

Heads of delegation in Armenia for CSTO Collective Security Council meeting



President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambaev, President of the Republic of

Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Bakijan Sagintaev, and Secretary General of the CSTO Nikolay Bordzyuzhahave arrived in in Yerevan to participate in the session of the CSTO Col-

lective Security Council. At the Presidential Palace they were greeted by the President of Armenia, Chairman of the CSTO Collective Security Council Serzh Sargsyan.

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CSTO Collective Security Council holds sitting in restricted format

On October 14, at the Presidential Palace started a session of the CSTO Collective Security Council in the restricted format with the participation of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambaev, President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Bakijan Sagintayev, and Secretary General of the CSTO Nikolay Bordzuyzha. The session is chaired by the President of Armenia which was presiding in the Council between the sessions of 2015-2016.

Welcoming the participants of the session and noting that today Armenia's presidency at the CSTO comes to an end, President Sargsyan underscored that Armenia attaches great importance to the success of the Yerevan summit.

"We have tried to do our best so that our mutual work is sapid and efficient, for the benefit of the cooperation of our countries in the Or-



ganization and for the development of the CSTO in general. It is expected that today we will discuss a wide range of issues related to the earlier adopted decisions. Discussed will be a number of documents, adoption of which will set the guidelines of our cooperation in the nearest future.

I am confident that traditions of a constructive mood and mutual assistance will be with us during this session too, which will allow to operatively endorse and adopt important decisions.

Once again, as the accepting side, I welcome you to Armenia. Welcome to Yerevan," said the President of Armenia during his welcoming remarks addressed to the participants of the session of the CSTO Collective Security Council.

The session in the restricted format will be followed by the session in the extended format with the participation of the official delegations of the CSTO member states.



Turkey should be kept away from Karabakh talks: Shavarsh Kocharyan

"Turkey has no place in and should be kept away from the Nagorno-Karabakh negotiation process," Armenia's Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan has said.

"The only positive impact Ankara could have on the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement is the opening of the border with Armenia and ceasing of encouraging Azerbaijan's provocative and destructive steps," Kocharyan said in comments to News.am.

The remarks come after some media reports quoting Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov as saying that "Turkey could play a positive role in the Karabakh conflict settlement.

"The statement on the settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh issue, adopted by the Presidents of the CSTO member-countries in Yerevan on October 14, expresses its support to the agreements reached in Vienna and St. Petersburg aimed at the prevention of escalation of situation in the conflict zone, stabilization of situation and creation of conditions for the advancement of peace process. The exclusively peaceful settlement should be based on the three well-known principles of International Law – non use of force or threat of force, the territorial integrity of states and the equal rights and self-determination of peoples," Shavarsh Kocharyan added.



"The position of the Russian Federation on the settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is expressed by the abovementioned statement, not through the distortion of Sergey Lavrov's words by the Foreign Ministry of Turkey as presented in the Azerbaijani media: a qualification, which previously was ascribed to the Azerbaijani side for its misrepresentation of the Nagorno-Karabakh negotiation process," the Deputy Foreign Minister stated.

CSTO statement supports peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict



The CSTO Collective Security Strategy was adopted at the CSTO Collective Security Council session in Yerevan on October 14. The Strategy outlines the priorities of the organization until 2025 and determines all main directions of cooperation.

“The CSTO member states reiterated their willingness to build relations with the international community on the basis of inseparability of loyalty and security, to avoid the use of force or the threat of force

and give preference to diplomatic methods, when solving emerging problems,” Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan told reporters, as he summed up the results of the Yerevan summit.

Upon the conclusion of the meeting, the participants adopted a statement, expressing the approaches on key issues on international agenda. The Heads of State reiterated the role of the Organization as an important tool contributing to the maintenance of peace and stability, ensuring the security and sovereignty of the member states.

“Within the framework of the CSTO the partners expressed support to the agreements on Nagorno Karabakh reached at the Vienna and St. Petersburg summits, which are targeted at preventing the rise of tension, stabilizing the situation and promoting the peace process,” President Sargsyan said.

“During the sitting the participants stressed the need to solve the Karabakh conflict exceptionally through peaceful means and expressed support to the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs based on the norms and principles of international law, the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, namely the non-use of force or the threat of force, the territorial integrity of states and the right of peoples to self-determination,” President Sargsyan said.

There is huge potential for development of Armenian-Russian relations: Karen Karapetyan



Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan attended on October 14 the opening of the Fifth Armenian-Russian Inter-Regional Forum and International Forum of Eurasian Partnership.

Greeting the participants, the Prime Minister said “the Fifth Armenian-Russian Inter-Regional Forum is a useful platform for the deepening of bilateral ties.”

“Despite the high level of the Armenian-Russian relations, there is still an unprecedented potential for their deepening, and the international integration processes taking place with the Eurasian framework can only contribute to this,” PM Karen Karapetyan said.

Referring to the International Forum of Eurasian Partnership, the Prime Minister wished productive work to the participants.

“There are many similarities and there is willingness to reinforce the existing close business ties,” he said.

A number of agreements on Armenian-Russian cooperation were signed within the framework of the forums.

The Fifth Armenian-Russian Inter-Regional Forum aims to reveal potential partners interested in the export of goods and products, making investments and implementing joint programs.

The International Forum of Eurasian Partnership held with the support of the Armenian Government and the Eurasian Economic Commission aims to contribute to the development of integration processes targeted at the expansion of bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation.



French Senate Passes Bill Criminalizing Armenian Genocide Denial



PARIS (Armenian Weekly)—The French Senate on October 14 approved a bill criminalizing denial of the Armenian Genocide. The bill was approved by a vote of 156 for and 146 against.

The Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian issued a statement welcoming the adoption of the bill. “With this step, France reaffirms its valuable role in the condemnation of past genocides and in the fight against their denial, as well as in the issue of preventing possible new crimes against humanity,” the statement reads.

In July, the National Assembly—the lower house of France’s legislature—passed a similarly-worded measure.

The two houses of France’s parliament passed a law criminalizing Armenian Genocide denial in December 2011 and January 2012. The move was initiated by French President Francois Hollande’s predecessor Nicolas Sarkozy. However, France’s constitutional court struck down the law claiming that it compromises freedom of speech.

The French National Assembly first recognized the Armenian Genocide in 2001. The first step towards recognition occurred in 1998. A private bill, inspired by the election pledge of Lionel Jospin, who was running for president in 1995, was put on the agenda of the National Assembly in 1997 by politicians Jean-Paul Bret, the president of the France-Armenia group, Didier Migaud, René Rouquet, and all members of the Socialist Party. The parliamentary majority was in favor of the law and the first debate took place on May 29, 1998, in front of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

After years of debate, the law passed on Jan. 18, 2001. The bill contained one article: “France publicly recognizes the 1915 Genocide of the Armenians.”

Armenian Military Opens New U.S.-Backed Facility

Armenia - Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan (L) and U.S. Ambassador Richard Mills visit the Armenian army’s new paramedic school in Yerevan, 17Oct2016.

Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan inaugurated a U.S.-sponsored paramedic school of the Armenian armed forces on Monday after praising Armenia’s growing military cooperation with the United States.

Sargsyan met with the U.S. ambassador in Yerevan, Richard Mills, two weeks after being appointed by President Serzh Sargsyan to run the Armenian Defense Ministry. A ministry statement said he “highly appraised” the current state of U.S.-Armenian defense ties an “expressed confidence that they will continue to develop successfully.”

The statement added that Sargsyan and Mills discussed those ties as well as “regional security.” It gave no details.

The two men as well as the chief of the Armenian army’s General Staff, Lieutenant General Movses Hakobyan, officially opened the paramedic school later in the day. In a speech at the opening ceremony cited by his press office, the U.S.-educated minister stressed the importance of the facility for providing first medical aid to soldiers wounded in action. He said school graduates will also be able to use their skills in civilian life.

U.S. military instructors trained the first group of teaching personnel for the school last year. The 12 Armenian trainers of military medics completed a three-month training course in August 2015 at a ceremony that was attended by Mills and then Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan.

“Thanks to you, more of your brothers and sisters in arms will



return home from ... dangerous places where you agree to go in the name of peace,” Mills said at that ceremony.

The U.S. envoy appeared to allude to Armenia’s plans to join more multinational peacekeeping missions abroad with specialized medical and demining units. Those units will undergo NATO training before their deployment.

As recently as last month, hundreds of Armenian troops simulated evacuation of wounded soldiers and provision to urgent medical aid to civilians in an exercise that was monitored by NATO officers. And in April, a 32-strong unit of Armenian military medics participated in U.S.-led multinational drills in Germany.

Despite its close military ties with Russia, Armenia has stepped up defense cooperation with the U.S. and NATO in general over the past decade. In particular, it has contributed troops to ongoing NATO-led missions in Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Karabakh settlement aimed at determination of Artsakh's final status: Deputy FM

“First and foremost, the settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh issue is aimed at the determination of the final status of Nagorno-Karabakh through the legally binding expression of will of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh,” Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan said in response to Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu’s statement on Nagorno Karabakh.

“Another attempt of the Foreign Minister of Turkey to distort the Nagorno-Karabakh negotiation process proves once again what we have been



emphasized on numerous occasions that Turkey should be kept away from the settlement process as far as possi-

ble,” Shavarsh Kocharyan said in comments to “First News Service” of Public TV.

Regarding the Turkish Foreign Minister’s statement on the normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations, then if Referring to Cavusoglu’s statement on the normalization of relations with Armenia, the Deputy FM said: “If Ankara really wanted to normalize relations with Armenia, it would have then ratified and implemented the Armenian-Turkish protocols signed back in 2009 in Zurich.”

Azerbaijan should be recognized as war criminal: Naira Zohrabyan



The genocides we witnessed, the crimes committed against ethnic Yezidis, military crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Islamic State in Northern Iraq unfortunately continue today, mem-

ber of the Armenian delegation to PACE Naira Zohrabyan said, addressing the Parliamentary Assembly on October 13.

In this context she stressed the importance of elaboration of more flexible mechanisms of cooperation with the International Criminal Court to fight against impunity.

Naira Zohrabyan reminded that during the April military aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh soldiers and civilians, including children were severely tortured, killed and beheaded. She added that the actions constitute a gross violation of international humanitarian law and

amount to war crime.

“Both the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Armenia, as a guarantor of Artsakh’s security, will do their best to have Azerbaijan recognized as war criminal,” Zohrabyan added.

She reminded that Azerbaijan unleashed a military offensive against Artsakh, violating the territorial integrity of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic – a party to the trilateral ceasefire agreement of 1994.

“Azerbaijan should be recognized as war criminal and most of you are aware of the Azerbaijani atrocities,” Naira Zohrabyan told PACE.

Mother See hosts international conference of Armenian libraries

The solemn opening of the fourth international conference of Armenian libraries was held at Vatche and Tamara Manoukian Manuscript Depository (Matenadaran) at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin on October 17.

The conference titled “Preserving the past for the sake of future” is dedicated to the 350th anniversary of publishing of the first Armenian Bible.

The event has been organized by the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, the Armenian Ministry of Culture and the National Library.

The opening ceremony was attended

by His Holiness Karenin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, and Minister of Culture Armen Amiryan.

“The anniversary of publishing of the Armenian Holy Book is a remarkable opportunity for the Armenian people to once again value their written legacy and the tireless efforts and dedication our devotees have demonstrated to create this heritage. Printing is one of the greatest achievements of mankind, which made it possible for the achievements of human brain to disseminate and reach all layers of society. Printing

became one of the favorable conditions shaping the modern civilization,” His Holiness Karekin II said in his opening remarks.

Minister of Culture Armen Amiryan voiced hope that the conference would serve its goals – to support the centers of Armenology, to help libraries register the Armenian printed heritage, to contribute to the long-term maintenance and popularization of the Armenian legacy.

“I hope new routes of cooperation will be found as a result of discussions, new models of digitization and preservation will be offered,” Armen Amiryan said.

New York hosts “Armenia: Investment Forum-2016”

President Serzh Sargsyan, who was at the United States on a working visit, on October 10 in New York, participated at the “Armenia: Investment Forum-2016.” At the first plenary meeting of the Forum, which held under the title “Armenia – a Gateway to Big Markets”, the President of Armenia made a statement, speaking about Armenia’s current economic and political priorities, achievements after twenty-five years of independence, about competitive advantages of the country and investment opportunities, large-scale reforms, favorable business climate, easy access through Armenia to the markets of the region and stable macroeconomic environment. The President suggested the investors to use opportunities provided by Armenia as a gateway to the major market of the region. Serzh Sargsyan also responded to the questions from the participants of the Forum.

The Forum organized by Armenia’s Development Fund is attended by the leading companies from different areas, representatives of international financial institutions, experts and over one hundred international investors. The plenary session was chaired by the founder of the Kohn Foundation, international corporative strategist, investment banker and famous public figure, Doctor of Neuroscience Mr. Robert Kohn. Present at the discussions were the Member of the House of



Representatives Frank Pallone, Chairman of the Eurasian Economic Union Tigran Sargsyan, Vice-President of the Asian Bank of Development Wencai Zhang, Executive Director of the World Bank Frank Heemskerck.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Government of Armenia and National Instruments Company signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

President Sargsyan holds bilateral meetings in New York

President Serzh Sargsyan held a number of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Investment Forum in New York. The President of Armenia held discussions with the Vice-President of the Asian Development Bank Wencai Zhang, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lydian International Howard Stevenson, Executive Director of Contour Global International Company Joseph Brandt.

At the meeting with the Vice-President of the Asian Development Bank, President Sargsyan hailed the Bank’s mission and role in Armenia’s economic development and underscored that in ten years of Armenia’s membership to the ADB our country and the Bank have established efficient cooperation.

Serzh Sargsyan stressed the importance of the major investment projects implemented in Armenia through the financing of the Bank, including the development of infrastructures, assistance provided in different areas, programs financed by the private sector which are aimed at the increased competitiveness and sustainable economic development. Stressing the importance of attracting investments at this stage of Armenia’s economic development, Serzh Sargsyan expressed gratitude to the Asian Development Bank for the assistance to the organization of the investment forum in New York.

The interlocutors exchanged views on the

Bank’s assistance to the development of Armenia’s priority areas to be realized in the framework of the ADB Armenia Partnership Strategy. Vice-President Wencai Zhang declared that the ADB will continue its assistance with the Armenian authorities and in addition to the projects already in progress will provide assistance also to the development of social infrastructures and economic corridors, reforms, innovative programs which, according to Mr. Zhang will attract new investments to the economy to Armenia.



President Serzh Sargsyan and President and Chief Executive Officer of Lydian International Howard Stevenson at the meeting discussed issues related to the current operations carried out by the Lydian International – a leading company in the area of discovery and development of natural resources, particularly to the works carried out by the Company at the Amulsar mine and development

programs. The President of the Lydian International, which is the hundred percent shareholder of the Lydian Armenian, assured President Sargsyan that the major mining project, which is carried out in full compliance with the ecological requirements and international standards, will promote the development of the communities and Armenia’s economic development in general and will have a positive impact on the country’s GNP. Howard Stevenson underscored that his Company through its works is striving to prove that it is possible to develop mining industry with the modern technologies which can be beneficial for all parties – the state, the private sector, and communities, and that Armenia is a country open for foreign investments.

On October 10, in New York President Sargsyan met also with Joseph Brandt, the Executive Director of Contour Global International Company which is working in the area of energy production. The parties discussed the results of the activities of the Contour Global Hydro Cascade, which opened its office in Armenia one year ago, and the preliminary works for the next phase of the investments of the Company which so far is the largest American investor to our country. The parties highly valued the level of cooperation, which in their opinion allowed the Company in a short period of time to achieve noticeable results.

ArmHiTec-2016 exhibition of Arms and Defense Technologies opens in Yerevan

ArmHiTec-2016 first international exhibition of Arms and Defense Technologies opened in Yerevan on October 13.

The exposition features advanced weapons and military technical equipment, security systems, special police equipment, including armored vehicles, missile armament and equipment, military aircraft, small arms and ammunition, unmanned aerial vehicles and systems, communications, automated command and control systems and robotic systems, means of protection and personal protective equipment, laser, information and telecommunication technologies, information protection systems, outfit, equipage medical support plus some more.

“Drones and three types of unmanned planes have been developed, constructed and are being used by the Military Aviation Institute. They are competitive on the international market and are no worse than other similar products,” Daniel Balasanyan, Head of the Military Aviation Institute, said at the opening of the exhibition.

“The Armenian military production in-



dustry has enough novelties and all opportunities of becoming a locomotive in the field of high technologies,” Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan said in his opening remarks. He urged all local producers, representatives of the scientific field, leading students of local and foreign higher educational establishments to spare no effort

to outline the framework of their involvement in the army-society link.

The Defense Minister hopes the exhibition will contribute to the expansion of international military-technical cooperation and the development of the military production potential of the participating countries.

Hayastan All-Armenian Fund’s newest community center going up in Tumi



Tumi, a village in Artsakh’s Hadrut Region, is the site of the latest multifunctional community center to be built by the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund. The project is sponsored by the fund’s French affiliate, with additional support from the government of Artsakh.

Within the last three years, along with other infrastructures, a dozen of similar community centers have been built in Artsakh with the financial assistance of French-Armenians. Ara Vardanyan, the executive director of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund, said that ongoing French-Armenian support for the construction of such centers is a tes-

tament to the immense improvements they have brought to the daily lives of communities across Artsakh.

The future two-storey community center of Tumi will house key civic and cultural facilities including the mayor’s office, a medical clinic, a library, a game room, a computer room, and a 150-seat hall designed for a broad range of arts events and gatherings.

Commenting on the benefits that the community center will bring, Tumi mayor Edik Mosiyan said, “Given our community’s considerable distance from Hadrut City, the closest metropolitan area, our existing medical clinic must often provide the services of a maternity ward as well, which is why it’s doubly important to have a truly modern clinic. As for community events, we sorely lack a proper space, because our former club is now so run-down that it’s no longer usable.”

Previous Hayastan All-Armenian Fund development projects implemented in Tumi, which has a population of 768, include the reconstruction of the community’s water network, and the furnishing of its school and kindergarten.

Tumi is located 31 kilometers from Hadrut City, the regional center. The community is home to a number of historic and cultural monuments, and the remains of various other antiquities.



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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



3 ROOMS

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

- 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- 2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 2175.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground and 1st floorof the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m., - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,

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

LANDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

30USD per sq.m

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

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

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

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

USD

- 2303. **Hanrapetutyun str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD

- 1142. **Djrvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable



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

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335. **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336. **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337. **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str.** Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m , 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

PREMISES

- 2049. **Teryan str.**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitally repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitally repaired, AC, parking, Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitally 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, capitally 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, capitally repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

Robert Fisk: A beautiful mosque and the dark period of the Armenian genocide

By Robert Fisk
The Independent

The 'Liberation' Mosque is a fine, neo-classical, almost Gothic construction with striped black-and-white stone banding, unusual for a Muslim holy place but a jewel in the Tepebasi district of the old town of Gaziantep. Its stone carvings and mock Grecian columns beside the window frames are a credit to another, gentler age. The minarets perch delicately – and I had never seen this before – on square towers that might have been church towers had there been Christians in this ancient city.

But of course, there were. What no-one will tell you in Gaziantep, what no guidebook mentions, what no tourist guide will refer to, is that this very building – whose 19th century builders were none other than the nephews of the official architect of Sultan Abdulhamid II – was the Holy Mother of God cathedral for at least 20,000 Christian Armenians who were victims of the greatest war crime of the 1914–18 war: the Armenian genocide. They were deported by the Ottoman Turks from this lovely city, which had been their families' home for hundreds of years, to be executed into common graves. The murderers were both Turks and Kurds.

Altogether, up to 32,000 Armenians – almost the entire Christian population of 36,000 of what was then called Antep – were deported towards the Syrian cities of Hama, Homs, Selimiyeh, to the Hauran and to Deir Ezzor in 1915. The Muslim citizens of Antep then apparently plundered the empty homes of those they had dispossessed, seizing not only their property but the treasures of the cathedral church itself. Indeed, the church, 'Surp Asdvadzadzin Kilisesi' in Armenian, was turned into a warehouse – as were many Jewish synagogues in Nazi Germany and in Nazi-occupied eastern Europe during the Second World War – and then into a prison.

Prowling around the church-mosque enclosure, I found some of the prison bars still attached to the window frames, although the building has been functioning as a mosque since 1986. The main gate was closed but I pushed it open and found not only that the structure of the magnificent building is still intact but that scaffolding has been placed against the walls for a renovation. Behind the church – and separate from the building – was an ancient stone cave whose interior was blackened with what must have been the smoke of candle flames from another era, perhaps a worshipping place because the cave appears to have been a tomb in antiquity. The caretaker came fussing up to us to tell us that the mosque was shut, that we must leave, that this was a closed place. But he was a friendly soul and let us take pictures of the great façade of the church and of the minarets.

The only sign of its origin is the date "1892" carved in stone on the east façade of the original church, marking the final completion of the work of the great Armenian architect Sarkis Balian – he was the official architect of the 19th century Sultan Abdulhamid II, a terrible irony since Abdulhamid himself began the first round of Armenian massacres of 80,000 Christians (the figure might be 300,000) in Ottoman Turkey just two years after the Armenian stonemason Sarkis Tascian carved the date on the façade. In the later 1915 Armenian Holocaust – even Israelis use this word for the Armenian genocide – a million and a half Armenians were slaughtered by the Turks. It is a shock to realize that Antep's vast toll of dead were only a small fraction of this terrifying war crime.

Outside the church, I found an elderly Syrian refugee sitting on the pavement by the closed gate. He greeted us in Arabic and said that,

yes, he knew this was once a church. Just over a century ago, the Arabs of northern Syria – the land now occupied by Isis – were among the only friends the Armenians found in the vast deserts into which they were sent to die. Some took Armenian children into their homes. Others married Armenian women – the degree of coercion involved in this 'charitable' act depends on the teller – although more than twenty years ago I met a Syrian man and his 'converted' Armenian wife near Deir Ezzor, both around a hundred years old and both of whom has lost count of their great-great-grandchildren.

A Turkish man in a shop below the cathedral was less generous. Yes, it had been a church, he said. But when I asked him if it had been an Armenian church, he chuckled – dare I call it a smirk? – and looked at me, and said nothing. I suppose a kind of guilt hangs over a place like this. So it is a happy thought that some Armenian families have in recent years – as tourists, of course – visited the city that was once Antep and have spoken with warmth to members of Turkey's leftist parties and celebrated the work of American missionaries who cared for both the Armenian and Turkish Muslim population here before 1915. One Armenian identified his old family home and the Turkish family who lived there invited him in and insisted that he should stay with them and not in a hotel. For this was also his home, they said.

But tears of compassion do not dry up the truth. For when the First World War ended, Allied troops marched into Antep. First came the British, led by the execrable Sir Mark Sykes – of Sykes-Picot infamy – and then the French in October 1919, who brought with them, alas, elements of the Armenian volunteers who had joined their 'Legion d'Orient' in Port Said. The Muslim elites who had taken over the town – and the Armenian homes and properties – feared the newcomers would demand restitution. Fighting broke out between Muslims and the French and their Armenian allies and the Muslims discovered a new-found enthusiasm for the independence struggle of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Thus began the false history of the city.

Perhaps the greatest font of knowledge on this period is a young Harvard scholar, Umit Kurt, of Kurdish-Arab origin, who was born in modern-day Gaziantep. Mr Kurt is now an academic at Harvard's Center for Middle East Studies and wrote his doctoral dissertation on the Armenians of Antep from the 1890s with a special focus – this is the important bit for readers – on property transfers, confiscation, deportation and massacres. Mr Kurt's conclusion is bleak.

"The famous battle of Aintab [sic] against the French," he says, "...seems to have been as much the organised struggle of a group of genocide profiteers seeking to hold onto their loot as it was a fight against an occupying force. The resistance...sought to make it impossible for the Armenian repatriates to remain in their native towns, terrorising them [again] in order to make them flee. In short, not only did the local...landowners, industrialists and civil-military bureaucratic elites lead to the resistance movement, but they also financed it in order to cleanse Aintab of Armenians."

They were successful. The French abandoned Antep in December 1919 and the Armenian volunteers fled with them. The new Turkish state awarded the Muslim fighters of the city with the honourific Turkish prefix 'Gazi' – "veterans" – and thus Antep became Gaziantep and the great church of old Sarkis Balian would eventually be renamed the 'Liberation Mosque' – "Kurtulus Cami" – to mark the same dubious victory over the French and Armenians, the latter being defamed as killers by those who had sent the Armenians of the city to their doom in 1915.

Not much justice there. Nor in the official Turkish version of that

terrible history of the Armenian Holocaust in which – this is the least the Turkish government will concede – Armenians died ‘tragically’ in the chaos of the First World War, as did Muslims themselves. German military advisers witnessed the genocide. Hitler was later to ask his generals, before the invasion of Poland and the destruction of its Jews, who now, in 1939, remembered the Armenians. The official Turkish account of the fate of Gaziantep’s original Armenians refers to their “relocation” – a word used by the Nazis

when they sent the Jews to their extermination in eastern Europe.

No, we shouldn’t contaminate the Turks of modern Turkey with the crimes of their grandfathers. Umir Kurt wrote his dissertation for the brilliant and brave Turkish historian Taner Akcam, whose work on the Armenian genocide has revolutionised historical scholarship in Turkey. Last year, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan deliberately moved the date of the 1915 Gallipoli commemorations to the very day of the anni-

versary of the start of the Armenian genocide in an attempt to smother any memory of the crime – but the government allowed Armenians to parade through Istanbul in honour of their 1915 dead. Yet if the historical narrative from the 20th century’s first holocaust to its second holocaust is valid, then the path upon which the first doomed Armenians of Antep set out in their convoy of deportation on 1st August 1915 led all the way to Auschwitz. The ‘Liberation’ Mosque is a milestone on the journey.

More Beneficial to Support Members of Congress than Vote for President



Harut Sassounian

There is widespread dissatisfaction and mistrust among the American public toward the two main presidential candidates: Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Armenian-Americans likewise are negatively disposed toward these candidates. More specifically, on Armenian issues Mrs. Clinton has shown that she cannot be trusted, while Donald Trump’s position is unknown.

Strangely, neither Clinton nor Trump has made any effort to win over Armenian-American voters, despite the close presidential race. The two candidates have not attended any Armenian events, held no meetings with members of the community, nor sought to raise any funds from them. It is preferable that presidential candidates make no promises that they do not intend to keep, thereby deterring Armenian-Americans from wasting their money and votes, and after the election, saving them from much aggravation and disappointment.

Of course, everyone is free to vote for the candidate of his or her choice. One is also free to vote for third party candidates or not to vote at all.

While Presidential candidates are constantly covered by the media, there are many local and state elections that hardly make the news. For example, there are 435 Members of Congress and a third of the 100 U.S. Senators who are up for election or reelection on November 8.

As opposed to White House candidates who may or may not support Armenian issues after the election, most House and Senate members have already served in Congress for several years and therefore,

their positions on Armenian issues are well-known. Thus, voting for them is not a guessing game! They have a proven track record – positive, negative or in between.

Below is the list of only those House and Senate members who have received either an excellent (A) or extremely bad (F) grade from the Armenian National Committee of America after a thorough review of their positions on a broad range of Armenian-American issues in the last two years. Those who have earned the grade A deserve the Armenian community’s support. Those who have an F after their names have had a very negative position on Armenian causes, and therefore, should not be supported. The letters D and R denote Democrat or Republican. To review the complete list of all members of Congress and their grades, please visit: www.anca.org/report-card.

Alaska: Don Young (R) F.
California: Jeff Denham (R) A; Barbara Lee (D) A; Jackie Speier (D) A; Jim Costa (D) A; Anna Eshoo (D) A; Zoe Lofgren (D) A; David Valadao (R) A; Devin Nunes (R) A; Judy Chu (D) A; Adam Schiff (D) A; Tony Cardenas (D) A; Brad Sherman (D) A; Grace Napolitano (D) A; Ted Lieu (D) A; Karen Bass (D) A; Linda Sanchez (D) A; Edward Royce (R) A; Lucille Roybal-Allard (D) A; Alan Lowenthal (D) A; Dana Rohrabacher (R) A. Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D) A (running for Senate and endorsed by ANCA).

Colorado: Sen. Cory Gardner (R) A; Jared Polis (D) A; Mike Coffman (R) A; Edwin Perlmutter (D) A.

Florida: Sen. Marco Rubio (R) A; Gus Bilirakis (R) A.

Georgia: Doug Collins (R) F.
Illinois: Sen. Richard Durbin (D) A; Sen. Mark Kirk (R) A; Daniel Lipinski (D) A; Mike Quigley (D) A; Janice Schakowsky (D) A; Robert Dold (R) A.

Maryland: John Sarbanes (D) A; Christo-

pher Van Hollen (D) A (running for Senate and endorsed by ANCA).

Massachusetts: Sen. Edward Markey (D) A; Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D) A; James McGovern (D) A; Niki Tsongas (D) A; Joe Kennedy (D) A; Katherine Clark (D) A.

Michigan: Sen. Gary Peters (D) A; Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D) A; Sander Levin (D) A; David Trotter (R) A; John Conyers (D) A.

Minnesota: Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D) A; Betty McCollum (D) A; Collin Peterson (D) A.

Montana: AL Ryan Zinke (R) F.

Nevada: Dina Titus (D) A; Joe Heck (R) A (running for Senate and endorsed by ANCA).

New Jersey: Sen. Robert Menendez (D) A; Christopher Smith (R) A; Scott Garrett (R) A; Frank Pallone (D) A; Donald Payne (D) F.

New York: Sen. Charles Schumer (D) A; Grace Meng (D) A; Carolyn Maloney (D) A; Eliot Engel (D) A; Paul Tonko (D) A.

North Carolina: Virginia Foxx (R) F.

Ohio: Michael Turner (R) F; Tim Ryan (D) F.

Pennsylvania: Scott Perry (R) F; Bill Shuster (R) F.

Rhode Island: Sen. Jack Reed (D) A; Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D) A; David Cicilline (D) A; James Langevin (D) A.

Tennessee: Stephen Ira Cohen (D) F.

Texas: Joe Barton (R) F; Pete Olson (R) F; Henry Cuellar (D) F; Gene Green (D) F; Pete Sessions (R) F.

Virginia: Dave Brat (R) A; Gerald Connolly (D) F.

In addition, there are two Armenian-American candidates who are worthy of your support: 1) Those who live in Nevada’s 3rd Congressional District are urged to vote for Danny Tarkanian (Republican) and those who live in California’s Assembly District 43 should vote for Ardy Kassakhian (Democrat).

UWC Dilijan student spearheads Re-Apaga Electronic-Waste recycling campaign

RE-APAGA, Armenia's first Electronic-Waste recycling campaign, initiated by UWC Dilijan College student, Cedric Solms, and kicked-off in the resort town of Dilijan, Armenia. The mission of Re-Apaga Charity Foundation is to set Armenia as a role model of sustainability in the world by eliminating Electronic-Waste, raise public awareness of its harmful environmental effects and help create Armenia's first Electronic-Waste dismantling and recycling center to contribute to economic development and job creation.

The campaign has gained support from: UWC Dilijan College, Shirak Tours, Dilijan Mayor's Office, the German Embassy of Armenia, Dilijan Community Center, and Solms Consulting, providing a range of opportunities for the greater Dilijan Community and many UWC Dilijan students who have joined the campaign. Among the newly elected Board of Trustees of Re-apaga are philanthropist Veronika Zonabend and the German Ambassador to Armenia, Matthias Kiesler.

"We are sure that this joint collaboration will become a critical platform for establishing a more environmentally sustainable Armenia as we aim to free the country from the most harmful trash: Electronic-Waste while creating job opportunities for a sustainable 21st century Armenia," said Re-Apaga founder, Cedric Solms, a second year student from Germany, currently studying at UWC Dilijan.

According to Earth 911:

- The United Nations reports 20-50 million metric tons of Electronic-Waste are discarded annually.

- Mobile devices growth is 5 times greater than the Earth's population growth: More than 7.2 billion mobile devices are being used, while there are less than 7.2 billion people on the planet.

- The UN University estimates indicate global Electronic-Waste volumes will increase by as much as 33% between 2013-2017.

"This pioneering campaign, spearhead-



ed by a group of UWC Dilijan students, underscores the very essence of a UWC educational philosophy — uniting people and nations to build a sustainable future," said Veronika Zonabend, founding partner and the Chair of the Board of Governors of UWC Dilijan College in Armenia. "Our young students have identified the problem of harmful Electronic-Waste in Armenia and suggested an innovative solution, which reflects the results of educational approach when theoretical knowledge is implemented into the practice. This is an important initiative for the whole society and we are eager to support similar initiatives".

Following the first meeting of the Re-Apaga Board of Trustees, it was decided to expand Re-apaga in Vanadzor and the entire Tavush Region seeing a tremendous need in educating Armenia's youth about the importance of sustainable development for the country's prosperity in the 21st century. In addition to initiatives in raising public awareness, the Board voted to create Re-apaga corps – groups of volunteers to carry out the collection of e-waste and help to create the first Electronic-Waste dismantling and recycling Plant in Armenia.

In its efforts to raise public awareness for social change on Electronic-Waste problems across Armenia and initiate wider youth involvement, Re-apaga launched, with the help of Dilijan Community Center, its first online creative writing contest for 12-18 year-old change-makers and "Future leaders of the great Armenia". The contest sought to gain insight from the youth on such issues as making Armenia a role model of sustainable development, ways to discard Electronic-Waste, and even challenged them to offer plans for an environmentally sustainable Armenia if they were elected president. Top essay winners will be awarded prizes for offering the best solutions for Electronic-Waste recycling and leading Armenia towards zero Electronic-Waste status.

Re-apaga will disseminate informational videos and presentations to local businesses, schools and the general public. In addition to collecting and storing the Electronic-Waste, Re-apaga will initiate collaborations between the public and private sectors to instill Electronic-Waste collections and ultimately establish a recycling center for proper dismantling and recycling of the collected items.

Ayb School to partner with Goethe-Institut



On October 10, Ayb School and Goethe-Institut signed a memorandum of cooperation, which confirms Ayb School as Goethe-Institut partner school, within the framework of “Schools: Partners for the Future” (PASCH) initiative. The solemn ceremony took place at Ayb school.

PASCH is a network, which spans over 1800 schools from around the world that place high value on German. The initiative is carried out by Goethe-Institut along with the Federal Foreign Office, Central Agency for German Schools Abroad (ZfA), German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Pedagogic Exchange Service (PAD) of

the Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs.

“Ayb School has simply impressed me. It’s a school that shows me once again that Armenia has great hidden potential. The Embassy is overly happy for the cooperation Goethe-Institut and Ayb School will carry on in the future, within the framework of PASCH initiative. I believe this joint project of strengthening German will yield positive results,” said Ambassador of Germany to Armenia Bernhard Matthias Kiesler.

“Our being selected as a partner school means we are an institution that places high

value on German and its instruction. This grants our students broader opportunities to pursue higher education in Germany. Knowledge of German is something that students need to have today as German-language education ensures high-quality professional capacity for the European economy and professional capacity is a prerequisite for economic development,” said Head of Ayb School Aram Pakhchianian.

“By selecting Ayb School and integrating it into the PASCH network we have enriched it with a top-notch school with methodological and pedagogical teaching concepts that serves as a lighthouse in Armenia. The fact that the far stretching mission the school has undertaken is related to German language is important for Ayb and not only – it creates long-term prospects for the development of German language in other schools in Armenia as well,” stressed expert in instruction, representative of Goethe Institute Georgia in Armenia Julia Kramer.

Goethe-Institut Deputy Director Gerlinde Massoudi, Ambassador of Germany to Armenia Bernhard Matthias Kiesler, RA Deputy Minister of Education and Science Manuk Mkrtchyan and Chairman of Ayb School Board of Trustees Fr. Mesrop Aramian and a number of other high-ranking officials attended the ceremony.

Syrian Armenian refugees celebrate first Thanksgiving in Canada

CBC News

Less than one year ago, Mher Minassian was in charge of an Armenian cemetery in Syria.

“I saw very bad things... I buried very young people, I buried innocent people.”

It’s a far cry from where he was on Thanksgiving weekend in Toronto.

Minassian was one of nearly 200 Syrian refugees who gathered for their first-ever Thanksgiving in a Toronto-area Armenian church on Sunday. While he had never celebrated the holiday before, for him and many others, starting a new life in Canada was at the top of the list of things to be grateful for.

The Thanksgiving lunch, held at Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Scarborough, was hosted by Armenian Family Support Services, a non-profit organization that has sponsored nearly 300 Armenian-Syrian ref-

ugees since November 2015.

“We are thankful first that we are alive because we escaped from the war and second, thanks to the Canadian government. They brought us here,” Minassian told CBC News on Sunday.

It’s a sentiment many there repeated as they celebrated.

“No war, no bombs”

Zovij Bartiajian has been in Canada for one year and two months.

“I’m so happy to come here because I live in peace. No war, no bombs... A lot of water, a lot of electricity,” Bartiajian said, celebrating her second Thanksgiving.

But while she says she has plenty to be thankful for, her family members back at home in Syria remain at the top of mind.

“Only my body is here. My heart and my brain are back home because our family is still there... They want to come here but it’s

so difficult.”

Rita Odjaghian, chair of Armenian Family Support Services, said while the group holds a sponsorship privilege, its work goes far beyond that.

“We got into bringing the refugees but it doesn’t end there. What we do, we try to help them integrate in the society,” adding that the group helps refugees find employment, English classes and even teaches them to identify mental health challenges.

Many of the refugees at the Thanksgiving event have family members back home, Odjaghian said, making events like Sunday’s that much more important to them.

“There is such a huge isolation in them so they feel being embraced by a larger family.”

The value of that isn’t lost on Bartiajian.

“Thanks for everything,” she said. “Thanks for the peace.”

Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator: As Always, Extending Helping Hand To Compatriots... ...This time in Gegharkunik Region: VivaCell-MTS and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia Supporting Rural Population

In 2016, VivaCell-MTS invested about AMD105 million for the implementation of the housing project. The partnership with Fuller Center for Housing Armenia resulted in the happiness of 198 people.

The housing project continues helping families in housing need in ten regions of Armenia. The leaders and the staff members of the partnering organizations again voluntarily participated in the construction works. This time, the partners have done plastering works in the half-built house of the Stepanyan family.

The **Stepanyans**, who have lived in a metal container (domik) for 17 years, are one of the three families' supported in Gegharkunik region through the housing project.

"The childhood and the adolescence of my three children have passed in a metal container; we have spent terrible winters there. My second son was born in this domik. We started the construction of the house 10 years ago. If not your support, we couldn't finish the house construction. The coming winter is no more terrible. I can't find words to express my gratitude," said the mother of the family, **Anie**.

"The most important value is the human being. The measure of everything is the satisfaction of our co-citizens. If that is there the project is justified. But the satisfaction is shaped by multilayered factors. It is

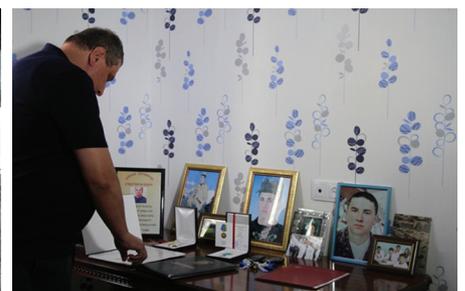
not just about offering goods to business communities. We deliver high quality services, innovative solutions, we keep our leading positions and we alongside support others in overcoming problems. It is a manifestation of attitude towards people, society and country. All the families who have fulfilled their decades-old dream have obtained more than just an apartment, which is a material good; they have developed confidence in living a future filled with belief, response to oth-

ers' concerns, readiness to solve them, and more. It is a pleasure to state that the strategy led by our company for years gradually takes shape in other companies and environments as a system of values," said VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager Mr **Ralph Yirikian**.

"We cannot turn into figures and show the happiness we have had the chance to see in the eyes of our families. All the stories are different; the concern of the housing need is the same. The newly built homes are different, but the happiness it gives is the same. We can surely say that we are building more than houses, we build lives", said Fuller Center for Housing Armenia President **Ashot Yeghiazaryan**.

The heads of the organizations visited also the **Hayrapetyan** family in Zolakar village of the same region, to honor the memory of their son, the 19-year-old **Davit**, killed during the April wartime; their house was renovated through the housing project.

During five years VivaCell-MTS has invested more than AMD 333 million; as a result the life of 134 families, 672 people has been improved. In 2016, the housing problem of 41 families have been solved; 20 families have renovated their houses and 21 families are finishing the construction of their half-built houses.



ANCA praises Republican Rep. Valadao for energizing Armenian Caucus



The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) welcomed the rise of Congressman David Valadao (R-CA), from California’s Central Valley, to his new role as Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues.

A longstanding friend of Armenians from Fresno and across America, he takes on this new post ready to work with his Caucus colleagues in support of a broad range of ANCA-supported priorities, including a U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty, the prospect of a new Millennium Challenge Corporation grant for Armenia, continued direct U.S. aid to Artsakh, and the regulatory framework needed to initiate direct international flights from airports in the United States to Zvartnotz airport in Yerevan.

“We are honored to see Congressman Valadao – a proud son of our Central Valley

– take on this pivotal leadership position in the Congressional Armenian Caucus,” remarked ANCA Central California activist Sevag Tateosian “It holds special meaning for those of us in and around Fresno – one our nation’s first Armenian communities – to see our U.S. Representative helping to lead a bipartisan legislative effort to ensure that our voices are heard and our views are respected in Washington, DC. We look forward to vigorously working with him hand in hand in advancing the many issues on our shared agenda.”

Valadao was born and raised in Hanford, California in the center of the agriculturally rich Twenty First Congressional District. As a lifelong resident of the Central Valley, he has been active in agriculture and dairy industry groups, as well as many local causes including Children’s Hospital Central California, 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and various Catholic charities. The Valadao family emigrated from the Azores Islands of Portugal to the United States in 1969. After settling in the Central Valley, Valadao’s father started a small dairy farm in the Central Valley in 1973. Valadao was born on April 14, 1977.

In 2010, Valadao was elected to represent

California’s 30th State Assembly District. Valadao served on several California Assembly Committees including the Agriculture Committee, where he held the position of Committee Vice-Chair. In 2012, Valadao was elected to represent California’s 21st Congressional District, which includes Kings County and portions of Fresno, Kern, and Tulare Counties. He was reelected for his second term in November 2014. Valadao is proud to serve on the influential House Appropriations Committee, which is the committee responsible for funding the federal government and determining where American tax dollars are spent.

The Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues was founded by Representatives Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) and former Congressman John Porter (R-Ill.) in 1995. Since that time, the bipartisan panel has been at the forefront of Congressional action on a broad range of Armenian American concerns – from justice for the Armenian Genocide, to self-determination for Nagorno-Karabakh, stronger U.S.-Armenia ties, and support for Armenian communities in Georgia and oppressed Armenian and other Christian communities around the world.

PM hosts consultations on support to Syrian Armenians

Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan held consultations on the issue of support to Syrian Armenians. The meeting featured heads of interested state bodies.

The Prime Minister was briefed on the distribution of humanitarian aid sent to Syria upon the instruction of President Serzh Sargsyan. The educational, healthcare and social programs of support to Syrian Armenians here in Armenia implemented over the past five years were presented. Reference was made to the perspectives of furthering the integration and business programs.

PM Karen Karapetyan instructed the relevant state bodies to continue the coordinated work in this direction in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Diaspora.



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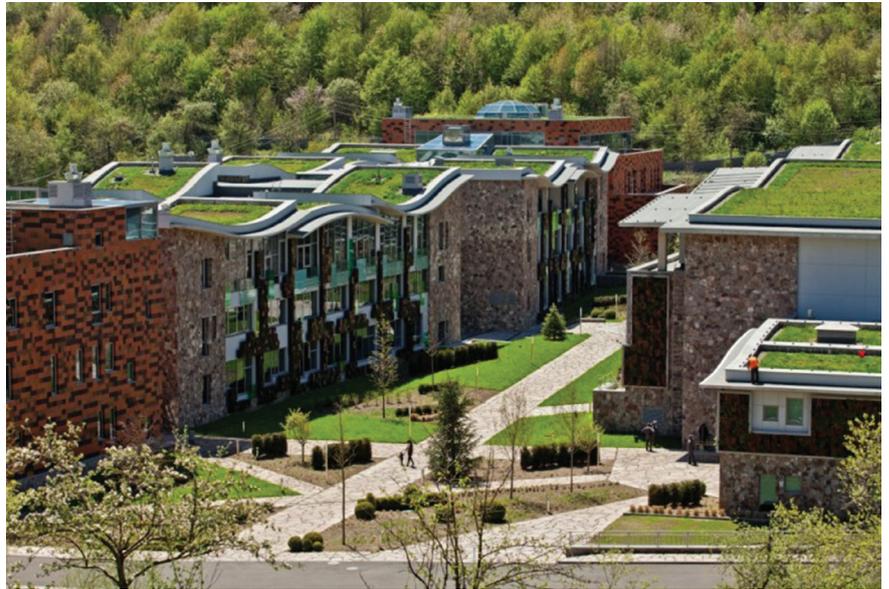
Armenia's Dilijan selected as part of UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities

UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – has recognized Dilijan, Armenia among its Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC). Dilijan joins a dynamic network of cities worldwide that support and accelerate the practice of lifelong learning in the world's communities, while promoting policy dialogue and peer learning among member cities through forged links and fostered partnerships that promote the progress of the learning cities.

"It is a great honor for the all Dilijan residents to receive such a coveted recognition from UNESCO as Dilijan continues to offer pioneering educational programs for preparing our citizens for the 21st century learning," said Dilijan Community Center Program Director, Rubina Ter-Martirosyan who was instrumental in Dilijan's selection as a GNLC.

"Dilijan has become the designated site for such local and international learning centers as UWC Dilijan College, Central Bank of Armenia's Training and Research Center, American University of Armenia, Tumo Center for Creative Technologies, the Dilijan Community Center as well as many artistic venues which culminated in the launch of the first Dilijan Arts Observatory this year," Dilijan Mayor, Armen Santrosyan added.

Arne Carlsen, Director, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, commended Dilijan's "vision, planning and imple-



mentation of the learning city concept" in a letter of recognition and expressed eagerness to learn about Dilijan's future developments.

Veronika Zonabend, co-founder of UWC Dilijan and the Dilijan Development Foundation which supports Dilijan Community Center and other regional projects stated: "The goal of our foundation is to return to Dilijan its fame and further develop it into an educational, cultural and recreational regional hub. And this international recognition is an important step towards this goal."

Inclusion in the Network will help Dilijan achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ensuring inclusive and eq-

uitable quality education while promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all its citizens. Additionally, Dilijan will be listed amongst other world cities recognized as a UNESCO GNLC.

Gagik Adibekyan, co-founder of the Dilijan Development Foundation and founding-partner of UWC Dilijan College stated, "We live in a complex, fast changing world, in which the competitiveness and economic growth of the country depend heavily on the quality of education. I am certain that Dilijan's entry into the Global Network of Learning Cities will contribute to solving the important task of turning Dilijan into the educational hub of Armenia."

Henrikh Mkhitaryan 73rd among 100 best players in the world



Armenia international Henrikh Mkhitaryan has been ranked 73rd among 100 best players in the world by Sportsmail.

"Mkhitaryan had spent three seasons at Borussia Dortmund just getting better and better and better. And the problem when that happens is that someone was always going to come along and pay big money to buy him," the Daily Mail writes.

That someone was Manchester United and Jose Mourinho will just be praying the Armenian comes somewhere close to last season's scarcely credible return of 23 goals and 32 assists.

Mkhitaryan's teammates Wayne Rooney and Juan Mata are ranked 70th and 75th respectively.

Eric Bailly is 82nd, Ander Herrera is 89th, Marcus Rashford is 97

Statues of legendary “Ararat-73” players unveiled in Yerevan

A group of statues of the legendary “Ararat-73” football team players was solemnly unveiled in Yerevan on October 10.

Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan, President of the Armenian National Olympic Committee Gagik Tsarukyan, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs Hrachya Rostomyan and members of “Ararat-73” – USSR Champion and Cup winner – were present at the opening ceremony.

Yerevan’s chief architect Tigran Barseghyan is the author of the statues erected in the neighborhood of Hrazdan Stadium.



Dresden Symphony Orchestra to present “Aghet” program in Istanbul

The Dresden Symphony Orchestra will present the “Aghet” program dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide at the German Consulate General in Istanbul on November 13, the Turkish service of Deutsche Welle reports.

“Aghet” caused tension between Turkey and Germany last year, as the orchestra commemorated the Armenian Genocide centennial in Dresden on April 30, 2015. Turkey attempted to pressure it and the EU to keep the term “genocide” out of a concert.

The concert was sponsored by European Union’s Creative Europe program. Turkey’s delegation to the European Union demanded the European Commission withdraw 200,000 euros (\$224,500) in funding for the concert.

Earlier this month Turkey announced it was exiting the Euro-

pean Union’s Creative Europe Program. According to reports, the pullout was in response to a concert, supported by Creative Europe and performed in April by Germany’s Dresden Symphony Orchestra in commemoration of the Armenian genocide.

Conducted by Andrea Molino, the Dresden Symphony is joined by musicians from Turkey and Armenia as well as members of the “No Borders Orchestra.”

“Aghet” was initiated by Marc Sinan together with the orchestra from Dresden. Sinan’s Armenian grandmother lost her parents in the events following the deportations that began on April 24, 1915. The guitarist of German, Armenian and Turkish heritage performs the solo part in Helmut Oehring’s piece “Massaker, hört ihr MASSAKER!” (Massacre, do you hear MASSAKER!) for guitar solo, voice, women’s chorus and strings.



Bob Dylan wins Nobel Literature Prize

US singer Bob Dylan has been awarded the 2016 Nobel Prize for Literature, the BBC reports.

The 75-year-old rock legend received the prize “for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition”.

The balladeer, artist and occasional actor is the first songwriter to win the prestigious award.

Dylan was born Robert Allen Zimmerman in 1941 and began his musical career in 1959, playing in coffee houses in Minnesota.

Much of his best-known work dates from the 1960s, when he became an informal historian of America’s troubles.

Songs like *Blowin’ in the Wind* and *The Times They are A-Changin’* became anthems of the anti-war and civil rights movements.

His move away from traditional folk songwriting, paired with a controversial decision to “go electric” proved equally influential.

Dylan’s many albums include *Highway 61 Revisited* in 1965, *Blonde on Blonde* in 1966 and *Blood on the Tracks* in 1975.



Since the late 1980s he has toured persistently, an undertaking he has dubbed the “Never-Ending Tour”.

Dylan had long been tipped as a potential Nobel recipient, but few experts expected the academy to extend the prestigious award to a genre such as folk rock music.

The oldest winery in the world is 6100 years old and is located in a cave in Armenia

Wine has been a part of human life, culture, and diet, since time immemorial. In ancient Greece, wine was praised by poets, historians, and artists, and was frequently referred to in the works of Aesop and Homer.

Dionysus, the Greek god of wine, represented not only the intoxicating power of wine but also its social and beneficial influences.

Wine is far older than recorded history and could date back over 20 million years ago, as fermenting yeasts evolved together with fruit bearing flowering plants.

People began to grow grapes probably a little after they began growing wheat, around 8000 BC. In ancient times, wine was considered to be a magical, spontaneous gift of nature.

The oldest winery in the world has been uncovered in a cave in the mountains of Armenia. An international team of researchers discovered drinking bowl, a grape press, a cup, and fermentation jars dating to about 6,100 years ago in the cave at the area called Areni-1 in Armenia.

Older evidence of wine drinking has been found, but this is the earliest example of complete wine production.

The Areni-1 cave complex is located in the village of Areni in the Vayots Dzor province of the Republic of Armenia. 7 months before the winery was discovered, the world’s oldest leather shoe, the Areni-1 shoe, was found in the same cave. The village of Areni it’s known for its wine production.

The press and wide, shallow vat that was found in the cave are similar to foot-stomp-



ing type equipment used by people throughout the region even up into the 19th century.

Botanists examined the find say it was the species *Vitis vinifera*, the same one used to produce the vast majority of wine today.

Gregory Areshian, co-director of the excavation and assistant director of the University of California Los Angeles’s Cotsen Institute of Archaeology says the wine would be comparable to a modern unfiltered red wine and may have had a similar taste to a merlot.

As Areshian, says before this winery was discovered, the oldest known winery was in Israel and dated to 1650 BC.

Archaeologists could not tell a lot about

the people who distilled and drank the wine, but for them, it’s clear that the people who produced wine in the cave winery used it for ceremonial purposes. Probably for funeral ceremonies, since it was discovered that the cave was once an important cemetery site.

This discovery shows that people developed agriculture and that they had horticultural skills even back in 4,000 BC. And as Areshian says, “Producing this wine would have been a high technology of the time incorporating detailed knowledge of watering cycles, pruning the vines, how to deal with pests and the fermentation process itself, which is more complex than brewing beer.”

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

Your warrior self is front and center during this period. The best use of this energy is on behalf of the Greater Good or another person who needs a champion. Use that energy with thoughtful intentionality. Your reflexes may be off kilter. Ground your adrenalin with heavy exercise.



Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

If you share resources with anyone, now is the time to work out whatever arrangements need to be made. This could be over a debt, home resources, insurance, stocks, bonds, or checking accounts. It is time to settle pending financial matters and make a plan for your future.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Irritability and a tendency to short temper may be your companions this week. Beware the temptation to obsess over minor issues. Take especially good care of your body at this time. You are in a physically low cycle and subject to accident or minor injuries with tools or vehicles.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

Although others are not fair on the playground of life, you and your partner are synchronous. The two of you are focused on practical affairs of living and you are in agreement about many things. You have what it takes to be a warrior on behalf of yourself or others. People will listen to you.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

It is probable that others in your life may be erratic. Partner(s), clientele, good friends, and even professionals may be far less reliable than you would like. If this has already started, then do your best to choose activities that depend only upon yourself for a short time.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

You are somewhat edgy and irritable this week. Parts of your mind are scattered into so many corners that it is hard to pull everything together. But you know clearly where boundaries need to be drawn and you are not hesitant to do so. The best of verbal warriors is concise and says what is needed, but no more.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

During this week you will be finishing projects of the last couple of months. It is also possible that a relationship is coming to a closing phase. This could mean eventual separation. On the other hand, it does not have to be permanent, and may represent preparation for moving into the next phase of growth with this relationship.



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

Whatever is occurring in your life at this time is clearly intense and emotion-laden. You may feel as though your very life depends upon making your point of view heard and acknowledged. It is important to play your personal political cards carefully. Don't attempt a takeover unless you are prepared for a serious pushback.



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

For much of this week you are in a gregarious and talkative mood. You want to reach out to friends and share ideas. Love, relationships, and social life are given a go signal. Your mind is stable and organized to improve your higher good. Study and writing activities will go favorably.



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

You are the initiator in every arena of your life. You are strong and confident. I would not want to be on your enemy list right now, lest you attack. Count to 10 and rattle your sabers before you explode. Give people a fighting chance. No doubt others will let you speak, break in line, or generally do what you want to do. Use this power for the benefit of all.



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

Your ability to concentrate upon projects that require management of details is strong. Organizing files, closets and cabinets will clear the clutter from your mind. Fortunately you are able to make mindful decisions. If information is needed, you can find it readily. The week favors education in practical skills.



Pisces (February 18–March 19)

There are vampires loose in the world and the Fish tends to attract them. If you have experience, you probably have begun to smell them when they enter your vicinity. Those who have not will be learning a lesson soon. It's a required course for this sign. Save some energy for yourself. Don't take over someone else's problem.

System Of A Down announces Europe tour

System of a Down is headed back on the road in 2017 with more than three weeks planned in Europe, according to Pollstar.

The first gig is scheduled June 7 at Zenith de Nancy in Nancy Maxeville, France. French festivals set to host System in 2017 are Download Festival in Paris, and the last scheduled date, Main Square Festival in Arras June 30.

There are actually only three non-French dates in the whole routing, including the solo show at O2 Arena in Prague, Czech Republic. Poland and Spain also get performances from the rockers, on June 17 and 23 at Impact and Download festivals, respectively.

System played its first show in Armenia last year to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide carried out by the Ottoman Empire during World War I. The Armenian-American band has been involved in many efforts to raise awareness about the genocide.

Lead singer Serj Tankian wrote a piece in Time in which he said: "Commemorating the anniversary of the deaths of so many Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians is not just about remembering genocide 100 years back.

"That's what people need to realize: It's not an ancient problem. It's a modern one that still seems to persist because we're using genocide



as political capital in our geopolitics and not really paying attention to humanitarian loss and the damage that we're doing to each other."

Italy withdraws Rome 2024 Olympic Games bid

Italy's Olympic Committee has officially withdrawn its bid to stage the 2024 Games in Rome after the city council voted to oppose the candidacy, the BBC reports.

Rome's Mayor Virginia Raggi, from the populist Five Star party, had said the city had to prioritise matters such as rubbish collection and corruption.

It means only Paris, Los Angeles and Budapest are left in the running after Boston and Hamburg also abandoned bids.

The International Olympic Committee is due to make a decision next September.

Committee chief Giovanni Malago said the decision meant Italy had been "made to look like fools" and would miss out on investment.



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