

Three steps needed for resumption of Karabakh talks



At the meeting of the Executive Board of the Republican Party of Armenia, President Serzh Sargsyan has proposed three important steps needed for resumption of the negotiation process, Spokesman for the Republican Party of Armenia Edward Sharmazanov told reporters after the sitting.

"First, it's necessary to implement mechanisms of investigation of border incidents; second, the statements of the international community must be more targeted; third, there should be guarantees that Azerbaijan will not undertake new aggression and terrorist acts against NKR people,"

Sharmazanov said. "Speaking about resumption of negotiations is untimely now, as the military actions continue, as Azerbaijan continues to violate the 1994 ceasefire agreement signed with Artsakh and Armenia, as well as the verbal agreement reached in Moscow," he said.

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France interested in the resumption of Karabakh peace talks

President Serzh Sargsyan received on April 25 the Minister of State for European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France Harlem Désir, President's Press Office reports.

Welcoming the guest and his delegation, the President of Armenia noted that he recalls with special warmth his meeting with Mr. Désir in October 2015 in the framework of the Ministerial Conference on Francophonie during which they discussed in detail the agenda of the Armenian-French relations, possibilities to develop the Armenia-EU partnership as well as spoke about the NK peace process.

The President noted with disappointment that Azerbaijan's destructive stance and his predictions of the time regarding the possible consequences came true: at the beginning of April, during the aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan, servicemen of that country committed numerous crimes, targeting also civilian dwellings and peaceful population. The NK Defense Army not only held out but also gave a worthy counterblow to the enemy. Azerbaijan nevertheless continues its provocations, and the situation remains tense.

At the request of the French State Minister, the President of Armenia presented his views regarding the causes and motives of the situation established



at the NK line of contact, as well as regarding his views on its possible resolution.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Minister of State for European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France Harlem Désir conveyed to Serzh Sargsyan warm regards and best wishes from the President of France François Hollande and reiterated the position of France, which is also a Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, on the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh problem.

He said that in his country they believe that there is no military resolution to this conflict, and France is interested in the resumption of negotiations

for the benefit of a peaceful resolution of the problem.

The parties concurred that in this situation it is necessary to expeditiously establish mechanisms for the monitoring of the violations of the ceasefire regime and introduction of the confidence building measures to prevent aggressive interventions and to create a possibility for reaching at the table of negotiations mutually acceptable solutions.

According to Harlem Désir, presence in his delegation of the French Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group Pierre Andrieu proves once again that France spares no effort to find a speedy and peaceful solution to the problem.

Sargsyan, Kerry discuss Karabakh settlement

President Serzh Sargsyan had a phone conversation with US Secretary of State John Kerry today at the initiative of the American side, President's Press Office reports.

Issues related to the situation established as a result of gross violations of the ceasefire regime by Azerbaijan earlier this month were discussed.

President Sargsyan stressed that the irresponsible steps of Baku have caused a great harm to the negotiation process.

The US Secretary of States reiterated the full support of the US to the process of peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict. The parties agreed there is no alternative to a peaceful solution and noted that it's necessary to find mechanisms of mutually acceptable solution on the ground of



basic principles.

The interlocutors emphasized the role of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, tak-

ing into consideration that it is the only internationally recognized format for the settlement of the issue.

Armenia has not used its potential to the full: Bordyuzha

Armenia did not turn to the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) for help during the escalation of Karabakh conflict in early April of this year, Secretary General of the organization Nikolai Bordyuzha said on April 26 in Moscow, Ria Novosti reports.

"No request received," Bordyuzha told reporters in response whether Armenia turned to the organization of which it is a member.

Bordyuzha added that during the relative interactions the Armenian highest leadership made it clear, that "Overall, Armenia didn't use the great part of its potential capabilities available."

Asked whether the CSTO may provide assistance to Armenia in case of an attack to the republic within its internationally recognized borders, while Nagorno Karabakh is out of those borders, the Secretary General responded briefly: "Yes, you got it right."



Bordyuzha then emphasized that the situation in Nagorno Karabakh is of significance for the ensuring security within the CSTO zone of responsibility.

"If it happens again, we may witness an active and direct confrontation which may blow up the Caucasus. Many coun-

tries will enter into the conflict, which may spill over many nations in the region. That is rather serious and I deem establishing a peace should be prioritized there, otherwise the Caucasus will turn into war stage," Bordyuzha concluded.

Karabakh condemns Azeri attempts to reconsider 1994 ceasefire agreement

The NKR Foreign Ministry issued the following statement on April 26.

Following the large-scale aggression against the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR) in 2-5 April this year, the Azerbaijani authorities continue their efforts to bring the peaceful settlement process of the conflict to a final breakdown and transfer it into a military domain. Azerbaijan's attempts to unilaterally denounce the tripartite agreement on the ceasefire of May 12, 1994 at the UN and the OSCE come to prove this. Along with that the Azerbaijani side resorts to its tradi-

tional practice of fraud and manipulation, trying to lay the blame on the Armenian side, and thereby avoid liability for unleashing a war.

In this regard, we consider it necessary to remind that the agreement of 12 May 1994, concluded between the NKR, Azerbaijan and Armenia for an indefinite term is the only real achievement in the settlement process of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict. Thanks to this very agreement the foundations for peaceful negotiations were laid and conditions for the activity of mediators in finding a fair

and final solution to the conflict created.

Sharing the point of view of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs that this agreement, as well as the agreement of February 1995, form the basis of the cease-fire and its strengthening, we believe it is extremely important to consolidate the position of the international community and the mediator-states to take effective and urgent measures in forcing Azerbaijan to comply with the commitments taken within the framework of these agreements.

The NKR MFA strongly condemns any attempts of the Azerbaijani authorities to reconsider these agreements, regarding them as an overt intention of Azerbaijan to unleash a new war, and insists on the full restoration of the ceasefire regime established in May 1994.

To guarantee the security of the NKR and its population, as well as to promote peace and stability in the region, the NKR authorities will take diplomatic and other possible measures to safeguard the full implementation of the agreements of 12 May 1994 and 06 February 1995 as well as to exclude the possibility of the development of the situation by the criminal scenario hatched by the Azerbaijani leadership.



Resuming peace talks with Azerbaijan without security guarantees unreasonable: Armenia's President

War can break out "at any moment" in Nagorno-Karabakh and there's little prospect of talks to resolve the conflict, the President of Armenia said.

A Russian-brokered truce may not be enough to prevent fighting "on an even larger scale" after four days of war between Azeris and Armenians this month that involved "several hundred tanks" and 30,000 artillery rounds, Serzh Sargsyan said in an interview with Bloomberg at the presidential residence in Yerevan.

It's "unreasonable" for Armenia to resume peace talks with Azerbaijan without security guarantees because "the situation is entirely different now," he said.

"On the one hand we'd be talking somewhere while, on the other, military officials would be engaging in war here to try to settle the conflict," he said.

Speaking about Russian Foreign Minister's visit to Armenia, President Sargsyan said "Lavrov didn't "bring any new proposals" because "he realizes very well that it doesn't make sense to talk about negotiations immediately after a



four-day war."

Battles raged along the full 200-kilometer length of the front line as Azerbaijan tried to punch through to Nagorno-Karabakh itself and then "issue an ultimatum" to Karabakh, he said.

Sargsyan said Azeri troops took "very small pieces" of land in the north and south of the contact line that "had no strategic importance" for Armenian forces, who didn't try to reclaim them "to avoid additional losses" of life, he said.

While the chief of the defense staff in Moscow mediated the cease-fire talks, there's no place for Russian peacekeepers

in the conflict zone to separate the two sides, Sargsyan said. Talk of deploying Russian forces "wasn't entirely without grounds" in previous peace negotiations, though "I don't see any such opportunity" now, he said.

"If there are no negotiations, how can Russian forces appear in Karabakh or between Azeri and Karabakh forces?" Sargsyan said. Russia's pursuing a "balanced policy" between Armenia and Azerbaijan while seeking to avert "large-scale military conflict," he said.

Sargsyan said Russian, U.S. and French mediators from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe must put in place "confidence-building measures" before any new peace talks, and particularly "an investigation mechanism for violations of the cease-fire that would pinpoint exactly which party" was responsible. Armenia also requires "assurances that these kinds of violations will not happen again," he said.

Photo: Daro Salukauri/Bloomberg

Co-Chairs stress the need to resume Karabakh talks

The French, Russian and U.S. mediators hope to organize a meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents soon in a bid to prevent another escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, a French diplomat reportedly said on April 26.

"We have met with the presidents of the two countries and are now trying to

organize a meeting of the presidents," the RIA Novosti news agency quoted Pierre Andrieu, the French co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, as saying in Baku.

"The ceasefire regime must not be violated and the negotiation process should start as soon as possible," he told reporters.

Andrieu accompanied France's State

Secretary for European Affairs Harlem Desir on a visit to Yerevan and Baku aimed at defusing tensions after the April 2-5 heavy fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces around Karabakh.

According to the APA news agency, Desir spoke on Tuesday of a "grave threat" of renewed hostilities in the conflict zone. "A military solution to the conflict is impossible," he said in the Azerbaijani capital.

Speaking ahead of his meeting with Desir on Monday, President Serzh Sargsyan said Armenia will not resume peace talks unless Azerbaijan agrees to safeguards against ceasefire violations proposed by international mediators. Baku has opposed them until now.

Desir voiced strong support for the confidence-building measures after his talks in Yerevan. The French official said the OSCE should deploy observers and gunfire-locator systems on the Karabakh "line of contact" that "would allow us to verify compliance with the ceasefire regime."



France wants truce observers in Karabakh



The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe should deploy observers and gunfire-locator systems around Nagorno-Karabakh in order to minimize ceasefire violations there, a senior French government official said on April 25.

Visiting Yerevan, France's Secretary of State for European Affairs Harlem Desir said this is essential for preventing a repeat of heavy fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces that

broke out along the Karabakh "line of contact" on April 2.

The hostilities, which Russia helped to stop on April 5, left the conflicting parties on the brink of a full-scale war.

"Our position is as follows: the ceasefire must be observed and there need to be mechanisms that would allow for that," Desir said after talks with President Serzh Sargsyan and Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian.

"By mechanisms I mean [permanent

OSCE] observers and electronic surveillance systems," he told reporters. "There needs to be human and electronic monitoring that would allow us to verify compliance with the ceasefire regime every second."

"We would be able to have objective information about every instance of ceasefire violation," he said.

Over 80 members of the U.S. House of Representatives in October called for these and other safeguards against truce violations in a joint letter sent to James Warlick, Washington's chief Karabakh negotiator, in October. Warlick reportedly backed them.

Warlick and fellow diplomats from Russia and France co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs have long been urging the conflicting parties to withdraw their snipers and agree to a mechanism for international investigations of armed incidents. These measures are backed by Armenia but rejected by Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said last month that they would only reinforce the status quo favoring the Armenian side.

Recognition of Artsakh by Armenia not far away: Harut Sassounian

"Following the April developments, the day of recognition of Artsakh by Armenia is not far away," California Courier editor-in-chief Harut Sassounian told reporters in Yerevan on April 25. He's a strong believer that Artsakh should be declared an integral part of Armenia.

"Armenia's earlier position was understandable. Recognition of Artsakh could endanger the negotiation process, but the situation has changed after the April events.

As for the Armenian Genocide recognition, Harut Sassounian said "the US has long recognized it."

"If Obama refrained from uttering the word 'genocide' in his April 24th address, that's his problem, because he will be remembered in American history as a liar President," the publisher said.

London-based Mahmud Uzuni, an ethnic Kurd, who served a sentence in Turkey for his pro-Armenian views, also urges Ankara to get rid of historic lies.



He's visiting Yerevan as representative of the Turkish-German Association "Union Against Genocide," whose members visit Tsitsernakaberd every April 24 to apologize to Armenians and join the

civilized world to call for Armenian Genocide recognition by Turkey.

Uzuni says it's his obligation to apologize for the crimes committed by Kurds against Armenians.

Oskanian, Allies set up new party

(Yerevan - RFE/RL)

Vartan Oskanian, a former foreign minister highly critical of Armenia's current leadership, officially announced on April 27 the establishment of his new political party that will challenge President Serzh Sargsyan.

Oskanian and 13 other well-known individuals said their party named Hamakhmbum (Consolidation) will fight for "profound changes" in the country.

"The society has long been disappointed with the existing political system that has taken shape over the years and made it impossible to create fair political and economic relationships," they declared a joint statement.

"We are making a bid to become a pivotal, rather than just another, political force," they said.

Oskanian and three other signatories are parliament deputies that were affiliated with the Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK) until its founding leader, Gagik Tsarukyan, was forced into political retirement after capitulating in a standoff with President Sargsyan a year ago. They are regarded by some observers as loyalists of former President Robert Kocharyan.



Oskanian, who served as foreign minister throughout Kocharyan's 1998-2008 rules, insisted that his party has "no connection whatsoever" with the ex-president. He said it plans to mount a serious challenge against Sarkisian and the ruling Republican Party (HHK) in next year's "fateful" parliamentary elections.

In that regard, Oskanian ruled out the possibility of any power-sharing deals with the HHK as a result of the elections due in May 2017. "Our positions and approaches are substantially different," he told reporters. "It is evident that the ruling

force has had no major successes during all these years and that the people are looking for an alternative."

In their manifesto, Oskanian and the other founders of the party said they will strive to eradicate Armenia's culture of electoral fraud and create a level playing field for all businesses. They also called for changes in Armenian foreign policy but did not go into details, saying only that Armenia should simultaneously deepen its ties with Russia, the European Union, the United States, Iran and Georgia.

Three high-ranking defense officials dismissed

In a move apparently conditioned by recent hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh and related public criticism, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on April 26

signed decrees relieving three senior army officials of their duties.

Under the order issued by Sargsyan, who is also Supreme Commander-in-

Chief under Armenia's Constitution, dismissed from their posts were Deputy Minister of Defense, Lieutenant-General Alik Mirzababekyan, who is in charge of the Logistics Department, Chief of the Intelligence Department of the General Staff, Major-General Arshak Karapetyan, head of the communications troops of the Armed Forces, chief of the Communications and Automated Management Systems Department Major-General Komitas Muradyan.

Officially, the Armed Forces of Armenia were not involved in the April 2-5 military actions against Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh. In the wake of the hostilities, in which more than nine dozen Armenian soldiers and officers were killed and over 120 were wounded, however, the Armenian army command (both in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh) has been criticized by political and public circles over the high death-toll.



World Bank approves US\$30 million loan for improved governance in Armenia's energy sector

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved on April 28 a US\$30 million loan for the Power Sector Financial Recovery Program-for-Results (PforR) for Armenia.

This Project will support the Government's efforts to maintain adequate and reliable electricity supply by improving the financial condition and governance of the state-owned power generation companies and the private power distribution company.

Throughout the last five years, the state-owned generation companies have been experiencing a shortage of cash to finance key expenditures, because of lending and spending for purposes not related to their core business of generating and supplying energy. This is how the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant (ANPP) and Yerevan Thermal Power Plant (YTPC) have accumulated large cash deficits amounting to US\$104 million which accounts to 80 percent of their total estimated revenues for 2015.

If the financial difficulties of the ANPP and YTPC are not overcome, it will have significant impact on their ability to maintain the current levels of generation with resulting negative consequences on the cost and adequacy of electricity supply in the country. In 2012-2014, those two plants accounted for 42 percent of total annual electricity generated for domestic needs. Inability of ANPP and YTPC to generate power at current levels could push up the average cost of electricity supply and possibly cause an electricity deficit.

"Improvement of the financial standing and governance of the state-owned power generation companies, and a better managed financial relationship with the private power distribution company is critical for maintaining adequate and reliable electricity supply at affordable tariffs," says Laura E. Bailey, World Bank Country Manager for Armenia. "The Government is committed to improving the financial governance of these companies, and has already undertaken a number of steps in that direction as reflected in the Program for Financial Recovery of the Power Sector."

There are four results areas which this Program will achieve: elimination of cash outflows of state-owned power generation companies for non-core business related reasons; reduction of expensive commercial loans, recovery of receivables, and repayment of YTPC's payable for natural gas; setting of tariffs reflecting changes in the cost of electricity supply, and maintaining the generation capacity of the gas turbine at YTPC's Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) plant.

Since the end of January 2016, the generation companies were able to start repaying the loans because of the recovery of receivables from Electricity Network of Armenia (ENA), the only company operating the power distribution network. The recovery of receivables from ENA will allow financing the backlog of expenditures for critical repairs and maintenance, however, additional cash injection is needed to help YTPC and ANPP as they regain their solid financial condition.

"The beneficiaries of the Program are all electricity consumers in Armenia along with the state-owned generation companies and the private power distributor. Financial health of ANPP and YTPC, as well as ENA, will ensure they have enough resources to spend on maintenance and finance some of the new investments required for reliable supply of electricity. Moreover, 140,000

businesses and other legal entities connected to the network will also benefit because the Program will help to fully meet their demand for electricity in a reliable manner," says Arthur Kochnakyan, World Bank Task Team Leader of the Project.

In 2012-2014, ENA suffered a cumulative loss of around US\$50 million due to revenue shortfall, accumulated for reasons not under its control (e.g. dry years in terms of hydrology, longer-than-planned recurrent repair of ANPP). In addition, the existing regulation did not allow Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC) to adjust ENA's tariff margin to reflect the full amount of difference between the actual and forecast cost of purchased electricity in subsequent tariff period.

The tariff margin was revised in 2015 to compensate for those losses incurred during previous years. Going forward, PSRC will be revising the methodology to allow reflecting in ENA's tariff margin the 100 percent of loss (profit) plus interest cost (profit) due to the above highlighted difference.

The World Bank will provide a US\$30 million IBRD loan of variable spread with a 14.5-year grace period and the total repayment term of 25 years. Since joining the World Bank in 1992 and IDA in 1993, the total IDA and IBRD commitments to Armenia amount to around US\$2.3 billion.





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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 Antarayan str.**, 14 floors, 65-133sq.m, capially renovated, parking. Price: 900-1300 USD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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



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

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335 **Baghranyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capially repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- 999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capially repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- 1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.

3 ROOMS AND MORE

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

- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- 1142. **Djrvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capially repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- 1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghranyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capially repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capially repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capially repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- 2033. **Abovyan str**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD
- 2031. **Vardanants str**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m, Price: 8000 USD
- 2027. **Sayat Nova str**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capially repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

Vladimir Spivakov in Armenia



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**
Chief Correspondent

Concerts with "Moscow Virtuosos"

World-known Russian conductor and violinist **Vladimir Spivakov** who is a great friend of Armenia and Armenians and his "Moscow Virtuosos" State Chamber Orchestra of Russia performed in Yerevan Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall on Thursday 28 April and Friday 29 April. Within the first concert the first piece played was W.A. Mozart's Divertimento No 3 in F major, and the next work was L. Boccherini's Symphony in D minor.

Adolescent pianist, a fellow of the Spivakov's Foundation for the gifted young musicians **Alexandra Stychkina** was the soloist in the J. Haydn's "Concerto for Piano No. 11 in D major". His brilliant performance and very artistic behaviour at the stage attracted ovation from the audience and the flowers indeed.

During the second half of the program the Orchestra played D. Shostakovich's "Chamber Symphony" and "Elegy and Polka".

By the end of the concert that lasted some two hours, due to non-stop "Bravo!"-s and "Encore!"-s from the audi-



ence they played popular Armenian classical and folk tunes. Interestingly, the spectators seating were also behind/aside the Orchestra, i.e. on the very stage.

Among the VIP guests in the jam-packed hall were the First Lady of Armenia Mrs **Rita A. Sargsyan**, Minister of Culture **Hasmik Poghosyan** and Vladimir Spivakov's spouse **Satenik (Sati) Spivakova-Sahakyants**.

During the next day concert "The Moscow Virtuosos" performed Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Rossini and Piazzola.

Vladimir Spivakov: "Komitas is an Example of the Height of the Human Spirit"

On 30 April Vladimir Spivakov visited Yerevan Museum-Institute of the great Armenian composer Komitas (Soghomon Soghomonian, 1865-1935) where he got familiar in detail with his life and work.

As Maestro Spivakov said, "I really liked the Museum, its magnificent exhibition, as I wrote there (in the visitors' book - ed.) That is necessary to keep the height of the human spirit, and an example of these heights is Komitas, his life, his work, his service. One should



serve, to serve in any job. In the Gospel it is written: "We are called not to rule but to serve."

Responding to a question about what the role of the creative people in today's world, Maestro Spivakov said: "Art has a lot of functions coming from the ancient times, but today its main one function is to comfort people and focus their feelings on the harmony, because the people are scattered, fragmented, really, there is so much hatred around, but it should not be given the opportunity to develop 'cause it is going to end very badly."

Armen Smbatyan: "It is a Happiness for Us the Armenians to Have a Great Friend like Vladimir Spivakov"

Ambassador Prof. **Armen B. Smbatyan**, Adviser to the President of Armenia on the Intl Humanitarian and Cultural Cooperation, a long time friend to Vladimir Spivakov who, as usual, was the driving force in bringing Maestro and his band to Armenia and was accompanying him during visit to Komitas Museum-Institute, said that "Vladimir Theodorovich Spivakov is a great friend to us the Armenians, he was with us actually in the times of all the hardship since the devastating Spitak Earthquake'88, and today he is with us as well".

"So it is a great happiness for Armenia and Armenians to have such a devoted friend", Mr Smbatyan concluded.

Photos by news.am



Sergey Smbatyan was the Music Director of the "Aurora Prize" Awarding

Sergey Smbatyan, the Founding Principal Conductor and the Artistic Director of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, was the Music Director of the "Aurora Prize" Awarding held on 24 April in Karen Demirchyan Sports and Concerts Complex.

The SYOA, under the leadership of Sergey Smbatyan, played well known pieces of the Armenian composers, in particular, parts from Avet Terterian's 3rd Symphony, Aram Khachaturian's 2nd Symphony as well as accompanied bariton **Gevorg Hakobyan** in the song "Pour toi, l'Armenie" ("For You, Armenia") by George Karvarentz - Charles Aznavour and world famous soparano **Hasmik Popyan** (who was an anchor of the awarding ceremony) in "Lullaby".

Notably, Maestro Smbatyan and the Orchestra enjoyed numerous rounds of applause from the audience and special thanks from the organizers.

As Sergey Smbatyan (who recently was granted the honorary



title "The Honored Artist of the Republic of Armenia" by the President **Serzh Sargsyan**) told in his interview to the crowd of mass media reps, "it was the great honor for me and the Orchestra to perform at the such important and touching event".

Azerbaijan deploys military objects in populated areas: Karabakh says those are 'legitimate targets'

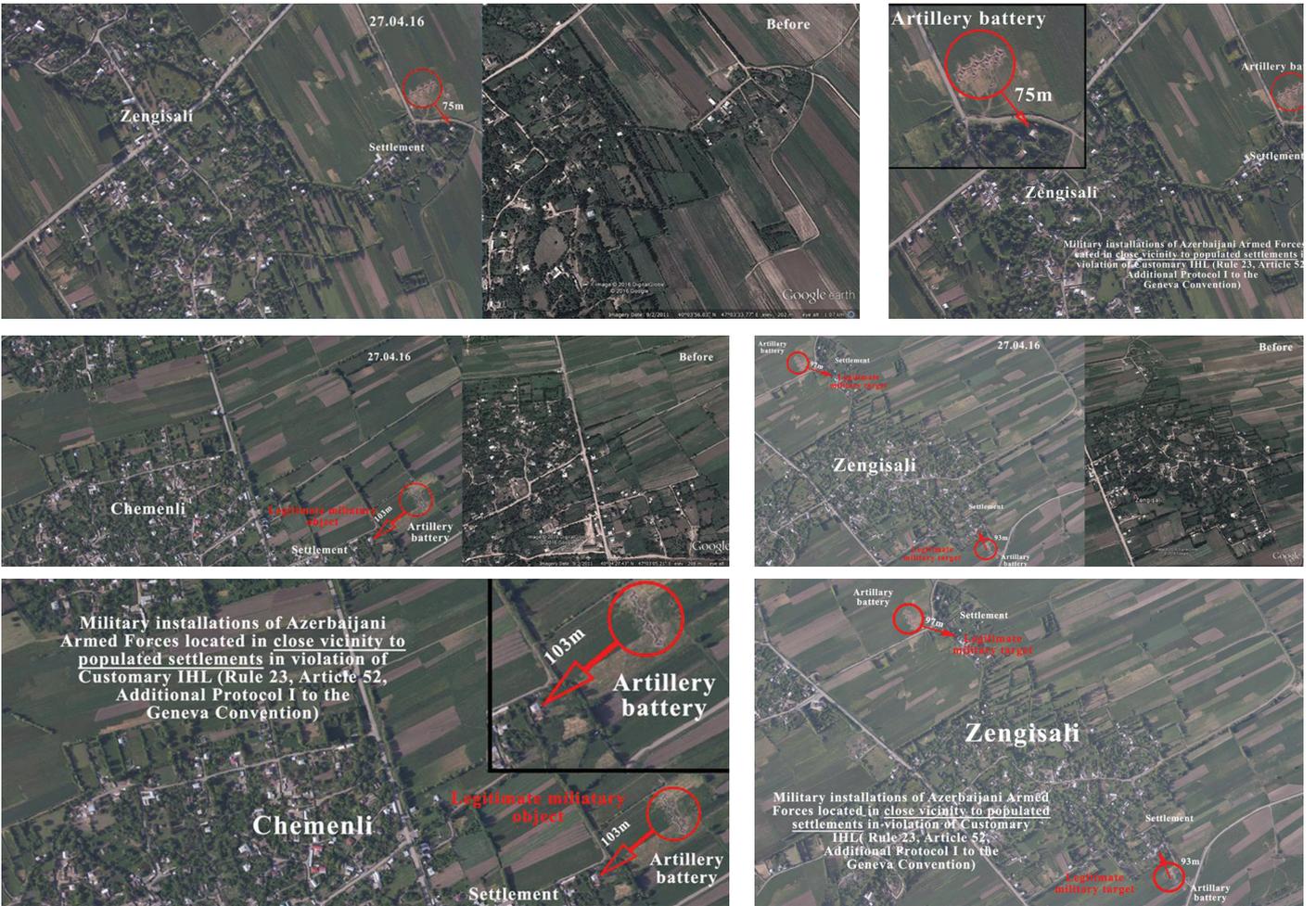
The Azerbaijani army is violating international humanitarian law by using own civilians as a human shield.

The NKR Defense Army has pointed out all military objects, which are con-

sidered legitimate targets, according to the principles of international law (Protocol 1 Additional to the 1949 Geneva Convention on Protection of Victims of International Armed

Conflicts), the NKR Defense Ministry said in a statement.

Azerbaijan deploys its military objects in populated areas in violation of Article 58 of the same Protocol.



Yerevan bus blast 'not terrorist attack'

A powerful explosion on a commuter bus in Yerevan that left two passengers dead was not a terrorist attack, Armenian law-enforcement authorities said on April 26.

The Office of the Prosecutor-General said Armenia's National Security Service (NSS) has ruled out such a possibility as a result of a criminal investigation launched immediately after the blast ripped through the bus on Monday evening.

Investigators reportedly suspect that an explosive device may have been accidentally set off by a man who had a grudge against his relatives and planned a bomb attack on them.

In a statement, the Investigative Committee, another Armenian law-enforcement body, said they found at the scene of the blast the SIM card of a mobile phone belonging to that man before searching his apartment and finding explosives, detonators and "various types of electronic devices" there. They also found traces of the same explosive substance in the destroyed bus, it said.

The investigators did not identify the man, saying only that he is an Armenian citizen with a prior criminal record. Nor did they say whether he is one of the two victims of the blast, who has not yet been identified.

"The corpse is unrecognizable and DNA tests have been ordered on the basis of samples taken from it," read the Investigative Committee statement.

Shortly after the blast, which also wounded seven other passengers, President Serzh Sarkisian ordered the Armenian police to tighten security in the capital.



Sen. Mark Kirk: US should hold Azerbaijan accountable

The time has come for Azerbaijan to face consequences from the United States and the international community for its blatant military aggression against the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR).

After years of saber rattling, Azerbaijan's four-day assault on the NKR earlier this month is its most egregious attack since it signed a cease-fire agreement with Armenia and the NKR in 1994. These recent military actions indicate the clear need for new measures to modify a cease-fire framework that is not working.

With no system to referee the cease-fire, Azerbaijan has become increasingly belligerent while facing no consequences for its violations. This must change.

I strongly support a congressional response, spearheaded by Chairman Ed Royce (R-Calif.) and ranking member Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.) of the House Foreign Affairs Committee that offers three pro-peace measures to bring needed oversight to a cease-fire that has been precariously self-regulated by Armenian and Azerbaijani forces for more than two decades.

First, all sides should agree not to deploy snipers along the Nagorno-Karabakh line of contact. Second, advanced gunfire locator systems and sound ranging equipment, monitored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), should be installed along the line of contact to verify the source of any attacks. And third,

additional OSCE observers should be deployed along the line of contact to more effectively monitor cease-fire violations. There are only six OSCE observers monitoring the conflict zone - woefully insufficient given the number of cease-fire violations each day.

More than 80 members of the House of Representatives have signed the bipartisan Royce-Engel proposals, which have also been supported by the U.S. State Department and the co-chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group.

In order for a lasting peace to be established, there must be goodwill and trust on both sides. But, while both Armenia and the NKR have affirmed their support for these peace-building measures, Azerbaijan has not. In truth, the lack of oversight on the current cease-fire framework provides useful cover for Azerbaijan's belligerence.

U.S. leadership is needed now to stop the bloody pattern in which Azerbaijan attacks the NKR, the NKR responds, and then Azerbaijan blames the Armenians for violating the cease-fire. We should no longer accept Baku's flagrant duplicity.

I call upon the administration to raise the Royce-Engel proposals to the highest levels of the Azerbaijani government. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has faced a chorus of international criticism for human rights abuses, such as the wrongful imprisonment of Radio Free Europe journalist Khadija

Ismayilova and some 20 others who have been prosecuted on politically motivated charges, according to Human Rights Watch.

Just as the international community has come together to hold the Baku government responsible for its transgressions against civil society in Azerbaijan, so too should we call it to account for its treatment of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The OSCE's Minsk Process, which started in 1995 to bring the parties of the conflict to a peaceful and comprehensive settlement, is hanging on by a thread. If diplomacy is to endure, there must be a verifiable cease-fire in place.

The onus is on Azerbaijan to demonstrate to the U.S. and the international community that it truly wants to be a partner in peace with Armenia and the NKR. Baku must fully commit to the Royce-Engel proposals.

The choice for President Aliyev is clear: Either he subscribes to diplomatic negotiations with the Armenians under peaceful circumstances or continues with a belligerent and futile policy of attrition.

If he chooses the latter, he should know that every act of Azerbaijani aggression will only further validate the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's argument that it go the way of Kosovo. As a veteran of the Kosovo War, I truly hope Azerbaijan realizes that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict should only be resolved through peaceful means.

Erdogan again threatening Turkey's Armenians

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has spoken harshly against the remarks of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan who used accusatory words against Turkey and declared that Armenia is ready for a war with Azerbaijan amid ongoing conflict over Nagorno Karabakh, Yenisafak reports.

"Armenia is playing with fire. More

than 100,000 Armenians are living in Turkey, some of whom do not have residence permits. The situation has been tolerated by Turkey. Along with this, we also returned foundation goods of Armenian-origin Turkish citizens. These actions show how friendly Turkey has been acting. However, Armenia cannot see this," said Erdogan during his flight from the

Azerbaijani capital, Baku, to Zagreb, the capital of Croatia.

In April last year Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened to deport the roughly 100,000 citizens of the Republic of Armenia who live and work in Turkey, as a response to the European Parliament's recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Turkish leadership's mentality unchanged 101 years after Armenian Genocide: Shavarsh Kocharyan

"Erdogan's statement is a confession of the fact that the mentality of the Turkish leadership has not changed even after 101 years after the Armenian Genocide," Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan said.

The comments come after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said "Armenia is playing with fire" and reminded about "more than 100,000 Armenians liv-

ing in Turkey."

"The Turkish President is trying to threaten Armenia, linking the dependence of the Armenians of Turkey on the country's authorities to his denialist statement released on April 24 this year," Kocharyan said in comments to Tert.am.

"According to Erdogan, Azerbaijan is different from neighboring countries and Ukraine. The only thing I have to add is that

with its xenophobia, its mania of spreading a wave of instability and bloodshed, with its genocidal approaches, Azerbaijan is like and even identical with one country - Turkey," the Deputy Foreign Minister said.

"Such convulsive statements coming from both Ankara and Baku are the expression of their horror of finding themselves intentionally isolated as a result of their racist policy," Shavarsh Kocharyan concluded.

If the war resumes we will not only repel them but advance ourselves: Karabakh DM tells the Washington Post

By David Ignatius
The Washington Post
Stepanakert, Nagorno Karabakh

The military commander of this break-away Armenian republic predicted in an interview here Monday that a fragile cease-fire could collapse within days. By that night, Azerbaijani shelling had killed two Armenian soldiers in a northern border town, amid accusations by each side that the other had violated the truce.

The "frozen conflict" here, stalemated for 22 years, exploded on April 2, when Azerbaijani forces attacked across the 200-kilometer front line. The Azerbaijanis seized ground for the first time since the previous war ended in 1994. Russia negotiated a quick truce that began April 5, but as Monday's fighting showed, another all-out conflict seems perilously close.

Karabakh is one of the world's least-discussed and most intractable quarrels. The mostly Armenian population violently seceded from Azerbaijan in a two-year war. Since then, Russia, France and the United States have sponsored a mediation effort, but it has been fruitless: Azerbaijan demands that land once inside its borders be returned; the Armenians insist they aren't leaving. Rather than softening over time, anger seems to be hardening on both sides.

Russia is opportunistically in the middle. Moscow says it wants to broker a lasting peace deal, but it has also been arming both sides. The United States also

hopes to prevent a wider conflict but has little diplomatic leverage. The Azerbaijanis, judging by their strident social media, feel emboldened by their recent offensive; the Armenians feel isolated and increasingly reconciled to what one former peace activist here described to me as a state of "permanent war."

Lt. Gen. Levon Mnatsakanyan, the defense minister of this self-declared republic, said his forces hadn't expected the broad attack on April 2. But he said there had been warning signs: Since August, 21 Armenian soldiers had been killed and 113 wounded in attacks along the so-called "line of control." And Azerbaijan had been restocking its arsenal with new Russian tanks, Israeli drones and Turkish missiles. The Armenian side, reassured by a supposed "strategic alliance" with Russia, didn't expect a big Azerbaijani offensive.

"Tactically, maybe they have registered some successes," Mnatsakanyan conceded. "But I would say that considering all the force they used, it's rather a defeat for them." He claims the Azerbaijanis had lost 24 tanks in the four-day battle in early April. The two sides have radically different casualty counts, and it's impossible to independently verify the numbers. But Azerbaijani commentary has treated the campaign as a major victory after the smoldering defeat of the 1992-1994 war.

Mnatsakanyan insisted that Armenian troops could defend Karabakh without Russian help: "The result of the four-day

war shows that the equipment we have and our combat readiness is okay for stopping any adversaries." If the war resumes, he says, "we will not only repel them but advance ourselves."

Talking to Armenian residents of Karabakh, I came away with a sense of growing militancy here, as in Azerbaijan.

Garen Ohanjanyan, the former peace activist, says this latest war has changed his view about the possibility for reconciliation. After the last war ended, he helped foster dialogue with Azerbaijanis. Now, he says, he has given up on peace and wants Armenian forces to destroy Azerbaijani economic targets. In the past month, he explains, "our nation lost its illusions."

"Maybe my generation became too relaxed in these past years," says Ashot Sarkissyan, a 27-year-old who works with a local nongovernmental organization and also serves in an anti-aircraft defense unit. "Why didn't we use this time to become strong enough to deter them from a war?"

Anahit Danielyan, who heads the Stepanakert Press Club, says she used to try to stay in touch online with Azerbaijani journalists. Now, she says, "I'm starting to feel this hatred from my colleagues in Azerbaijan. . . . This new war has somehow changed our perceptions of each other."

On the road to the airport, a visitor can see the national monument, a huge stone statue of an old man and woman - heads only, the bodies seemingly buried in the hillside. The official name is "We Are Our Mountains." The implicit message is: We aren't moving. What seems ahead is a long, unyielding conflict.

I visited Karabakh with several other foreign journalists and a member of the European Parliament on a trip organized by the Armenian government. The 90-minute helicopter flight took us over stunning mountainous terrain to this lush, isolated enclave whose name means "black garden." During my brief visit, the place seemed a bit like Switzerland in the Caucasus - not just the mountains but also the tidy streets, hillside farms and fiercely independent people.



Armenia should Use Intellectual Potential of Diaspora as a Vehicle for Development: Ilona Ter-Minasyan

It is nearly 26 years since Armenia became a member state to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners and operated in Armenia since 1993. IOM played an important role in the reforms of migration management in Armenia through extensive capacity building, research, technical assistance, public awareness activities as well as through direct assistance to various categories of migrants. IOM signed a number of official documents with the Armenian Government, including "Cooperation Agreement on Privileges and Immunities" (1994) and "Memorandum of Understanding" (2001). For getting more information about migration in Armenia, counter trafficking response and other related issues we have spoken with the Head of International Organization for Migration Ilona Ter-Minasyan.



Has the number of migrants increased over these years in Armenia due to the geopolitical and economic problems? What statistics can you present?

Usually journalists would like to know if we have high emigration flows from Armenia. Based on the House Hold Survey IOM has done in cooperation with the Armenian Statistical Agency and other government counterparts in 2013 we can state that in average of up to 35,000 people have been emigrating annually from Armenia in the period 2007 to 2013 and the main reasons for emigration are socio-economic, such as lack of income, search for the better opportunities, search for the job or better income. More than 80 per cent of the emigrants were men which denote high level of masculinization of migration in the country.

Which countries do Armenians emigrate and for what reasons? Where do they work?

The main destination country for Armenians is Russian Federation (RF). Nearly 90 % of those who departed were going to Russian Federation. Since 2013 the dynamics slightly changed (mainly due to membership in Eurasian Economic Union) but still I think RF remains the main destination country.

Armenians travel to RF mainly for work and they work in various sectors: construction, trade and repair, industry, education, agriculture and other services.

Is there any trafficking in Armenia? What kinds of measures are taken for eliminating it?

Official statistics of trafficking cases is available: 17 cases in 2013, 10 new cases in 2014 and 2015 around 8 new cases were identified. Migration in Armenia is closely associated with labor emigration, so it is very important to strengthen the efforts to

investigate, prosecute and prevent case of labor trafficking. To this end, IOM is supporting government of Armenia, State Employment Agency is developing the system of information provision to the labor migrants, which will reduce their vulnerability to labor exploitation and trafficking.

In past several years, our organization has done a lot to enhance the education on trafficking matters at schools and include the information on this crime into school curricula, develop deductive materials, teaching methods and of course, train teachers.

From which countries people emigrate to Armenia?

As the conflict in Syria started, ethnic Armenians started to arrive to Armenia looking for safe heaven. According to the Ministry of Diaspora nearly 20000 Syrians of Armenian origin come to Armenia and around 17000 stayed.



Does Armenian Republic properly accept refugees and provide them minimum conditions for living?

I think Armenia offered the best possible support to Syrian Armenians. However, we are aware of current socio-economic situation in Armenia, high unemployment rate and limited assistance available to the vulnerable groups. These difficult circumstances have double and triple effect on Syrians. For example, many Syrian families lack shelter - they have to rent an apartment - so limited income they earn 100-120 thousand drams - has to cover rent in addition to utilities, groceries and other basic costs. Most of the Syrians are concentrated in Yerevan where more opportunities could be identified, but again, such opportunities seem to be limited to service sector. Doing business in Armenia is complicated for Syrians, who are used to big market for their services.

Do the brain drain and the emigration of skilled human resources damage Armenian labor market?

In current emigration flows highly educated emigrants represent a very small share - 0.6%. Therefore, it is hard to talk about huge brain drain, however, it is important not to forget that devastating brain drain took place in early 1990s when Soviet Union fall apart and many highly educated people lost their jobs, opportunities, carriers. At that time the country lost significant intellectual and scientific potential, a lot of educated people left the country.

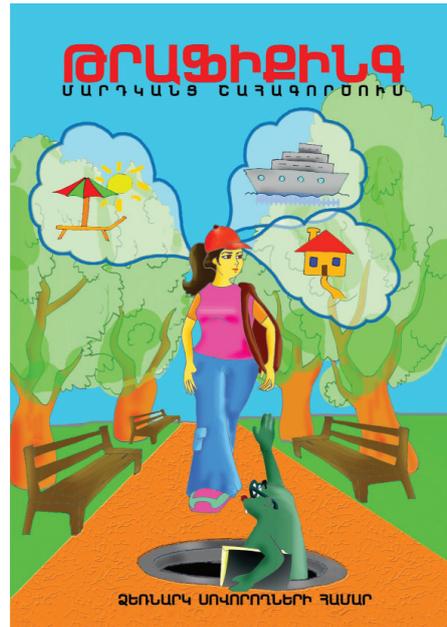
To address the issue of lost intellectual potential in Armenia IOM has launched a program, which is called "Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals". This is a program which targets highly qualified professionals in the Armenian diaspora, those who are willing to come and share their skills and knowledge with institu-

tions, organizations and businesses in Armenia. Some professionals may stay in Armenia couple of week, some can stay up to six month, a lot depends on their availability and targets set in the assignment.

How long do you've beencaring out this program?

We have been implementing this project nearly three years. During these years more than 30 diaspora professionals came to work in Armenia. Some of them (around 10 persons) - university professors from France, Germany and other European countries, were working in the field of higher education. These prominent professors returned to Armenia to teach and share their knowledge and skills with Armenian students and young colleagues. Other diaspora professionals worked in the healthcare sector, arts and culture and many other. For many host institutions tangible results were achieved as a result

of such cooperation. And I must say, that a lot depends on the host institutions, on



their willingness, preparedness and openness to host the diaspora professional. Overwhelming majority of the institutions we've worked with were extremely receptive of the assistance from the diaspora and IOM and spend a lot of efforts to maintain the connection to the diaspora professionals beyond the project frames.

I believe that the positive experience and good practices generated by this project laid some grounds for systematic engagement of the diaspora into development processes in Armenia, which is largely absent at the moment and intellectual potential of the diaspora is underutilized. In our future activities we hope to assist in strengthening the role of diaspora in Armenia's development through effective utilization of its intellectual potential, knowledge and skills necessary for the country's economic and social modernization.

The deterioration of Russian-Turkish relations was an important turning point for both Armenia and Iran. Levon Aharonyan

On April 23 and 24 the Armenian community of Iran is going to carry out a march and a flower putting ceremony.

The annual trade turnover between Armenia and Iran amounted to \$ 400 million, however, this number can be increased if the cooperation between the two countries become closer in the fields of jewelry, pharmaceuticals, construction, architecture, technology etc. On April 23, President of the Armenian-Iranian chamber of commerce Levon Aharonian told reporters about this, commenting on the prospects of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

According to him, Armenia can become a link between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) market as an EEC member state Armenia has a privilege that could benefit Iran. L. Aharonian said, he had made a proposal in the previous year, according to which products processed in Iran in semi-finished form should be sent to Armenia, packaged and processed here and after it under the name of "Made in Armenia" be exported to the Russian and European markets.

"This proposal was accepted by Armenian corresponding bodies, but there is a problem. That is in the case of such cooperation it is not clear how much money the Armenian and Iranian sides will get from the sell of that products", - said L. Aharonian, pointing out that only problem of establishing mutually beneficial cooperation between Armenia and Iran remains non - functioning banking system.

In the opinion of President of the Armenian-Iranian chamber of commerce, the deterioration of Russian-Turkish relations was an important turning point for both Armenia and Iran, in the sense of Russia's stopping to import fruits and vegetables from Turkey, which in its turn helped to turn RF to Iran and import fruits and vegetables from there.



L. Aharonian believes that Armenia-Iran bilateral relations can be further strengthened in the field of tourism and culture, as Iran's spiritual country, and has great love and respect for Christian Armenia.

According to him, especially on New Year's Eve the flow of the Persians is activated. "I have personally spoken with many people, all of them told that they do not feel alienated, while in other countries, particularly Georgia Iranians feel foreign."

Referring to the measures taken by the Armenian community in Iran within the Armenian Genocide anniversary 101 L. Aharonian said that every year, two months before April 24, it is being set up a committee, which regulates and organizes events commemorating genocide martyrs.

According to him in Iran the ceremony of flower putting will be held tonight at the Armenian Genocide Memorial, and the entire Armenian community on April 24 to will conduct a march.

Marguerite Barankitse of Burundi named Laureate of inaugural Aurora Prize

Marguerite Barankitse from Maison Shalom and REMA Hospital in Burundi was named as the inaugural Laureate of the \$1 million Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity. At a ceremony held in Yerevan, Armenia, Barankitse was recognized for the extraordinary impact she has had in saving thousands of lives and caring for orphans and refugees during the years of civil war in Burundi.

As she accepted the award from Aurora Prize Selection Committee Co-Chair George Clooney, Barankitse said: "Our values are human values. When you have compassion, dignity and love then nothing can scare you, nothing can stop you - no one can stop love. Not armies, not hate, not persecution, not famine, nothing."

As the first Aurora Prize Laureate, Barankitse will receive a \$100,000 grant and continue the cycle of giving by donating the accompanying \$1,000,000 award to organizations that have inspired her work. Barankitse plans to donate the award to three organizations in order to advance aid and rehabilitation for child refugees and orphans, and fight against child poverty. These organizations are: the Fondation du Grand-Duc et de La Grande-Duchesse du Luxembourg, Fondation Jean-François Peterbroeck (JFP Foundation), and the Fondation Bridderlech Deelen Luxembourg.

Barankitse emphasized: "I chose them because these people supported me and never abandoned me, even in difficult times. They have the same values as me and as the Maison Shalom - compassion, friendliness, dignity, and a generosity which costs nothing."

"Marguerite Barankitse serves as a reminder of the impact that one person can have even when encountering seemingly insurmountable persecution and injustice,"



said Mr. Clooney. "By recognizing Marguerite Barankitse's courage, commitment and sacrifice, I am hopeful that she can also inspire each one of us to think about what we can do to stand up on behalf of those whose rights are abused and are in most need of our solidarity or support."

Marguerite Barankitse saved thousands of lives and cared for orphans and refugees during the years of civil war in Burundi. When war broke out, Barankitse, a Tutsi, tried to hide 72 of her closest Hutu neighbors to keep them safe from persecution. They were discovered and executed, whilst Barankitse was forced to watch. Following this gruesome incident, she started her work saving and caring for children and refugees. She has saved roughly 30,000 children and in 2008, she opened a hospital which has treated more than 80,000 patients to date.

Guests also celebrated the exceptional contributions of the other three finalists for the Aurora Prize: Dr. Tom Catena, from Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan; Syeda Ghulam Fatima, the General Secretary of the Bonded Labour Liberation Front in Pakistan; and Father Bernard Kinvi, a Catholic Priest in Bossemptele, Central African Republic (CAR). To mark the occasion of the inaugural Aurora Prize Ceremony, these exceptional humanitarians will be presented with a \$25,000 award from the Aurora Prize co-founders to support the organizations that have inspired their work.

Leading humanitarian figures and Aurora Prize Selection Committee members, including Gareth Evans, Hina Jilani, Leymah Gbowee, Shirin Ebadi and Vartan

Gregorian, attended and participated in the Aurora Prize Award Ceremony.

"During the selection process for the Aurora Prize, we came across truly remarkable stories of the human spirit, and an extraordinary number of inspiring individuals who are out there making a significant difference," said Vartan Gregorian, member of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee and co-founder of 100 LIVES. "We are proud to be able to recognize Marguerite Barankitse and support the impactful work she is doing in a concrete way. She proves the tremendous impact one person can have on so many."

On behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors, an Aurora Prize Laureate will be honored each year with a US\$100,000 grant as well as the unique opportunity to continue the cycle of giving by nominating organizations that inspired their work for a US\$1,000,000 award. Recipients will be recognized for the exceptional impact their actions have made on preserving human life and advancing humanitarian causes.

The Aurora Prize Selection Committee includes Nobel Laureates Elie Wiesel, Oscar Arias, Shirin Ebadi and Leymah Gbowee; former President of Ireland Mary Robinson; human rights activist Hina Jilani; former Australian Foreign Minister and President Emeritus of the International Crisis Group Gareth Evans; President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York Vartan Gregorian; and Academy Award-winning actor and humanitarian George Clooney.

The Aurora Prize will be awarded annually on April 24 in Yerevan, Armenia.

George Clooney: Who today remembers the Armenians? The whole world

"Years before anyone uttered the word genocide, there was Armenia. Although the actual world was yet to be introduced, we were well aware of its characteristics," Co-Chair of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee, Oscar-winning actor George Clooney said at the Aurora Award ceremony.

"Cruelty has always been at the core, not self-defense, not simply war, but a deliberate destruction of an entire people. It happened to Armenians starting 101 years ago, and we've seen it repeat all over the world since - Germany, Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda," he added.

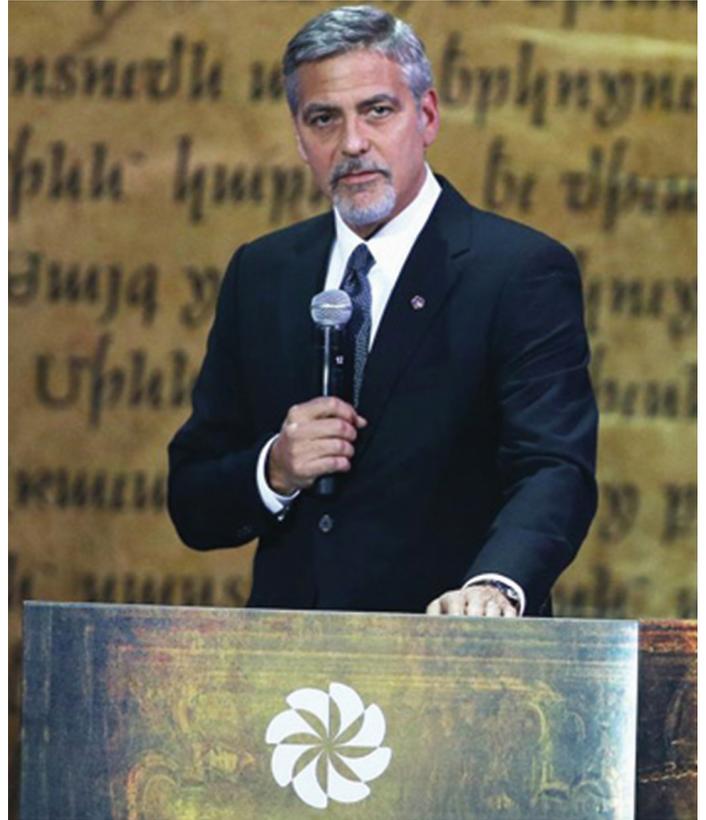
"I've first seen it in the broken families, the broken hearts of the people of Darfur. I've seen what mankind is capable of at its worst. But I've also seen something else, something much stronger than hate. I've seen bravely, kindness and incredible acts of love. Today we celebrate the best examples of that. The simple truth is that all of us are a result of someone's act of kindness," Mr. Clooney said.

"Hitler once famously said 'But who today remembers the Armenians? The answer is 'The whole world.'"

George Clooney

"My family, the Clooney family fled a potato farm in Ireland to come to the United States, where the simple survival required a room, a meal and a helping hand. We all stand on the shoulders of good people, who didn't look away, when we were in need. We've always been given this gift called humanity at some point in history," he added.

"Today's award celebrates heroism and bravery. Our nominees did not graduate from some hero school. They are everyday people, who saw a need and did something about it, something extraordinary. We honor them today and in doing so we honor 1.5 lives that were lost 101 year ago. We honor those lives by calling that tragedy by its true name - genocide, the Armenian Genocide," George Clooney stressed.



"Hitler once famously said 'But who remembers the Armenians? The answer is 'The whole world.'"

George Clooney presented a \$1.1 million award on the 101st anniversary of the Armenians Genocide to a Burundi woman who offered sanctuary to thousands of orphans in the middle of a civil war there.

HDP Co-Chair: We apologize to Armenian people

Agos

HDP Co-Chair Figen Yüksekdağ, during the group meeting of HDP, apologized for the Armenian Genocide. Yüksekdağ said, "On 101st anniversary of the genocide, we apologize to Armenian people. We apologize to Aunt Elizabeth, to Uncle Krikor. We apologize to our friend, comrade Garo and to our sister Roza."

HDP Co-Chair Figen Yüksekdağ, during the group meeting of HDP, talked about the Armenian Genocide. Yüksekdağ said, "On 101st anniversary of the genocide, we apologize to Armenian people. We apologize to Aunt Elizabeth, to Uncle Krikor. We apologize to our friends, comrade Garo and to our sister Roza."

Yüksekdağ started the meeting by saying, "I would like to begin by commemorating Armenian, Syriac and Chaldean people who were exiled and killed 101 years ago." Then she added: "The mentality that led to the genocide avoids recognition today. However, recognition doesn't demean a state, it only relieves pain. These lands will eventually spill out the bloodshed, regardless of your wishes. Our history is a history of massacres. Recognizing the massacres is a both actual and historical responsibility."

"The ones who withhold their apologies have still the same



mentality. They still use "Armenian" as an insult. This means that genocidal mentality is still alive. We apologize to Armenian people. We apologize to Aunt Elizabeth, to Uncle Krikor. We apologize to our friends, comrade Garo and to our sister Roza. As I said, the mentality that led to death and destruction in the past is still active today."

Flowers laid at the Genocide Memorial on April 24 will get a second life

On April 27 the traditional Flower Gathering event took place in the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial Complex on the initiative of the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets. Since 2010 the Flower Gathering has been supported by the FPWC's General Partner VivaCell-MTS.

The initiative combines the idea of giving these flowers a new lease of life and the environmental mission that promotes recycling. The flowers laid at the Genocide Memorial on April 24 are gathered and their stems are removed from the petals. The petals are used to derive compost, and the stems - to make handmade recycled paper. The compost is used for the treatment of the soil in the Genocide Memorial Park, while the handmade recycled paper is used to make certificates or post-cards.

"During the last few years this initiative has become the natural continuation of April 24. The idea of the Flower Gathering has been so consonant with people's expectations, that it became everyone's, getting an especially wide response among youth. Flower Gathering is now an integral of the impel that drove tens of thousands to the memorial every year," FPWC Founder Ruben Khachatryan noted.

"This event symbolizes positive changes, optimism, and revival: flowers brought here a few days ago with a mourning heart will be turned into beautiful handmade cards on which words of gratitude will be written; the other part of the recycled flowers will become compost to cultivate the soil where new trees will grow. It is important to remember the past, but it is just as important to look forward and create new values, become even stronger and have a more conscious attitude towards ourselves and the environment," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

The event was attended by hundreds of representatives of non-governmental and international organizations, private and public sector representatives, schoolchildren and students, ambassadors and officials.

VivaCell-MTS cooperates with "Transparency International Anticorruption Center" NGO

The meeting of the Executive Director of "Transparency International Anticorruption Center" NGO Varuzhan Hochtanyan and TIAC member, expert Khachik Harutyunyan with VivaCell-MTS General Manager and employees took place in the Company headquarters. The topic of

VivaCell-MTS News

the meeting was "The role of citizens in fighting corruption".

"Having anti-corruption control mechanisms put in place within the Company, as part of its internal procedures, policies and practices, is similar to following healthy lifestyle patterns. Like a big living organism, the Company should take care of certain rules of behavior precluding dangerous habits, minimizing health risks and pass frequent check-ups to ensure early detection and prevention of diseases, especially if the disease is as dangerous, transformative and transmittable as the corruption is. Like in the case of health, it's much more effective to have the disease prevented timely rather than to start handling it when it emerges,"



said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

The institutional structure of the anticorruption projects and the current problems in the sphere were presented at the meeting. It was followed by an active discussion between the speakers and the employees of the company. Theoretical ways and practical examples of the strategic role of private sector's participation in the fight against corruption were presented.

The perception of the world of children with autism presented through the medium of art

World Autism Awareness Day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly eight years ago to draw attention to the urgent needs of people with autism around the world. For thousands of people all over the world, who have autism, awareness makes a lifetime of difference.

In the frames of World Autism Awareness Month, VivaCell-MTS and "International Child Development Center" have organized an exhibition in the lobby of VivaCell-MTS headquarters featuring 28 paintings by children with autism presenting their perception of the world.

Since September 2006, children with autism have benefited from a variety of services provided at the International Child

Development Center. Unfortunately, during these 10 years the number of children having problems with development, learning and socialization has increased.

The cooperation of the International Child Development Center with VivaCell-MTS started in 2007. Attaching great importance to the communication problem of children with autism, the Company became the main supporter of children attending the center.

During 2007-2016 VivaCell-MTS has allocated AMD 151 million to the International Child Development Center that provides individual, intensive educational treatment to children with autism based on principles of Applied Behavioral Analysis. Thirty-seven children per year participate in the program owing to VivaCell-MTS support.

Progress and positive changes are observed in terms of both social skills and relationships with peers. The trust towards the Center and the comfort level of the children has also increased. The treatment has resulted in improved learning skills and higher transition rates to inclusive schools.

"There are no insoluble problems. To reach the desired result, one simply needs to have complete information on the matter and be persistent in taking action. These children communicate with the world in their own language. The paintings presented on the exhibition are their means of expressing

themselves and their perception of the world. The specialists of the center have reached considerable progress in the treatment of these children: they have improved behavior and mental skills, learn to integrate into the society, and are willing to make friends. Some of the children have already started attending secondary schools. This is an important achievement for us. With this project we want to reject indifference translating the message that communication lies at the heart of everything," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

"We consider our staff, children attending the center, parents and the community as partners in fulfilling the challenges of our mission. We provide a favorable atmosphere for learning and growth with the deep understanding that all children are individuals and must be approached with kind and respectful appreciation for their individuality," said Founder of ICDC Ira Paul Heilveil.

Autism is a global health crisis that knows no borders: it does not discriminate people because of their nationality, ethnicity or social status. It is high time that the world begins to recognize the scope of this problem and acts internationally and locally to improve the lifestyle of the growing number of individuals and families affected by this devastating disorder.

Now autism is recognized as one of the most common developmental disorders affecting children.

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?**Enjoy your leisure****2 May**

19:00. Little Singers of Armenia: Salute to the Soldier. "Little Singers of Armenia" choir Artistic Director and Principal Conductor: Tigran Hekekyan.// Chamber Music House after Komitas.

19:00. Norma. Conductor: Gianluca Marciano /Italy/, Director, scenographer and lighting designer: Boris Hayrapetyan (Russia), Costume designer: Nina Hovnanian, Chief choir master: Radik Melikyan, Choir master: Zoya Karapetyan, Artistic Director of the Theater: People's Artist of Armenia and Lithuania, Gegham Grigoryan.// National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian.

19:00. Plus-Minus. Screenplay by: Sargis Kalpakyan, Narek Avagyan, Ashot Abrahamyan, Staged by: Mkrtich Shekhyan, Director: Karo Balyan, Producers: Arman Mitoyan, Mkrtich Arzumanyan, Hovhannes Azoyan.// State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

3 May

19:00. Plus-Minus. Screenplay by: Sargis Kalpakyan, Narek Avagyan, Ashot Abrahamyan, Staged by: Mkrtich Shekhyan, Director: Karo Balyan, Producers: Arman Mitoyan, Mkrtich Arzumanyan, Hovhannes Azoyan.// State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

19:30. Festive Concert: I Love You. Participants: Andre, Mher, Sofi Mkheyan, Arsen Safaryan, Erik Makaryan.// Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall.

4 May

19:00. Plus-Minus. Screenplay by: Sargis Kalpakyan, Narek Avagyan, Ashot Abrahamyan, Staged by: Mkrtich Shekhyan, Director: Karo Balyan, Producers: Arman Mitoyan, Mkrtich Arzumanyan, Hovhannes Azoyan.// State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

19:00. Aleko & Dream. S. Rachmaninoff, Opera in 1 act, Conductor: Harutyun Arzumanyan, Staged by Irkin Gabitov, Artist: Olga Shashmelashvili-Okuneva, Choreography: Hovhannes Khachikyan, Conductor: Zoya Karapetyan, Cast: Aleko: Gevorg Hakobyan /Honoured artist of Armenia/, Zempfira: Magda Mkrtchyan / Honoured artist of Armenia/, Young gypsy man: Tigran Ohanyan, Old gypsy man: Hayk Tigranyan, Old gypsy woman: Lilit Hakobyan.// National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian.

19:00. The Witch. N. Gogol. For adults.// State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

5 May

19:00. Flowers of Evil. Mimodrama in 1 act, Director: Zhirayr Dadasyan, According to Charles Baudelaire's poetry collection "Flowers of Evil".// Yerevan State Pantomime Theater.

19:00. Love Rectangle. Comedy in 1 act, Karine Khodikyan.// State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

19:00. Tagharan Ensemble of Ancient Music. Artistic Director and Principal Conductor: Sedrak Yerkanyan, Program: W. A. Mozart, Puccini, Rossini, G. Gershwin, Kh. Avetisyan, Soloists: Anna Poghosyan, soprano, Sar Sargsyan, baritone, Hayk Tonguryan, tenor, Julieta Khachatryan, piano, Saryan Quartet.// Chamber Music House after Komitas.

16:00. I'm Here. Performance in Russian, for adults. Author: T. Dorst, Director: Tatevik Melkonyan, Animation: Lusine Khandilyan, Cast: Aram Karakhanyan, Samvel Tadevosyan.// State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

6 May

19:00. Albania+. Pessimistic comedy, Auth. and dir. of the play: Ara Yernjakyan.// Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

19:00. Hovnan.// State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

17:00. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Mark Twain, Stage Director: Hranush Chichakyan.// State Marionette Theater.

19:00. An Evening of Folk Songs. Participants: Edgar Avetisyan, Grigor Mirzoyan, Harutyun Muradyan, Eva Yeganyan, Monika Nazaryan. Accompanied by the State Orchestra of Armenia Folk Instruments. Artistic Director: Norayr Davtyan.// Press House Yerevan Concert Hall.

19:00. Concert dedicated to the Armenian-Japanese collaboration. Soloist: Karen Hakobyan, piano (USA), Conductor: Hisayoshi Inoue (Japan).// Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall

19:00. Paris Verdict. P. Zeytuntsyan, Drama in 2 acts.// Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan.

19:00. Better Late Than Never. Authors: Artemi Ayvazyan, Staged by Yervand Ghazanchyan, Operetta in 2 acts.// State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

19:00. The Left Breast of Aphrodite.// Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

19:00. Sexual Chaos in the Hotel. Author: Ray Cooney, Director: Honored Artist of RA, David Hakobyan, Designer: Mary Areyan, Musical arrangement: A. Margaryan.// State Musical Chamber Theater.

7 May

19:00. Paris Verdict. P. Zeytuntsyan, Drama in 2 acts.// Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan.

19:00. C'est la vie. Lead role: Narek Duryan. State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

19:00. The Owners of Our House. Comedy in 2 acts, Author: Zhirayr Ananyan, Stage Director: Yervand Ghazanchyan.// State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

12:30, 14:00, 15:30. The Dog and the Cat. Based on Hovhannes Tumanian's tale,

Staging: Anna Elbakyan.// State Marionette Theater.

13:00. Cinderella. Folk Tale retold by Charles Perrault and others.// Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

19:00. Don Quijote. Conductor: Atanes Arakelyan, Staging: People's Artist of Armenia, Vilen Galstyan, Stage Designer: Rubina Hovhannisyanyan, Chief Ballet Master of the Theater: People's Artist of Armenia, Vilen Galstyan, Artistic Director of the Theater: People's Artist of Armenia and Lithuania, G. Grigoryan.// National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian.

12:00. That Same Huri. Author: Maxim Gorky, Staging: Vladimir Bilkov.// State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

19:00. Love Confession. Playwright and Director? Ara Yernjakyan, Music Director? Vahe Grigoryan, Cast: Ani Grigoryan, Hasmik Danielyan, Rafael Yeranosyan, Senik Barseghyan, Vahe Ziroyan. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

12:00, 14:00. Tom & Jerry. Children's Musical Fun Show, Staging: Artur Saribekyan, Music by: Armen Margaryan.// State Musical Chamber Theater.

19:00. Khanuma. Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

8 May

12:00, 14:00. Beauty and the Beast. French folk tale, Children's Musical Fun Show, Director: Armen Margaryan.// State Musical Chamber Theater.

19:00. Love Confession. Playwright and Director? Ara Yernjakyan, Music Director? Vahe Grigoryan, Cast: Ani Grigoryan, Hasmik Danielyan, Rafael Yeranosyan, Senik Barseghyan, Vahe Ziroyan. Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

19:00. Eastern Dentist. Authors: Artemi Ayvazyan, Hakob. Paronyan Stage Director: Yervand Ghazanchyan, Operette in 2 acts.// State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

12:30, 14:00, 15:30. Little Red Riding Hood. Charles Perrault, Version and Staging: Armen Elbakyan.// State Marionette Theater.

19:00. The Last Clown. B. Slade, Comedy in 2 acts.// Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan.

19:00. We Won. W. Saroyan, Dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the Great Victory.// Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

12:00. The New Adventures of the Wolf and the Little Goats. Author: Petros Martirosyan, Staging: Tigran Zahalyan.// State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

16:00. Dum-Dum the Wise Man and the Ignorant. Author: V. Aygektsi, Staging: H. Haryan, Director: A. Hakobyan, Stage Design: Anzhela Galstyan, Music by: A. Vardanyan, Duration: 45 min.// State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

13:00. Masha and the 3 Bears. N. Grigoryan. Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

*Columnist Sarah Melkonyan
Responses are welcome:
hl@nt.am*

Kim Kardashian: We must talk about Armenian Genocide until it is recognized

In a post on her website KimKardashianWest.com, reality star Kim Kardashian hammers the Wall Street Journal over a full-page ad denying the Armenian Genocide:

Money talks, and right now it's talking shit.

My family and I are no strangers to BS in the press. We've learned to brush it off. Lies make good headlines, good headlines make great covers, great covers sell magazines. But when I heard about this full-page ad that ran in the Wall Street Journal denying the Armenian genocide, I couldn't just brush it off.

The ad was paid for by Turkic Platform. I won't list the group's website, as I don't want to give them the traffic, but basically they say that not as many people died as historians say, and that the Armenians were to blame.

For the Wall Street Journal to publish something like this is reckless, upsetting and dangerous. It's one thing when a shitty tabloid profits from a made-up scandal, but for a trusted publication like WSJ to profit from genocide-it's shameful and unacceptable. Why is it that every time we take one step forward, we take two steps back?

Gawker asked the Wall Street Journal why they would run an ad like this. Their response was: "We accept a wide range of advertisements, including those with provocative viewpoints. While we review ad copy for issues of taste, the varied and divergent views expressed belong to the advertisers."

Advocating the denial of a genocide by the country responsible for it—that's not publishing a "provocative viewpoint," that's spreading lies. It's totally morally irresponsible and, most of all, it's dangerous. If this had been an ad denying the Holocaust, or pushing some 9/11 conspiracy theory, would it have made it to print?

Many historians believe that if Turkey had been held responsible for the Armenian genocide, and reprimanded for what they did, the Holocaust may not have happened. In 1939, a week before the Nazi invasion of Poland, Hitler said, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" We do. We must. We must talk about it until it is recognized by our government because when we deny our past, we endanger our future. When we allow ourselves to be silenced by money, by fear and by power, we teach our children that truth is irrelevant. We have to be responsible for the message we pass on to our children. We have to honor the TRUTH in our history so that we protect their future. We have to do better than this.



The Noyan Tapan Noah's Ark
HIGHLIGHTS

The publisher: NT Holding LTD
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