

Serzh Sargsyan: New Constitution a new breath for new beginning



On February 12 at the Presidential Palace Serzh Sargsyan hosted representatives of the legislative, executive and judicial powers, regional governance and local governance bodies. The President of Armenia made a statement on the implementation of the constitutional changes. See p.10

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No military solution to the Karabakh conflict, Sweden's Foreign Minister says

Sweden sees the settlement of the Karabakh conflict through peace talks under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, Sweden's Foreign Minister Margot Wallström said at a joint press conference with Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian.

"This visit provided an opportunity to better understand how you see the resolution of the Karabakh conflict. There is no military solution to the issue. We should do the utmost to prevent escalation," Mrs. Wallström told reporters in Yerevan.

The Armenian FM said, in turn, that "Azerbaijan believes it can blackmail the Co-Chairs with primitive, provocative statements."

"It's strange that they do not learn lessons, because their statements produce the opposite effect. The opinion of the international community is getting more targeted year by year," he said.

The Armenian Foreign Minister is hopeful Azerbaijan will finally come to understand that this stance gives it no privilege. As for Armenia, it will continue to work jointly with the Minsk Group with a view of reaching an exceptionally peaceful resolution to the Karabakh conflict, since there is no alternative to peace talks."

Responding to Azerbaijani claims that Armenia wants to keep the status quo,



Minister Nalbandian said: "Armenia and the Co-Chairs are interested in changing the status quo. It's Azerbaijan ignoring the calls of the OSCE Minsk Group to reinstate the commitment to solve the issue in a peaceful way through negotiations. It's Azerbaijan refusing to create a mechanism of investigation of border incidents. Baku insists that it [the mechanism] will contribute to the maintenance of the status quo."

At a meeting in Yerevan the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Sweden discussed the opportunities of development of trade and economic, educational and cultural ties, cooperation in the field of healthcare. The parties agreed upon the improvement of the legal framework and investment promotion. They attached importance

to the Convention between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital signed between the two countries.

The sides agreed to continue the high-level political dialogue, hold consultations between two Ministries of Foreign Affairs on a regular basis to further deepen the cooperation. They highlighted the IT sector as an important field of cooperation.

Edward Nalbandian and Margot Wallström touched upon Armenia-EU relations, stressing the importance of negotiations on a new Armenia-EU framework agreement.

President Sargsyan meets UN Under-Secretary-General Shamshad Akhtar



Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received on February 10 Shamshad Akhtar, UN Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

The interlocutors discussed issues related to the cooperation between Armenia and the Commission. President Sargsyan stressed the importance of the Commission's activity and reiterated Armenia's willingness to develop the cooperation.

Noting that the Asian and Asia-Pacific regions are facing a serious challenge hampering the economic development, Serzh Sargsyan attached importance to the effort towards forming a common agenda, working out a comprehensive program to resist the challenges.

President Sargsyan assured that "Armenia is willing to make its modest participation in the process." Mrs. Akhtar said she's grateful for Armenia's readiness to cooperate.

She briefed on the Commission's future programs towards ensuring steady development in the region and the measures to be taken towards that end. She attached importance to the economic vision and political commitments of the countries of the region.

The parties also stressed the importance of regional integration and development of cooperation.

Minsk Group the only mediation format for Karabakh conflict settlement, France says



"The Minsk Group is the only mediation format that has been accepted by the sides and has the full confidence of all OSCE participating States," Ambassador Véronique Roger-Lacan, France's Permanent Representative to the OSCE, said in an address to the OSCE Permanent Council. She made the statement on behalf of the three countries co-chairing the Minsk Group, the Russian Federation, United States and France.

"The Minsk Group Co-chairs contribute to stabilizing the security situation by keeping regular contacts with the sides and through close cooperation with the personal representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office who monitors on a daily basis the situation on the ground, - in the context of regular and often deadly ceasefire violations - along the line of contact as well as along the international border between Armenia and

Azerbaijan," she said.

"According to its mandate, which is inter alia "to conduct negotiations with the Parties to obtain conclusion of an agreement on the cessation of the armed conflict", the Minsk Group Co-chairs aim at promoting, through the Madrid principles, a balanced approach to the settlement of the conflict, based in particular on the conciliation of the principles of self-determination, territorial integrity and non-use of force. It is not the inefficiency of the mediation process conducted by the Co-chairs that is to blame for the serious lack of progress in the negotiations, but the lack of political will of the parties to reach a peaceful settlement," Véronique Roger-Lacan said.

"The Co-chairs are also working on the endorsement by the parties of confidence building measures, such as the creation of a prevention and investigation mechanism of the ceasefire violations along the line of contact, and dialogue between the communities of Nagorno-Karabakh. Their action also focuses on the humanitarian measure of exchanging data on the missing persons from the conflict, agreed at the Paris summit of 27 October 2014 and implemented by the ICRC," the French Representative said.

"The Co-Chairs will continue to brief international and regional organizations interested in supporting the Minsk Group process. They will continue their engagement to work closely with the sides in order to reach a peaceful and sustainable settlement of the conflict," she concluded.

There can be no lasting military solution of Nagorno Karabakh, U.S. Ambassador says

"There can be no lasting military solution of Nagorno Karabakh," U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills said in a Facebook chat with reporters on the first anniversary of his mission in Armenia.

"The escalation of tragic violence and rhetoric along the line of contact is a source of deep concern to the U.S. government. The possibility of that escalation triggering even through misjudgment or error along the line of conflict is real in my view. That is why the Minsk Group Co-Chairs have urged both sides to take steps to reduce the level of violence along the line of contact, and to implement mechanisms for monitoring the situation," Amb. Mills said.

"This was a topic of discussion when the two Presidents met in Bern, Switzerland, in December. The U.S. Co-Chair, Ambassador Warlick, is engaged with the other Co-Chairs in continuing to move the dialogue forward," he added.



"The Minsk Group co-chairs have raised with both sides the importance of investigative mechanisms along the line of contact and other steps to reduce the level of violence. This was discussed

between the two Presidents during their meeting in Bern, in December. It is up to the two leaders to reach agreement on such steps. The Minsk Co-Chairs are facilitating discussions that I hope will lead to agreement," Richard Mills said.

"Although there are some stark policy differences between the U.S. and Russia, we are still able to find common ground and cooperate on other issues of importance to the international community - most notably on the Iran nuclear issue and within the Minsk Group, where I have seen first-hand the Russian, French, and U.S. co-chairs engage effectively," the Ambassador said.

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U.S. Intelligence Chief: Karabakh conflict risks escalation in 2016

Azerbaijan's current economic woes caused by falling oil prices may have heightened the risk of a further escalation of violence in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the top U.S. intelligence official said on February 9.

"Baku's sustained military buildup coupled with declining economic conditions in Azerbaijan are raising the potential that the conflict will escalate in 2016," Director of National Intelligence James Clapper warned in his annual assessment of threats to the United States.

"Azerbaijan's aversion to publicly relinquishing its claim to Nagorno-Karabakh proper and Armenia's reluctance to give up territory it controls will continue to complicate a peaceful resolution," Clapper added in prepared testimony before the U.S. Senate Armed Services and Intelligence Committees.

Heavily dependent on its oil revenues, Azerbaijan is increasingly suffering from the collapse of global oil prices. The Azerbaijani national currency, the manat, lost more than half of its value against the U.S. dollar last year, despite the fact that the authorities in Baku spent almost \$9 billion on sustaining its exchange rate.

Late last month, the credit rating agency Standard and Poor's downgraded Azerbaijan's debt rating by one notch and said it now expects Azerbaijan's economy to contract this year after more than a decade of oil-driven rapid growth.

The country's economic problems have led to rare protests recently in several Azerbaijani towns over worsening living conditions, including the increased price of bread. The protests have fueled speculation in Armenia that President Ilham Aliyev's government might intensify ceasefire violations in the Karabakh conflict zone to distract the disgruntled domestic public from its failed economic policies.

Last year already saw a sharp rise in fighting along "the line of contact" around Karabakh and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, which caused both warring sides to suffer their biggest combat casualties in nearly two decades.

The U.S. as well as Russia and France, the two other mediating powers trying to broker an Armenian-Azerbaijani peace deal, expressed concern at that escalation throughout 2015. "There is no military solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry,

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and France's European Affairs Secretary Harlem Desir said in a joint statement issued in December.

Buoyed by his nation's massive oil revenues, which have totaled over \$116 billion since 2001, Aliyev has for years spoken of a "widening gap" between Armenia and Azerbaijan which he said will eventually allow Baku to regain control over Karabakh. A considerable part of those revenues have been spent on the acquisition of large quantities of offensive weapons for the Azerbaijani army.

The decreased oil prices may have put an end to that military buildup. Azerbaijan reportedly plans to spend an equivalent of \$1.2 billion on defense and security in 2016. Only four years ago, Aliyev declared that Azerbaijani military expenditure has surpassed Armenia's entire state budget worth about \$3 billion.

The collapse of the Azerbaijani currency has also translated into some embarrassing economic statistics for Aliyev: at less than \$300 a month, the official average wage in Azerbaijan is now considerably lower, in dollar terms, than that in resource-poor Armenia.

Task performance readiness inspection in the Russian military base in Armenia

The Russian military base in Armenia has been put on combat alert as part of its involvement in large-scale war games across southwestern Russia initiated by President Vladimir Putin amid continuing tensions with Turkey.

Acting on an order issued by Putin, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu announced on Monday a "sudden inspection of the combat readiness of troops in the southwestern strategic direction." One of Shoygu's deputies, Anatoly Antonov, said up to 8,500 troops, 900 ground weapons, 200 warplanes and about 50 warships will participate in the resulting drills.

The vast majority of the participating forces are deployed in Russia's Southern Military District encompassing the North Caucasus and southwestern Russian regions near the border with Ukraine. The Russian base headquartered in Gyumri is

also part of the district.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the district command said Russian soldiers in Armenia backed up by tanks, artillery systems and warplanes are holding exercises at two shooting ranges in the country's northwest as well as the Erebuni airbase in Yerevan. It said they are passing tests on shooting and tactical skills that will be used for evaluating their "readiness to successfully accomplish combat tasks in difficult conditions of mountainous terrain."

The Russian military has reinforced the base with more advanced weapons and other hardware in recent years. It deployed 13 helicopters at Erebuni as recently as in December.

The helicopter deployment, agreed with Armenia in 2013, coincided with Russia's bitter row with Turkey sparked by the latter's downing of a Russian warplane

near the Syrian-Turkish border.

Russian-Turkish tensions deepened further in the last few weeks as Russian airstrikes in Syria helped Syrian President Bashar Assad's military win a series of victories over Turkish-backed rebel forces. The Russian Defense Ministry claimed last week that Turkey may be planning to invade northern Syria.

Some analysts have therefore suggested that the massive Russian drills are a warning primarily addressed to Ankara.

Even before the latest twist in the Syrian conflict, the Russian-Turkish standoff raised fears in Yerevan that Armenia could be drawn into a potential military confrontation between the two regional powers. A perceived security threat from Turkey has long been the main official rationale for Armenia's reliance on Russian military presence on its soil.

Russian Foreign Ministry to study query on annulling 1921 treaty of friendship with Turkey



The Russian Foreign Ministry will study the inquiry of Russian parliamentarians on denouncing the Moscow Treaty of Friendship and Brotherhood with Turkey signed on March 16, 1921, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova told a press briefing on February 10 TASS reports.

"Indeed, the Russian Foreign Ministry has received a query from State Duma members proposing to denounce the treaty," Zakharova said answering a question from an Azerbaijani journalist on the impact of the proposed move on Russia's relations with this country, since Azerbaijan's interests are affected in the treaty as well. "I can tell you that at this stage the query should be studied, what exactly is proposed. All this will be done in accordance

with the established procedure. Meanwhile, we need to study this initiative."

Zakharova added that "we are developing relations with Azerbaijan and will not do anything that could worsen them. On the contrary, we will focus on what could improve our relations with this country." "We have a lot of things in common, in all areas," she said.

Members of Russia's State Duma (lower house of parliament) Valery Rashkin and Sergei Obukhov (Communist Party faction) have sent a letter earlier this month to the country's leadership and the Foreign Ministry proposing to denounce the Moscow Treaty of Friendship and Brotherhood signed on March 16, 1921, by the government of Soviet Russia (RSFSR) and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Russia's Izvestia daily wrote.

"We should consider a possibility of legal review of all Russian-Turkish agreements that are unfavorable for our country and its allies. Ankara must understand what the escalation of the conflict could be fraught with for it. Only this can bring it to earth and prevent it from carrying out new provocations," Obukhov told Izvestia. He noted that "two of the three Transcaucasian republics - Georgia and Armenia - did not recognize the terms of the treaty considering it unfair."

Under the treaty "the former Kars region and the southern part of the former Batumi region that were part of the Russian Empire since 1878 as well as former Surmalin district of Erivan Governorate that was part of the Russian Empire since 1828 with Mount Ararat were ceded to Turkey."

Denouncing the Moscow Treaty: Propaganda or practical step?



The Russian Foreign Ministry will study the inquiry of Russian parliamentarians on denouncing the Moscow Treaty of Friendship and Brotherhood with Turkey signed on March 16, 1921. Is this simple propaganda or an initiative that could lead to practical steps?

"Whatever the objective, the initiative should be welcomed," head of the Modus Vivendi Center Ara Papyan says. According to him, the treaty was an absurd from the very beginning.

If the treaty is annulled, Azerbaijan's jurisdiction over Nakhijevan will come under question. According to Papyan, it will

contribute to the development of Armenia's relations with Iran. Armenia can raise the issue of Kars in the future, express a position on Woodrow Wilson's Arbitral Award, under which the area to be returned to Armenia makes 100 sq. km.

According to Ruben Safrastyan, Director of the Oriental Studies Institute of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences, even if Russia withdraws its signature from the treaty, it will in no way benefit Armenia. "The question is not about the Treaty of Kars, while it was under this treaty that Armenia was divided between Soviet Russia and Kemalist Turkey. It was simply a deal," he said.

Ruben Safrastyan does not share the opinion that Armenia will only suffer as a result of aggravating relations between Russia and Turkey.

"What's important for Armenia is to be ready for the development of events in order to be able to present its interests if necessary," he said.

"No one will tell us 'come and take your lands'," Safrastyan said.



Taxing Problem: EEU says Armenia should not impose VAT on car imports

By Sara Khojayan
ArmeniaNow reporter

Armenia's authorities are not in a hurry to give explanations to a situation in which they continue to charge the value added tax on imported cars after joining the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

The issue was recently raised by EEU Minister of Integration and Macroeconomics Tatiana Valovaya.

She, in particular, noted that Armenia's 20-percent VAT charged from physical persons importing cars from EEU member states is contrary to the EEU legal framework.

"There are no non-tariff barriers within the EEU de jure. The EEU treaty clearly stipulates that member states cannot apply non-tariff protection measures against each other. At the same time, we quite often find such barriers. This happens because either states do not fulfill the decisions or at some level we have a problem with practical application of laws," said Valovaya.

Armenia joined the EEU (consisting of Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and later Kyrgyzstan) in January 2015. According to Valovaya, it was then that a report was prepared regarding such barriers in the Union. The report, she said, presented the measures that were to be taken to eliminate such barriers.

"Last year we eliminated 80 such barriers in the EEU and we are actively monitoring the situation in order to identify such barriers that are new or emerge again," said Valovaya, adding that Kazakhstan also once had a barrier in the form of a VAT on individuals' car imports, but it was eliminated.

The issue raised by the EEU official concerns the fact that despite membership in the new customs union Armenia continues to oblige citizens to pay a 20-percent VAT at the border when importing cars from EEU territory.

The Ministry of Finance has refused to comment on the sit-



uation following a request from ArmeniaNow, referring the matter to the Ministry of International Economic Integration and Reform, which said that a response would be given at the government level.

Opposition MP Hrant Bagratyan, who served as Armenia's prime minister in 1993-1996, meanwhile, also addressed the matter.

He argued that indeed Armenia has been illegally taxing goods coming from the EEU since formally joining the organization.

"After joining the EEU we imposed sanctions on ourselves, because goods coming from the EEU are imported in the same regime as from elsewhere. For a year the Ministry of Finance has been illegally collecting taxes," Bagratyan insisted at a press conference on Tuesday.

It appears that car importers were unaware of the new EEU regulations. Members of the Car Importers Union say while they paid the VAT for a year, they are not going to do that from now on. They demand that a solution be given to the matter, otherwise threatening to raise a wave of protests.

Government to annul another sale of Yerevan arena

The government is poised to annul a second privatization of Armenia's largest sports and concert arena just five months after approving its \$30 million sale to an obscure private company.

The Yerevan arena commonly known as Hamalir (Complex) was built in 1983, becoming one of the most modern Soviet facilities of its kind. It was subsequently named after Karen Demirchyan, a late Soviet Armenian leader who was instrumental in its expensive construction.

The complex consisting of two large concert halls was sold in 2005 to the Moscow-based construction firm BAMO belonging to an Armenian-born businessman. The company paid \$5.5 million and pledged to spend over \$40 million on its renovation.

The government renationalized

Hamalir in 2014, citing BAMO's failure to repay a \$25 million government loan. The company rejected the decision as illegal, taking the government to court.

In August 2015, Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan's cabinet decided to sell Hamalir as well as about 10 hectares of adjacent land to a newly established private firm for \$30 million. It said the Armenian-registered company, NTAA Investment Group, will also invest over \$100 million in expanding the facility and turning it into a big entertainment center.

The official agenda of the next cabinet meeting scheduled for Thursday includes a proposal to invalidate the August deal because of NTAA's failure to pay the agreed sum. The motion will almost certainly be approved by ministers.

The scrapping of the deal will only

raise more questions about the government's handling of the property currently managed by the Armenian Defense Ministry. Critics already pointed out in August that very little is known about NTAA and its real owners and that the government decided to again sell Hamalir without a tender.

Artak Manukyan, an economist, said on Wednesday that NTAA was never serious about honoring its large-scale investments commitments. Nor did the company present any details of its promised investments in Hamalir, he said.

"This only proves that the government didn't take a serious approach and follow a proper legal procedure for negotiating such a deal," Manukyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyn.am).

IFC ready to invest in Armenian mining project



The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, has offered to invest \$40 million in a large-scale gold mining project in Armenia which is due to be launched soon by a British-based company.

The investment pending final approval by the IFC's governing board would remove one of the last hurdles to the start of open-pit mining at the Amulsar deposit in the southeastern Vayots Dzor province.

The company, Lydian International, has pledged to create 770 permanent jobs at Amulsar and earn the Armenian state around \$490 million in tax revenue over the next decade.

Lydian estimates that it will need

around \$400 million to build mining and ore-processing facilities in the mountainous area. It secured \$325 million of the required investments from two U.S. equity firms in November.

The company announced on Thursday that the IFC, which already holds an 8 percent stake in Lydian, has "proposed to invest" another \$40 million in what will be the second-largest gold mining operation in Armenia.

"We are pleased to have IFC join with [the equity firms] Orion and RCF to provide financial and other support during the Company's development of Amulsar," it quoted Howard Stevenson, Lydian's chief executive, as saying.

"Subject to all conditions being satisfied, completion of IFC's investment is expected by the end of June 2016," the Amulsar operator added in a statement.

Armenian environment protection groups have for years opposed open-pit mining at Amulsar, citing the gold deposit's proximity to Jermuk, the country's largest and most famous spa resort.

Both Lydian and the Armenian government have sought to dispel these concerns, saying that the company will use advanced technology and strictly adhere to environmental safety standards. The IFC as well as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development have lent credence to these assurances by buying major stakes in Lydian.

The U.S. government has also signaled support for the mining project financed by American investors. Richard Mills, the U.S. ambassador to Armenia, joined Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan in visiting Amulsar in August.

An ensuing statement by the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan quoted Mills as describing the project as an "important economic opportunity for Armenia." The envoy at the same time stressed "the equal importance of ensuring that potential harm to the environment is minimized."

Aras Free Zone ready to host joint Iranian-Armenian investments



Head of Aras Free Zone Organization has expressed readiness to host joint investments of Iranian and Armenian private sectors, Mehr News Agency reports.

Aras free trade and industrial zone is Iran's second most developed free zone after Kish Island.

Armenian Ambassador to Tehran Artashes Tumanian met with Mohsen Khadem Arab-Baghi, CEO of Aras Free Zone Organization, to discuss common issues.

Addressing the joint meeting on Wednesday, Mohsen Khadem Arab-Baghi emphasized the importance of joint investments between the private sectors of Iran and Armenia saying "Aras Free Zone possesses the necessary capacities for hosting joint investments between the two countries."

He stressed the crucial role of ambassadors in boosting economic ties adding "joint investments and production on the basis of raw material available in the two sides will reinvigorate bilateral economic relations."

The official invited Armenian investors to visit Aras Free Zone asserting "the organization will deploy expert teams to introduce the advantages of the zone to Armenian businessmen."

The Armenian Ambassador to Tehran Artashes Tumanian, for his part, pointed out the special capacities of Aras zone for investments.

"Important issues in attracting investors include familiarizing Armenian investors with the priorities and merits of Aras zone as well as construction offices for pursuing legal affairs of investment," he continued.

The Armenian ambassador also visited the active industries as well as the greenhouse at Aras Free Zone.



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1 ROOM

- 1696.**Tumanyan str.**, 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capially 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, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- 1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

- 3003.**Sayat-Nova str.**, 5/3, 105sq.m, 2bedrooms, stone building, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1560.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- 2818.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished. Price: 400.000USD
- 1156.**Komitas Ave.**, Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.

3 ROOMS

- 3090 **Dzorap Newly built**, 190sq.m, 2 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, capially 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, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price: 300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built, 13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capially repaired, heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- 2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building, 4 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.

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

PREMISES

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

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

•2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially 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, capially repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.

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

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

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

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

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

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

•3401.**Antarayan str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capially 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 Antarayin str.**, 14 floors, 65-133sq.m, capially renovated, parking. Price: 900-1300 USD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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1 ROOM

- 2037. **Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, gas, heating system, AC, modern furnished, equipped. Price: negotiable
- 2189. **Vardanants str.**, Newly built, 24/12, 90 sqm, 1 bedroom, 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

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,

- 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyun str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking. Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, cap-



- 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

- 1335 **Baghramyan 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 Baghramyan 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

President Serzh Sargsyan's Remarks on the implementation of the Constitutional Changes

Esteemed Colleagues,

After December 6, in many different formats we have been speaking about the directions, the timetable and the necessary sequence in the process of implementation of the constitutional changes. I believe, today we can already state that in our country the process of formation of a new political structure, introduction of a new political culture has been launched.

I have no doubt that as a result of the constitutional changes, the political structure of Armenia will become more open, more flexible, and intricate. It will reflect the dynamic and comprehensively developing social structure of our society; it will respond to the political culture of the free, secure, and critically thinking individuals. As in many democratic countries, political parties will become the leaders of political struggle. Parties and coalitions will form executive bodies and make nominations for the leading positions of the state and local governance bodies. They will acquire a lasting experience, responsible and meaningful interaction with the voters, partisan cooperation, and a compromise-based work style for finding solutions for acute social problems.

The political structure will transform and improve thanks to the competition of the political formations, provided there is a partisan consensus on the strategic principles of foreign policy, social stability, national security, fundamental provisions of the constitutional structure and sovereignty, protection of the rights and freedoms of the citizens, and all forms of self-organization and local governance. Such consensus exists in almost every modern democratic state.

At this stage of implementation of constitutional changes, I believe it is important to once again present our vision regarding our future, and once again present our ideas. Let's ask ourselves: How are we going to govern our state, to manage our nation's heritage? How are we going to preserve and multiply it? What kind of Armenia we want to have tomorrow, ten or twenty years from now? What will be Armenia's role and place in the world, what kind of Armenia our children, next generations will live in? Probably it is nothing new, probably I repeat myself but particularly at this stage I believe it is mandatory to fix it all, so that tomorrow, or day after tomorrow there are no different interpretations. I am confident that today everyone is thinking: What steps it is necessary to take to make tomorrow better than today, to

make our life better, to make our country more organized, more stable, more attractive for our fellow citizens and for the foreigners? What to do to make high-quality education and health care affordable to all? What to do so that patriotism is never just words, what to do to make our country's empowerment a source of happiness for all?

We cannot be content with the situation present in Armenia today. We should point out achievements made step by step in almost every area, but should never be complacent. We must create the Armenia where people are happy and don't contemplate leaving the country; the Armenia which will attract our compatriots living in foreign lands, and they will proudly tell about strangers about Armenia on any proper occasion. Foreign policy challenges too compel us to take up as soon as possible the course which leads to advancement. Our common efforts must be channeled towards the resolution of that issue, our minds and knowledge must put to service to achieve that. Within the country, we have to ensure social solidarity. Social issues are linked closely to justice, and we must critically increase the pace of instituting justice in the social relations.

We must create a social milieu without privileged persons but with a nation which is united, which is disciplined and law abiding, peace loving and proud. Have we spoken of this before? Of course we have, on many occasions, and will continue to speak, a lot. Those who will come after us will speak of this, and those who will come after them. It doesn't mean that there is no progress, of course there is, a fair glance will see a lot, but I repeat - we must critically increase the pace on this course.

We should not be limiting ourselves with the resolution of Armenia's internal problems. Geopolitical changes compel us to unite the entire world-spread Armenian nation to ensure the secure existence of our people and our place in the world. From this point of view, it is mandatory that Armenia become a mature state in every sense of the word, and become an attractive and attracting, hope inspiring cradle of our united Armenian nation.

We have two main values - the Armenian nation and Armenia. They must be above any other value we have. All our steps, decisions and demeanor must emanate from these two values. Armenia's interests and future call for it. It was entrusted to us by our forefathers. Demeanor of each and every one of us is

measured by these values: if an act empowers our nation, inspires our people, it deserves commendation, if not, it deserves condemnation.

Considering the situation in the region, we simple have to have a strong, two feet on the ground, confident state in which everyone, if necessary, is ready to become a soldier of the Fatherland.

Constitutional changes are not just another changes imposed by this or that structure, or by a membership to this or that structure, or by the necessity to solve this or that personal issue. This act reflects on the challenges we are facing, on our political life, pressing issues of our reality and is called upon to solve them. I am confident that very soon the Constitution will become a document of national accord.

Inequality, injustice, impunity, disillusioned people, poverty, migration - these are challenges for any state, including the Republic of Armenia.

Our country doesn't need officials who can justify failure of this or that program, our country needs officials who can deliver these programs, no matter what.

We need public servants who will consider any public problems ten times more important than his or her own personal well-being.

"We do what we can, we do as much as we can" - this is not an excuse for a public servant. Public service is for the individuals who can do what is necessary.

It is no secret that today we live in the atmosphere in which everyone - from a community leader to a high-ranking official blame their failures on the superiors. In every branch of the power there are widely spread clichés such as "it has been agreed upon", "it has been decided this way." Obviously, this is intended to hint to the highest level of power. With this, in their opinion, they solve two important issues: 1. Obstruction of wide discussion on the given issue, rejection of alternative ideas, and often, adoption of the personally beneficial options, and, in the process, ascribing one's indecency to someone else, and 2. Transfer of the responsibility to the "upper level", to avoid becoming a target for criticism in case of a possible blunder.

On this, I have two precise observations, and I want you all to remember them.

First, at the "upper level" no one is shying off from responsibility and no one is frightened by criticism.

The official, who is not publicly criticized, is obviously ? round peg in a square hole and is perceived as such. After all,

who needs an official who is beyond himself after each publication about his work and is busy all day long by protecting himself from this or that website or a newspaper, using along the way all available means?

Solutions to our problems should not be looked for outside. Yes, we are the masters of our country, we are the masters of our problems, and we are the solvers of these problems.

Each and every one of us must become exactly what he wants his inner circle, his family, friends, society and the state to be.

People overwhelmed with distrust have no place in power.

People overwhelmed with distrust towards their own abilities have no place in our power.

People who fail their own duties and gossip around have no place in power.

Trust in our own state depends on the daily work and demeanor of each and every one of us.

Each and every one's daily duty is to do everything so that Armenia becomes a state and a society in which:

- The authorities are transparent and trustworthy, whose goal is the present and future prosperity of the citizens of the

- country and compatriots abroad, authorities every representative of which is accountable before the law just like any other citizen, authorities whose representatives are not guided by personal gains.

- The system of justice is void of influences, fair and unbiased. The legislative is knowledgeable and respected. Public service is the most venerated career because it endows with the opportunity to serve the Fatherland and the people, and requires exceptional professional qualities.

- The society enjoys high living standards, is polite, tolerant, and humane. The economy is developing dynamically, supported by the human capital of the entire nation. It provides equal opportunities for the development for all, prohibits unfair competition, redistributes resources through fair taxation and efficient policies.

- The responsible administration of the environment and natural resources is critically important for the state's continued existence and is a priority for the prosperity of the future generations.

- Human rights constitute a strong and mature system of values. Citizens of Armenia - Armenians, Yezids, Greeks, Kurds, Russians and the others are self-expressing freely.

- The Armed Forces are the most powerful in the region through their spirit, dedication, modern weaponry and purposeful significance for the preservation of our life, history, and culture.

- Spyurk and Armenia are one entity - the nation. Rights of Spyurk in Armenia are recognized and encouraged, its potential is fully integrated.

The updated Constitution is a new thrust for a new beginning. We have created an exceptional opportunity to give a boost to our development and address the shortcomings. And this is true for every one - from the President of the Republic to a common citizen.

We should uproot the notion that all problems must be solved by the state or someone else, but not by us. The desire to shape ourselves, to reach success moving step by step is not universal with us. As a result, there is no initiative, but there is a lack of new ideas, low level of public debate, including critical statements. Public accord and assistance are usually expressed silently. Disagreements are very often emotional, acrimonious, but at the same time superficial and rhetorical.

Our nation is endowed with the intrinsic combat valor, loyalty, hospitality and kindness, while corruption, theft, intellectual and spiritual indolence are vices which appeared with time, and which we have to eradicate steadily. I've said it before, I am saying it now: prosperity rests on hard work.

It is unquestionable that we are living through special times. We have the opportunity to build a new, free and strong Armenia. The constitutional changes really provide that opportunity, and we have to fully utilize it.

We have to disappoint the proponents of perpetual revolutions. We will make no haste. Haste and credulity in carrying out structural changes in the political area never yield good results. At the same time, I have to disappoint also those who are quite happy with the status quo. Essential changes will continue. They will be gradual, judicious and carried out step by step but at the same time steadfast and persistent.

Gifted individuals, who are striving to create something new and brilliant, will not come from out of space. They are right here, among us. We, as state, society and family must learn to find, raise, educate and protect such people and not mishandle the advancement of young and talented personnel.

Political culture cannot be changed by simply imitating political traditions of the more advanced societies. An efficient judicial structure cannot be imported. Freedoms cannot be copied from books, even if from very smart books. We will certainly learn from other nations, will study their experience, will observe their success and failures in the process of developing

democratic institutions. However no one can live our life for us; no one will become free instead of us, or successful, or responsible. Only our own experience in democracy building will allow us to state that we are free, successful, and responsible. Those who strive receive help, those who don't, are handed alms.

Just like basic rights and freedoms of our citizens, democracy too needs protection. Firstly protection from corruption which breeds connivance, unfreedom, and injustice. We have already such a protective mechanism. Its centerpiece is the court. We must create a modern efficient court which will act in accordance with the amended Constitution and will correspond to the contemporary notions. We have also get rid of mistrust towards the law and the court, sometimes even contemptuous attitude, which has become a sad "tradition". The existing law enforcement structure should have normal working conditions and should resolutely rid itself of swindlers. We should elevated protection of human rights and freedoms in the law enforcement bodies to a qualitatively new level. Illegal pressure on the judicial acts must be eliminated, regardless of the ideas it's been inspired by. We have registered progress in this area too, but the process must be brought to a conclusion. After all, the judicial branch can sort out itself what is good for the state and what is "good" for a corrupt official or for a selfish enterprise. Respect towards political culture, respect towards legitimacy, rights of the others, including property rights should become a tradition. Through the public support, courts are called upon to rid the country of corruption. It's a very complex issue, but it is solvable. Other countries were able to do it.

The Ethics Commission on high-ranking officials established in 2012, in our country assumed a responsible but also a mission full of challenges - to ensure publicity regarding the property and income of the officials as well as transparency of their actions.

In this context, it would be appropriate to speak about the disclosure of the conflict of interests and the need to create the most efficient mechanisms for its prevention. We believe that added authority for the Ethics Commission will give a new impetus to that crucial work, providing for adequacy of the means necessary for carrying out this difficult task.

No need to say what kind of new, multifaceted and altering challenges the region, where our Fatherland is located, is facing nowadays. Naturally, these challenges and threats cannot circumvent us

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President Serzh Sargsyan's Remarks on the implementation of the Constitutional Changes

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and by "us" I mean Armenia homeland, Artsakh, and the entire Armenian nation worldwide. But our historical experience teaches us that every challenge is also an opportunity - it's an opportunity to reinvent, to appreciate the strength we possess, the huge potential which we have and which still remains not fully discovered and utilized.

Only one glance at our past history and at the processing going on in our larger vicinity is enough to understand the value of political stability for our country and for the secure advancement of our statehood. Speaking about political stability, I don't mean its rigid notions and interpretations which from time to time are being brought about and are being expressed as concerns by some of our political opponents. The constitutional changes have significantly enforced guarantees of political stability in our country, secured a new philosophy of state power formation and its implementation, made the roles of political power and opposition more precise. But all that should acquire flesh and blood in the real life, thriving on our work and decisions, reviewed behavior of the political forces and their extended responsibility. We have no alternative but to follow that route, changing and transforming our reality. We should realize that under the circumstances we have to be flexible and adopt decisions, which only yesterday would seem unacceptable or immature.

The most significant guarantee of political stability is the continuous maturing of the political and partisan structure, consolidation of public trust towards the public-political movements, parties, institutions of the civil society. The parliamentary model of state governance chosen by us implies all this. I have no doubt that in due time, may be even unnoticed for us in the country there will form a new political culture, when the demeanor of the political parties will be purely competitive and the wicked trait of looking for the enemy within the country and the shortsighted political intent of seeing one's own success exclusively as the failure of the others will remain in the past.

Even the authorities which enjoy the widest public support must listen to the public mood, to public expectations and be guided by the public demand. Even the most self-confident authorities cannot reject cooperation, or deny uniting efforts with all those units and individuals who want to bring their participation to our state

building process. The mindset which claims that we love our Fatherland more than others, or that we are more patriotic than those who are not represented in the political power or sometimes criticize us too sharply is unacceptable. All those, all political formations which have their own ideas about our country's future progression or about the means to overcome difficulties on our way should have an equal opportunity to ask for public support and implement their programs. With this regard, the amendments to the Constitution provide the most serious guarantees which will be coupled with our resolute political will.

This long journey must be crowned with success.

It is obvious that in order to implement these ideas, we not only have to have a good electoral code but also be able to conduct the most free, fair and trustworthy elections. The new electoral system should be ready to put into use novelties enshrined in the Constitution such as entirely proportionate electoral system, formation of a steady parliamentary majority, allocation of seats at the National Assembly for the ethnic minorities, etc.

It is extremely important to realize that the main objective of the new legislation and the new elections is the enforced stability of the governance system of the Republic of Armenia. For that reason, it is necessary to have a system of election to the National Assembly which will allow to form a steady parliamentary majority. At the same time, it must ensure representativeness of a political minority which will allow to fully utilize powers assigned to the parliamentary minority.

I would like to inform that we have already been working closely with the authoritative international structure specializing in the electoral processes to introduce in Armenia modern voting mechanisms.

Esteemed Colleagues,

Our economy is facing anew challenges which appeared years ago, bringing around new efforts, economic programs and specific approaches which require immediate implementation. In due time, the reformed Constitution will provide the legal base which is necessary for the development of our economy and its more expeditious advancement. However without a compound of today's essential actions the advancement is not possible.

Today at the top of the itinerary of those responsible for our economic policy

there should be the following issues:

First, to maintain and enforce the macroeconomic stability. We are witnessing how in the context of global developments, our region and countries elsewhere face macroeconomic instability, which, if persistent, can pose a threat of an economic crisis. From that point of view, we went through 2015 pretty smoothly, while the indicators were favorably different from the countries of our larger region. In 2015, the index of economic activity in Armenia compared to the previous year was 3,1 which is the highest in our immediate economic milieu. At the same time, the average annual inflation was 3,7 per cent which is lowest in the same milieu. We have the same picture regarding our national currency. In December 2015, compared to the previous year, the Armenian Dram depreciated against the US dollar by 1,8 per cent. This is lowest level of depreciation of a national currency among the countries of the region. I would also like to mention that in 2015 the average wages in the Republic increased by 7,87 per cent reaching 184 441 AMD, and increase in the state sector was 8,2 per cent, while in the private sector it was 7 per cent.

Adverse external signals are coming in even today, and we have to maintain the same working speed. With this regard, it is critically important to implement more coordinated and prudent tax, budgetary and credit policies. The tax and budgetary policy should be strict, paying utmost attention to smooth taxation as well as to the efficient fulfillment of the expenditure. All state agencies must make maximum efforts to multiply the result of every budgetary spending.

Even though in the past we have been able to keep our financial markets free from unnecessary upheavals, it is mandatory in the future too to maintain necessary caution to react promptly to the negative tendencies infiltrating the financial markets. I am certain that the Central Bank has the ability and developed the necessary set of tools to carry out its mission and to respond in a timely manner to the external foreign factors.

Second, further improvement of the investment climate and attraction of new investments. It is true that the 3,1 per cent indicator of the economic activity in year 2015 in the current situation and compared to the other countries of the region and Armenia's partners, is comparatively not bad. However that level of economic growth is not enough to reach in the

midterm period the level of the social and economic development which will satisfy our ambitions. With this regard it is necessary to exercise additional efforts to expedite the process of improving the business environment and attraction of new investments. Besides, it's a common knowledge that macroeconomic stability and favorable business environment are a necessary but not sufficient for the flow of investments from abroad. It is necessary along with these activities to prepare and present to the foreign investors Armenia's comparative advantages from the investment point of view.

Economic entities, including small and medium enterprises should be provided with all necessary assistance and economic incentives. In any country economic development is registered only when those engaged in economic activities see a precise perspective for the growth and expansion, while when due to objective factors the situation at the consumption markets worsens, prospects become blurry it weakens the incentives for the entrepreneurs to expand. Thus, our main task is provide a quick diagnosis of the short-term and long-term problems for the competing with the importers and exporting companies and through the development of the existing toolset or introduction of new tools to send new signals to the businesses. It is also necessary to use more actively platforms conducive to the state-private cooperation, including the executive councils functioning in the framework of the existing industrial policy, which will facilitate the resolution of the mentioned problems.

And finally, I would like to once again speak about the principles which we mention constantly. As I argued a little while ago, I will never tire to repeat the basic principles. I certainly mean enforcement in the economic life of equal opportunities for all and elimination of protectionism, inviolability of the state, community budgets and credits; it is about the same rules of the game for all. Of course, it can be said that the reality is lagging behind the declared goals, and it is true. But it doesn't mean that the achieved progress should be ignored and second, the existing discrepancy between the goals and the reality should not make us silent but should make us take adequate steps to expedite the achievement of these goals.

Distinguished Colleagues,

It is certainly impossible to speak about the situation in Armenia without giving a precise evaluation of the influence of the outer world. However it is necessary to give an exact assessment of the place and the role of the signals coming from without. It is true that our immediate external environment is rough, intricate and very

often extremely contradictory; the situation is aggravated by the fact that very often it is also unpredictable. Besides, Armenia is part of the global economic system which means that we cannot evade tendencies coming from the global market. But it doesn't mean that we have to simply accept the situation. The notion that we cannot live well as long as the Karabakh issue is not resolved or the blockade imposed by Turkey is not lifted is simply unacceptable. Deficiencies in our state governance don't result from that.

We all know too well the approaches of the authorities in Turkey and in Azerbaijan, and we learned them long ago. But the matter of the fact is that their years-long policy didn't yield the results they yearned to see. They tried to talk to us from the position of threat, coercion, and force. It is quite unpromising to talk to us that way and will not produce results, just as didn't produce so far.

Negotiations on Artsakh issue continue. Our position is unchanged: the Artsakh issue will be resolved through the free self-determination of the people of Artsakh. All other issues are subordinate to that and will find their logical and fair solution parallel to the resolution of the problem. As long as the main problem remains, as long as the status of Artsakh remains obscure, the problem will not find its solution.

With regard to the relations with Turkey; at this point I see no possibility for progress.

We have been living in these conditions for 25 years. We got used to these conditions and adjusted to them. We do not and will not strap the possibilities for our advancement with these problems.

We should get used to the idea that to the East from Martakert and Martuni and to the West from Gyumri and Armavir we don't have real partners. We have lived without them until now, maintaining more or less our speed of development. Let's imagine that there is nothing but a bottomless and unsurpassable swamp.

With our two other neighbors - Georgia and Iran - our relations develop in the good neighborly spirit. Obviously, we have not encountered any problems there. We highly value partnership with these countries, and we will continue to work with Tbilisi and Tehran in the same spirit.

All in all, our foreign policy is predictable and has always been far from adventurism. We have always been ready to develop positive and sincere relations with all based on mutual respect, trust and interests. We have never tried to play on the contradictions of the great powers and important geopolitical centers, have never tried to get cheap and short-lived benefit from their conflicting views.

Now the time has come to make another resolute step on this strong foundation. I have instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all our diplomatic missions abroad to take up vigorously the task of promoting Armenia's economic interests.

First of all, a precise task was defined to attract new direct foreign investments. These can be investment programs, which have been developed here, or possibly other options which have been initiated by foreign investors and stem from their interests. I would like to reiterate that in case of serious programs, we are ready to create for them the most favorable conditions.

Second, it is necessary to find new markets and directions for the goods and services produced in Armenia. Here too, we need to assess our most perspective directions. Of course, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not the only or the first responsible for these scope of issues. Thus, the diplomats' coordinated work with the Ministry of Economy and other relevant agencies is of utmost importance. Later, we will speak about the interagency cooperation of this kind and efficient mechanisms of information sharing.

Dear Friends,

I would also like to mention that not a single party or an individual has already secured his place in the future parliament. Nobody should hope that the forthcoming parliamentary election will be an easy win. As the leading political force, we carry additional responsibility for organizing the elections on the highest level. These must be exemplary elections. It is first of all necessary for our state and for our people, but we shouldn't also forget that it will also condition our country's international standing and repute. All international obligations assumed by Armenia must be carried out fully. Of course, any party, to say nothing of its leader, will be interested in having many votes, however for me the normal course of the elections and legitimacy are much more important than the final outcome. A due conduct of elections and their legitimacy is not a lesser victory and are not of a lesser value for our society.

I urge you all: Forget the temptation of starting the election campaign well in advance. Everyone is doing his job at his place with the double energy and responsibility.

When we proposed constitutional changes, we did it on the assumption that the new version is more democratic and expands freedoms of the citizens of Armenia which means the scope of possibilities as well. We maintain that view today too. So let us prove it with our work and tangible steps. Let us bring our Constitution to life.

Thank you.

Oleg Movsesyan to Young Armenian Start-upers: "Never Give Up!"

Master-class by the Moscow State University Science Park CEO at the "Mergelyan" Club of Young Researchers



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**
Chief Correspondent

Last week in Armenia, upon invitation of the Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University, a delegation of the Russian state corporation "RUSNANO" was on a working visit. Among its members was the CEO of the "Moscow State University Science Park" CJSC **Oleg Movsesyan** (an ethnic Armenian). On Friday 12 February at the "Mergelyan" Club of Young Researchers founded by the Technology and Science Dynamics company (TSD), Mr Movsesyan held an interesting and useful presentation lecture for young professionals, particularly for those who have already established or is going to create a start-up company. Introducing the guest to crowded audience, TSD Founding President Dr **Vahan Chakarian** noted that it was gratifying that the Diaspora Armenians, in particular, members of the world largest community, the Russian, have been trying to be useful to their historical Homeland in terms of sharing experience and promotion of the international professional and business ties strengthening. According to Oleg Movsesyan, today MSU Science Park, in which they've invested some \$11mln, shelters 124 residents with 2,500 employees in total and a total annual turnover of \$200 mln. Five firms - Park residents entered the list of the top 50 fastest growing companies of the Russian hi-tech. In Movsesyan's words, not so long ago, big Russian companies preferred to buy products/services of foreign companies – "to minimize the risk". But under current difficult conditions the situation is changing, and today even the giants, for example, oil and gas sector companies come to cooperate with the MSU Science Park companies.

And what was Movsesyan's advise to those who wants to start a start-up?

- Believe in yourself, never give up... You may not succeed for the first time, for the second, but after analyzing the reasons for this, you are sure to succeed

... We in our Science Park have launched since 2004 programs under the common brand "Success Formula" aimed at accelerating new projects, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship for the young. Every year we receive about 500 applications for this programs, of who we select 100 and a

bit more people; depending on the thematic area - from IT to biotechnology and robotics - the program lasts from 3 to 6 months, and its results 10-15 new companies started each year. Not all of them are successful, there are those who cease to exist in the first year, but the guys (and girls) come back to us in a year or two and launching new start-ups, and that is where the success rate is quite high.

Today, our companies produce high-

And how to create a start-up, to draw attention of the "angels" - investors and be successful in the market? Oleg Movsesyan's own experience is the following: life gives dozens of chances, you just need to realize and use them... So, he started "to earn a living" when was 16 - "in the basement of a madhouse we did spare parts for cars..." And..."I was proud when first brought home my salary," said the CEO of the largest and oldest Russian Science Park.

About Armenia: "For two days, the Russian delegation visited leading research institutes and universities of Armenia, we had opportunity to get familiarize ourselves with the work of some twenty research groups, Candle Project, other colleagues, like, say, Enterprise Incubator Foundation, and it should be emphasized that in the context of such a prudent approach to each penny invested, we see a really fantastic result in some areas. Well, if the science develops, the innovation will succeed too... And, most importantly - a talented Armenian youth which has the great interest to the sphere of information technologies, engineering. As we learned yesterday in the Slavonic University, a quarter of total exports is the share of the IT, - an area that is actually born mere 10-15 years ago. When a dozen of years ago I came to Armenia with a World Bank expert group, a nice surprise was the fact that there were already good companies here - subsidiaries of US firms, which, in contrast to their overseas maternal firms, managed to survive during the crisis..."

According to a leading Russian expert, the progress of the Armenian IT industry is obvious: if years before it was mainly outsourcing, now the Armenian firms produce their own goods/services that come to global markets through the US, the Armenian diaspora. Speaking of the Russian-Armenian cooperation in this field, our compatriot said: "We should analyze all the information received, and then to start discussing joint projects with our Armenian colleagues. If the format of "RUSNANO" is a joint investment in the companies that already produce high-tech products, its subsidiary, Foundation for Infrastructure and Educational Programs (FIEP) is focused on education. And I think that we will find projects mutually interesting for both Russia and Armenia, as this certainly has a good potential."



tech products that are exported to Germany, Japan and Italy. So if you believe in yourself, work hard and is persistent, you will succeed.

According to Movsesyan, "... the world is accelerating today terribly fast, and the reason is precisely innovation."

Armenian Inventor Introduced New Revolutionary Equipment and Technologies



Armen Adamov, who is a member of the "Inventors" club of the Fund for the Advancement of Science, innovation and perspective development "NoyanTapan", introduced new equipment and technologies during the serial meeting of the "Inventors" on February 13.

According to the inventor, the matter specifically refers to the "Adamov's heater", "Adamov's tower", the detonation pyrolysis technology and the new cooling technologies.

Introducing these innovations A. Adamov emphasized the fact that he is basically investigating the burning, detonation,

explosive processes and obtaining cooling.

"Adamov's heater" is a multifunctional utilization heater which can generate heat and electricity during recycling solid household trashes. "Adamov's tower" is a small factory, which recycles solid household and organic trashes.

As he said, "Adamov's tower" can be the best solution for greenhouses.

According to the inventor, besides the heating man can get liquid fuel, particularly oil from recycling solid household and organic trashes.

Touching upon "Detonation pyrolysis" A. Adamov informed that this technology is a very effective version of the accelerated pyrolysis and due to its small sizes its efficiency is many times higher than the existing big factories of pyrolysis.

According to the reporter the new cooling technologies enable get coolness virtually without any spending: "the technologies are revolutionary and are in need of additional researches and testing", -said A. Adamov.

The speech is followed by questions and answers and also a heated discussion was held on the subject. The members of the club unanimously decided to propose Armen Adamov's technologies and equipment to include in this year's support programmes of the Fund for the Advancement of Science, innovation and perspective development "NoyanTapan".

Schiff slams Baku after Asbarez interview angers Azeri Foreign Minister

Congressman Adam Schiff on Thursday slammed Baku's "authoritarian regime" after Azerbaijani Foreign Minister, citing Schiff's interview with Asbarez, told a press conference on February 10 that he has instructed Baku's Embassy in Washington to investigate State Department official Victoria Nuland's role in the defeat, last month, of an anti-Karabakh measure at the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe.

Schiff, a Democrat representing California's 28th Congressional district, told Asbarez editor Ara Khachatourian in an interview on Horizon Live last week, that ahead of the PACE vote in January he had spoken with "a top state department official, one of our ambassador's in the region, to raise my concern over this pro Azeri narrative resolution that was being presented before PACE and to express my strong opposition."

"Both the ambassador and [Assistant Secretary of the State for European and Eurasian Affairs] Victoria Nuland were

working against it and I think they thought it was going to be a tough struggle, and frankly I'm thrilled that it was defeated," Schiff told Khachatourian.

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and other officials have taken offense at the reference about Nuland and her role in the defeat of the PACE resolution, authored by British member of parliament Robert Walter, who has gone on to receive Turkish citizenship.

News.az reported that Mammadyarov, during a press conference on Wednesday, expressed his anger and said that Azerbaijan's Embassy in Washington is actively working with "Congress and the White House" to identify the Nuland's role in the defeat of the PACE measure.

On Thursday, Schiff hit back at Mammadyarov's statement saying in an email to Asbarez that "If Azerbaijan had any interest in a peaceful resolution to the conflict, they would agree to the installation of monitoring technologies on the Line of Contact, but instead they seem intent on ratcheting up tensions, pursuing

symbolic resolutions and attacking those who speak out for peace."

"Their actions, or the lack thereof, tell the story of an increasingly isolated and authoritarian regime seeking to use the Nagorno Karabakh conflict for its own domestic political purposes. I will continue to urge the Administration and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs to speak frankly about Azerbaijan's dangerous and provocative posture towards Artsakh," added Schiff.

As was reported in Asbarez, Schiff appealed to Secretary of State John Kerry ahead of the PACE vote to voice his opposition to the measure and ask Kerry to intervene.

"I don't think it is the last of these kinds of motions we are going to see at PACE and we just have to continue to mobilize against it. Part of it not only had an Azeri narrative, but also one to change the composition of the group that would work on resolving the issues in the region that would stack the deck in favor of Azerbaijan," Schiff told Khachatourian.

Australian Human Rights Commission embraces genocide deniers



Australia's peak human rights body has added an avowed holocaust denier to its Racism Stops With Me campaign, writes Meher Grigorian.

Olympic legend Dawn Fraser was intolerant for suggesting that tennis player Nick Kyrgios go back to where his parents came from. Senator Eric Abetz's referral to US Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas as a "negro" was harmful.

Covering up the murder of a nation, and branding those pursuing its remembrance as motivated by material gain - that's no problem.

This is the stance of Tim Soutphommasane, Race Discrimination Commissioner with the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), in embracing the Australian Turkish Advocacy Alliance (ATAA) as an official partner in the Racism. It Stops With Me campaign.

The ATAA is an aggressive denier of the Armenian genocide, the Ottoman government's systematic extermination of its Armenian subjects from 1915 to 1923, a campaign that claimed up to 1.5 million lives and also engulfed that empire's Assyrian and Greek populations.

The stance of the Australian Human Rights Commission is an embarrassment to a growing number of Turks who acknowledge the Armenian genocide, including Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk, co-chairman of the German Greens party Cem Özdemir, the Turkish Human Rights Association and the Peoples' Democratic Congress of Turkey, whose political wing is the fourth largest party in Turkey's parliament.

In misrepresenting the Armenian genocide as a 'debate' between Armenians and Turks, the ATAA wilfully disregards Raphael Lemkin (the jurist who coined the term 'genocide' and spearheaded efforts in outlawing it), the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the International Association of Genocide Scholars and 29 national parliaments, including that of Turkey's First World War allies Germany and Austria.

The ATAA has sponsored speaking tours of notorious genocide deniers. It has praised the Talaat Pasha Committee, an organisation named after one of the twentieth century's worst mass murderers and deemed "xenophobic and racist" by the European Parliament.

It also accuses Armenian-Australians of having unscrupulous motives - by unduly seeking "land and compensation" - in affirm-

ing the genocide, even though that calamity ultimately explains how most Armenian-Australians came to be here.

None of this has stopped Tim Soutphommasane from anointing the ATAA as an anti-racism crusader. His endorsement is all the more strange given unequivocal condemnations of the Armenian genocide by past and present leaders of the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), including Tim Wilson, Sev Ozdowski, Marcus Einfeld and Brian Burdekin.

The Turkish community is a valued partner in our fight against racism - Australian Muslims are on the receiving end of some of the worst discrimination in our society. But why choose the ATAA for this purpose?

The ATAA's denial harms members of Australia's Armenian, Assyrian and Greek communities, many of whom are descendants of genocide victims and survivors. It renders impossible any healing process for them. And it represents what Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel calls a "double killing", as it strives to destroy the memory of the victims.

Denial also harms the perpetrators and their descendants. To this day, Turkey struggles in its dealings with minority communities - just ask the Kurds.

Democratic norms there are under constant pressure. Dissidents are liable to two years' imprisonment if they publicly denigrate "the Turkish Nation", its parliament, judiciary or military or police forces.

National pride continues to be safeguarded by rehabilitating war criminals like Talaat Pasha (he enjoys an official memorial in Istanbul and has streets named after him throughout Turkey) instead of celebrating the true Turkish heroes of that period, the victims' rescuers.

Denial harms third parties too. In Australia, our Federal Government vacillates between evasion and silence in dealing with the Armenian genocide, in an effort not to offend the Turks.

Exhibits at the Australian War Memorial omit mention of the Armenian genocide, despite its eruption coinciding with the Gallipoli landings, and Anzac prisoners-of-war witnessing some of the misery to which Armenians were subjected.

Australians have been the poorer for not knowing that our typically generous response to overseas disasters has its origins in our relief efforts for Armenian genocide survivors. This incredible humanitarian campaign lasted some 25 years - between 1915 and 1940 - reaching its peak in the mid 1920s. February 3, 1918 was even declared 'Armenia Sunday' across the nation, with churches from every denomination engaged in the fundraising.

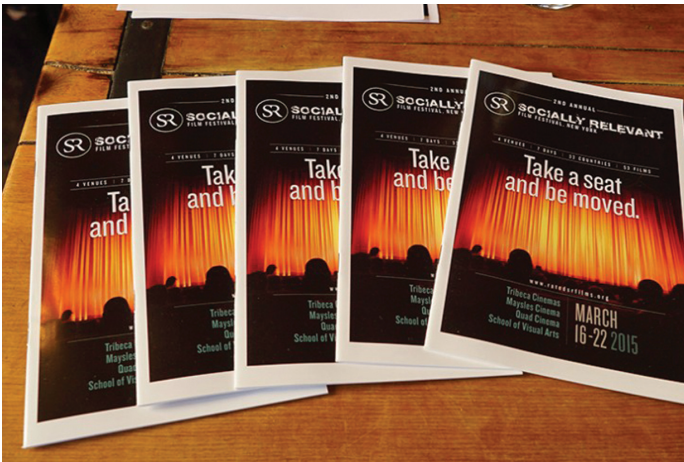
These and other neglected parts of Australian history are the subject of the upcoming book by Vicken Babkenian and Peter Stanley, *Armenia, Australia and the Great War*, published by NewSouth Books.

The Racism. It Stops With Me campaign now counts amongst its partners an organisation peddling genocide denial (the ATAA) and another that valiantly fights Holocaust denial (the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission).

At least you can't say the AHRC isn't committed to diversity of opinion.

Meher Grigorian is a director of the Australian Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Eight Armenian Films to be screened at SR Film Festival



Massis Post - Eight Armenian films will be screened as part of the third edition of the SR Socially Relevant Film Festival, a ground-breaking non-profit film festival that showcases socially relevant films with human interest stories. The festival opens on the 14th of March with a panel on Adapting the Novel to the Screen with such prolific panelists as Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Robert Schenkkan, and widely published French novelist Marc Levy. The films screen from March 15-19 at The Bow Tie Cinemas Chelsea and the closing night Awards Ceremony takes place at the Tenri Japanese Center on the 20th of March.

The full line-up and program of this year's SR Socially Relevant Film Festival was announced at its Press Day, hosted at Bocca East in Manhattan, on February 2. Selected films will focus on the current topics of immigration, female empowerment, human exploitation, gender politics disability and more, and will feature distinguished personalities including Erin Brockovich, Olympia Dukakis, Sally Field, Marc Duret and others.

Two narrative features and six shorts revolving around Armenian themes will have a special presence in this year's film festival, including the International Premiere of 100 Years Later

(directed by John Lubbock) which follows historian Ara Sarafian's journey through Anatolia as facts of the 1915 Armenian Genocide are uncovered and dialogue is established with local Kurds and Turks.

The second feature, *Who Killed the Armenians?* (directed by Mohamed Hanafy Nasr), will have its World Premiere at the festival and is the first Arabic documentary on the Armenian Genocide, filmed in Egypt, Armenia and Lebanon. The film reveals rare documents, footage and interviews related to the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

The short film, *Eclipse*, (directed by Ara Yernjakyan) which will have its U.S. premiere, revolves around the children who suffered and the families that were destroyed during the Armenian Genocide.

Girl on the Moon, (directed by Aren Malakyan), filmed in Armenia, focuses on the first steps of disabled people and how they try to change the course of their lives through dance.

How to Cross from Jiliz to Jiliz, directed by Marineh Kocharyan and Sona Kocharyan, is about a young girl who dreams of being with her grandmother and relatives who live on the other side of the border, only a few meters away. The film will have its New York premiere.

Now I Know, directed by Anna Bayatyan from Armenia, will have its International Premiere, focusing on the theme of hope.

Shattered, directed by David Hovan, focuses on memories of war and chaos and post-traumatic stress disorder. It will have its New York Premiere.

Where is the Euphrates, Son? Directed by Rouben Pashinyan, filmed in Armenia, the film tells the story of an Armenian grandfather who arrives in Armenia as a tourist and tries to find the Euphrates River. It will have its New York premiere at the festival.

Founded by award-winning actor, filmmaker and curator Nora Armani, SR aims to satisfy a market need concentrating on everyday human stories as an alternative to the proliferation of gratuitous violence in film making.

Belarus, Armenia to cooperate in translation, exchange of books

Belarus and Armenia have agreed to establish an exchange of books and cooperate in translation of works by Belarusian and Armenian writers and poets into national languages, Armenian Deputy Culture Minister Artur Poghosyan told journalists on 10 February, BelTA reports.

The Armenian official attended the opening ceremony of the 23rd International Minsk Book Fair. "Belarus has vast experience in book publishing and printing. We have agreed with the Belarusian Culture Ministry to cooperate in this field," Artur Poghosyan said. He

added that the ministries agreed to exchange books and cooperate in translation of works by Belarusian and Armenian writers and poets.

Artur Poghosyan pointed out that Armenia has been taking part in the expo in Minsk for ten years. This year, it has been given the title of the Guest of Honor. The Armenian national pavilion is designed to mark the 25th anniversary of Armenia's independence. It showcases books of different genres.

"We have brought the oldest Armenian Bible printed in 1666," the Armenian Deputy Culture Minister

stressed. The 23rd International Book Fair will be running through 14 February.

Partaking in the forum are guests from 29 countries, including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, the United Kingdom, Venezuela, Germany, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, China, South Korea, Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Palestine, Poland, Russia, Syria, the United States, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Finland, France, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Sweden, and Ecuador. The forum has been organized by the Belarusian Information Ministry and the Minsk City Hall.

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall

February 18, at 19:00

Concert, Show

Singers: Mihran Tsarukyan, Mher, Qristine Pepelyan, Arame

February 21, at 19:00

Musical funny joyful play: "Super Masha and the Snowman"

Chamber Music House after Komitas

February 16, at 19:00National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia
Artistic Director and Principal Conductor:
Vahan Mardirossian

H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors

February 19, 29, at 19:00

"Tales"

Hamazgayin State Theater

February 18, at 19:00

"Ah, Women, Women"

Director: Vigen Stepanyan

February 19, at 19:00

"The Salvation Island"

Staging: Nikolay Taturyan

February 20, at 19:00

"Sale"

Staging: V. Stepanyan

February 21, at 12:00

"Lazy Huri"

Staged by Hrachya Gasparyan

February 21, at 19:00

"Blaise"

Staging: Hrachya Gasparyan

M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater

February 21, at 19:00

"The Emperor"

National Academic Theater of Opera

and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

February 20, at 19:00

"Anush"

Russian Drama Theater after

K. Stanislavski

February 16, at 19:00

"Don Juan Avia"

February 18, at 19:00

"Passion of the Auditor" "The Left Breast of Aphrodite"

February 19, at 19:00

"The Left Breast of Aphrodite"

February 20, at 13:00

"Cat's House"

February 20, 26, at 19:00

"Parliamentary Comedy"

February 21, at 13:00

"Three Piglets"

Director: Nora Grigoryan

February 21, at 19:00

Premiere: "Oh Those French Things"

February 25, at 19:00

"Like Gods"

State Marionette Theater

February 19, at 16:00

"Alice in Wonderland"

Staging by Lily Elbakyan

February 20, at 12:30, 14:00, 15:30

"The Kid and Karlsson"

Staging: Lily Elbakyan

February 21, at 12:30, 14:00, 15:30

"Hansel and Gretel"

Staging: Lily Elbakyan

State Musical Chamber Theater

February 19, at 16:00

"David of Sasun"

Staged by David Hakobyan

February 20, at 14:00

Premiere: "Tom and Jerry"

Staging: Artur Saribekyan

February 21, at 12:00, 14:00

"Cinderella"

Staged by: A. Miridjanyan

State Puppet Theater after

H. Tumanyan

February 17, 21, at 12:00, 14:00

"The Tailless Fox"

Staging: Ruben Marukhyan

February 18, at 12:00, 14:00

"The Dog and The Cat"

Director: R. Marukhyan

February 19, at 11:00 12:30

"That Same Huri"

Director: Ruben Babayan

February 20, at 19:00

"Cherchez la femme"

Staging, music and adapt. by N. Duryan

February 20, at 12:00, 14:00

"The Cheating Hunter"

Director/Producer: Larisa Mangasarova

February 20, at 18:00

"The Silly Man"

February 21, at 18:00

"Golden Chicken"

Director/Producer: Karen Khachatrian

State Theater of Musical Comedy

after H. Paronyan

February 17, at 15:30, 17:30, 20:00

"Cinderella"

Director: Mikhail Polosukhin

February 19, at 19:00

"Mrs. Ministress"

February 20, at 19:00

Premiere: "Karine"

Staging: Yervand Ghazanchyan

February 21, at 19:00

"Morgan's In-Law"

Yerevan Drama Theater after

H. Ghaplanyan

February 19, at 19:00

"Jesus of Nazareth and His Second Disciple"

February 20, at 19:00

"Romantic Comedy"

February 21, at 19:00

Premiere: "N 707"

Yerevan State Chamber Theater

February 17, at 19:00

"How I Became a Man"

Auth. and Stag. Director: S. Danielyan

February 19, 20, at 19:00

"Royal Concert"

Auth., dir. of the play - A. Yernjakyan.

February 21, at 19:00

"Nazar, Nazar, Till The End"

Staging director: Ara Yernjakyan

Cinema Star - february 15-17

"Deadpool" (Atmos)

Director: Tim Miller

Starring: Morena Baccarin, Ryan Reynolds, Gina Carano

"Kung Fu Panda"

Starring: Bryan Cranston, Jack Black, J.K. Simmons

"Bonnie Bears: A Mystical Winter"

Directed by: Ding Liang and Liu Fuyuan

"The Finest Hours"

Starring: Chris Pine, Casey Affleck, Ben Foster

"By The Sea"

Starring: Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt

"Brooklyn"

Starring: Saoirse Ronan, Emory Cohen, Domhnall Gleeson

"Dirty Grandpa"

Starring: Robert De Niro, Zac Efron, Zoey Deutch

"Beware of Women"

Starring: Mery Makaryan, Marinka Khachatrian, Hasmik Verdyan, Henry Kocharyan, Anais Sardaryan, Julieta Stepanyan

"Fifty Shades of Black"

Starring: Marlon Wayans, Kali Hawk, Fred Willard

"All the Roads Lead to Rome"

Starring: Sarah Jessica Parker, Rosie Day, Raoul Bova

"Spotlight"

Starring: Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton, Rachel McAdams

"By the Sea" (In English)

Starring: Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt

Cinema Star - february 15-18

"How to Be Single"

Starring: Dakota Johnson, Rebel Wilson, Leslie Mann

"Bet To Love"

Starring: Alexander Reva, Polina Maximova, Andrey Burkovski, Katerina Shpits, Hovhannes Azoyan

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20-April 19)

A fresh beginning in October is now beginning to yield a reward or two. You may be seeing a stronger sense of self-esteem or some extra pocket change. This aspect is really helpful for students or those on a physical self-improvement program because self-discipline is stronger.



Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)

Early in the week an opportunity to expand your social life brings smiles. You may be invited to a party or you might meet someone new. This aspect is from Venus, goddess of love and creativity. Your romantic side is cooperating well with your nurturing side at this time. This is especially good for female friendships. Make a date for lunch and reconnect with people you like.



Gemini (May 20-June 20)

Early in the week you will be finishing projects that were delayed by the recent Mercury retrograde. On the 13th you shift your attention. The new focus will be mind expanding. You may be researching a new interest, gazing over travel brochures for your next adventure, or pursuing an interest in philosophy or religion.



Cancer (June 21-July 21)

Your energy level is good. Positive outcomes related to your creativity and/or children are reflecting well upon you. Aspects are favorable regarding lovers. Almost anything you set out to accomplish is handled in unusually quick time. You have what it takes to be a warrior on behalf of yourself or others. People will listen to you



Leo (July 22-August 21)

Beware the obsessive thoughts about things beautiful that you can ill afford. They could make you feel that you cannot move forward, but this is a trick of the ego. Look deeply into your thoughts. What is really keeping you running in place? The pride of the Lion(ess) can play tricks on the mind.



Virgo (August 22-September 22)

Early in the week you will be finishing the details on a creative project that took longer than you expected to complete. Then you will focus your attention on new habits that will support your physical body and strengthen your mind. Meditation and yoga would be excellent.



Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

Changes may be occurring in your primary relationship. One or the other of you is probably trying to hang onto what is familiar. Changes and growth must be allowed to happen or the relationship will become stale. Let things flow naturally. Don't jump to conclusions or make problems bigger than they are.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Friends and circles of associates are willing to help you with your projects. You continue to feel strong and capable. You have an intense need to break free from whatever or whomever seems to have power over you. Along the way you might break a few dishes. That which has you trapped is not someone else as much as it is your own thought processes and belief systems.



Sagittarius

(November 22-December 20)

Your optimistic and happy attitude causes others to join your bandwagon and support your projects. You can envision a grand result and are able to express it in a way that others can understand. The reward will be great enough that everyone will benefit.



Capricorn (December 21-January 19)

For any number of reasons, circumstances may leave you out of the social loop this week. Astrologically this is a time for self-reflection and not self-condemnation. Having a quiet week is appropriate at this time. Don't turn this into a negative belief about yourself. Enjoy the time to be still and enjoy the quiet.



Aquarius (January 20-February 17)

You are harboring a secret attitude about a loved one. You may think it is not visible, but it erodes the core of the relationship. The probability is high that it is critical of yourself or the Other. Maybe a change does need to happen, but it is not useful to pressure its creation with blame.



Pisces (February 18-March 19)

Partners and clientele are complimentary and give you the sense of being loved this week. You are interested in whatever feels luxurious, looks beautiful, or tickles the senses. Going overboard would be all too easy! You may be looking for a beautiful object to have around you at home or at work.

Belarus hosts Days of Armenian Culture

Belarus is hosting the Days of Culture of Armenia on 8-11 February, BelTA reports, quoting the Belarusian Culture Ministry.

The first event in the program of the Days of Culture will be the opening of the exhibition of ancient Armenian books at the National Library of Belarus on 9 February. Rare and unique books will be on display at the museum.

The opening ceremony of the Days of Culture of Armenia will take place at the Belarusian State

Philharmonic on 9 February. Guests of the event will enjoy a scintillating performance of the Armenian State Jazz Orchestra.

The Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery in Minsk will host the exhibition of modern Armenian artists. The exhibition will open on 10 February. The concert of the Armenian State Jazz Orchestra will take place at the concert hall of the Belarusian State Music Academy the same day.

The Days of Culture of Armenia have been organized in Belarus with-

in the framework of the cooperation program between the cultures ministries of the two countries designed to run in 2014-2017.

The program aims to promote the establishment of direct contacts between the museums of the two countries, organize guest's tours of theaters, music and dance companies of Belarus and Armenia, hold the Days of Belarusian Cinema in Armenia and the Days of Armenian Cinema in Belarus as part of the program.





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