

Progress reported in fresh Sargsyan - Aliyev talks



See p. 2

In This Issue

- Armenian oppositionist arrested over 'coup plot'** p.5
- IMF backs new Armenian tax code** p.6
- French Ambassador gives a talk at the residence of the Lebanese Ambassador** p.12
- Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator Supports Youth, Cinema and Many More...** p.p. 13-14
- Khachatourian Contest and WFIMC 60th General Assembly - Yerevan Turns a World Music Capital** p.p.16-17

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Minsk Group Co-Chairs to participate in the meeting of Armenian, Russian, Azeri Presidents

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group have confirmed their participation in the forthcoming meeting of the Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani Presidents in Saint Petersburg.

"The co-chairs expect the sides to follow up on the outcomes of the May 16 meeting in Vienna, the US co-chair James Warlick told APA. "I look forward to attending the June 20 meeting as the US Minsk Group co-chair. Specifically, we are hopeful the sides will finalize an agreement to implement an OSCE investigative mechanism and agree to resume negotiations on a comprehensive settlement," said Warlick.

"As the Russian and American co-chairs, I will participate in this meeting," French Co-Chair Pierre Andrieu said. "Our expectations of course are great, we hope that during the summit the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia will restore mutual trust and make progress to resolve the conflict," the he said.



OSCE Acting Spokesperson Natacha Rajakovic had said earlier that the OSCE was not involved in the organization of the three-party summit in Nagorno Karabakh.

Progress reported in fresh Sargsyan - Aliyev talks

Armenia's and Azerbaijan's presidents on June 20 again pledged to prevent ceasefire violations and said they reached an "understanding" on issues hampering the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh during talks mediated by their Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin.

In a joint statement with Putin, Serzh Sargsyan and Ilham Aliyev gave a positive assessment of their meeting, the second in just over a month, held in the Russian city of Saint Petersburg.

"There was a detailed exchange of views on essential aspects of the settlement," read the statement. "The heads of state noted the reaching of understanding on a number of issues solutions to which would help to create conditions for progress in the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement."

It did not specify what those issues are. None of the three leaders spoke to the press immediately after the meeting.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters that they "mapped

out concrete steps to intensify the negotiation process." But he too did not elaborate.

"The meeting took place in a constructive atmosphere," Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov said for his part. "Azerbaijan positively assesses the results of the Saint Petersburg negotiations."

U.S., Russian and French diplomats co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group joined Putin, Aliyev and Sargsyan at the final session of the talks. James Warlick, the U.S. negotiator, reported afterwards "positive steps" taken at the summit.

"We must work towards a negotiated settlement," Warlick wrote on Twitter.

Warlick's Russian opposite number, Igor Popov, also spoke of some progress made at Saint Petersburg in comments to Armenian Public Television.

Putin hosted the summit just over a month after Aliyev and Sargsyan met in Vienna following the worst escalation of the Karabakh conflict in more than two

decades. They agreed in the Austrian capital to work out safeguards against ceasefire violations around Karabakh and resume their search for a compromise peace deal.

Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who mediated those talks, said the safeguards include independent investigations of armed incidents that would be conducted by the OSCE.

The Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders reaffirmed on Monday their commitment to the Vienna agreements. According to their statement, they specifically agreed to expand the number of OSCE field representatives periodically monitoring the ceasefire regime along the Karabakh "line of contact."

The statement made no specific mention of the OSCE investigations, however.

Serzh Sargsyan stressed the importance of creating "mechanisms for investigating truce violations" when he held separate talks with Putin earlier in the day. "That would create a businesslike atmosphere in negotiations," he said in televised remarks.

The situation on the Karabakh frontlines appears to have been unusually calm since the May 16 summit in Vienna. There have been fears, however, that tensions there could again rise after the Saint Petersburg summit.

In their joint statement, Sargsyan and Aliyev noted with "satisfaction" that the truce has largely held lately.

Emil Danielyan

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Russian Defense Chief Urges Closer Ties With Azerbaijan



Yerevan - (RFE/RL) Risking fresh criticism from Armenia, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu on June 15 praised Russia's "strategic" military ties with Azerbaijan and signaled Moscow's readiness to sell more weapons to Baku.

"Our military cooperation has a strategic character, as do all other types of cooperation between our countries," Shoygu told his Azerbaijani counterpart Zakir Hasanov during talks in Moscow.

"I think that there is a potential for its further growth and development. We will certainly do everything to ensure that our friendly strategic partnership and ties continue to develop," he said in remarks cited by the Russian Defense Ministry.

According to a ministry statement, Shoygu also said he would be "happy" to see an Azerbaijani delegation at a massive arms exhibition which the Russian military will hold outside Moscow in September. Russian defense firms will demonstrate "state-of-the-art weapons and military equipment" during the weeklong expo, the statement said.

Hasanov was reported to agree that Azerbaijani-Russian relations are "strategic and friendly." He also stressed the importance of Russian training of Azerbaijani military personnel. He expressed hope that the number of Azerbaijanis studying at Russian military academies will rise from 72 to 88 next year.

Shoygu's offer came just two months after an Azerbaijani army offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh that triggered the most serious escalation of the Karabakh conflict since the Armenian-Azerbaijani war of 1991-1994. Armenian leaders have publicly charged that the four-day heavy fighting along the Karabakh "line of contact" was greatly facilitated by recent years' large-sale Russian arms supplies to

Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijani army has received hundreds of tanks, artillery systems, helicopters and other weaponry worth at least \$4 billion in accordance with Russian-Azerbaijani defense contracts signed in 2010-2011. Many Armenians feel that those arms deals ran counter to Russia's military alliance with Armenia.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev rejected the Armenian criticism after visiting Yerevan in early April. He said that that Russia delivers weapons to both Armenia and Azerbaijan and thereby sustains the "military balance" in the Karabakh conflict.

Russia is the main source of weapons used by the Armenian army, having supplied most of them at discounted prices or even free of charge. Armenia will buy more such weapons soon with a \$200 million loan extended by the Russian government last year. Yerevan asked Moscow to speed up the planned arms supplies following the April 2-5 fighting around Karabakh.

Armenia's First Deputy Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan most probably discussed them with his Russian counterpart Anatoly Antonov when they met in Moscow on Tuesday. The Russian Defense Ministry said they looked into "a number of pressing issues of military and military-technical cooperation between the two countries." It gave no details.

Despite the continuing Russian military assistance to Yerevan, Moscow's apparent readiness to cut more arms deals with Baku may prompt fresh criticism from Armenian government officials and pro-government politicians. An Armenian Defense Ministry spokesman declined to

immediately comment on Shoygu's remarks, though.

Shoygu met with Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian immediately after the talks with Hasanov. "We would like to maintain our strategic partnership," he told Ohanian.

The Russian minister praised defense cooperation with Armenia, singling out military training and education, rather than arms supplies. The Russian Defense Ministry quoted him as saying that Moscow is "ready" enroll more than 200 Armenian officers and cadets in Russian military academies this year.

Ohanian, for his part, said that bilateral military ties are "dynamically developing." His press office said he also spoke with Shoygu about the "expansion of military-technical cooperation."

Shoygu held separate talks with his Azerbaijani and Armenian counterparts ahead of a regular meeting in Moscow of the defense ministers of ex-Soviet states.

Shoygu hinted at more Russian arms sales to Armenia's arch-foe despite problems in the implementation of the most recent Russian-Azerbaijani defense contracts. Dmitry Rogozin, a Russian deputy prime minister overseeing the domestic defense industry, twice visited Baku this spring to discuss them.

Russian newspapers reported early this year that the Azerbaijani side failed to fully pay for the Russian weapons so far because of a sharp fall in oil prices that has hit it hard. Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov denied those reports, however, saying that Baku has not paid up in full because some of the Russian weapons do not "correspond to the technical parameters specified in the contracts."

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Government details concessions to opposition

Yerevan - (RFE/RL) Offering more concessions to the opposition, the Armenian authorities have expressed readiness to ensure live online broadcasts of voting in all polling stations and take other measures against possible fraud in next year's parliamentary elections.

A senior government official announced this late on Wednesday as he and other representatives of President Serzh Sargsyan resumed negotiations with opposition and civil society members on a new Electoral Code enacted by the authorities last month.

Opposition parties and civic groups insist that the code does not provide for the freedom and fairness of the general elections due in April 2017. During talks held with government representatives in March and April they proposed several amendments meant to preclude or seriously complicate irregularities.

The government rejected virtually all of those safeguards, making instead other concessions dismissed as insignificant by the opposition. Earlier this week, it signaled a softening of its position in an effort to drum up a more broad-based political support for the Electoral Code, which would presumably boost the legitimacy of the 2017 polls.

Speaking during the renewed late-night talks with the opposition, the chief of the government staff, Davit Harutiunyan, listed four specific changes which the government is ready to make in the controversial code. One of them would give opposition parties greater access to the lists of voters who actually cast ballots in an election.

The opposition has long been seeking full information about those voters, saying that it would be used for exposing the allegedly widespread multiple voting by government loyalists.

The authorities have opposed publication of such information.



Earlier this year, they decided instead to install in all polling stations electronic machines that will check voters' identity through fingerprints and new, plastic ID cards possessed by many but not all voting-age Armenians.

Harutiunyan said that before the 2017 elections the government will hand out such cards to those citizens who only have passports at present.

In another concession, Harutiunyan said the government is prepared to install video cameras in all of the country's 2,000 or so polling stations and ensure online live broadcasts of voting there. But he indicated that Armenia's Western donors would have to pay for the purchase and installation of that equipment.

The Armenian National Congress (HAK), other parliamentary opposition parties and their civil society allies are due to officially respond to the government offer on Thursday evening. Still, the HAK's parliamentary leader, Levon Zurabyan, made clear that the proposed concessions are largely acceptable to his party even though they do not fully meet the opposition demands.

Zurabyan suggested that the changes signaled by the government would "probably narrow the room for vote falsifications by 75 percent."

New Armenian tax code passed amid criticism

The Armenian parliament passed in the first reading on June 15 a government-drafted comprehensive tax legislation strongly criticized by opposition parties and even some lawmakers loyal to President Serzh Sargsyan.

The new Tax Code is meant to both improve the notoriously arbitrary tax collection in Armenia and boost state revenue that has long accounted for a modest share of the country's Gross Domestic Product.

The code calls for higher taxes on fuel, alcohol and tobacco. It also envisages increases in income taxes levied from workers earning between 120,000 and 2 million drams (\$250-\$4,150) per month.

Those workers make up a large part, if not the majority, of the national workforce. Their payroll tax rate is currently set at 26 percent.

Opposition lawmakers harshly criti-



cized the 700-page government bill during heated parliamentary debates this week. They claimed that the higher taxes would seriously hurt many businesses and encourage tax evasion among them.

Some deputies representing the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) as well as the parliamentary faction of its junior coalition partner, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun), also strongly objected to the proposed code. "We have serious concerns

about the current version of the bill," said Dashnaksutyun's Armen Rustamyan.

But that was not enough to scuttle its passage. The National Assembly adopted the code by 68 votes to 21, with 18 abstentions.

Parliament majority leaders assured their concerned colleagues that the code may still undergo major changes before being debated in the second reading in September. Vartan Avvazyan, the chairman of the parliament committee on economic issues, said the government is open to amendments proposed by lawmakers and will hold a series of discussions with them starting from Wednesday.

Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan gave similar assurances on Tuesday. "I have instructed the State Revenue Committee to discuss all reasonable proposals made by deputies and political forces," he said.

Armenian oppositionist arrested over 'coup plot'

Armenian law-enforcement authorities arrested Zhirayr Sefilian, a radical opposition leader, on Monday, saying that he plotted to overthrow the government through an armed revolt.

Armenia's Investigative Committee also announced the arrest of six other men accused of being part of an armed group formed by Sefilian. It claimed to have confiscated large amounts of weapons from them.

"Together with a group of other individuals, Zhirayr Sefilian planned to seize, through the use of firearms, buildings and communications facilities, including Yerevan's television tower," the committee charged in a statement. "For that purpose, he organized the illegal acquisition and transport by a group of individuals of weapons and ammunition and their storage in various locations."

The statement added that eight unidentified persons have already been charged with illegal arms possession. No such charges were formally levelled against Sefilian as of Monday afternoon.

Sefilian's associates told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) that he was taken into custody shortly after law-enforcement officers began searching the offices of his New Armenia Public Salvation Front, a radical opposition grouping. They said the officers looked for weapons but did not find any, confiscating instead five computers as well as some documents.

The investigators also spent several hours searching Sefilian's Yerevan apartment. They refused allow his lawyer Tigran Hayrapetyan to watch the search. Hayrapetyan protested against the "illegal" refusal.

"Of course, they didn't find anything," Sefilian's wife Nanor said afterwards.

Varuzhan Avetisyan, a senior New Armenia member, claimed that the opposition leader was arrested because he planned to campaign against Armenian territorial concessions to Azerbaijan.

"Serzh Sargsyan is now pursuing a policy of return of the lib-

erated territories and he decided to isolate his main political rival in order to prevent anyone from getting the people to rise up against his treacherous activities," said Avetisyan.

New Armenia held a series of anti-government rallies in Yerevan last December in an attempt to force President Serzh Sargsyan to step down. The campaign fizzled out due to poor attendance of those rallies.

Early this year New Armenia tried in vain to make another push for regime change. It again failed to win over mainstream opposition parties represented in Armenia's parliament.

As recently as on June 11, Sefilian announced plans to set up a new opposition movement called the National Resistance Committee. "We have a treacherous government, and must create an alternative [to it] and take over the function of governing the country with the help of the people and the army as soon as possible," he declared.

The Lebanese-born oppositionist did not specify just how the new group will strive to topple President Serzh Sargsyan.

A vocal critic of both the current and previous Armenian governments, Sefilian also campaigned against former President Robert Kocharyan. In 2006, he was arrested after setting up an anti-government union of fellow war veterans of the Nagorno-Karabakh war.

The Armenian authorities claimed that they planned to mount an armed uprising against the Kocharian government. Sefilian was cleared of the coup charge during his subsequent trial. Still, he spent 18 months in prison for allegedly illegal arms possession.

Sefilian, 48, was again detained along with his four associates a year ago, ahead of a series of anti-government rallies planned by them. They were charged with plotting "mass disturbances" in Yerevan but were all set free a month later.

"As long as Zhirayr breathes, he will fight against them, whether in prison or outside it," said his wife.

Azerbaijan's groundless accusations aimed at diverting attention from own crimes: Armenian Deputy FM



Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Ashot Hovakimyan participated in the Ministerial meeting dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

The meeting was aimed at summing up the results of the work done since the signing of the treaty and focusing the attention of the international community to the need to ban nuclear tests. Speakers at the event referred to the irreversible consequences of nuclear tests, voiced regret for the failure of the

treaty to come into force and urged the countries that have not yet ratified the treaty to do so.

Addressing the meeting, Ashot Hovakimyan reiterated Armenia's commitment to the full and unconditional implementation of the treaty. The Deputy FM hailed the support for the functioning of the subsidiary seismic station stationed in Garni since 2005, which is included in the system of international control and sends data to Vienna headquarters through satellite.

Ashot Hovakimyan reiterated the willingness of the Armenian government to carry out an open and transparent cooperation with all partner countries and international organizations. He denounced Azerbaijan's false and groundless accusations of alleged violations of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by Armenia, which pursue the single goal of diverting the attention of the international community from the large-scale aggression unleashed against Nagorno Karabakh and the crimes committed against the civilian population.

IMF backs new Armenian tax code

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) praised controversial tax legislation enacted in Armenia this week as it announced the release of a \$22 million loan tranche to the authorities in Yerevan on Thursday.

The IMF said its Executive Board approved the latest installment of a \$116 million lending program for Armenia launched in March 2014. The three year Extended Fund Facility (EFF) is designed to support macroeconomic stability and reforms promised by the Armenian government.

The disbursement raised to about \$71.5 million the total amount of EFF funding made available to the government and the Central Bank of Armenia to date.

The IMF's previous three-year scheme worth approximately \$410 million was launched in 2010 to help Armenia recover from a severe 2009 recession. The money was mainly used for financing state budget deficits and replenishing the country's hard currency reserves.

In a statement, the IMF largely approved of the Armenian authorities' fiscal and monetary policies, saying that they met "most targets" agreed with the fund. In particular, it praised their efforts to increase public spending on social programs and capital projects through corresponding rises in tax revenue.

"The new tax code provides a major opportunity to broaden the tax base by reducing exemptions and addressing gaps and thereby supporting both consolidation and increases in growth-enhancing spending," Mitsuhiro Furusawa, the IMF's deputy managing director, was quoted as saying.

The Armenian parliament passed the 700-page code in the first reading on Wednesday amid strong criticism voiced by its opposition minority and some pro-government lawmakers. They objected to its provisions envisaging higher taxes on fuel, alcohol and tobacco as well as increases in income tax levied from many employees.

The critics say that the comprehensive tax legislation will suppress economic activity and lead to more tax evasion. The



government has denied those claims. It has at the time expressed readiness to accept "reasonable" amendments before pushing the code through the parliament in the final reading in September.

The Armenian government's tax revenue has increased considerably in the past several years. But it is still equivalent to only one-fifth of Gross Domestic Product, a low figure even by ex-Soviet standards. The modest proportion results, in large measure, from widespread tax evasion, corruption and privileged treatment of entrepreneurs linked to the government.

The IMF and the World Bank have long been pressing the Armenian authorities to improve tax collection and the domestic investment climate.

"Pursuing further structural reforms to enhance competition, competitiveness, and regional and global integration remains critical to reduce vulnerabilities and support medium-term growth," said the IMF's Furusawa.

The Armenian government pledged to speed up such reforms last month. Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian said the government will step up its declared fight against corruption, make tax administration less arbitrary and crack down on business monopolies.

Iran, Armenia begin power talks

A fresh round of Iran-Armenia power talks has begun over exports of certain technical and engineering services as well as electrical goods of Iran to Caucasian states, Mehr News Agency reports.

The new round of negotiations between Iran and Armenia was held on Wednesday morning in Tehran aiming to promote research activities in energy and electricity fields between Armenia's Scientific Research Institute of Energy (SRIE) and Iran's Niroo Research Institute (NRI).

On the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which was inked last year between SRIE and NRI, it was agreed to develop technical cooperation particularly in the field of power industry



equipment including 10 kV network parameters, high flow measurement, and commercialization of research results as well as undertaking joint ventures.

Speaking on the sidelines of the meetings, Head of Iran's Niroo Research Institute (NRI) Mohammad Sadegh Ghazizadeh pointed to the need for

launching joint projects by exploiting Armenia's potentials and its position in Eurasia for joint production as well as exports to global markets; "preliminary agreement has been reached to establish a production line for certain electrical goods."

An MoU was exchanged between SRIE of Armenia and Iran's NRI last year on the sidelines of the 13th Session of the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation between Iran and Armenia headed by Iranian Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian.

The joint session was hosted by Iran focusing on increasing mutual economic and industrial activities, exchange of technical and engineering services as well as energy exchange.

United States and Armenia further cooperation to strengthen counter-nuclear smuggling capabilities



On June 13, representatives of the Government of the United States and of the Republic of Armenia conducted a scheduled review of the 2008 U.S.-Armenia Joint Action Plan on Combatting Smuggling of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials.

Incidents of nuclear and radioactive material smuggling around the world highlight the need for coordinated international efforts to secure these dangerous materials and keep them from falling into the hands of terrorists or other criminals who might use them for malicious purposes. The United States and Armenia have been close partners in this effort for a number of years. In addition, Armenia has been an active and important member of the international

community's work to enhance nuclear security and combat nuclear proliferation, through the Nuclear Security Summit process, the IAEA, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, and other international institutions.

"We are partnering together to enhance Armenia's ability to investigate nuclear smuggling incidents, as well as build on the sides' shared commitment to nuclear nonproliferation overall," said U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills Jr., who led the U.S. delegation, which included a D.C.-based experts from the State Department's Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation. "This review reflects Armenia's commitment to proper stewardship of nuclear materials under its control and continued willingness to work to prevent the smuggling of nuclear materials across its borders."

The Armenian side was led by Gagik Hovhannisyanyan, head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' International Security Department, and included representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Energy, the NSS, and from Armenia's border security, customs, and

nuclear regulatory agencies. Also participating were experts from the nation's nuclear power plant operator.

Signed in July 2008 by then-U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandyan, the Joint Action Plan on Combatting Smuggling of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials lists steps that Armenia can undertake to strengthen its capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to nuclear and radioactive material smuggling. U.S. assistance to Armenia as it moves forward to implement the plan has included training, equipment, and other forms of support. Together, the two governments have strengthened security at Armenian facilities that house radioactive materials, improved Armenia's ability to detect radioactive materials that might cross its borders, and developed Armenia's capacity to investigate nuclear smuggling incidents.

At the conclusion of the full day of meetings, the United States and Armenia pledged their commitment to continuing these efforts and identified opportunities for further collaboration.

9th DigiTec Forum to focus on military industry, cyber security

The 9th DigiTec Business Forum will be held in Yerevan June 17-18 with an aim of contributing to the search for best technological solutions, providing the technology companies with an opportunity to meet and present themselves to potential customers. About 70 organizations have applied for participation this year.

Yes For Europe forum of European Partners and an Armenian-German business forum will be held within the



framework of the event.

Modernization of military industry through application of innovative technologies will be the key topic of the forum, Karen Vardanyan, Executive Director of the Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE), told reporters today.

The Armed Forces and UITE have established a joint commission to sum up the framework of issues that will be submitted to IT specialists for solution.

According to Karen Vardanyan, three issues related to the modernization of military production are being considered today. "The short-term goal is to find solutions to counter the rival, which envisages either purchase of new weapons or modernization of old ones. The medium-term objective is to create new military industry on the basis of existing technologies. The third issue is a strategic one, we have to think what kind of military industry we want to see in 15-20 years," he said.

Representatives of the Armed Forces are expected to actively participate in the DigiTec forum.

Information security expert Samvel Martirosyan said the April war focused the attention on the need to ensure cyber security.



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- 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.
- 1674-**Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor, 70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
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- 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.
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- 3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m., without divisions. Price: 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
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- 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

•1986.**Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.

•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 Mkrtyan 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

•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

•3712 **Cascade** Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 storied bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 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, 80sqm, 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

- 2302 **North Ave**, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 1780. **Amiryan str**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnisred, 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, 2bedrooms, 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
- 2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 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



- 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

- 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
- 2353 **V. Sargsyan str. 8/5**, Newly built, 98sq.m, 2bedrooms, capially renovated, furnished, Price 1500 USD
- 2347 **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3bedrooms, 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, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave**, Newly built, 6th floor,

- 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyun str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 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, climate 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
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 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.



- itally repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 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, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 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, 4bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- 1142. **Djrvej**, 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, 4bathrooms, 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

Michigan Governor signs bill mandating Armenian Genocide education in public schools

Asbarez - The Governor of Michigan Rick Snyder (R) on June 14 signed a bill mandating the teaching of the Armenian Genocide in the state's public schools into law.

The Michigan House of Representatives in February passed House Bill (HB-4493), mandating genocide education, including the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide, in Michigan public schools. The bill passed with a nearly unanimous vote. Late last month, the Michigan Senate also passed a complimentary measure paving the way for the governor's signature.

"Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy shall ensure that the school district's or public school academy's social studies curriculum for grades 8 to 12 includes age- and grade-appropriate instruction about genocide, including, but not limited to, the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide. The legislature recommends a combined total of 6 hours of this instruction during grades 8 to 12," reads the final version of



the bill, which was signed into law on Tuesday.

Armenian churches, political, cultural and social organizations in Michigan came together to form the Armenian Genocide Education Committee and advanced the effort through the state's legislature, Rep. Klint Kesto marshaling the effort in the Michigan House of Representatives.

"We see history repeating itself today in the Middle East with ISIS targeting and

committing acts of genocide against Chaldean and Assyrian Christian communities and other religious minorities such as the Yazidis. It is imperative that our students study the history of genocide as it occurred to the Armenian people by the Ottoman Turks, as well as to the Jewish people at the hands of the Nazis. Never again should mean never again," said Rep. Kesto in February following the passage of the House version of the bill.

UN rights chief says concerned by violations of international law in Karabakh conflict zone



In a wide-ranging opening speech to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein shed a light on "preventable calamities" and worrying trends around the world, including detailed concerns about the situation in more than 50 countries.

"The rights of people still suffering from the protracted conflicts in the South Caucasus have long been a concern of my Office," he said.

"We have received allegations of violations of international

law in the context of the upsurge in hostilities along the line of contact in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, especially in April. Significant efforts are needed to address the situation of displaced people. My Office is ready to assist in the collection of objective information on human rights needs in the affected areas," Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said.

Azerbaijan unleashed a large-scale military aggression against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh in April this year, violating international humanitarian law and committing war crimes.

Azerbaijani armed forces beheaded and tortured not only servicemen of the NKR Defense Army, but also civilians, including elderly people and women.

The bodies of servicemen of the NKR Defense Army transferred to the Armenian side under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had signs of torture and mutilation.

Those acts constitute a grave violation of the international humanitarian law, in particular, the Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (1949), Geneva Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (1949) and the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I).

Golden Apricot 13th IFF to be dedicated to 25th anniversary of Armenia's statehood

The Golden Apricot 13th International Film Festival will be held in Yerevan July 10-17. This year's event will be dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Armenia's independence.

More than 900 applications for participation have been received from 91 countries, 135 films have been included in the competition and non-competition programs. The festival will start with the screening of Hamo Beknazaryan's Zareh, Director of Golden Apricot IFF Harutyun Khachatryan told reporters today at a press conference hosted by the Ministry of Culture.

The best feature and documentary films, produced during the 25 years of independence will be presented to spectators in a special program titled "Armenian Cinema: Our Days."

To coordinate the program film critics have been invited, who not only will introduce the story behind every film, but will also hold a round table to rebound the history of the independent cinema, the issues

and the ways of its development. The film A Story of People in War and Peace (2007) by Vardan Hovhannisyanyan will open the program.

How has the Golden Apricot Film Festival contributed to the development of Armenian cinematography over the 13 years of its existence? "We stepped on the path of independence without studios, programs and new films, while today we are welcoming the 25th anniversary of statehood with new names and films in Armenian cinematography," Harutyun Khachatryan said.

Second, he said, "we showed the high level of Armenian cinematography," and finally "Armenian filmmakers worldwide were given the chance to establish ties with the Motherland."

Golden Apricot Film Festival in cooperation with British Council in Armenia will present a special film program, dedicated to the 400th anniversary of renowned British writer William Shakespeare's death. The best films, based on Shakespeare's

works, will be screened in the frames of the program.

The "French New Cinema" program will be realized in cooperation with the Embassy of France in Armenia. It includes the best three films of French production. The program will open with Two Remis, Two, (2015) by Pierre Léon.

The "Danish New Cinema" program will be implemented in cooperation with the Danish Film Institute. The program will present the best Danish films of the last five years. The Commune (2015) by Thomas Winterberg will open the program.

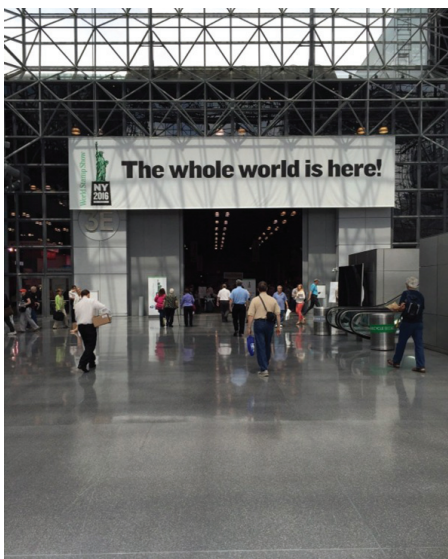
The four best films by Basque directors will be presented in a separate film program titled "Basque New Cinema." The film Autumn without Berlin (2015) by Lara Izagirre is to open the film program.

The General Partner of the festival is Armenia's Leading Telecommunications Operator VivaCell-MTS. The 10-year anniversary of cooperation between Golden Apricot Yerevan IFF and VivaCell-MTS will be celebrated this year.

Armenian stamps win second prize at World Philately Competition in New York

Few days ago "HayPost" took part in "New York-2016" world philately expo.

The Armenian collection with stamps from 2013, 2014 and 2015, presented by "HayPost", took the second place at the philately competition organized under the auspices of the Universal Postal Union



within the framework of the expo.

The collection consists from 29 stamps and Souvenir sheets, dedicated to the Armenian culture, history, the nature of Armenia, etc.

The exhibition of "HayPost" in the great international philately expo of New York, organized once a decade, awoke high interest among the experts.

Special attention was attached to the models of stamps and S-sheets dedicated to the Pope, developed and designed by the experts of "HayPost". These stamps and S-sheets are already printed and shall be cancelled in a solemn ceremony during the visit of the Pope to Armenia.

The expo featured participants from more than 120 philately unions and organizations of different countries, National Operators of Postal Communication from more than fifty countries. This was the first time "HayPost" presented an individual pavilion in an exposition of such a high range, making Armenia more visible to the philately world.



Two S-sheets, dedicated to "New York-2016" expo and "Rio-2016" Summer Olympics, were cancelled by "HayPost" during this event.

French Ambassador highlighted the main principles of the French Foreign Policy in a significant talk at the Embassy of Lebanon in Armenia

On June 14 French Ambassador H.E. Mr. Jean-François Charpentier gave a talk at the residence of the Lebanese Ambassador Dr. Jean Makaron about the main principles of the French foreign policy.

Ambassador Makaron said in his introduction the following:

"I am honored to welcome all of you.

Warm welcome to the French Ambassador H.E. Mr. Jean-François Charpentier, I truly thank him for accepting my invitation, I can safely say that in diplomacy Ambassador Charpentier is an example to follow.

- to reduce tension and promote understanding
- protection of their nationals and the interests of the sending state
- negotiation with the receiving state

politically and economically

- The ultimate goal of France in maintaining the cultural diversity
- French contributions to face global challenges in the framework of EU

Afterwards Ambassador Charpentier has answered many questions.

It should be noted that this cultural and diplomatic activity was successful as the previous activities held by the Embassy of Lebanon and it was attended by the Director of Europe department of MFA Mr. Paruyr Hovhannisyann and Ambassadors of Bulgaria, Greece, Russia, Lithuania, Brazil, Italy, USA,



Just a few ideas about the characteristics of the French Diplomacy.

The French Diplomacy is known for the following:

- **Eloquence**
- **Presenting argument in a logical way**
- **Precision and beauty of expression**
- **Deep knowledge of history**
- **Elegant morality**

On the other hand I would like to focus on the positive side of the role of diplomats.

Positive side of the role of diplomats

- to conduct business with the central and local government

and reporting to the sending state

- developing economic, commercial and cultural relations."

After the introduction H.E French Ambassador spoke about the important principles of the French foreign policy as follows:

- France is working on building Europe



Argentina, Japan, Germany, Belarus, EU, Egypt, OSCE, India, First Counselor of the French Embassy Mr. Nicolas Faye and Chargé d'Affaires of Sovereign Military Order of Malte, Iraq, Poland, Romania and distinguished guests Mrs. Zara Sargsyan, Mrs. Karine Nersisyan representing Boghossian Foundation, Mrs. Zara Nazarian representing Alliance Française d'Arménie and Lebanese businessmen Mr. Haroutyun Habeshian and Samir Khnaizer Junior.

The event was held to mark the end of the season of Francophonie and in the framework of the idea of Ambassadors Without Borders.



Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator: Sponsoring Golden Apricot Film Fest, UEFA Euro 2016 Tournament Broadcast, Polytechnic University "Student Spring-50" Concert and Many Other Things...

The Golden Apricot International Film Festival press conference took place

A press conference dedicated to the opening of one of the most remarkable cultural events of the country is being held in the capital Yerevan every year - the Golden Apricot International Film Festival, was organized in the Ministry of Culture. This year the festival is scheduled to be held from July 10-17. The noble mission of the Golden Apricot - to highlight Yerevan as an international cultural and cinematographic center, is carried out successfully for the 13th year in a row.

The press conference on 15 June started with the presentation of the official poster of the Festival, which was created by The sign design studio.

The press conference was presided by the Minister of Culture of Armenia Hasmik Poghosyan, VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian, Golden Apricot's Founder-Director Harutyun Khachatryan, Golden Apricot IFF Program Director Mikayel Stamboltsyan and Golden Apricot IFF Artistic Director Susanna Harutyunyan. The speakers presented the general concept of the 13th edition and highlighted the cultural importance of the festival.

The General Partner of the festival is Armenia's Leading Telecommunications Operator VivaCell-MTS. The 10-year anniversary of cooperation between GOLDEN APRICOT Yerevan IFF and VivaCell-MTS will be marked this year.

RA Minister of Culture **Hasmik Poghosyan** underlined the vast public interest towards the "Golden Apricot" Film Festival and the expectations. She reflected on the importance that the festival bears in 2016: *"This year the 'Golden Apricot' Film Festival is very special to us as it is devoted to the 25th anniversary of Armenia's independence. The festival is an independence child. Being a standalone and a synthetic project, the 'Golden Apricot' encompasses all those conceptions, which define the notion of independence - peace, philanthropy, and democracy."* According to Mrs Minister, through all the past years the festival has been a tool to break barriers. Mrs Poghosyan also underlined the importance of the 'Armenian Cinema: Modern Times' nomination within the festival, a novelty of this year, which is expected to summon the cinematographic achievements of the free and independent Armenia.



"It's the 13th edition of the festival this year already. One might think that people might already be tired, and we are bored to do the same work, especially in these days of many challenges both for our country and the whole world generally. Taking all this into account I am more than excited to thank the Ministry of Culture and VivaCell-MTS for standing by our side like the mountain Ararat.

But we have to show the world that we are still strong. The festival this year has also got lots of programs that include the best directors and their movies from all over

the world.

*The festival refers to the 25th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia. This is some kind of retrospective cinema feedback to our republic's young history", - Golden Apricot's Founder-Director **Harutyun Khachatryan** said.*

*"Cinematography defines today's myths. Films ensure the transition of the epos in the modern way. Nations that have no cinematography of their own, forget the epos of their own, and are influenced by the epos of other nations. Hence, responsibility lies upon us to support the development of Armenian cinematography especially during this important time period when our Nation is confronted with so many huge internal and external challenges, when we are both the participant, witness and writer of our history. Needless to say that in the present-day world, having national cinematography is a must - as one of the most powerful tools of mass communication and anti-propaganda - used both for protecting national identity and promoting national interest," VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** said.*

The non-competition programs this year promise to be rich and diverse. Most important and inseparable Yerevan Premieres, Retrospectives and Tributes this year will also include old and new masterpieces of the world cinema masters.

Armenian Cinema: Our Days

The festival has received more than 900 submissions from 91 countries. Around 135 films are included into the competition and non-competition different programs. One of the important initiatives of the 13th edition will be the film program, dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia. The best feature and documentary films, made during those 25 years, will be presented to spectators, in the special program, entitled Armenian Cinema: Our Days. To coordinate the program film critics were invited, who not only will introduce the story behind every film, but will also hold a round table to rebound the history of the independent cinema, the issues and the ways of its development. The program will open the film *A Story of People in War and Peace* (2007) by Vardan Hovhannisyian

Shakespeare Lives in Film

GOLDEN APRICOT IFF in cooperation with British Council in Armenia will present a special film program, dedicated to the 400th anniversary of renowned British writer William Shakespeare's death. The best films, based on Shakespeare's works, will be screened in the frames of the program.

New French Cinema

The program is realized together with the Embassy of France to Armenia. It includes the best three films of French production. The program will open with *Two Remis, Two*, (2015) by Pierre Léon.

Danish New Cinema

The program is implemented in cooperation with the Danish Film Institute. By the way, this is going to be the second collaboration between GOLDEN APRICOT IFF and Danish Film Institute. The program will present the best Danish films of the last five years. *The Commune* (2015) by Thomas Winterberg will open the program.

New Basque Cinema

The best films by Basque directors will be presented in a separate film program. The program is carried out with Epe-Apv and includes 4 films. The film *Autumn without Berlin* (2015) by Lara Izagirre is to open the film program.

continued on page 14

Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator: Sponsoring Golden Apricot Film Fest...

from page 13

Tributes

In the frames of GOLDEN APRICOT 13th Yerevan International Film Festival there will be tributes to the masters of Armenian Cinema: **Dmitry Qyosayants**, **Edmond Qyosayan**, **Ruben Gevorgyants** and **Roman Balayan**.

On the occasion of Dmitri Qyosayants', Edmond Qyosayan's and Albert Yavuryan's anniversaries stars will be placed in the Charles Aznavour square.

The film Autumn of the magician (2008) will be screened in honor of Ruben Gevorgyants 70th anniversary.



Volunteers from the Diaspora visit VivaCell-MTS headquarters

VivaCell-MTS hosted a group of young Diaspora Armenian volunteers from different countries aged between 20 and 32 years, who serve as volunteers for an average of 4 months each, and are ready to apply their professional skills in the regions of our country. VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian presented the volunteers with key aspects of VivaCell-MTS' operation, the key values guiding the Company, as well as its strategy in the sphere of corporate responsibility.

From 2004 onwards with the support of VivaCell-MTS, the Birthright Foundation has organized the volunteering of young Armenians from 32 countries in the regions of Armenia. Ralph Yirikian's story of success was one of the factors triggering the interest among young Armenians from the Diaspora to visit Armenia and engage in different projects.

VivaCell-MTS pays particular importance and attention to having more Armenians from the Diaspora discover the Homeland. VivaCell-MTS finds that the

best way to learn about Armenia is not just to see Armenia as a touristic destination but as a place where one can work as a professional or just to contribute through volunteering in projects aimed at helping different target groups of the society. Discovering Armenia presupposes becoming part of it, feeling the country, getting experience through communicating with people, getting in touch with the daily lives of the people, and much more. It is also important to engage in friendly relationships with peers and create long-lasting personal and business relationships.

"It is quite positive and promising that you made that step and came all the way to visit your Homeland. No matter where they

are, Armenians all over the world should equally be committed, consistent, and hard-working for the well-being of our country. Success comes to those who strive to get result. We can succeed if we optimistic and rely on the concept of personal and corporate responsibility toward our country," VivaCell-MTS Founding GM **Ralph Yirikian** said.

The volunteers shared their impressions on Armenia. The meeting with Ralph Yirikian went in question-answer format

covering a wide range of issues. The discussion during the meeting helped the young people make a clearer notion of the business administration and management.

Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator VivaCell-MTS is the local sponsor of the UEFA Euro 2016 tournament broadcast

VivaCell-MTS is the sponsor of the broadcasting of the European football championship on the First TV channel of Armenia.

The long awaited games are now a good reason for everyone to enjoy and cheer for their favorite teams.

VivaCell-MTS wishes football lovers many moments full of enthusiasm and joy.

Important Note: VivaCell-MTS has a pure sponsorship contract with H1 and has no rights or licenses whatsoever to interfere in issues related to transmission of the UEFA games.

VivaCell-MTS is the General Partner of the National Polytechnic University "Student Spring-50" concert

A jubilee concert "Student Spring-50" took place in the National Polytechnic University of Armenia. The general partner of the event was VivaCell-MTS.

VivaCell-MTS highly appreciates the role that the university has played in preparing high quality specialists in the sphere of telecommunications and equally other industries of economy. There are many graduates of the institution among VivaCell-MTS employees, who have contributed their high professionalism for the well-being and the development of the Company throughout the 10 years with VivaCell-MTS.



Pray for Armenia trip, Pope urges



Pope Francis has described as a Christian pilgrimage his upcoming visit to Armenia which is expected to further boost the country's political and religious ties with the Roman Catholic Church.

"I ask you to pray for me, who in a few days will go as a pilgrim to an eastern land, Armenia, the first among the nations to receive the Gospel of Jesus," the Italian ANSA news agency quoted him as telling participants of the Reunion of Aid Agencies For the Eastern

Churches on Thursday.

Francis is scheduled to arrive in Armenia on June 24. He will meet with President Serzh Sargsyan, attend joint religious services with the top clergymen of the Armenian Apostolic Church and hold an open-air mass for Armenia's Catholic community.

Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, the head of the Vatican's Congregation for the Oriental Churches, said earlier this week that the three-day visit will be a "gesture

of affection and admiration" for Armenia's Christian heritage.

"It is an act of devotion towards this country, the first to adopt Christianity in 301 when St. Gregory the Illuminator led the entire nation to conversion and baptism," Sandri told Italy's "La Stampa" daily in an interview.

"The Pope will bring his gratitude and esteem for a people who were molded by the Christian spirit and managed to protect the precious treasure of faith and their own identity for centuries," he said. "This is the spiritual power upon which Armenia can build a future of peace and hope."

Sandri described the Vatican's relationship with the Armenian Apostolic Church as "very fraternal and particularly friendly." He also praised the church's tolerant attitudes towards Armenia's Catholic minority concentrated in the northwestern Shirak province.

Sandri inaugurated a new Armenian Catholic church in the provincial capital Gyumri last September. President Serzh Sargsyan was also present at the ceremony, underscoring the Armenian government's warm rapport with the Vatican.

Francis is due to visit the Gyumri church after holding a Catholic mass in the town's central square.

International community urged to take steps to prevent the genocide of Yazidis

The international organizations, the civilized humanity and the superpowers should take necessary steps to free more than 350 thousand Yazidis in Mosul, Northern Iraq and prevent the annihilation of Yazidis, Aziz Tamoyan, Chairman of the Union of Yazidis of Armenia and the World, told reporters on June 14.

He called on Yazidis of the world and the civilized mankind to be united in the fight against the Islamic State and to take relevant steps to ensure the security of the Yazidi population of Iraq

"The IS militants are an evil to the world, and our goals is to reach the condemnation of their actions," he said.

Journalist and human rights advocate Hasan Tamoyan reminded that the Armenian President was the first to raise the issue of the threat of annihilation of Yazidis on the international arena.

The Armenian legislative initiative of labeling the atrocities against Yazidis as genocide is an important step that will lead to other recognitions, Hasan Tamoyan said.

"The United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union and other international organizations have already recog-

nized the events as genocide, which comes to prove that the civilized world is not indifferent towards the pain of Yazidis," Hasan Tamoyan said. He stressed the need for more intensified and effective efforts in fighting the Islamic State.

The human rights advocate is concerned by the fact that "Iraqi Yazidis have become victims of political games" and blames those claiming leadership of the Yazidi community of Iraq for the situation. He called on Yazidis to unite and thus contribute to international efforts of fighting the Islamic State.



Didier Shnorhk, WFIMC President: "This is a Contest through which the Name and Glory of Aram Khachaturian and Armenia Becomes Audible "

Yerevan Hosts 60th General Assembly of the World Federation of International Music Competitions just after 12th Khachaturian Intl Competition



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**
Chief Correspondent

On June 14 a solemn ceremony of the 12th Aram Khachaturian International Competition (conductors) official closing ended with a Gala concert. The event was attended by the First Lady of Armenia Mrs

June-Sung Park who was invited to perform with Kaunas Philharmony Orchestra.

Prize "For the best interpretation of Adagio from Aram Khachaturian's "Spartak" ballet" by the AI. Spendiaryan Natl Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre of Armenia was handed to Miran Vaupotic. And the "Orchestra Liking" Prize by the SYOA has gone to...yes,

pant **Beatrice Venezi** will be assistant to the Youth Orchestra Chief Conductor.

Ludwig Van Beethoven Association (Founding President **Elzbieta Penderecka**) established a special prize that went to Miran Vaupotic and **Toshifumi Kanai** (Japan).

"The Audience Award" received **Boon Hua Lien** (Singapore).

Prizes were awarded to the official orchestra of the Aram Khachaturian International Competition the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia. Jury member, Senior Board member of the Artist management company Askonas Holt **Mark Hildrew** (UK), awarding the prize to the Orchestra on behalf of Jury, said the real heroes of the contest were the SYOA musicians who have had everyday long rehearsals and concerts with all 12 conductors.

"It is not enough to call the SYOA a youth orchestra. This is one of the world's greatest orchestras, here in your city. So I want to commend to all musicians who ensured the success of this competition thanks to their hard work," Mark Hildrew



Aram Khachaturian International Competition / Lusi Sargsyan

Rita Sargsyan under whose High Patronage the Competition is held.

This year the title of winner of the Competition was shared by young conductors **Miran Vaupotic** (Croatia) and **June-Sung Park** (South Korea/Germany).

In that evening several special prizes were awarded as well.

Prize "For the best interpretation of Haydn's Symphony No. 102" established by a Jury member **Michalis Economou** (Greece) and Athens Symphony Orchestra award went to Miran Vaupotic who will perform next season with the Athens Symphony Orchestra.

A Jury member **Constantine Orbelian** and the Kaunas Philharmony Orchestra (conducted by Maestro Orbelian) established a special prize "For the best interpretation of "Pavan" piece written by Edward Hayrapetyan specifically for this year's Competition. The Prize went to



Aram Khachaturian International Competition / Lusi Sargsyan

again and again -June-Sung Park who will be invited conductor of the Youth Orchestra in 2016-17 concert season. Due to another SYOA decision Italian partici-

stressed.

And the London Philharmonia Orchestra Executive Director **David Whelton** invited all four participants of the

second phase of the Competition to London, - to have rehearsals with Philharmonia Orchestra performing music and meeting some of the best conductors in the world.

During the evening, the President of the World Federation of International Music Competitions **Didier Schnorhk** welcomed the Aram Khachaturian International Competition. He sent congratulatory words to the SYOA "for excellent performances" during the competition.

"The organizing committee, the participants, the Jury and the audience have proven how important this competition is not only for you but also for the world music community. I have to assure you that you're holding a wonderful event. In fact the Competition is of the high level, and you can be proud for the level of both organization and performance."

"This is a contest through which the name and glory of Aram Khachaturian, Armenia becomes audible," Didier Schnorhk said.

The Competition winners Miran Vaupotic and June-Sung Park said that they were happy for the victory, but at the same time sad for "this beautiful holiday" being ended.

In their remarks, Jury member Konstantin G. Orbelian, guest of honor Elzbieta Penderecka who is spouse of the world famous composer **Krzysztof Penderecki** (of Armenian origin) thanked the First Lady of Armenia Rita Sargsyan under whose High Patronage the Competition is held, - for an "invaluable support".



Let's note that the President of the Board of Trustees of Aram Khachaturian Intl competition is Ambassador Prof. **Armen Smbatyan** who is also a RA Presidential Adviser on international cultural-humanitarian cooperation.

And The Highlights already informed its readers in its previous issue on the World Federation of International Music Competitions (WFIMC)' 60th General Assembly holding on June 15 -18, 2016 in Yerevan, Armenia.

The 60th General Assembly was welcomed by the Minister of Culture of Armenia **Hasmik Poghosyan** and WFIMC President Didier Schnorhk. It was hosted by the Aram Khachaturian International Competition. Over 60 international delegates gathered at the Matenadaran and Komitas Museums for

four comprehensive days of keynote addresses, plenary sessions, network events, and a gala concert featuring WFIMC competition laureates.

"The WFIMC is grateful for the generous hospitality offered by the Armenian Government and its people. The presentation of our annual Assembly in one of the world's oldest and richest cultures where Europe and Asia, east and west straddle, symbolizes the WFIMC's global membership and its commitment to fellowship across borders through the democracy of music", said **Benjamin Woodroffe**, Secretary General, WFIMC.

On June 16, a Gala concert featuring WFIMC laureates was held at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall.

Russian pianist **Georgy Tchaidze** (2015 Top of the World Piano Competition, 2009 Honens International Piano Competition) performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1; Mongolian baritone **Ariunbaatar Ganbaatar** (2015 International Tchaikovsky Competition) offered aria selections by Rossini and Leoncavallo; **Keleman Quartet** members, Hungarian violinist **Barnabás Kelemen** (2002 International Violin Competition of Indianapolis) and violist **Katalin Kokas** (2012 Beijing International Music Competition, 2014 Premio Paolo Borciani International String Quartet Competition) played Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola. The State Youth Orchestra of Armenia was conducted by its Founding Artistic Director and Chief Conductor **Sergey Smbatyan**.



Armenian bands to feature at 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington

The Armenian Public Radio (Los Angeles) and TmbaTa band (Yerevan) will participate in the 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Sounds of California July 7-8.

At the 2016 Folklife Festival, Sounds of California will present a series of evening concerts as well as daytime performances and activities, offering a glimpse into how musical culture mirrors the movements reshaping the state and the nation today. The festival will feature artists who contribute to the soundscapes of California, who demonstrate the social power of music and cultural heritage.

The Armenian Public Radio builds a bridge between contemporary musical styles and traditional Armenian music, bringing a new perspective to Armenian folk songs that have withstood the test of time. Based in Los Angeles, the acoustic trio has made it their mission to revive these songs in their community and introduce them to wider audiences.

The group's members grew up in California as children of families who emigrated from Western Armenia to Syria and Lebanon before coming to the United States. Living in a musically vibrant



Armenian diaspora, these artists reinterpret the Armenian music of their childhood in an innovative and enthusiastic style which holds multigenerational appeal. Armenian Public Radio chooses their songs from a broad mix of genres and all songs are sung in Armenian, the language of their lives.

For some of their presentations, Armenian Public Radio will be joined by members of TmbaTa, a youth folk rock

band born from the music program of the Tumo Center for Creative Technologies in Yerevan, Armenia, in 2013. Led by Arik Grigoryan of The Bambir, they perform original compositions based on traditional Armenian folk songs combined with rock and experimental music. The group is comprised of thirty teens who learn all stages of music creation including composition, performance, recording, mixing, and mastering.

Tumo Center for Creative Technologies is an innovative after-school program where thousands of students aged twelve to eighteen are in charge of their own learning. Tumo is a partner in the Smithsonian's My Armenia project.

My Armenia, a joint partnership of USAID, the Smithsonian Institution, and the people of Armenia, harnesses the power of research, documentation, and storytelling to strengthen cultural sustainability through community-based tourism development. My Armenia program engages with local partners in community-based research to document Armenian cultural heritage.



Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20-April 19)

Whatever is occurring in your life at this time is clearly intense and emotion-laden. You may feel as though your very life depends upon making your point of view heard and acknowledged. It is important to play your personal political cards carefully. Don't take the initiative until after Mars goes direct (June 30).



Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)

Your ruling planet is Venus, goddess of love and the arts. "She" moves into a new sector now through July 10. Your attention will be drawn to parties in neighboring areas and with those of your usual environment. Those with siblings may enjoy improved relationship through this period. You'll be inclined to add luxury items to your vehicle, or maybe even purchase a new one.



Gemini (May 20-June 20)

You and a partner, whether business or marital, may be having challenges in communicating. There is something confusing the works. One of you may not be clear about the issues or you each have different goals. Maybe you are not even talking about the same thing.



Cancer (June 21-July 21)

Venus enters your sign this week and will be traveling "with you" through July 10th. Her presence gives you an air of poise and beauty, and people will simply like how you look. Often when Venus is prominent we become more interested in art forms. She has the power to turn introverts into extroverts for the short period of her journey. We have a greater need and desire to be with others, or they with us.



Leo (July 22-August 21)

All forward motion is put temporarily on hold. You must slow down to manage health issues, whether that of yourself or your partner. Be patient. The structure needed to accommodate your original plan is not in place anyway. Time is required while you or someone you care about heals.



Virgo (August 22-September 22)

You may be feeling confused by your partner(s) or contractors. This interferes with your ability to make decisions about your home base and next direction. Ask questions of this person to help you access clarity. If the answers are vague or even more confusing, that means something is "not right".



Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

For the next three weeks your activities are on display. Others are noticing your performance, so make it great. You may be standing in the limelight. Your leadership gifts come to the foreground at this time. Matters of love and romance likely will become more important.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your ruling planet, Mars, is retrograding in your first house through the end of June. Your feelings are intense and you have anger that is hard to resolve. Don't turn it against yourself during this period. This is an internal struggle between one value and another. It is not cause for self-destruction. Make an effort to contain it with a lighter attitude.



Sagittarius

(November 22-December 20)

Relationships to partner, whether business or personal, and family are strained at present. If you feel discomfort, look for the assumption or the illusion that is cracking. It is painful. The relationship will ultimately be improved by the honesty or the alternative, broken. Either way, you will be in better condition long term.



Capricorn (December 21-January 19)

Beware of the tendency to obsess and worry over matters that may never happen. You are tempted to see the world through a dark lens this week and you may think that is the true version. It's more likely that the pessimistic view is extreme. If you spend much energy here, you may be plagued by ill health.



Aquarius (January 20-February 17)

The more you attempt to hurry, the more rocks in your path. You might just as well take your time and allow things to develop as they will. Rushing along will not get you there any faster. Anger may be present and likely is worthy, only it just causes you more stress and may even interfere with the process of improvement.



Pisces (February 18-March 19)

You must work hard to manage your communications at this time. Your situation may require you to use an unaccustomed vehicle, such as writing, to make yourself understood. It is necessary that you be as efficient as possible and cannot scatter your thoughts or your words. Some important bits of information could be hard to find.

"Digging Into The Future: Armenia" wins Silver Telly Award

Armenian Mirror-Spectator - "Travelscope's" archaeology special, "Digging Into The Future: Armenia," won a Silver Telly Award in the Cultural Programming category. The show also received a 2016 Emmy nomination for directing.

Directed and Hosted and by Joseph Rosendo, "Digging Into The Future" was produced by the Emmy-winning team behind the PBS series, "Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope."

Rosendo joined archaeologists from UCLA's Cotsen Institute of Archaeology on a journey through Armenia. During this adventure he crisscrossed Armenia to ancient sites where some of the world's oldest artifacts have been discovered. In keeping with the show's focus on cultural connections, Rosendo talked to the locals in roadside fruit stands, riverside wine stalls and bustling markets. He was welcomed into their homes to witness traditional artisans at work and join in religious and communal celebrations that inspire, enlighten and reveal the Armenian heart and soul.

"After producing nine seasons of 'Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope,' it's particularly gratifying that 'Digging Into the Future' has received this recognition," states Rosendo. "Winning the Silver Telly for Digging in the Cultural category confirms our belief that no matter the subject featuring people and their culture touches the hearts and minds of our viewers."

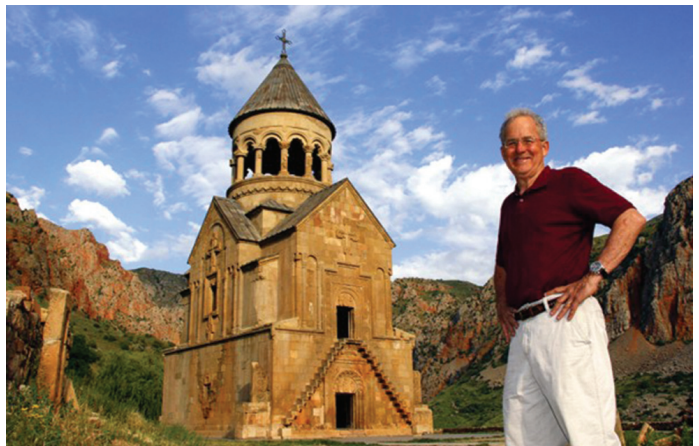
He also announced that, "In order to expand the show's initial reach, the one-hour special will air as two half-hour episodes in Season 9 of "Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope" scheduled for release this November on PBS throughout the United States and Canada.

The Travelscope Team thanked the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and Kazanjian Foundation for their

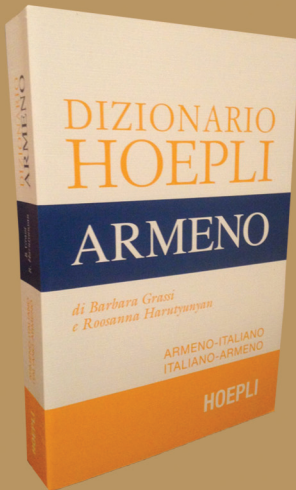
support of the initial national broadcast of "Digging Into the Future: Armenia."

The Telly Awards honor the finest film and video productions, groundbreaking web commercials, videos and films, and outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs - receiving nearly 12,000 entries from all 50 states and numerous countries. Since 1979, their mission has been to strengthen the visual arts community by inspiring, promoting and supporting creativity.

In addition to three 2016 Telly Awards, "Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope" has been previously honored with 34 Tellys. "Travelscope" has also won four National Emmys and received 14 Emmy.



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, Rosanna 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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