade**. 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 460.000USD

•1402. **Hr. Kochar Str.**, 1100 sq. m., facade -25 m. Price negotiable.

•2090. **Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000USD.

•2406. **Avan**, Mher Mkrtchyan block, 1000 sq.m., electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price:

30USD per sq.m

•2107. **Monument**, 2400sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: 400 USD per sq.m.

•2413. **Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable

•2414. **Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price: 750.000 USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

•3802. **Vahagni distr.** Newly built, land- 1550 sq.m, 3storied bld-880sq.m, 9bedrooms, capitally renovated. Price: 880.000 USD.

•3739. **Nork Marash Land-** 2000sq.m, two separate houses, total bld-600sq.m, capitally repaired, swimming pool, sauna, guard house. 2 car parking, garden. Price: 950.000 USD

•3348. **Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD

•3146. **Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.

•3583. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.

•3432. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD

•3606. **Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD

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

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

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

•3401. **Antarayan str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capitally repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

•142. **Verin Antarayan str.**, 14 floors, 65-133sq.m, capitally renovated, parking. Price: 900-1300 USD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

- 2362. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, /5th floor, 160sq.m, 2 bedrooms, a study, 2 bathrooms, capially renovated, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnshred, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2243. **Buzand str.**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2373. **Tumanyan str.**, 6/3, stone bld, 100sq.m, 3 bedrooms, capially renovated, furnished. Price: 1300 USD
- 2363. **Arami str.**, Newly built, /4th floor, 120sq.m, 2 bathrooms and a guest toilet, a dressing room, capially renovated, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 2358. **V. Sargsyan str.**, Newly Built, 7/4, 145sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, one guest toilet, capially renovated, furnished, underground parking. Price: 3000 USD negotiable
- 2347. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3 bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable
- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, guest toilet, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500

USD

- 2303. **Hanrapetutyán str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially 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, capially 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, capially repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD



- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave.**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335. **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336. **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathroom, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337. **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str.**, Land-400sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m , 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, 4 bathrooms, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, 4 bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially 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, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str.**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

- 2049. **Teryan str.**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 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. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capially repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capially repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capially repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- 2033. **Abovyan str.**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m., capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD
- 2031. **Vardanants str.**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m, Price: 8000 USD
- 2027. **Sayat Nova str.**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capially repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

Robert Fisk: Erdogan still defends the Ottoman army over the Armenian genocide

A new book exposes the slaughter of more than a million Armenian Christians a century ago. It's quite a volume for the Turkish president to dip into, once he's finished purging his broken country

By Robert Fisk
The Independent

If Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wasn't so busy right now trying to emasculate his 600,000-strong Turkish army, he'd be raging about the contents of a new book that - with judicious research and painfully ironic timing - has just appeared in Australia with irrefutable proof of the 1915 Armenian genocide at the hands of Turkey's (then) 500,000-strong army.

The Turkish army, in the 1914-18 war, was intimately involved in the Nazi-like persecution and slaughter of one and a half million Armenian Christians. And it neither knew nor apparently cared that Australian prisoners of war were witnesses to the greatest war crime of the conflict. But now along comes a small Australian publisher with a highly researched volume, by Vicken Babkenian and Peter Stanley, in which the reader can find the testimony of Australian and other Allied prisoners who witnessed the dispossession and mass murder of the Armenians.

Some were survivors of the 1915 siege and surrender of Kut al-Amara in present-day Iraq, whose death march to prisons in Anatolia matched in brutality if not in numbers the killing of the Armenian population of Ottoman Turkey. Other Australian troops were captured at Gallipoli. Several were submariners whose vessel was seized by the Turkish navy.

They were Allied servicemen, not propagandists, and their attempts to help the doomed Armenians were as brave as they were innocent. Turks who still deny the knifing, beheading, mass executions and rape of the Armenians in a deliberate campaign of genocide - and Sultan Erdogan is one of them - will find it hard to challenge these witness statements.

Though he has other worries on his mind right now, Erdogan is so strong a defender of the old Ottoman army that he rearranged the date of last year's 1915 Gallipoli commemorations to obscure the anniversary of the start of the far bloodier destruction of the Armenian people on the same day. But when he's eventually finished destroying the army, judiciary, civil service and academic freedoms of present-day Turkey - perhaps on a subsequent, more relaxing holiday at Marmaris - Erdogan should take a look at the 324-page Armenia, Australia and the Great War.

Here, for example, is Lieutenant Leslie

Luscombe of the Australian 14th Battalion at Gallipoli, captured by the Turks and sent to Angora province where he saw "a sad and depressing sight" on a railway station platform: "a considerable number of Armenian women and children were huddled together" while "Turkish soldiers armed with whips" drove them onto sheep trucks "to transport them to some distant concentration camp". Just before Luscombe's arrival, the monks of the Armenian monastery in which he was to be held "had doubtless been liquidated". All the Australian prisoners were housed in abandoned Armenian houses.

One of Luscombe's colleagues, Corporal George Kerr, was sent to work on the uncompleted German Taurus mountain railway and lodged on the upper floor of a house whose occupants included "60 miserable creatures" (as he recorded in his secret diary), both Armenians and Greeks.



Captain Thomas White of the Australian Flying Corps, arriving under Turkish guard in the Ottoman city of Mosul (now, of course, the Isis "capital"), saw "Armenian women, reduced to beggary", pleading for food. He was marched to the abandoned Armenian town of Tel Armen where - although a few Armenian women and children were still present - the men were absent. After climbing a low hill, he found "36 newly made graves which spoke eloquently of what had become of the Armenian men". White described himself as "horrified at the Turks' handiwork", noting later that these massacres had been "simultaneous and to order throughout the entire country".

At this time, the Armenians of Ras al-Ein (a village now in the hands of the American-armed YPG anti-Isis militia) were being prepared for their death march to Deir ez-Zour and White wrote of seeing "a large camp of Armenians herded together after the general round-up from their homes, and waiting to be sent on marches that had always the same ending". After a train ride to Afion, White and others were housed in a church from which Armenian survivors had been driven to make way for them. "Their menfolk had been killed and furniture confiscated"

and now "they were being turned into the street from their last possible sanctuary". He found a burial ground of Armenians, some of whose bodies were "so close to the surface that their bones protruded".

On the British-Australian-Indian prisoners' 2,000km death march northwards to Anatolia from Kut, two POWs discovered a well at the back of a village house filled with "the mutilated remains of the murdered Armenian women and children". In total, 70 per cent of the British POWs who surrendered at Kut and 30 per cent of the Indians died in captivity. By September 1916, the dead Allied POWs were themselves being buried in the Armenian cemetery at Afion. At Yozgat, Allied prisoners were placed in empty Armenian houses whose owners had been "massacred" and their shops pillaged, according to engineer Captain Kenneth Yearsley.

The Armenian massacres continued long into 1918 in the east of Turkey - where, to the credit of the books' authors, they record the slaughter of Muslim villagers by Armenians - but in the north of Mesopotamia, Colonel Stanley Savage, an Australian Gallipoli veteran, and his men found themselves fighting 10-to-one against Turkish and Kurdish cavalry killing the stragglers from an Armenian refugee column. They had found them - "old men, weak and wounded women, deserted infants and crippled children" - and, under fire, pulled women and children onto their horses, leaving, "with aching hearts", cripples and infants to their fate. Captain Robert Nichol, a New Zealander, was killed as he fought for the Armenians' lives.

As General Allenby's victorious army surged through Palestine and into what is now Syria in 1918, they found thousands of Armenians, starving and dying, most of them women and children, up the long road from Damascus to Homs and Hama and Aleppo - a melancholy highway in today's ghastly Syrian conflict - and then again around the Turkish city of Diyarbakir. Australian cavalrymen emptied their supplies and water bottles for the Armenians.

Ancient Diyarbakir still existed then; much of it has now been destroyed by the present-day Turkish army (including those who plotted against Erdogan last week) in their battle against the Kurdish PKK.

Quite a volume for Sultan Erdogan to dip into, then, once he's finished purging his broken country.

But I suppose he can always claim - evidence notwithstanding - that the Ottoman government wasn't responsible for the Great War Armenian genocide on the grounds that its soldiers, like his own, simply took the law into their own hands.

Turkish Coup D'état Still in Progress: Conflict Keeps Turkey in Turmoil



By *Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

Most Armenians became ecstatic last Friday upon hearing that a military coup was in progress to topple Turkey's President Erdogan.

Even I was caught up in a momentary euphoria, until I recalled that while Erdogan is a fascist leader, the Turkish military is far worse! During the past four military coups d'état in Turkey - 1960, 1971, 1980 and 1997 - when generals shot their way to power, wholesale jailing, torture, and killings ensued. By no means is Erdogan a democratic leader, but his military opponents could be far more vicious! This is the reason why none of the opposition parties in Turkey, not even the oppressed Kurds, have supported the coup plotters, realizing their dreadful fate under a military regime!

Rather than rushing to welcome the attempted coup, Armenians should have hailed the Turkish leader's survival! One should consider that Erdogan is primarily an Islamist, whereas the military officers are rabid nationalists. Erdogan, of course, is no friend of Kurds, Armenians, Turkish human rights activists, journalists, and political rivals. Military rule, on the other hand, would have been an absolute nightmare for everyone in and out of Turkey, particularly for next door Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno Karabagh). One does not have to go all the way back to 1915 to remember the murderous acts of the Turkish army against 1.5 million innocent Armenian men, women and children! As recently as the 1974 Cyprus invasion, the Turkish military committed despicable war crimes against thousands of Greek

civilians!

Erdogan's continued hold on power may be the greatest gift for all those who wish Turkey to remain the laughing stock of the world. His extremist views on social, political and religious issues appeal only to his radical followers, but antagonize all people of compassion and common sense.

When the initial news of Erdogan's downfall turned out to be false, those celebrating his presumed departure turned to rumor-mongering, insisting that the Turkish President had staged the coup himself to get rid of his opponents. To believe such a far-fetched notion, one has to ignore that the coup was staged by a considerably weakened group of senior officers after Erdogan had spent the better part of a decade purging the military. It is a miracle that after being threatened, prosecuted, jailed or forced into early retirement, there are still putschists left in the Turkish military! Experienced commanders were replaced by amateurs whose only skill was total submission to Sultan Erdogan's every wish and whim!

Furthermore, the coup d'état was poorly organized, allowing Erdogan to avoid arrest after getting wind of the plot, and going on TV to incite his fanatical followers to confront the tanks in the streets!

The American mass media, as usual, misled the public by repeatedly calling Erdogan a 'democratically elected leader' who supposedly has a 'massive public following', and is an 'important U.S. ally in fighting ISIS!' All of these statements are untrue. The Turkish President is a fascist; his followers, albeit more vocal, are barely half of the voting public; and his regime has been an enabler of ISIS terrorists!

What will happen next? Erdogan will now exploit this golden opportuni-

ty to tighten his grip on power by becoming even more vengeful and autocratic than before, and smashing with an iron fist anyone who dares to disagree with him!

The Turkish leader is now aggressively eliminating all suspected opponents by arresting thousands of military officers, including 102 Generals, dismissing over 10,000 security officials and 3,000 members of the judiciary who had nothing to do with the attempted coup! They will certainly be replaced by Erdogan's obedient servants to ensure that his political rivals would receive the harshest court verdicts, most probably the death penalty, which would preclude Turkey from ever joining the European Union!

Erdogan's only out of his reach adversary is Islamic Cleric Fethullah Gulen, an erstwhile ally, who has been living in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania! The Turkish President is falsely accusing the Muslim cleric of orchestrating last week's attempted coup to eliminate his major opponent! It remains to be seen if Erdogan will succeed in bullying Pres. Obama to extradite Gulen to Turkey!

Contrary to the Turkish government deceptive reports, the coup has not been fully crushed. As of the printing deadline of this column, four days after the start of the insurrection, Erdogan is still cooped up in Istanbul, unable to return to his colossal empty Palace in Ankara!

All those fed up with Turkey's meddling in the neighboring countries' affairs would certainly prefer prolonged internecine clashes between the coup plotters and the regime's autocratic leadership. This would keep Turkey preoccupied with its own domestic troubles, diminishing its ability to threaten the security of Armenia, Artsakh, Cyprus, Greece, Iran, Iraq, and Syria!

Fr Mesrop Aramian: "Everything in Life Depends On How Do You Believe..."

Two volume collection of works of a prominent clergyman, theologian and educator presented on his 50th birthday



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

Chief Correspondent

Recently at the Fresco Hall of the National Gallery of Armenia the presentation of Fr. **Mesrop Aramyan's** collection of works was organized on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

Two volumes are comprised of Fr. Mesrop's literary works, including theological articles, literary studies, journalistic articles, Classical Armenian texts and translations as well as the script for the well known documentary *From Ararat to Zion* produced by Holy Father.

"This two-volume publication," as Father Mesrop writes in the book's intro-

Mesrop the warmest congratulations and blessing of His Holiness **Karekin II**, Catholicos of All Armenians.

"This two volumes are a result of our beloved Fr. Mesrop's diligent effort, thanks to which the pearls of the Armenian theological heritage and the treasures of the dogmatic mind were identified and presented. He is a carrier of the true Armenian



And after congratulatory speeches Fr. Mesrop briefly presented the book.

At the end of the event, all participants were gifted the two volumes of Fr. Mesrop Aramyan's works.

To note, the publication has become possible to generosity of Mr **Arsen Ghazaryan**, President of the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia.

Fr. **Mesrop Aramian** (born June 20, 1966, Yerevan) is a priest of the Armenian Apostolic Church, theologian, scholar, writer, film producer, social entrepreneur and educator. He is the Adviser to the President of Armenia on Education. He is also the Director of the National Program for Educational Excellence, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ayb School and co-founder of the Ayb Educational



duction, "is, in fact, the result of my priestly service and spiritual searches of twenty-five years. Everything in life depends on how do you believe. And the way you believe is the way you live. Our whole history is written in faith, and thus, to understand who we are, we must recognize our own faith."

The event was opened by the Geghard Choir with several songs, then congratulatory remarks were made by the guests of honor, Culture Minister Mrs **Hasmik Poghosyan** and Archbishop **Navasard Kchoyan**. In particular, His Grace conveyed to Fr.



spirit who has been combining Ayb, Ben, Gim (A, B, C) poles and a one who continued the sacred mission," Archbishop Navasard Kchoyan stressed.

Foundation. Fr. Mesrop Aramian is the founder and director of Gandzasar Theological Center and Vem Media Arts as well as the founder and Editor-in-Chief of Vem Radio. He is the scriptwriter and producer of the documentary *From Ararat to Zion*, creative producer of the film *The Book and the author of its idea*. He has authored publications, articles, research studies, radio and TV shows as well as educational projects and programs.

Fr. Mesrop is father of seven.
Congratulations Fr. Mesrop!

State Youth Orchestra of Armenia: July Chronicle



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**

Chief Correspondent

The State Youth Orchestra performed during the Closing Ceremony of the Talalyan Brothers' Festival

The SYOA took part in the Closing Ceremony of the 7th Henrik and Geronty Talalyan Viola and Cello Annual Festival held on July 5. The concert launched at the Komitas Chamber Music House was dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the famous Armenina composer Edvard Mirzoyan and the 90th anniversary of the People's Artist of RA cellist Geronty Talalyan. The concert program included 1st and 3rd movements of the Cello Concerto in C minor, RV 401 by Antonio Vivaldi (soloist: Lilya Arustamyan, cello, Prof. G. Rafaelyan), 1st movement of the Cello Concerto C dur by Joseph Haydn (soloist: Artyom Ioanisyanyan, cello, Prof. G. Rafaelyan), Brazil-YAN for strings by A. Kurkdjian (dedicated to the Armenian Genocide of the 1915, Armenian premiere),

piano).

The conductor of the concert was Aram Talalyan.

Let us mention that the festival was held with an initiative of the "Ars Lunga" NGO and with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture of RA.

Alumni of the music and art schools of Yerevan and the SYOA were all in one stage

Best competitors of the "Yerevan Sounds" 9th Competition-Festival of music and art schools subordinated by Yerevan Municipality and the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia headed by Sergey Smbatyan performed during the Gala Concert held at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall. The concert was conducted by the Honored Artist of RA, Honored Cultural Figure of Yerevan Ruben



In the framework of the concert program 12 alumni from 10 music schools of Yerevan performed the masterpieces by famous composers. At the end of the concert the attendees of the evening, including the huge number of musicologists, have mentioned that the performances of those children did not concede the professional musicians.

Otri Trio. The presentation of the exclusive Armenian ensemble

Over the years the SYOA and its Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Sergey Smbatyan have been promoting the creation of exclusive ensembles in the framework of the Orchestra.

July 13 became the birthday of a new and unique Otri Trio ensemble the presentation of which was held at the Cafesjian Centre for the Arts. The trio is comprised of the laureates of various international and national competitions, current musicians of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia Anjela Hovhannisyanyan (violin), Arevik Kosyan (viola) and Ruzanna Tovmasyanyan (flute). The combination of the instruments of this ensemble is exclusive in Armenia.

The musicians note that unlike classical piano trios, they



Poem for Cello and String Orchestra by Edvard Mirzoyan (soloist: Aram Talalyan, cello), Scène andalouse for viola, piano & string quartet by Joaquin Turina (soloists: Aram Talalyan, cello, Julietta Vardanyan,

Asatryan. The event was attended by the Mayor of Yerevan, Taron Margaryan, the Minister of Culture of RA, Hasmik Poghosyan and leaders of Administrative Districts.

present the alternative version of the classical trio which consists of woodwind and string instruments. The newborn ensemble

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provides an absolutely beautiful and rich sound that comes from the unusual mixture of instruments.

By the way, the name "otri" has Latvian origin and is translated as an alternative. So, the Otri Trio suggests the alternative version of the classical trio. The members of the ensemble said that the "copyright" of such naming belongs to Maestro Sergey Smbatyan.

Plenty of musical pieces have been written for this type of ensemble but nevertheless the musicians have expressed a desire to cooperate with Armenian composers to enlarge their repertoire.

The program of the concert included Ludwig van Beethoven's Serenade for flute, violin and viola in D major, Max Reger's Serenade for flute, violin and viola and Nino Rota's Trio for flute, violin and piano. In fact, the last two compositions were Armenian premiers. Anushik Karapetyan (piano) also took part in the concert.

Haik Davtyan, Gayane Aslanyan, Yuri Davtyan and SYOA in one stage

The State Youth Orchestra of Armenia gave a joint concert with Haik Davtyan (violin, Armenia/France) and Gayane Aslanyan (piano, Armenia) on July 14 at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall. The concert was headed by the People's Artist of RA Prof. Yuri Davtyan.

The concert program contained Richard Strauss' Violin Concerto (Armenian premier) performed by Haik Davtian (violin), Maurice Ravel's Pavane for a Dead Princess and Piano Concerto presented by Gayane Aslanyan (piano).

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Հայաստանի պետական երիտասարդական նվագախմբի անսամբլ
ՕՏՐԻ ՏՐԻՈ
 Ensemble of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia
OTRI TRIO
 13:00 Հուլիս
 20:00 July
 2016
 Ծրագրում:
 Լ.վան Բեթհովեն
 Մաքս Ռեգեր
 Նինո Ռոտա
 Special Guest:
Anushik KARAPETYAN
 piano
 Տոմսի արժեքը/
 Ticket cost: 2.000 դրամ
 AMD
 In Program:
 L.van Beethoven
 Max Reger
 Nino Rotta
Ռուզաննա ԹՈՎՄԱՅԱՆ Ruzanna TOVMASYAN
 ֆլեյտա flute
Անժելա ՀՈՎՀԱՆՆԻՍՅԱՆ Anzhela HOVHANNISYAN
 ջութակ violin
Արևիկ ԿՈՍՅԱՆ Arevik KOSYAN

Notably, Haik Davtyan is the son of conductor Yuri Davtyan. Before the concert Maestro Davtyan said his confusion was doubled as they haven't performed together for a long time, approximately for 12 years. "I'm sure I will feel calmer after the end of the first section of the concert as soon as Haik finishes his performance", - confessed Yuri Davtyan.

Violinist Haik Davtyan said his responsibility was increased. "It is always harder to play in Armenia when you feel the presence of your teachers, friends and classmates who are sitting at the concert hall and it's fundamental for me to present them the best I can".

While talking about Richard Strauss' Violin Concerto, the composition he performed during the concert, Haik Davtian emphasized the beauty of this musical piece and expressed his repentance towards the fact that the composition is not popular in the world that much.

Musicians of the State Youth Orchestra received the highest prize of the Ministry of Culture of the RA

July 19 was noted with a special event for SYOA. The group of musicians and officers of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia have received golden medals of the Ministry of Culture of the RA for their contribution to the development and promotion of the music industry and in honor of the 10th anniversary of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia.

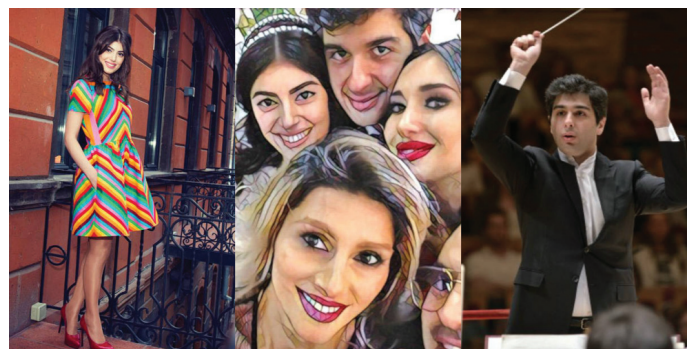
Among the awardees were Sargis Balbabyan, Anna Andriasova, Roza Hayrapetyan, Lusine Hayrapetyan, Elena Hayrapetyan, Anush Yavrumyan, Lilit Zakaryan, Feliks Baburyan, Davit Gyulamiryan, Gevorg Avetisyan, Nikolay Poghosyan, Tigran Avagyan, Tigran Vardanyan, Vahram Davtyan.

While congratulating the awardees Artur Poghosyan, the Deputy Minister of Culture, noted that it has always been a pleasure for him to foregather with youngsters who managed to achieve great destinies in their fields. "I'm glad to see that the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia makes a great progress, provides us with the feeling of honor and became a true visiting card of Armenia on the international arena".

* * *

Recently SYOA Founding Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Sergey Smbatyan has got married Ms Hasmik Nushikyan.

The Highlights staff congratulates the newlyweds wholeheartedly and wishes them a lot of happiness and a lot of children indeed !



VivaCell-MTS Recently...

Business challenge by VivaCell-MTS

At the 24-th annual summer camp organized by the Junior Achievement of Armenia over 150 schoolchildren from Yerevan and other regions of Armenia participated in the "Business Assignment" contest suggested by VivaCell-MTS. The competition was organized as part of JAA's "Entrepreneurship and Civic Activism for Students and Teachers of the Vulnerable Communities in the Republic of Armenia" program.

The joint initiative of VivaCell-MTS and JAA is aimed at creating a dialogue between business and education, thus encouraging high school students to develop their entrepreneurial and creative skills. This challenge allows the students to use the knowledge acquired during the past academic year in the JAA program and to suggest innovative business solutions to the company.

Ahead of the competition, volunteers from VivaCell-MTS presented the students the business-task. The students had limited time to come up with solutions and to present their ideas to the jury - VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** and JAA's Executive Director **Armine Hovhannisian**.

The students were assigned to get acquainted with VivaCell-MTS "Viva" tariff plans and to suggest new services within the tariff plans. They were also asked to consider other VivaCell-MTS services and to suggest ways of attracting more costumers.

When preparing their presentations, the students had to consider the following factors:

- 1) Price
- 2) Profit
- 3) Corporate Social Responsibility
- 4) Competition

In order to provide access to mobile internet for carrying out their research, VivaCell-MTS provided the students with respective mobile communication service.

"Business administration is a chain, where, along with meeting business objectives, it is also quite important to present solutions that are flexible, attractive and best suited to the needs of the customers. They should be designed to reflect the core values and the responsible attitude of the company, to add competitive advantage, and last but not least, to contribute to sustainable economic development of the country. Your enthusiasm and determination to succeed are worthy of respect. This platform offers you a wonderful opportunity to apply the acquired knowledge in practice, and it will help you to become more confident and to have a clear vision of the future," stated Mr Yirikian.

The JAA "Entrepreneurship and Civic Activism for Students and Teachers of the Vulnerable Communities in the Republic of

Armenia" program operates in 150 schools and works with over 2500 students in all regions of Armenia. It is sponsored by the JHM foundation and the HSBC bank. The aim of the program is to arm students with entrepreneurial and economic skills. The students learn the fundamentals of market economics and apply it to real life by forming and operating student NGOs. The program also teaches the students to become active citizens, work in teams and address the issues of their communities.

The members of the winning team were awarded with "Alcatel Pixi 4" smartphones by VivaCell-MTS General Manager.

For more information on JAA, please refer to www.jaarmenia.org.



Painting Day-2016

Upon the initiative of the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) and VivaCell-MTS, the annual Painting Day took place in Yerevan Zoo. More than 1500 children and youth aged 5 to 16 attended the contest.

The Painting Day is held in the frames of the 9th Annual Pan-Armenian Painting Contest.

"Through these paintings, the environmental issues, discussed every day in the context of professional discussions, become more vivid, obtain clearer outlines and have a sobering effect on us. These paintings are a display of immense love and optimism. We have a strong belief, that these are the preconditions for the success of our future 'green' initiatives," FPWC Founder **Ruben Khachatryan** noted.

"The Pan-Armenian Painting Contest is a call to humanity for the preservation of nature and environment. The way children imagine environment is like imaginative world of the fairy tales they love. They draw whatever they are dreaming of, and in their 'dream world' nature is portrayed as haven for people, animals and plants. Here humans do not expand their living space at the expense of animals through deforestation and changes in the river's course; instead, they protect and preserve the environment. Through these paintings our next generation raises issues about environmental degradation and threats to the entire world," said VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

The Painting Day-2016 was marked by the 7th and 8th Pan-Armenian Painting Contests awarding ceremony. Prizes were handed to twenty four participants.

The 9th Pan-Armenian Painting Contest awarding ceremony will be held in October in the frames of the "SunChild" International Environmental Film Festival.

California State Board of Education adopts expanded Armenian Genocide curriculum

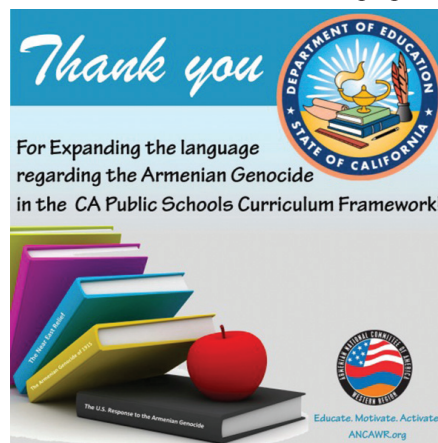
Asbarez - During its July 14 meeting, the California State Board of Education ("CSBE") adopted a new History-Social Studies curriculum framework which will serve as guidelines for public school teachers. This framework provides significant improvements and expanded language and scope of information regarding the Armenian Genocide, reported the Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region (ANCA-WR).

The additions regarding the Armenian Genocide were a result of collaborative work between the ANCA-WR, the Genocide Education Project ("GenEd"), the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC), Superintendent Tom Torlakson, and a culmination of the initiative taken by Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (D - San Fernando Valley) and the Armenian Legislative Caucus beginning with the Armenian Genocide Education Act (AB 1915), initiated by principal author Nazarian, which was signed into law in 2014.

"Genocide education has been a top priority for the ANCA-WR and the adoption of the new curriculum framework, with the additional language regarding the Armenian Genocide, will further students' understanding of crimes against humanity and provide them with greater context regarding the interconnection of such historical events, beginning with the Armenian Genocide. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the State Board of Education, the IQC, Superintendent of Public Schools Tom Torlakson, our Education Committee, GenEd, Assemblymember Nazarian, and the Armenian Legislative Caucus for their commitment and leadership as well as UTLA, SEIU, LAUSD, President Zimmer and the thousands of organizations, officials, leaders, and community members who submitted letters of support, making the language additions possible," stated ANCA-WR Executive Director Elen Asatryan. "We look forward to continuing our work with the Department of Education, Superintendent Torlakson and GenEd through our Education Committee to make the necessary changes in the textbooks that are reflective of the new curriculum framework and ensure that the Armenian Genocide is taught in every

classroom throughout the Golden State and beyond," added Asatryan.

"I want to thank all the groups and individuals from the Armenian community who took the time to get involved in this process, make so many great comments and attend numerous meetings," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. "This was an inclusive public effort to broaden knowledge of this terrible period in history, learn more about world events, and deepen our students' understanding of the Armenian experience. California students will be better prepared



to succeed in 21st century careers and college because of the contributions made in our updated History/Social Science Frameworks," he added.

Representatives of the Armenian American community and the ANCA - WR, including Asatryan and Chief Legislative Consultant Haig Baghdassarian were in Sacramento to testify when the Board of Education deliberated adoption of the History-Social Studies Curriculum Framework. Assemblyman Nazarian traveled especially to Sacramento, in the midst of the legislature's summer recess, to have his voice and those of his constituents heard by the Board.

The ANCA - WR, the Genocide Education Project, and the Armenian Legislative Caucus, in coordination with GenEd, led the way in ensuring that the IQC proposed, and that the Board of Education adopted an accurate and comprehensive treatment of the Armenian Genocide. Nazarian led the efforts of the Armenian Legislative Caucus, and his efforts were supported by Assemblymen Katcho Achadjian (R - San Luis Obispo)

and Scott Wilk (R - Santa Clarita).

Beginning in September of 2015, the ANCA-WR, Genocide Education Project, Assemblymember Nazarian and the Armenian Legislative Caucus submitted proposed language changes and additions to the current curriculum framework and attended the IQC hearings to advocate for those proposals. Submitted proposed language additions and changes may be found online at www.ancawr.org/CAGenocideEducation. Just days before the July 14 meeting, the ANCA-WR also launched a letter campaign, which resulted in over 2,000 support letters being submitted to the SBE on the subject from elected officials, organizations, educators, officials, and residents throughout California.

"This is a watershed moment; education and vigilance are the keys to banishing the act of genocide to exist solely in the pages of history books," stated Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian. "I am proud to have lead the legislative charge to pass the Armenian Genocide Education Act (AB 1915). The decision by the State of California Board of Education will allow students across California to understand and learn from the Armenian Genocide."

The revised and newly adopted curriculum framework include:

1. The addition of key facts regarding the Armenian Genocide and its causes;
2. Reference regarding the clear link between the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust; and
3. Information regarding the unprecedented American humanitarian response to the Armenian Genocide-during which time, through the first US Congressionally sanctioned humanitarian organization, the Near East Relief, the United States and the American people from every state, raised over 117 million dollars, saved over 1 million refugees, and over 132,000 orphans.

"The Social Studies Framework is critical to the teaching of all content related to Social Sciences, and most important for all Armenians is the factual teaching of the Armenian Genocide and the support role provided by the USA Near East Relief. To effect change on any framework takes years. The ANCA-WR Education

Committee started this work 2 years ago, and has teamed up with leaders in Genocide Education and elected officials to make certain that students learn the true facts about Genocide. Committee members have taken responsibility to write letters and meet and work with text book publishers to effect the necessary changes. We are proud of the ANCA-WR staff, elected officials and individuals who gave days and hours of their time to reach this critical goal. This is a milestone for California Genocide Education and one that should be celebrated. The work now begins, not only to change the text books to match the frameworks but to also make certain that teachers teach the Genocide content and teach it thoroughly," noted ANCA-WR Education Committee Chair Alice Petrossian.

Roxanne Makasdjian, a GenEd board

member, played an integral role in the process and particularly in recommending language, and was instrumental in obtaining assistance from an authority on Armenian History, Professor Stephan Astourian who is Director of the Armenian Studies Program at UC Berkeley, in order to make sure that the language in the framework will be accurate. Professor Keith Watenpaugh, an Armenian Genocide scholar at UC Davis who specializes in Modern Islam, Human Rights and Peace, offered his expertise to the California History Social Studies Project, which is the organization within the UC Davis History Department which has been tasked with revising the Curriculum Framework.

"The Armenian Genocide is a significant and instructive moment in modern world history, said Makasdjian. "We're gratified that our work to insure

California's History-Social Studies teachers are given more appropriate guidelines for teaching about it have been successful."

Asatryan expressed appreciation for the many voices who have lent their support in an effort to enhance Armenian Genocide education in California's public schools. She stated that "it was heartening to have the full support of exemplary leaders like Superintendent Torlakson and Steve Zimmer, President of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education, among many other prominent education leaders and organizations lend their support to our efforts." In his letter to the IQC committee, Zimmer noted that "Our curriculum quite literally shapes our students' understanding of the past and even more significantly prepares them to be the change agents who can build a better future."

US-Armenian musician named Armenia Fund's cultural program advisor



Armenia Fund USA Eastern Region affiliate recently announced the addition of Armenian-American pianist and composer Karén Hakobyan as their new cultural program advisor, the Armenian Weekly reported.

On behalf of the board of Armenia Fund USA, Executive Director Lisa Stepanian explained the decision: "As a non-profit organization focused on building infrastructures, many of which include the cultural arts, as well as holding concerts in both Armenia and the United States, we thought it would be beneficial to have someone like Karén Hakobyan who is experienced within the cultural arts to help advise us when making decisions on the topic."

Hakobyan has become a prominent influence in the international musical scene since his Carnegie Hall debut at the age of 17. He has received multiple different professional studies degrees at the Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of

Music, and the University of Utah. Hakobyan has performed in major concert halls in Armenia, the United States, Mexico, Germany, France, and Argentina. He has appeared as a soloist in the United States with the University of Utah Philharmonia, the Salt Lake Symphony, Summer Arts Festival Orchestra, the New American Symphony, and the World Festival Orchestra. Internationally, Hakobyan has appeared as a soloist with the Tucuman Philharmonic Orchestra in Argentina, the Monterrey Symphony Orchestra in Mexico, and, in Armenia, the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Serenade Chamber Orchestra, and the National Chamber Orchestra. He is currently the artistic director of World Peace Sinfonietta, a New York based orchestra.

On May 6, Armenia Fund USA collaborated with Hakobyan and the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra to present a concert dedicated to the cultural and diplomatic relations of Armenia and Japan. The concert was held in the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall in Yerevan. It was well received and laid the groundwork for future cultural exchanges between the two countries. It was also the start of new beginnings between Hakobyan and Armenia Fund USA.

On May 24, Hakobyan, along with the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia, held a concert at the Armenian National Gallery to honor the Hyebridge Telehealth Telemedicine Program, which has been one of Armenia Fund USA's important projects since 2009.

Armenia Fund USA is dedicated to supporting large-scale, self-sustaining initiatives with the greatest potential for a brighter future for Armenia and Karabagh, as they continue to undergo social and political transitions. The fund is primarily focused on sustainable physical infrastructure for the region and humanitarian and economic development for communities, families, and individuals. It is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization under US law. All donations are 100 percent tax-deductible.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20-April 19)

Your planetary avatar is making no new aspects. There will be a flurry of activity on or around the 29th, then quiet until Mars changes signs on Aug. 2. So this is a good time to catch up on those piles of paper and generally finish projects in preparation for a shift of attention as August begins.



Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)

An older person may offer you a gift from your family of origin. Perhaps it represents an "inheritance" that arrives early or a special keepsake. It is meant to grace your home and increase your sense of family ties. It is generally a challenge to move forward. You are pinned in place right now.



Gemini (May 20-June 20)

Communications with significant others may be misunderstood, snarled, or lost altogether. Do not make assumptions about what others mean. Ask questions and clarify for best results. You may be absent-minded this week. It's a time in which you may lose keys, tickets, and other small items. Be alert for these potential errors.



Cancer (June 21-July 21)

The Full Moon in Capricorn on Tuesday the 19th may still have you reeling with feelings. Sometimes the Full Moon brings a revelation about yourself or someone else in your life. This one shines a spotlight on your primary relationship(s). The situation is one in which you have been the giver. The Other may have taken advantage of your good nature.



Leo (July 22-August 21)

The sun returns "home" to your sign this week. You likely will find it to be energizing. Now is the time to focus on new plans for this next year of your life. Take a fresh look at where you want to direct your energy. While the Sun continues its path through your sign, notice how its warmth is bringing inspiration into your life.



Virgo (August 22-September 22)

The "rules" and the world's expectations have you tied up like a pretzel right now. The harder you struggle, the tighter those binds seem to become. It's like a Chinese puzzle. Sometimes if you relax on the control issues, the solution comes through. Give it some space.



Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

It is possible that you feel trapped by work and family obligations at this time. This will lighten up next week. Do your best and don't flog yourself if it is not perfect. Social and romantic life is favored this week. You may be mixing business and pleasure in a pleasant combination.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your activities are slowing and the pace is declining as you move toward the end of August. Don't worry. A new focus begins in August. For now it is time to bring current projects toward an end. You may even have time on your hands. A good use is to exercise more and strengthen your body.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 20)

You have a green light on activities related to travel or travel plans, education and publishing, and interests related to the law. Your willingness to accept the rules and regulations as required will be helpful in getting things accomplished. Activities involving the internet are favored.



Capricorn (December 21-January 19)

The full moon was in your sign on Tues. the 19th. During this week information comes your way concerning your primary relationship. This is a time in which you will gain perspective on yourself in relationship to others. Repetitive psychological processes are becoming visible to you, for good or ill.



Aquarius (January 20-February 17)

The goddess Venus is in your 7th house in a harmonious relationship to Saturn, your planetary ruler. This is a good time to discuss issues within a relationship because you are steady of mind and likely to be realistic, in relation to yourself as well as others. The relationship may be a partner or a friend. You intend to keep your promises.



Pisces (February 18-March 19)

Give yourself plenty of rest and take your vitamins. You are in a physical and/or emotional low. Allergies may kick into gear for a short time. Stay low and maintain a quiet routine. The summer heat is having a strong effect on you.

Inscription on UNESCO World Heritage List an additional guarantee for Ani

Medieval Armenian capital of Ani has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The decision was made at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in Turkey.

"What's important for Armenia is that the site's inclusion in the list provides certain guarantees of its preservation," Vahram Kazhoyan, Secretary General of Armenian National Commission for UNESCO, told reporters in Yerevan today. He said, this becomes more important under the conditions of the strained relations between Armenia and Turkey.

"On a more practical level this means that any actions connected with the monument, be it maintenance, restoration or even management of tourist flows will be reported to UNESCO," Kazhoyan said. He stressed that no changes can be made to the site without permission from UNESCO.

Besides, he said it was important from the point of view of popularization of the monument. The application clearly mentions the Armenian origin of Ani. To leave no doubt the Armenian side published a booklet about Ani, which presents the city's history as the capital of the



Armenian kingdom of the Bagratides. It was disseminated among all who could have any influence on the decision-making, Vahram Kazhoyan said.

Before Turkey would submit the application, the Armenian side had been frequently raising the issue of the state of Armenian cultural heritage in Turkey.

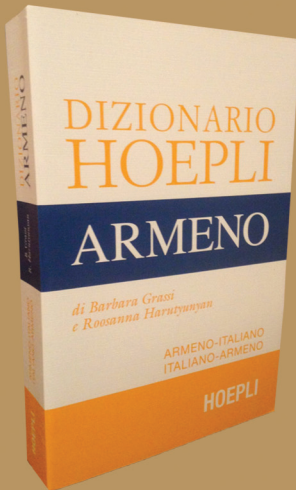
"Had Turkey tried to submit the application without mentioning the Armenian belonging of the city, it would be rejected by the expert group of the Committee,"

Deputy Minister of Culture Nerses Ter-Vardanyan said.

Turkey's initial bid was called "Cultural landscape of Ani," which was quickly rejected with many questions raised about the belonging of the city, its cultural layers, maintenance, and especially the work done since 1918," he said.

The Deputy Minister praised the final application submitted by Turkey. "Of course it was not ideal, but not bad," he said.

New Armenian-Italian/Italian-Armenian dictionary released in Italy



A new Armenian-Italian, Italian-Armenian dictionary has been published in Italy.

The authors of the dictionary, Roosanna Harutyunyan and Barbara Grassi, told Noyan Tapan that the official representative of the dictionary is the famous Italian HOEPLI Publishing House, which has been officially recognized by the Italian government. For the first time, HOEPLI Publishing House printed a dictionary for eastern Armenian, while already there was an Italian-western Armenian one.

This new dictionary contains 22,000 words with phonetic transcription and examples of simple sentences.

A lot of lemmas are divided in use areas including metaphorical meanings.

The dictionary includes also an Armenian grammar in Italian and an Italian grammar in Armenian plus a lot of repertoires

for geographical names, everyday use, proverbs and so on.

For purchase follow the link:

<http://www.hoepli.it/libro/dizionario-armeno/9788820367381.html>



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