

## RPA, ARF sign agreement on political cooperation



**Armenia - The ruling Republican Party and Armenian Revolutionary Federation sign a power-sharing agreement, Yerevan, 24 Feb 2016**

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## Conflicts impede sustainable development, Armenian FM



**Statement by Edward Nalbandian, Foreign Minister of Armenia at the UNDP 50th Anniversary Ministerial Meeting**

### *Preventing Violent Conflict, Building Peaceful Societies*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The UN Charter guides the member states to take effective collective measures for the prevention of threats to peace. Over the years the concept of prevention has been gradually and effectively occupying an important space in the international efforts of building peace and security. However, conflicts continue to emerge and many of them turn violent with increasingly higher human cost, consuming significant resources of the international community and thus attracting stronger focus to the improvement of the prevention capabilities.

It goes without saying that the unambiguous implementation of the international commitments, in particular those enshrined in the UN Charter on developing friendly relations among nations based also on respect for the principle of equal rights

and self-determination of peoples, can enormously contribute to the prevention efforts. If there is anything that history teaches us, is that there is a direct linkage between the brutal hindrances of the rightful exercise of human rights and violent conflicts. Usually the countries, which are disrespecting the fundamental right of peoples to self-determination, are also grossly violating human rights.

In its Agenda 2030 the international community has once again reaffirmed the inter-connection between sustainable development, peace, human rights and the rule of law. The UNDP, with its extensive presence in the field has been duly recognized within the UN system as an important contributor to the function of prevention and early warning. Identifying, reporting and reacting to deteriorating human rights situations is amongst the key functions of the field missions to detect early signs of fueling instability.

Ladies and gentleman,

The link between global security and development is beyond doubt. Conflicts may impede the sustainable development.

This is a reality. But there is another reality as well. Some protracted or frozen conflicts may continue for decades on the territories inhabited by people whose aspirations to achieve sustainable development goals are as legitimate as for anyone else. Pending settlement to the final legal status of certain territories, particularly those which are subject of negotiations under agreed format of conflict resolution, should not be used as an excuse to violate the legitimate right of the people to development. After all, "Leave no one behind" commitment is not about invoking a justification for exclusion but finding ways for inclusion. The international community should find ways to ensure involvement of the people from conflict areas in the international cooperation aimed at achieving sustainable development goals. The operation of the international organizations and agencies, such as the UNDP and others also should not be anyhow restricted for the people of the conflict areas.

It is important to transform the challenge imposed by conflicts to an opportunity of establishing positive agenda of partnership including through genuine confidence building among parties to the conflict. All people have universal aspiration for security and development. Common economic or environmental projects among parties to the conflict can entail first steps towards building trust and confidence and what is more important, a common vision of peace.

## Perspectives of Armenian-Austrian cooperation discussed at the President's Office

President Serzh Sargsyan held consultations on February 26 on Armenian-Austrian relations, the ongoing programs and the perspectives of development. Arman Kirakosyan, Armenia's Ambassador to Austria and the country's representative to a number of international organizations accredited to Vienna, presented a report.

"Austria is a friendly country, a developed country and we are building our relations, taking note of the joint historic path., i.e. we develop our relations on the basis of firm historic grounds," he said.

The President reminded that Austria was one of the first to respond after the devastating earthquake of 1988.

President Sargsyan said Austria is extremely important to us for its rich experience of development in the fields of information technologies, medicine, tourism and infrastructures.

"I think we have good chances of increasing the Austrian investments in Armenia, especially in the field of industry, as there are a number of powerful companies in Austria investing in different countries of the world, and Armenia



could provide wide opportunities as a member of the Eurasian Economic Union," the President said, adding that "we are ready to create favorable conditions for any serious investor."

## RPA, ARF sign agreement on political cooperation

The ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF, Dashnaksutyun) have formally agreed on political cooperation that will also give ARF members representation in the Armenian government.

An agreement on such cooperation was signed by deputy chairman of the RPA Armen Ashotyan and representative of the ARF Supreme Body Aghvan Vardanyan at the Presidential Palace on February 24.

President Serzh Sargsyan, the leader of the RPA, and another senior ruling party member, Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan were present at the signing ceremony, as were the ARF's Armen Rustamyan and Hrant Markarian.

The document, according to

Ashotyan, is neither about a post-election coalition or a pre-election bloc, but concerns "long-term cooperation" that proceeds from the party's national ideologies and shared statesmanship and follows changes in the Constitution that have been advocated by both forces.

Under the current power-sharing deal the ARF has got three ministerial posts in the government.

Artsvik Minasyan was appointed as minister of economy, while two other prominent Dashnaksutyun members, Davit Lokyan and Levon Mkrtychyan, will take over as ministers of local government and education respectively. Dashnaksutyun representatives will also run the northwestern Aragatsotn and Shirak provinces.

Levon Mkrtychyan, who has already as

served as education minister in the past, replaced Armen Ashotyan, an HHK deputy chairman who signed the agreement on behalf of the ruling party.

The ARF was part of several coalition governments in Armenia since 2003. The last time it participated in the RPA-dominated government was after the 2008 disputed presidential election. The party espousing the national and socialist ideology, however, quit the government a year later over the Sargsyan administration's policy of rapprochement with Turkey.

As an advocate of a parliamentary form of government, the ARF was among the political forces that backed the relevant constitutional reform initiated by Sargsyan and approved in last year's referendum. Since then, the ARF has also sought a role in implementing the reform.

## Vardges Gaspari freed after protests



Amid growing uproar from opposition leaders, civil society members and independent media, an Armenian court ordered on Friday the release of a prominent activist who frequently stages lone protests against the government.

The Iranian-born activist, Vardges Gaspari, was arrested on February 19 for allegedly shouting abuse at the judge presiding over his ongoing trial on charges of insulting a police officer. Law-enforcement authorities also cited Gaspari's failure to attend court hearings in the trial. Police officers have had to literally carry him from his home to a court house in Yerevan ahead of every hearing.

Gaspari's arrest was condemned as politically motivated by critics of the Armenian government. They reacted angrily after he claimed to have been assaulted by cellmates in the city's

Nubarashen prison. Investigators' decision to subject him to a psychiatric examination earlier this week only added to the outrage.

Around two dozen members of the Armenian parliament signed a petition demanding his immediate release. Several youth activists lay down on the ground in front of the presidential administration building in Yerevan on Wednesday and Thursday, imitating Gaspari's trademark method of protesting against government policy.

Government officials have denied any political motives behind his arrest. They have also said that they will not intervene in the high-profile case.

Armenia's Court of Appeals, meanwhile, ordered the investigators to release Gaspari from custody pending a lower court verdict on the case. The maverick activist was set free before attending a fresh hearing in his trial later on Friday.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, Gaspari said that he continues to consider the Armenian police "murderers" because of their role in the 2008 post-election violence in Yerevan, which left ten people dead and dozens of others wounded.



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## Russia not hiding its military-technical cooperation with Armenia, Moscow tells Baku

Russia dismissed on February 25 Azerbaijani protests against its decision to sell \$200 million worth of more Russian-manufactured weapons to Armenia.

The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry said on February 24 that it has sent a protest note to Moscow in connection with the arms deal that will be financed with a \$200 million Russian loan allocated to Yerevan last year.

"We have already made it clear to the Azerbaijani side through diplomatic channels that Russia is bound by an alliance with Armenia and is developing with it military-technical cooperation among other things," said Maria Zakharova, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman.

"This is a well-known fact, and we are managing that cooperation without hiding it, in a transparent and open manner. We hope that Azerbaijan will show understanding for this fact," Zakharova told a news briefing in Moscow.

"We carry out any supplies of weapons to Armenia as well as friendly Azerbaijan with a meticulous consideration of the need to maintain the balance of forces in



the region," she added, according to the TASS news agency.

Zakharova appeared to allude to the fact that Russia has sold more than \$4 billion worth of mostly offensive weapons to Azerbaijan in the last several years. Those arms deliveries prompted criticism from Armenia's government, political parties and media. Some of them have accused Moscow of thereby undercutting Armenia, Russia's main regional ally, in the dispute with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

The latest Russian-Armenian arms deal has been construed by some analysts as a Russian attempt to placate the Armenians.

The Russian government disclosed late last week a long list of items which the Armenian military will be able to acquire with the Russian loan by the end of 2017. They include devastating multiple-launch rocket systems, flamethrower systems, anti-tank rockets and communication equipment.

## No political prisoners in Armenia, says Dashnak leader



The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF, Dashnaksutyun), which signed an agreement on political cooperation with the ruling Republican Party of Armenia on February 24 and for two days has been formally considered to be a governing party, believes that there are no political prisoners in Armenia.

During a press briefing at the National Assembly on February 26, ARF faction head Armen Rustamyan said that

after the arrests and prosecution of Dashnak members in the 1990s Armenia has not had political prisoners according to Council of Europe standards.

"It is not parties' criteria that decide whether a man is a political prisoner. There are five criteria adopted by the Council of Europe, which should be used in the assessment. It is unbiased specialists who are to make the assessment, there is no giving assessments out of political considerations," said Rustamyan when asked to evaluate the status of maverick anti-government protester Vardges Gaspari, who was taken into custody a week ago on charges of allegedly insulting police officers and a judge.

Opposition groups in Armenia, however, consider Gaspari and a number of other opposition and civil figures arrested and prosecuted recently, to be political prisoners.

National Assembly Human Rights and Public Affairs Committee Chairman Elinar Vardanyan has launched a collection of signatures in the parliament for the appeal to a higher judicial instance for Gaspari's release pending trial.

Later on Friday a court in Yerevan reportedly made a decision to set Gaspari free.

Earlier, newly elected Ombudsman Arman Tatoyan also appealed to the prosecutor general to launch an inquiry into allegations of torture against the 59-year-old activist.

## Arman Tatoyan elected as new Human Rights Defender



The National Assembly voted overwhelmingly on February 23 to appoint Armenia's new human rights ombudsman nominated by President Serzh Sargsyan's Republican Party (HHK).

Arman Tatoyan, who served as a deputy minister of justice until now, was backed by 96 of the 131 members of the Armenian parliament. He was sworn in for a six-year term immediately after the vote.

The position has been vacant since its previous holder, Karen Andreyan, unexpectedly stepped down on January 12. He gave no clear reasons for the move.

Andreyan was publicly attacked by several HHK parliamentarians in October when he presented the National Assembly with an annual report on the work of his office. He denounced the harsh criticism as a smear campaign ordered by an unnamed government-linked individual.

The ruling party, which enjoys a comfortable majority in the parliament, has denied forcing him to resign.

Under Armenian law, Tatoyan needed at least 79 parliamentary votes in order to become ombudsman. His candidacy was backed by deputies representing not only the HHK and its coalition partner-in-

waiting, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, but also the nominally opposition Prosperous Armenia and Orinats Yerkir parties.

Also voting for Tatoyan was Nikol Pashinyan, an outspoken opposition lawmaker who set up a new party last year. Pashinyan said during a parliament debate on Monday that Tatoyan should be given a chance to prove his declared commitment to human rights.

But other opposition deputies rejected the choice of Andreyan's successor. One of them, Zaruhi Postanjyan, branded Tatoyan as an "advocate of the government."

Her colleagues representing the opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK) made similar claims when they announced that they will boycott the parliament vote on the new ombudsman.

Tatoyan, 34, was careful not to reveal his immediate objectives or pass judgment on a number of controversial arrests and imprisonments of opposition activists. "I need time to clarify many issues and figure out my priorities," he told reporters after his election. "I cannot make evaluations at this point."

Tatoyan similarly skirted opposition deputies' questions about the existence of political prisoners in Armenia during Monday's debate.

## Tigran Sargsyan, Nursultan Nazarbayev discuss EEU development



Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Tigran Sargsyan had a meeting on February 25 with the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Issues related to the current develop-

ment of the Eurasian Economic Union, deepening of economic relations with third countries and the common strategy of the EEU member states on the global market were discussed.

Nursultan Nazarbayev noted that

Tigran Sargsyan has assumed the presidency of the Board at a hard time for world economy and added that "it's difficult to find ways of growth under these conditions."

The President said, however, he has no doubts connected with the ultimate usefulness of the Union, especially considering that a number of countries are willing to join EEU or create free trade zones.

The President of Kazakhstan noted that the membership in the integration union envisages not only the use of opportunities, but also the need to invest in its development.

Chairman of the EEU Board voiced confidence that Kazakhstan would give a new impulse to the development of the Union during its presidency of the EEU.

## Dashnak Minister vows action against monopolies

Artsvik Minasyan, the newly appointed economy minister affiliated with the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun), on February 25 pledged to fight against monopolies widely regarded as a major hurdle to faster economic growth in Armenia.

He acknowledged at the same time that liberalizing lucrative sectors of the Armenian economy controlled by powerful individuals will not be an easy task.

"We are going to take actions in this direction that will be in tune with the European Union's anti-trust legislation and will help to create market-based competitive conditions in our country," Minasyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service after attending his first cabinet meeting in Yerevan.

Minasyan said a set of "actions in this area that will be presented soon" but declined to elaborate on them. He also cautioned: "I want to remind you that Armenia's economy ... is now classified as a blockaded economy. In blockaded economies it is much easier to set up and solidify monopolies than to break them up."

Some lucrative forms of business in Armenia, notably imports of fuel and foodstuffs, have long been controlled by large companies belonging to government-linked individuals. Economists say the resulting lack of competition in those sectors translates into disproportionately high prices.

A World Bank survey released in 2013 said that oligopolies control 20 percent of economic activity in Armenia, making it the most monopolized economy in the former Soviet Union. World Bank officials have repeatedly called on the Armenian government to create a level playing field for entrepreneurs in all sectors.



In a joint declaration on their power-sharing deal signed on Wednesday, Dashnaksutyun and the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) promised, among other things, to pursue an "active ant-trust policy." Many analysts in Yerevan are skeptical about this pledge, saying that President Sargsyan has long been relying on influential "oligarchs" for political support and will hardly agree to act against them.

As recently as on February 3, Minasyan's predecessor as economy minister, Karen Chshmarityan, rationalized the existence of business monopolies in the country. "The government has not fought and will not fight against monopolies," Chshmarityan said. "Our legislation and policies are aimed instead at tackling abuse of monopolist positions."

## PicsArt calls for U.S.-Armenia Tax Treaty

Photo-editing, collage and drawing app, PicsArt -a Yerevan-based company with more than 250 million installations, or downloads, serving a global community of 65 million - has joined a growing list of corporations and Congressional leaders in calling on the Obama Administration to help facilitate the growth of Armenia's burgeoning tech sector commerce with the United States by negotiating a bilateral Double Tax Treaty, reported the Armenian National Committee of America.

In a letter sent to President Obama last week, PicsArt Chief Operations Officer and Co-Founder Artavazd Mehrabyan explained that "PicsArt and the many other IT start-ups in Armenia represent the cutting edge of U.S.-Armenia economic growth, driving the expansion of commercial partnerships and further reinforcing the enduring bonds of friendship that have long drawn together the Armenian and American peoples." He went on to note that "to ensure serious, sustainable progress over the long term - we need to remove barriers to bilateral cooperation and put in place a clear legal framework for continued economic growth. A central element of such an effort must be a modern Tax Treaty that eliminates the threat of double taxation of corporations, investors and individuals that have business activities in both jurisdictions."

PicsArt, which has offices in both Yerevan, Armenia and San Francisco, California, joins technology and global business leaders Microsoft, FedEx, NASDAQ, Marriott, Grant Thornton and host of U.S. and Armenia firms who have been on record for years supporting stronger bilateral economic relations efforts, including

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through a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), which was adopted in May, 2015, and a modern Double Tax Treaty.

Other firms in support of these common sense measures include: America Banking Group, Prudence Legal Advisory and Counseling, Baker Tilley Armenia, Synergy, Tufenkian Heritage Hotels, Altacode, Leda Campus LLC, Levon Travel, Unicomp, Synopsys, Megerian Carpet, National Instruments, Mentor Graphics, First Mortgage, Geoteam, Hylink, LC Distribution, and Linkgard Systems.

In August of last year, senior ANCA officials met with U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew to press for a new U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty. The current treaty governing double taxation issues between the two countries is the 1973 U.S.-U.S.S.R. Tax Treaty, an outdated forty year-old accord. The lack of an updated double tax treaty between the United States and Armenia creates

legal uncertainty that deters potential U.S. investors, diverts investment flows and disadvantages American businesses seeking to invest in the Republic of Armenia.

U.S. Representatives Judy Chu (D-CA) and Ted Lieu (D-CA) have appealed to Treasury Secretary Lew to begin negotiations for new Double Tax Treaty to address these concerns.

## Car importers hail government move to scrap VAT on vehicles from EEU

According to Armenia's car importers, the abolishment of a 20-percent value added tax (VAT) levied from cars imported from Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) member states will boost the field's further development.

A couple of weeks ago, EEU Minister of Integration and Macroeconomics Tatiana Valovaya said that that Armenia's 20-percent VAT charged from physical persons importing cars from EEU member states is contrary to the EEU legal framework. After that, Armenia's car importers appealed to the president and the government of the country to abolish VAT levied from cars imported from the EEU member states.

On February 25, Armenia's government approved legislative changes concerning not charging VAT on cars imported from the EEU countries.

After the law is passed by the National Assembly, individuals importing cars will not pay the 20-percent VAT.

Chairman of the Drivers' Defense League Tigran Hovhannisyan told media that this will make possible to import newer cars at more reasonable prices from the Russian market.

"The Russian market is competitive. There is domestic production and there are popular car manufacturers from the United States, Japan and South Korea.

In addition, we will import up to five-year-old cars from the Russian market at more affordable prices due to the depreciation of the dollar in Russia," he said.

Hovhannisyan said that new cars have filter systems, whereas cars imported from Georgia, which are from 15 to 20 years old, mostly do not have them.

"I want [our country] to get out of the Georgian market, due to the Eurasian Economic Union, and it will be better for us to develop our own domestic market," he said.

The chairman of the Drivers' Defense League added that car prices in Armenia are sure to drop due to this decision.

As an example, he said that a week ago a Mercedes produced in 2015 sold for \$30,000, but now without the VAT it would cost about \$24,000 to \$25,000.

## Armenia, UN sign agreement on Customs Facilitation in Humanitarian Assistance



On 26 February, 2016, the United Nations in Armenia and the Ministry of Emergency Situations in Armenia signed the Customs Facilitation Agreement, a bilateral agreement allowing the expedition of the import, export and transit of relief consignments and possessions of relief personnel in the event of disasters and emergencies. This marks a major step forward in strengthening preparedness and a pioneering initiative for others in the region.

Armenia's vulnerability to natural disasters led the Government to prioritize the rapid deployment of international aid in emergency situations by lowering customs barriers. The negotiations between the UN and the Government of Armenia started in 2013. To date, similar agreements have been signed with the governments of Belarus, Bhutan, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Liberia, Mali, Moldova, Nepal and Uzbekistan.

Developed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in 1994 and approved by the World Customs Organization in 1996, the

Model Customs Agreement between the UN and member states includes recommended measures to expedite customs clearance procedures, including simplified documentation and inspection procedures, the temporary or permanent waiving of duties and taxes on imports, as well as clearance arrangements outside official working hours and locations.

The agreement signed today will allow aid consignments, including search and rescue teams, search dog teams and mobile medical units, high technology emergency communication equipment and other emergency relief items a speedy import / export and transit into the country in the event of a disaster requiring external assistance.

Such agreements along with vital information shared by natural authorities enable UN agencies, intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as other humanitarian actors to quickly contact appropriate National Customs Authorities to bring in relief consignments for saving lives and reducing the suffering of the affected people.



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## 1 ROOM

- 1696.**Tumanyan str.**, 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 160.000 USD.
- 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.
- 1674-**Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor, 70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- 1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 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
- 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
- 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

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

### 2 ROOMS

- 2302 **North Ave**, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 1780. **Amiryan str**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area**. Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 2243. **Buzand str**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD



- itally repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

### PRIVATE HOUSES

### 3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2358 **V. Sargsyan str**, Newly Built, 7/4, 145sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, one guest toilet, capitolly renovated, furnished, underground parking. Price: 3000 USD negotiable
- 2353 **V. Sargsyan str.** 8/5, Newly built, 98sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitolly renovated, furnished, Price 1500 USD
- 2347 **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable
- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave**, Newly built, 6th floor,

- 1335 **Baghranyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly 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, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly 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, capitolly 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 Baghranyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitolly repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitolly repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitolly repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitolly repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitolly 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., capitolly 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, capitolly repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

## Bundestag to vote on new Armenian Genocide bill before April 24

The German Bundestag held a debate on the Armenian Genocide on February 25 but did not vote on the bill proposed by the Alliance 90/The Greens. The ruling coalition said it's not the proper time to adopt the bill and proposed to continue the discussions in the coming weeks to prepare a new finalized document until April 24, 2016.

Chairman of the Alliance 90/The Greens Cem Ozdemir agreed to withdraw his bill on condition that the new document to be agreed before April 24 clearly mentions the events of 1915 as genocide, accepts Germany's role in the massacre and contributes to the normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations.

The issue was brought to the agenda by the Alliance 90/The Greens, which has always urged to describe the events of 1915 as 'genocide.'

Addressing the Bundestag today, Ozdemir said "the authorities have no common stance on the issue out of the fear to irritate Erdogan. "I don't understand why we cannot vote for this bill. We should do that for the simple reason of clearing our conscience," he said.

"Turkey is distorting its own history, while our goal is to establish the truth. A clear message on the part of Germany could change a lot," Ozdemir said.

Klaus Brähmig of CDU/CSU said, in turn, that "the current Turkish authorities

are not responsible for their ancestors, but can take steps to improve relations with Armenia."

"Today we need no reports criticizing Turkey. Instead, we need steps that will contribute to the settlement of the migrants' issue. Judging from our own history, we can say that no matter how actively we invite Turkey to assess their own past, their people must be ready for it. It will happen, when there is no pressure from the outside. Therefore, we cannot vote in favor of this resolution," he said.

"We need to respect ourselves and refrain from kissing Turkey's eyes every time. You asked for time, and we gave you plenty," Ozdemir told the coalition. "Turkey speaks of civilized society, but persecutes journalists who dare speak openly," he added.

"If we really manage to work out a new document before April 24 on the basis of the three above-mentioned points, we'll say "We are with you." But when time comes, you'll find other obstacles," Chairman of the Greens Party said.

The bill debated today noted that "the German Bundestag bows to the victims of forced displacement and massacre of the Armenians and Aramaeans, Assyrians and other Christian minorities of the Ottoman Empire, which began 100 years ago. It deplored the actions of the then Turkish government, almost full annihilation of the



Armenians in the Ottoman Empire.

The resolution noted that "the fate of the Armenians stands as exemplary in the history of mass exterminations, ethnic cleansing, deportations and yes, genocide, which marked the 20th century in such a terrible way." German President Joachim Gauck used the same wording as he addressed a commemoration ceremony on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

The bill stated that "An honest appraisal of history is the most important basis for reconciliation."

The bill also referred to the German role in the Armenian Genocide, noting that "today's German authorities are obliged to contribute to the resumption of the Armenian-Turkish relations, opening of the shared border."

Unlike the resolution adopted by the Bundestag in 2005, the bill considered today clearly described the events as "genocide."

## Armenian Ambassador meets Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

On February 22, Armen Yeghanyan, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Canada, had a meeting with John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship of Canada.

Highlighting the necessity of opening Embassy of Canada in Armenia, Ambassador Yeghanyan informed Minister that every year several thousands Canadian citizens visit Armenia and sometimes they experience the need of consular and immigration services of the Embassy.

The sides also discussed a number of issues concerning the recent flow of refugees to Canada. Minister McCallum underlined that he is well informed about



the problems the Syrian-Armenians are facing while arriving to Canada. He stressed that the Canadian Government is implementing numerous assistance programmes, which in particular are aimed at the improvement of refugees' social condi-

tions. Ambassador Yeghanyan expressed his gratitude to Canadian Government for the support.

During the meeting thoughts on the current visa policies between the two countries were exchanged.

Armen Yeghanyan briefed on the commemorative events of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide, organized throughout 2015 in different countries, including Canada.

The results of the 31st Ministerial Conference of the International Organization of La Francophonie, which took place last October in Yerevan, were discussed.

## How Turks have been viewed through Iran's history



By Harut  
Sassounian

Publisher, *The  
California Courier*

During the past one thousand years, the relationship between the two neighboring Islamic states of Persia and the Ottoman Empire vacillated between peaceful coexistence and outright war. The populations of these two states were not only of different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, but were also divided in their Islamic faith - the Persians were Shia, while the Turks were Sunni. The divisions between Iran and Turkey continue to this day.

Many readers are familiar with the anti-Turkish references in the works of Western writers, particularly after successive episodes of Armenian massacres leading to the 1915 Genocide, such as the damning words of French writer Victor Hugo, "The Turks have passed by here, all is in ruins and mourning."

Yet, little is known about references in Persian literature regarding Turks. Roubina Ohanian, an Armenian native of Iran, now residing in Glendale, California, has filled that void with her book, "The Interpretation of the Name and Word Turk in Iranian Literature." Ohanian has meticulously researched and translated from Farsi into Armenian dozens of lines from several notable Persian poets from the Middle Ages who had penned

their highly negative impressions of Turks, revealing that Iranian antipathy toward Turks has long roots.

The Persian references regarding Turks come from such well-known poets as Ferdowsi in the 10th Century and Hafez in the 14th Century. Turkic tribes first invaded Persia in the 11th Century, followed by the Seljuks. In the 13th Century, Iran was conquered by the Mongols and then by Turkmen tribes who were finally defeated in 1592 AD. Many wars ensued between Persia and the Ottoman Empire in subsequent centuries.

Ohanian has presented in her book quotations from 13 Persian poets and writers. While Armenians have their own tragic memories of oppressive Turkish rule, it is interesting to learn of the similarly negative experiences of other nations that came in contact with Turks.

Here are several lines from Persian Middle Age poets translated by Ohanian from Farsi to Armenian which I have translated to English:

### **Ferdowsi (925 - 1020 AD):**

"No one has learned wisdom from Turks,  
No one will obey a Turk."

### **Asadi Tusi (11th Century):**

"No one ever saw any loyalty from a Turk;  
From Iranians they have seen nothing but loyalty."

### **Khawaja Abdullah Ansari**

### **(1006 - 1088 AD):**

"It would be surprising that a Turk would understand love,  
As it would be surprising that a Turk does not rob and steal."

### **Nizami (1140 - 1203 AD):**

"Even the King did not know,  
No such thing as a loyal Turk."

### **Anvari (12th Century):**

"As you have not started your journey with your gentle horse,  
Don't leave, the road is full of bloodthirsty Turks."

### **Khaghani (1120 - 1190 AD):**

"Drinking blood with a friend is an old tradition,  
Turks are blood drinkers and don't recognize their friends."

### **Saati (1184 - 1283 AD):**

"At that time you sent me a student,  
A Turk; there was no one worse than him."

Many of these Persian descriptions of Turks would be viewed today as racist as they unfairly label all Turks with the same stereotype. All nationalities have some good and bad among them. The real problem, however, is the violent policies of the Turkish state that brutally oppressed minorities and conquered nations, resulting in mass crimes and genocide against Arabs, Armenians, Assyrians, Cypriots, Greeks and Iranians!



## Turkey's blockade of Armenia a barrier to sustainable development: Edward Nalbandian



### Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia at the "Financing the 2030 Agenda: A discussion on financing for the SDGs building on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda"

Excellencies,

"It always seems impossible until it's done": These are the words of Nelson Mandela - a man who made the impossible come true. No matter how ambitious and challenging is the task, the joint determination and synergy of efforts that 50 years ago lay at the foundation of the United Nations Development Program to build a better life for all, without exclusion, should guide our endeavours. We need to act collectively and resolutely to alleviate the plight of the most vulnerable groups and communities, who need it most.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In its Agenda 2030 the international community has reaffirmed the inter-linkages between sustainable development and peace, good governance, human rights and rule of law. Humanitarian response to crisis situations and emergencies consumes significant resources of the international community and takes growing prominence in the global agenda, including within the UN system. Thus, it remains a priority for the UN system to advance its conceptual, normative and operational capacity aimed at strengthening and adapting its prevention function.

With a growing relationship of over 20 years, there have been a number of joint projects implemented in Armenia by the UNDP in key areas such as democratic governance, poverty reduction, integrated border management, the environment protection, and disaster risk reduction. Last

year the Government of Armenia and the United Nations signed the third Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which is a strategic document that will guide our cooperation for the period of 2016-2020 reflecting Armenia's vision and commitment for improving the living standards of its population.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries and its integration into the Agenda 2030 has been an important step to promote a sustainable and inclusive development agenda. To ensure the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and mainstream it into our policies, a few weeks ago, our Government adopted a national strategy for its implementation. It will be important to give proper consideration to the implementation of the international commitments to address the specific needs of the landlocked countries within a comprehensive global reporting framework for the Agenda 2030. Such a follow-up and reporting framework should involve multiple stakeholders, including the transit countries.

The focus of our session today has a direct link to the synergies and links between the ongoing developmental processes, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as a number of other important agreements reached earlier - the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the COP 21 landmark agreement.

The conventional approach to financing the Sustainable development goals

requires updating from a range of perspectives. Enhancement of infrastructure and sustainable investment, including through blended finance, will be critical to delivering on an ambitious development agenda. Addressing the issue of projects bankability and ensuring public-private solutions to financing projects is an important aspect of Armenia's work with international financial institutions, in particular, for the infrastructure projects we are currently implementing.

Coherent steps should be taken on a global level to address insufficient investment in infrastructure. The crucial need to bridge the global infrastructure gap has been recognized as an important priority in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We welcome the international commitment to bridge these gaps, including the annual gap of 1 to 1.5 trillion dollars in the developing countries.

It is important that together with limitations in finance we look at the barriers to sustainable development as well - closed borders, blockades, unduly discriminating trade regimes. The fact that a highly important inter-state railway (Gyumri-Kars) between Armenia and Turkey is not being used in the vital interests of sustainable development and regional connectivity due to an ongoing illegal blockade is a vivid example.

Infrastructure development is a high priority for Armenia, duly reflected in the recently adopted Strategy for Prospective Development for the upcoming decade.

To address the inequalities both within and among nations, we need to continue to promote rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading systems, in line with the commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We share the view that it can effectively contribute to achieving the Sustainable development goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2016 is the first year to follow up on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In holding the Presidency of the Executive Board of the UNDP, Armenia looks forward to continue its cooperation within this organization on the Sustainable Development Goals and related matters.

## Rep. Schiff commemorates 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sumgait pogroms

Asbarez - Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) entered the following statement into the Congressional Record:

"Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 28th anniversary of the pogrom against the Armenian residents of the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. On this day in 1988, and for three days following, Azerbaijani mobs assaulted and killed Armenians. When the violence finally subsided, hundreds of Armenian civilians had been brutally murdered and injured, women and young girls were raped, and victims were tortured and burned alive. Those that survived the carnage fled their homes and businesses, leaving behind everything they had in their desperation.

"The pogroms were not an accident. They were the culmination of years of vicious anti-Armenian propaganda, spread by the Azerbaijani authorities. The Azerbaijani authorities made little effort to punish those responsible, instead attempting to cover up the atrocities in Sumgait to this day, as well as denying the role of senior government officials in instigating the violence. Unsurprisingly, it was not the end of the violence, and was followed by additional attacks, including the 1990 pogrom in Baku.

"The Sumgait massacre and the subsequent attacks on ethnic Armenians, resulted in the virtual disappearance of a once thriving population of 450,000 Armenians



living in Azerbaijan, and culminating in the war launched against the people of Nagorno Karabakh. That war resulted in thousands dead on both sides and created over one million refugees in both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

"Time has not healed the wounds of those murdered in the pogroms in Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku. To the contrary, hatred of Armenians is celebrated in Azerbaijan, a situation most vividly exemplified by the case of Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani army captain who savagely murdered an Armenian army lieutenant, Gurgen Margaryan with an axe while he slept. The two were participating in a NATO Partnership for Peace exercise at the time in Hungary. In 2012, Safarov was sent home to Azerbaijan, purportedly to serve out the remainder of his sentence. Instead, he was pardoned, promoted, and paraded through the streets of Baku as a returning hero.

"The assault on ethnic Armenian civilians in Sumgait helped touch off what

would become a direct conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh. And today, Azerbaijan's dangerous behavior on the Line of Contact threatens peace and stability in the region. Artillery and sniper fire across the Line of Contact has become a fact of daily life for civilians in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, causing numerous casualties. I have urged the OSCE Minsk Group to deescalate the situation by ending a policy that equates unprovoked attacks by the Azerbaijan with the defensive responses of Karabakh and Armenian troops, and by pressuring Azerbaijan to accept the installation of technological monitoring devices along the border. The anniversary of Sumgait is a reminder of the consequences when aggression and hatred is allowed to grow unchecked.

"Mr. Speaker, this April we will mark the 101st Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, an event the Turkish government, Azerbaijan's closest ally, goes to great lengths to deny. We must not let such crimes against humanity go unrecognized, whether they occurred yesterday or 28 years ago or 100 years ago. Today, let us pause to remember the victims of the atrocities of the Sumgait pogroms. Mr. Speaker, it is our moral obligation to condemn crimes of hatred and to remember the victims, in hope that history will not be repeated."

## Eight Armenians running for two seats in Iranian Parliament

Iran is set to hold parliamentary elections on February 26. The main rivalry is expected between the conservatives and the reformists. Eight Armenians will be running for two seats in the Iranian Parliament.

Expert of Iranian studies Rudik Yaralyan expects no surprises. According to him, the Armenian community has always been conservative. Besides, the candidates previously represented in Majlis are more influential, he told reporters today.

Some of the candidates enjoy the support of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation. However, they fail to follow the ARF policy line. In particular, they could be more active on issues related to

Nagorno Karabakh and Armenian Genocide.

"In my opinion, the time has not come for Iran to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Guided by this logic, they [Armenian MPs] refrain from submitting a bill. They see that the Russian-Iranian 'alliance' is doing its best to resist Turkey's growing influence in the region. Therefore, it's not ruled out that the issue of recognition of the Armenian Genocide may be brought into agenda," the expert said.

Zhorzhik Abrahamyan and Karen Khanlaryan, both supported by ARF, are the two candidates most likely to be elected.

Speaking exclusively to Public Radio

of Armenia, Khanlaryan said he is going to deepen and expand the existing political course, if elected. "The Armenia-Iran relations are at the spotlight, especially considering that the lifting of sanctions is opening up new perspectives for cooperation."

Karen Khanlaryan said they will try to raise the Armenian Genocide issue on higher podiums, and even Majlis, on the eve of April 24.

"Iran has no practice of condemning by law, the declarative approach is more common here," he said.

It's worth mentioning that the Armenian community is the only ethnic minority that has been allocated two seats in the Iranian Parliament.

## **Russian-Turkish relations can be improved when the Republic of Armenia border the Armenia**

### **The settlement of regional problems can become a reality only after the Republic of Armenia become contiguous to Western Armenia (Armenian State)**

In recent decades, along with the development of the events in Middle East, the comments are often made on the formation of an independent Kurdistan state. Moreover, every time, mostly to silence can be traced the final settlement of the Armenian issue and problems of right implementation of Armenians living in Western Armenia to the Western Armenia.

During the interview with "Tert.am" to the question whether there is still a chance of returning good neighborly relations with Turkey, or everything is lost, Modest Kolerov said. "I believe that good relations between Turkey and Russia can return when there will be no longer the present Turkey, but an independent Kurdistan. And, for example, the border between Armenia and Turkey become the border of Armenia and independent Kurdistan."

Should be mentioned that this approach is not new and is not even Russian, it is more Western. Let us remind that back in 2006. US high-ranking retired officer from the Armed Forces Ralph Peters wrote an article about the creation of an independent Kurdistan.

There are two main problems connected with this issue.

a) Up to when the main actors of the international community are going to continue to evade the Armenian question and to ignore problems of the protection and realization of rights of Armenian people?

b) And what will change when the Republic of Turkey to get replaced by the independent Kurdistan, bordering the Republic of Armenia?

Let us warn before hand that the two asks are not just regional, they have bigger encompassment, from regional up to global civilization significance. Explaining why.

Modern analysts and experts the international analytical and expert centers, often continue to ignore an evade there all solutions of problems, regularly offering, as a remedy, such options that remind of the British diplomatic school road. It's specific rating was once proposed by Lord Sherbruck. He noticed that British policy was "closing the exit from the hell" for Christians in Turkey.

At present the British Parliament is discussing the issues of deportation and massacres of Yazidis. More than 130 years ago, they circulated the Kurdish issue as a notion. Tomorrow, surely will be spoken about vital problems of another people living in the region, stubbornly ignoring the obvious fact, that resolution of the problems of the region and all peoples living there begins with the solution of the Armenian issue. Old and the new

defenders of human rights are always trying to avoid it.

Answering to our first question, we should note that the key to settlement of the issues of Middle East is the final solution of the Armenian issue, with the implementation of all the rights of the Armenian people and Armenia, on which decisions are made and contract was signed in 1918-1920, including the part of Western Armenia and its four provinces, which are simply stated in the Peace Treaty of Sevres.

They do not know what to do with Western Armenia. European Parliament made an unlawful and illegal decision in 1987 as a formula to "political solution to the Armenian Issue", ordered articles are degraded, as the publication of Ralph Peters, in order to undermine our memories our memory with the help of history's falsifiers Western Armenia is represented by the Eastern Anatolia. To consolidate our "voluntary refusal" from our rights, the protocols are made such as The Republic of Turkey - The Republic of Armenia... however, the Eastern Anatolia does not exist, it is Western Armenia. The proprietor of this, as a result of 30-years-lasting (1894-1923) massacres, genocide and deportation is scattered all over the world, though little by little, as a Western Armenian, returns to his roots. Its logical continuation is the declaration of Western Armenia Exile establishing process on February 4 in 2011, now the Government of Western Armenia, Prime Minister Tigran Pashabezyan, and the summary of the state process in 2014 January 18-21: Formation of Western Armenia National Assembly (Parliament) in Paris, the president Armen Ter-Sargsyan and the Western Armenia President's choice, President Armenak Abrahamyan.

So, the settlement of regional problems may be realized only after the Republic of Armenia borders with to Western Armenia Republic (Armenian State).

All this is detailed in "legal-political united protection package of Armenian's rights in Western Armenia", which, by the way, has recently translated into Russian and English, the French translation and publication is in process. You can't build a house on sand, moreover, can't build peace. And it is high time to abandon the short-sighted policy of avoiding and ignoring the rights of the Armenian people. The history documents and shows that the proposed strategy of British spy Lawrence of Arabia in 1919 does not lead to anything good, first and foremost, for the perpetrators and then to participants in

other nations, too.

In response to our second question we note that civil disorder in the region, the retention commonly, and Armenian Highlands particularly, started with existence of Turkish state and replacing it with another state, including Kurdish or other... besides Armenia, will not lead to the development of civilization recovery of the region, including in the context of world civilization and progress in the future.

Confirming, the strategy proposed by Lawrence of Arabia which is "Armenia should be subjected to separation. The country where are the natural resources, must be separated from nose piece, where there is nothing except Armenians. The American mandates should only be on the Armenians. Another ally, not the British, but another equal, practical state should receive the Armenia", influenced very negatively not only on the region but also on the progress of world civilization, constantly blocking and impeding their development. Again here is one solution that is the way of implementation and verification of Armenian people rights. As a result Armenian Republic will border that Armenia, about which important decisions were made by the Russian government, in 1918, the States Parties of Paris Peace Conference, in 1919-1920, and 28th US President Woodrow Wilson, in 1920. Only after this, many problems will be solved, for many sides, including the sense of improving Russian-Turkish relations.

These were the fundamental legal and political arguments that we wanted to mention to Modest Kolerov's observation, trying to help him and other well-known experts and analysts, as well as a number of trust worthy analytical and expert centers to be careful of repetition of old mistakes, which occurred and developed the current military-political crisis in the Middle East. In fact, the global crisis of civilization which can be described as a free fall of civilization.

Fortunately, there are all the possibilities and preconditions for avoiding the fall and they are summarized in the Armenian's decisions and right implementation agreements towards the Armenia. We simply have to realize them with united will and agreement.

*Tigran Pashabezyan,  
Republic of Western Armenia  
16.02.2016.*

*Translated into English  
by Elina Ganezova.*

## The Deterioration of Russian-Turkish Relations and Armenia. Political Aspect

The deterioration of Russian-Turkish relations, which began with the collapse of Russian bomber by Turkish forces and during next months, can be said, have turned into an "alternative war" is already taking place in Syria and essentially influences the political situation in the region, including the Republic of Armenia.

During the first weeks of worsening of Russian-Turkish relations, with help of its central media services, Russia has made previously established legal bases of relationship between Russia and Turkey the subject of discussion. The issue of Armenia and the violation of the rights of Armenians by Turkish had a special role in that context and if the issue of Russian-Turkish agreement referring to Armenians, after worsening of Russian-Turkish relations was not closed, but was discussed rarely and extremely restrained, and only by experts, in November-December Russian great TV radio-stations many times touched upon not only the fact of the Armenians genocide committed by the Turkish continuous authorities in 1894-1923, but also to the issue of reconsideration of the Russian-Turkish agreement "Amity and brotherhood" of Moscow. And recently lots of Russian mass median touched upon the message of the deputies of State Duma V. Rashkin and S. Obukhev, who applied the Russian president V. Putin and Foreign minister S. Lavrov, offering to refuse the Moscow agreement generally.

That means that Russia started to use the fact, that Ankara is vulnerable to political and historical contracts, which determined the borders of Caucasus. If the Russian-Turkish conflict continues, Russia will not only be able to cancel the Moscow "Amity and brotherhood" agreement, but also can induce the Republic of Armenia to abandon the implementation of the Treaty of Kars according to the Moscow contract. Exactly by the treaty of Kars the current borders of Turkey with the three Caucasus republics (the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Georgia, the Republic of Azerbaijan) were set. According to these two Moscow and Kars treaties the state of Kars and province of Surmalu (including Mount Ararat) were surrendered to Turkey, and Karabakh and Nakhichevan to Azerbaijan. Should be noted that back in 2005 Georgia has unilaterally canceled the treaty of Kars. The problem is that the basis of Kars treaty is vulnerable. The agreement was signed by the Eastern Front Commander Kazim Karabekir on behalf of Turkish Grand National Assembly, in the case that the exclusive right to sign international treaties as stated in Ottoman constitution was only reserved for Sultan. The representative of the Republic of Armenia also signed an agreement under obvious pressure from Moscow contract. Previously the validity of contract has numerously been put under question. Still in June 7, 1945, Foreign Minister of Soviet Union Vyacheslav Molotov, on behalf of Georgia and Armenia requested the Kars provinces Ardahan and Artvin from Ankara. The same question raised in 1948 in the UN by Soviet Union's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Vishinsky. Let us mention that in 2009 the main motive of the Turkish Republic to sign the "Armenian-Turkish protocols", was to force the Republic of Armenia to ratify the Kars treaty and finally to solve the problem of borders between them.

According to experts, people of the Republic of Armenia

understands, that the Republic of Armenia in its current situation can't resist Russia's attempts to involve Armenia in the Russian-Turkish conflict and maintain neutrality, even if that involvement contains real danger of clashes in the territory of Armenia. At the same time the people also understand, that there is a situation which give an opportunity to bring into agenda and solve a number of vital issues related to the future of Armenia, moreover to get the support of the military and political centers.

The tension in Russian-Turkish relations seems to deepen, as demonstrated by recent events in Syria. But actually it is the reflect to the Russia-West conflict, whereas both for Russia and the West the direct confrontation is not favorable. In the case of development of tension in Russian-Turkish relations into military conflicts, Russia must do everything to make inactive the 5th article (If one of the NATO member states is attacked, then all countries are exposed to attack) of NATO's Washington treaty. And article will become inactive, if Turkey appears to be an aggressor and attacking. Thus, in order to avoid direct confrontation with the West, Russia should represent Turkey to the world exactly like that.

According to a lot of Armenian experts, hear Russia can mention the Armenian issue. The thing is, that till today the 28th president Woodrow Wilson's legal judgment about "The US president's decision about the border between Armenia and Turkey, and the demobilization of Armenian exit to the sea and adjacent Turkish territories" has not lost its legal power and still operates, which was made in response to San Remo's conference's compromise in 1920th April 26 and based on the 89-90 peace articles of Sevres agreement in 1920th August 10. As for Wilson's Arbitral Award, which is a document of law and function, Turkey is an aggressor and has occupied the territory of Armenia. That is, in this case there are legal grounds to speak about the fact that Turkey as an aggressor country must, for example, to withdraw its troops from Western Armenia.

In fact, some experts believe that the US has already worked out plans to split the Turkey. Even there are opinions that the destruction of the Russian plane was provoked and directed by the United States, so that Turkey to stand on a confrontation with Russia and, as a consequence, to come across of need to reckon with the fact of new legal situation. As for the Armenians, in the opinion of the mass, if the Republic of Armenia must become unwittingly the stage for the Russian-Turkish tensions and perhaps clashes and be threatened, then Armenians at least should try to win something in this situation and solve the issue of Western Armenia, Karabakh and Nakhichevan.

There are a number of circumstances, which contributes this attitude. First of all, the Kurdish issue has now become a priority in the region. Both Western and Russian press haven't ever touched the question of establishing a Kurdish state so much as now. It is rumored both about already de jure wording of the Kurdish state, which is, de facto, existing in Iraq Kurdistan, and the inevitable creation of Kurdish state in Syria territory and inside Turkey. The military operations carried out by the Turkish authorities in recent weeks against the Kurds in the Kurdish regions of Turkey only aggravate already tense situation.

On December 23 in Moscow, the conversations between

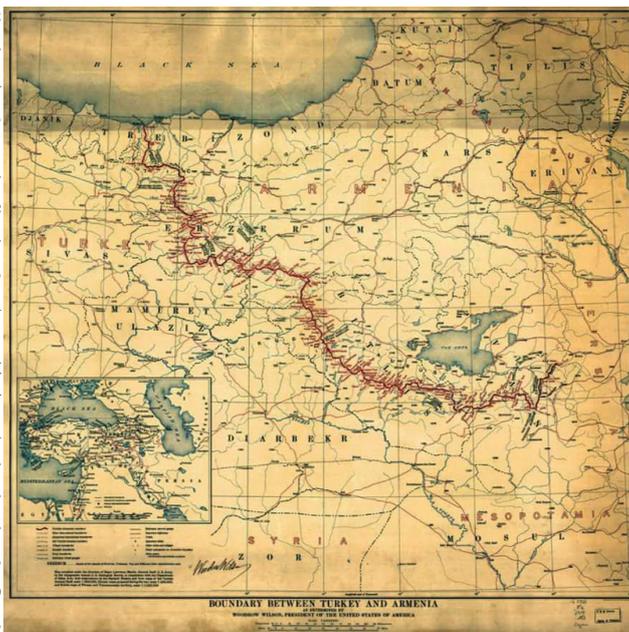
Turkish oppositionist, Turkey's pro-Kurdish Democratic People's Party leader Selahettin Demirtash and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, one more time stressed Russia's support for the main political line of Demirtash, "Reshape" of Turkey. Demirtash's main idea is the creation of the "Anatolian Confederate Republic", which will be divided into four main autonomies: Kurdish, Armenian, Greek and Turkish. In addition, it is envisaged that the "Confederate Republic of Anatolia" will have two state religions: Christianity and Islam, and four official languages: Armenian, Greek, Kurdish and Turkish. Demirtash also supports the recognition of the Armenian's Genocide by Turkey and returning of territories and all property of Armenia, as well as the restoration of Armenian historical and cultural heritage.

But if Demirtash's ideas don't have enough legal basis, and rely only on the wishes, then the Kurdish factor combination with the possibilities of Armenians resided worldwide or currently residing the territory of Western Armenia, as well as their native lands and deported to Syria, Iraq, the Middle East, is acquiring a serious strategic advantage.

Let us note that the Armenians living in Turkey, which in recent decades gradually started not concealing their identity, (they were doing it for decades because of a caution) as well as the Diaspora, self-organized and even declared officially about the continuing state of Western Armenia, the state which was legally recognized by leading Western states (US, France, Germany, Great Britain and Russia) at the beginning of last century. They are also holding the political and legal processes associated with it, including in UN indigenous peoples' rights protection expert format. Unlike Kurds and other nationalities living in the Republic of Turkey, Armenians have a strong package of political documents confirming their legal right to the territory of Western Armenia, and, since 2004, has formed the organizational structures, in order to bring into agenda and resolve the issue of Western Armenia. All this combined with the Kurdish factor can have a determinative role in the new political and legal processes of reshaped region.

A change has also occurred in the context of the Karabakh issue. Due to

Russian-Turkish conflict the Azerbaijani-Turkish close relations have begun to work to the detriment of Russia-Azerbaijan relations. Russia could not remain indifferent to the clear pro-Turkish orientation of Azerbaijan, including the recently held meetings by the heads of Turkish states and the prospect of the creation of the new structure based on the idea of ethnic unity. This structure would be supervised by the Republic of



Turkey. Meetings of the Turkish countries have been held in Nakhichevan too (the territory is very important hub in terms of the union of Turkish states, at the same time extremely weak for its affiliation of legal grounds). In parallel, Aliyev regularly announced about "Western Azerbaijan", that is, the territorial claims against Armenia of Azerbaijan Republic, which was also been done in the presence of Turkish states leaders, who don't give any respond to such statements.

Naturally, such ambitions pose a threat to Russia, and also create uncertainty to the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Russian-Turkish relations escalation was followed by a visit of Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu to Baku. Meanwhile, the visit of Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu held at Prime Minister's statement in the background that Turkey will do its best "to liberate the occupied territories of Azerbaijan." Azerbaijan has once again confirmed its commitment to its "elder brother", Turkey. Naturally, this also deepened already existing distrust in Russian-Azerbaijani relations. Russia, as a member of the OSCE Minsk Group deals with the issue of the Karabakh conflict

peaceful settlement, while Azerbaijan once again tries to draw Turkey into the process.

At the same time, Azerbaijan and Russia do not seem to want to raise tensions. This is evidenced by the statement of the President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko about the fact that within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, Belarus will represent the interests of Azerbaijan. On the one hand it means that Azerbaijan is looking for intermediaries in relations with Russia, and Russia is trying to appease Azerbaijan, in terms of Russian-Turkish escalated relations.

At least in recent months, Russia is strengthening its military presence in Armenia, by placing a new air defense system on the Armenia-Turkey border. On the one hand, this ensures Armenia's, as well as Artsakh's defense, but on the other hand, can have a plunge into the cold war between the West and Russia, because Armenia's geographical position is located in the NATO and CSTO frontline (after all, the conflict between Russia and Turkey is also aggravation between NATO and CSTO). Thus, Armenia, as a CSTO member is NATO's Turkey immediate neighbor in case of tend warming (especially taking into consideration the Russian military base) could become one of the most central arena of conflict.

Because the maintenance of tension on the contact line of Karabakh was always beneficial to Azerbaijan, and exactly Azerbaijan was always initiated ceasefire violations, the recent slight weakening of the Karabakh-Azerbaijani border might be due to the tension in Russian-Turkish relations, which is a deterring factor for Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan understands that another border provocation can be followed by a more powerful response from Armenian side, encouraged by its strategic partner Russia. As a result, Azerbaijan will incur substantial losses, as it was in the 90s.

Thus, the status quo is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future, undertaken with the Karabakh issue, and now is not realistic to talk about transfer of territories around Karabakh.

*Noyan Tapan  
Translated into English  
by Elina Oganezova*

## Rechargeable battery shipments to be barred from airliners

Cargo shipments of the rechargeable lithium batteries used in countless consumer products should no longer be allowed on passenger planes because they can create intense fires capable of destroying an aircraft, a U.N. aviation agency has concluded, the Associated Press reports.

The decision late Monday by the Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organization's top-level governing council to ban the shipments isn't binding, but most countries follow the agency's standards. The ban is effective on April 1.

"This interim prohibition will continue to be in force as separate work continues through ICAO on a new lithium battery packaging performance standard, currently expected by 2018," said Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, the ICAO council's president.

Lithium-ion batteries are used in a vast array of products from cellphones and laptops to some electric cars. About 5.4 billion lithium-ion cells were manufactured worldwide in 2014. A battery is made up of two or more cells. A majority of batteries are transported on cargo ships, but about 30



percent are shipped by air.

The ban doesn't apply to batteries packaged inside equipment like a laptop with a battery inside, for example.

PRBA - The Rechargeable Battery

Association, which opposed the ban, said in a statement that the industry is preparing to comply with the ban, but there may be "significant disruption in the logistics supply chain," especially for batteries used in medical devices.

## Vienna the world's best city to live in; Yerevan ranked 182<sup>nd</sup>

Vienna is the world's best city to live in; Baghdad is the worst, and London, Paris and New York do not even make it into the top 35, according to international research into quality of life.

German-speaking cities dominate the rankings in the 18th Mercer Quality of Life study, with Vienna joined by Zurich, Munich, Düsseldorf and Frankfurt in the top seven.

Paris has tumbled down the league, falling 10 places to 37th, just ahead of London at 39th, almost entirely because of the city's vulnerability to terrorist attacks.

US cities perform relatively poorly in the study, largely because of issues around personal safety and crime. The highest ranking city in the US is San Francisco, at 28th; Boston is 34th. Canadian cities, led by Toronto, far outrank their US rivals in the table.

Armenia's capital Yerevan is ranked 182nd among 230 cities. The list includes two Russian cities -Moscow and Saint Petersburg, ranked 167th and 174th



respectively. Georgia's capital Tbilisi is 188th, Azerbaijan's Baku is placed 197th. Istanbul (122nd) is the only Turkish city included in the ranking.

The capital cities of Armenia's partners in the Eurasian Economic Union are placed as follows: Minsk - 190th, Almaty

- 176th, Bishkek - 210th.

The study examined social and economic conditions, health, education, housing and the environment, and is used by big companies to assess where they should locate and how much they should pay staff.

## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

### Aries (March 20-April 19)



In some way you are called upon to bring out one element of your personal genius in order to solve a problem or demonstrate what you can do. Often this comes as a surprise and requires that you think "out of the box". The usual rules don't fit here and you will need to resolve the dilemma in a way totally unique to yourself.

### Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)



Your career or life direction is blending harmoniously with what you feel is the "right" thing to do. People with power are giving help and/or education as you need it. Forward motion moves smoothly.

### Gemini (May 20-June 20)



This is a high energy week with many things to do, places to go, and people to see. You and a partner or a friend may be discussing where next you would like to travel. A green light goes for legal, educational, publication and religious interests.

### Cancer (June 21-July 21)



At present your rational mind tells you one set of facts while the heart/instincts are in another camp altogether. A conflict of this type is one which ultimately will be resolved in a creative way. Take your conflict to a higher place--not one of either/or, but both/and. A larger perspective would satisfy both ends of the equation.

### Leo (July 22-August 21)



You or someone else may want you to feel guilty because you are unable to make things better. Recognize that you are not the magician you would like to be and let go of the guilt. Whatever happens now, you are highly prone to think dark thoughts about yourself. This is passing. Let it go.

### Virgo (August 22-September 22)



You will very probably be energized to accomplish a lot this week. Co-workers are agreeable and contribute to a group effort with no quarrel. Don't push your body beyond its limits in exercise or personal projects. You are in a physical low. This is brief.



### Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

Love life moves along smoothly. Your inner feminine is in balance with your more masculine side. This means that you likely can find a way to cooperate with almost anyone and move forward together for your mutual needs. A new relationship can begin here, but give it plenty of time to develop.



### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Give attention to Aries' paragraph because Mars is a strong ruler for you as well. At present you may be pressing yourself to push forward on a major project. Your physical body might be stressed to its limits. Be certain to listen when it says, "Stop!"



### Sagittarius

### (November 22-December 20)

Read Aries paragraph this week, because the planet will be retrograding in your sign April 17. As time moves forward, you will feel your motivation moving more slowly. It will probably be a relief in today's fast pace. Meanwhile, this week life is moving lickety-split.

### Capricorn

### (December 21-January 19)

You may be concentrating on a major remodel around your home or property. This is a piece of work that requires focus and intentionality. Someone may be moving into or out of your space. Take your time and move carefully. Don't let someone pressure you to move faster than you reasonably can.



### Aquarius (January 20-February 17)

There appears to be more than normal discussion and mediation with others on issues of joint resources. This is a widely ranged territory, including money, property, time, and energy. Joint resources can include income from spouse or others, debts, insurance, social security, and inheritance.



### Pisces (February 18-March 19)

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. For the next month your point of view will be dream-like and spiritually expansive.

## The New Thermal Energy Accumulators Created by Armenian Engineers can promote the Development of Armenia's Economy

On February 27, in Noyan Tapan News Agency press center took place next discussion of Noyan Inventors Club's discussion during which of the Inventors Club of the Fund for the Advancement of Science, innovation and perspective development NoyanTapan.

During that discussion Samvel Tadevosyan, Ph.D. in Technology, the head of Electronstandart CJSC introduced new thermal energy accumulators, their effectiveness and possible application areas.

As S. Tadevosyan mentioned, they designed and created solar thermal energy accumulators (STEA). According to him, development processes of synthesis multi-glassy, composites and amorphous compounds with desired thermo physical characteristics, with aim to subsequent implementation of their special packaging consisting unified design high heat capacity of thermal energetic element- solar thermal energy accumulators.

Speaking about the application areas of thermal energy accumulators, S. Tadevosyan mentioned "Solar heat treatable installation", "Storage of solar thermal energy" and "A new type of solar power" projects, where that accumulators can be used.

Speaking about "Solar heat treatable installation" S. Tadevosyan mentioned, that solar systems (mobile or stationary, household and technological purposes), on the basis of small, functionally differentiated and time-inertial STEA as alternative sources of heat energy can be used in con-

### Accumulators- main application



junction with other heat sources (gas, electricity, etc.) or separately anywhere where there is no possibility to use other types of energy sources, or they are expensive.

Touching upon the "Storage of solar thermal energy" the inventor said, that storage of solar heat underground or above modular design, based on solar power plants and STEA with capacity of up to 100 kW (and more) - as an alternative source of thermal energy can be used in heating systems of buildings, greenhouses, industrial buildings, etc.

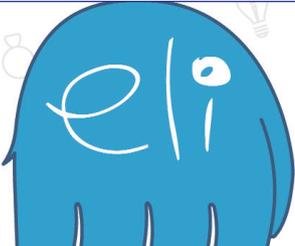
The next project, about which the inventor spoke is "A new type of solar power". According to him solar power

plant based on the modular design of solar installations and STEA operated using hot air streams. The goal is to bring the efficiency of the solar station to the value of 30%.

At the end of his speech S. Tadevosyan mentioned that the work now is on the synthesis of various compounds for the STEA. The main directions of development and collaboration are identified.

The speech was followed by questions and answers in which participated not only the members of Inventors Club, but also the representatives of mass media who came to cover the event.

*Sarah Melkonyan*



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