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Sargsyan discusses Armenian Genocide, Artsakh with French Delegation

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received on September 9 the Socialist Faction of the French National Assembly Bruno Le Roux, said press service of the Parliament.

Sargsyan hailed another visit of the French parliamentarians to Armenia and stated that Armenia is proud to have unique relations and cordial friendship with France, which are significantly fostered by close inter-parliamentary partnership.

“In the face of Mr. Le Roux I want to spotlight the consistent work of numerous French parliamentarians in their parliament thank to which Armenian-French inter-parliamentary relations strengthen, as well as deepen inter-state relations in general,” Sargsyan said.

Serzh Sargsyan expressed gratitude to friendly France for always supporting Armenia in issues of vital importance. He conveyed the significance of France’s contribution to international recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide and expressed his deep gratitude to the French authorities and people, highlighting the works done for the adoption of the bill criminalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide.

On behalf of the French President Francois Hollande, Le Roux expressed gratitude to Sarkisian after which the sides discussed the opportunities for expanding inter-parliamentary partnership and strengthening relations between the two states and peoples.

Le Roux warmly recalled the delegation’s meeting in 2015 with Sargsyan in 2015, during which Sargsyan introduced the process of



Constitutional reforms and its aim at the request of the French parliamentarians. Le Roux mentioned he is glad to see how the President of Armenia, who a year ago vigorously supported the idea of reforms, continues to consistently progress in that direction.

The interlocutors discussed the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement negotiations at the meeting, Sargsyan appreciated France’s balanced position on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue and its active role in the sidelines of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs, attaching special importance to the contribution of Hollande to propelling the negotiation process forward.

Uruguay broke the darkness of Turkish policy of denial: Sharmazanov

Deputy Chairman of the Armenian National Assembly Edward Sharmazanov had a meeting with Vice-President of Uruguay, President of the Senate Raul Sendic.

The parties attached importance to the further expansion and development of bilateral cooperation and stressed that “Armenia and Uruguay are friendly countries despite difference.”

Edward Sharmazanov said that “by becoming the first country to recognize the Armenian Genocide in 1965, Uruguay broke the darkness of Turkish denial.”

“We have to join efforts to fight Turkey’s policy of denial. Turkey should finally face its own history,” he said.

Raul Sendic, in turn, attached importance to the recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide by the international community.

The Karabakh issue was also on the agenda of the meeting. In this context Sharmazanov noted that “Azerbaijan should respect the principle of full realization of Artsakh people’s right to self-determination. Azerbaijan is the only party creating obstacles in the process,”



he added.

Raul Sendic noted that “Uruguay backs the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict and stands against any attempt to solve the issue in a military way.”

Armenia’s DM Seyran Ohanyan to be named new CSTO chief: Interfax

Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan will most likely be appointed Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Interfax reports, quoting sources at the Armenian Government.

“Seyran Ohanyan will be dismissed from Defense Minister’s post in the near future.



He will be appointed as CSTO chief,” the source said.

CSTO Secretary General Nikolay Bordyuzha had declared earlier that his successor would be announced on October 14 during the CSTO Collective Security Council sitting in Yerevan.

Karen Karapetyan appointed as Armenia’s Prime Minister

President Serzh Sargsyan has signed a decree today, appointing Karen Karapetyan as Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

Karen Karapetyan, 53, graduated from Yerevan State University, department of applied mathematics in 1980 and holds PhD in economics.

From 2001 to 2010, he held the position of Director General of ArmRosgazprom joint



enterprise, which subsequently became a

subsidiary of Gazprom, Russian gas giant.

In 2011, Karapetyan became a Vice President of Gazprombank and, in conjunction, from 2012 he held the position of Deputy Director General of Gazprom Mezhrregiongaz.

Since 2015, Karen Karapetyan has been Deputy Director General for International Projects of Gazprom Energoholding LLC.

Armenian Prime Minister announces resignation



Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan resigns. He announced the decision at the government sitting on September 8. Chairing his last cabinet meeting in Yerevan, Abrahamyan blamed the lingering “polarization of the society” on unfavorable external “geopolitical” and economic factors. He said radical solutions to them require “a new start.”

“We are still a country with transitional problems where we need joint efforts by the government and the society in order to im-

prove the economic and social situation,” he said. “And that requires new approaches, a new start.”

“That is why I have decided to resign and enable the president form a new government,” added the premier.

Abrahamyan at the same time defended his government’s track record, saying that economic growth in Armenia has accelerated in the last 18 months despite a recession in Russia and the resulting sharp drops in remittances from Armenian migrant workers. He also claimed credit for double-digit increases in Armenian exports shown by official statistics and said that his government has implemented key infrastructure projects in the agriculture sector that will bear fruit in the near future.

The resignation comes just four months after Abrahamyan pledged to step up his

government’s fight against corruption, significantly improve the domestic business environment and speed up other reforms. The premier cited new security challenges facing Armenia as a result of the April 2016 escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Opposition politicians and other critics of the government dismissed that pledge as a publicity stunt. They claim that Armenia’s leaders are disinterested in sweeping reforms because they have long abused their positions to enrich themselves and their cronies.

Under the Armenian constitution, all members of Abrahamyan’s cabinet must also step down now. The new cabinet to be formed by Serzh Sargsyan must receive a vote of confidence from the parliament, in which the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) holds a comfortable majority.

Armenian Government, Opposition reach new election deal

Armenia’s government and parliamentary opposition have reached a new, tentative agreement to ensure the freedom and fairness of next year’s general elections through a set of legal safeguards against fraud.

A senior opposition figure said over the weekend that the deal, if implemented, will “substantially” reduce possibilities of vote irregularities. The two sides already cut such a deal in June, with the Armenian parliament passing corresponding amendments to the country’s Electoral Code. It called, among other things, for the introduction of a biometric national registry of voters that would supposedly prevent multiple voting by government loyalists.

That agreement collapsed last month after the government said a Polish manufacturer of electronic voter registration machines contracted by it will not be able to deliver them in time for the elections due in April 2017.

Opposition parties and the Armenian National Congress (HAK) in particular responded by proposing an alternative arrangement that would commit the authorities to taking other anti-fraud measures. They singled out the publication of

lists of those voters who will have cast ballots on polling day.

Armenian opposition and civil society groups have long been saying that such a measure would preclude multiple fraudulent voting. The government opposed it until recently.

The HAK’s deputy chairman, Levon Zurabyan, said the government and the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) accepted this and other key opposition demands in an agreement that was finalized on Saturday. Those demands also include live online broadcasts of voting and ballot counting in all of Armenia’s 2,000 polling stations, he said.



New Prime Minister urged to take on 'system'

Yerevan (RFE/RL)—Vazgen Manukyan, a veteran politician heading an advisory state body, on Friday urged Karen Karapetyan, Armenia's incoming prime minister, to challenge government factions and government-linked business-people opposed to economic reforms.

President Serzh Sargsyan said late on Thursday that he expects the new government that will be formed by Karapetyan to initiate "substantial" policy changes that would improve the investment climate and thereby ease socioeconomic hardship in the country. He said Karapetyan is committed to such reforms.

Manukyan said the new premier must "go against some government factions" if he is to succeed in his mission. "The government system is made up of different sections and interests, and the prime minister can introduce great changes by skillfully exploiting their differences and gaining public trust," he said.

Manukyan, who had served as Armenia's first post-USSR prime minister from 1990-1991, also urged Karapetyan to take on "oligarchs" controlling lucrative sectors of the Armenian economy thanks to their privileged



treatment by the government.

"I don't know whether or not he will manage to do that," he said. "I hope he will."

Throughout his two-year tenure, Karapetyan's outgoing predecessor, Hovik Abrahamyan, pledged to implement the kind of reforms that were prioritized by Sargsyan at Thursday's meeting of the leadership of the ruling Republican Party (HHK). But Abrahamian failed to radically improve Armenia's problematic business environment.

Commenting on Abrahamian's failure, Manukyan said "He was more connected to the system. He was actually part of the system for

many years, and even if he understood that he has to change something it was much harder for him to do that than for an outsider. An outsider has an advantage."

Karapetyan is an outsider, added the chairman of the Public Council, a body advising Sargsyan on major policy issues.

Karapetyan, 53, has mainly lived in Russia for the past six years, holding senior executive positions in Russian subsidiaries of the Gazprom gas giant. He had managed Armenia's Gazprom-controlled gas distribution network before serving as mayor of Yerevan from 2010-2011.

Russian FM, Minsk Group Co-Chairs discuss Karabakh settlement process

The U.S., Russian and French diplomats co-heading the OSCE Minsk Group met with Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow on September 8 to discuss further steps in international efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

A statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry said they spoke about the implementation of agreements reached by the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents at their face-to-face talks held in Vienna and Saint Petersburg in May and June respectively. It gave no other details.

Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Ilham Aliyev met in the wake of the worst fighting in the Karabakh conflict since 1994 which was stopped by Russia. At Vienna, the two men agreed to concrete safeguards against renewed truce violations proposed by the U.S., Russian and French mediators.

Aliyev and Sargsyan reported progress towards a peaceful settlement after their June talks in Saint Petersburg hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin. Lavrov said afterwards that the conflicting parties are close to a breakthrough, while French President Francois Hollande offered to host another Armenian-Azerbaijani summit in Paris in the following weeks.

Neither the parties nor the mediators have since reported any preparations for another Aliyev-Sargsyan encounter, however, suggesting that the peace process may have again stalled. Armenia's Deputy



Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan said last week that further progress in the process is contingent on Azerbaijan's compliance with the agreed measures to prevent ceasefire violations.

Those include international investigations of armed incidents along "the line of contact" around Karabakh and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. Aliyev spoke out against this mechanism shortly after the Saint Petersburg summit.

James Warlick, the Minsk Group's U.S. co-chair, said last week that the mediating troika plans to meet with the Armenian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers later this month on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

New Australian MP Tim Wilson speaks of Armenian heritage in maiden speech

During the first sitting week of the 45th Parliament, Tim Wilson, the new Member for Goldstein and former Human Rights Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) acknowledged his Armenian heritage when he delivered his maiden speech in the House of Representatives, the Armenian National Committee of Australia reports.

Wilson rose to political fame in Australia as an outspoken believer of true liberalism and has advocated for maximum “freedoms” as a think tank director and

as Human Rights Commissioner in the past, and he pledged to do the same in Federal Parliament.

Wilson’s wide-ranging maiden speech touched on his upbringing and family tree, as these speeches often tend to do. He referred to the bloodied past of his mother’s father, who had to endure and survive the Armenian Genocide, which was a source of inspiration for Wilson.

He said: “My maternal Grandpa left behind the genocide of his people. I never met him. He died before I was born. But I still see him everyday when I look

into the mirror and into his dark and recessed Armenian eyes.”

Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC Australia) Executive Administrator, Arin Markarian said: “We congratulate Mr. Wilson on his fantastic maiden speech as he enters public office. It is also encouraging to see Mr. Wilson seek inspiration from his family’s history, mentioning his grandfather who survived the Armenian Genocide.”

Mr. Wilson was elected to his seat, taking over from former Minister for Trade and Investment, the Hon. Andrew Robb.

Turkey ready to calm Armenia row with Berlin: Foreign Minister



Turkey’s foreign minister suggested Wednesday Ankara was ready to calm a row over a German parliamentary resolution labelling the Ottoman massacre of Armenians a genocide but warned against treating Turkey as a “second-class country,” AFP reports.

The bitter dispute has seen Turkey barring German lawmakers from visiting their nation’s troops at the Turkish airbase of Incirlik, from where NATO

forces are fighting jihadists in Syria and Iraq.

Germany last week stressed that the June parliamentary vote was a political statement and not legally binding, and voiced hope its parliamentarians would be able to visit Incirlik in October.

Asked about the request, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told Die Welt daily that “if Germany continues to conduct itself as it does now, then we will consider it”.

“But if Germany tries to treat Turkey badly, then this won’t be the case,” he added, according to the newspaper’s German translation, stressing that “Turkey is not a second-class country”.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel met Turkish President Recep Tayyip

Erdogan at a G20 summit in China at the weekend and afterwards said she hoped for progress “in the coming days” on the requested airbase visit.

Germany hopes to invest 58 million euros (\$65 million) in mobile barracks and other facilities for its more than 200 troops in Incirlik, from where it runs surveillance and refueling flights as part of multinational efforts to fight the Islamic State group, Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen said Tuesday.

Other sources of discord remain, including German criticism of the Erdogan government’s treatment of critical journalists, its Kurdish minority and of many of the alleged plotters detained in sweeping arrests after a failed coup in July.

Armenia welcomes Syria deal

Armenia welcomes the agreements on the Syrian crisis reached between Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, and John Kerry, US Secretary of State.

“We hope that in line with those agreements all sides will maintain the ceasefire in practice and, as an urgent step, an unhindered supply of the humanitarian aid to the regions most affected by the crisis and its distribution to the population will be ensured,” Spokesman for



the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

“In this regard we are even more concerned about the humanitarian situation in Aleppo and its neighborhood, and it is more than urgent to provide humanitarian aid to those areas as soon as possible,” he added.

“We are hopeful that these agreements can serve as a basis for comprehensive negotiations on the peaceful settlement of the Syrian crisis,” Balayan stated.

Watchdog sees no decrease in government corruption

The Armenian government has still not acted on its promises to fight against endemic corruption in earnest, the country's leading anti-graft watchdog said on September 7.

Varuzhan Hoktanian, the director of the Armenian affiliate of the Berlin-based group Transparency International, claimed that a new Anti-Corruption Council formed by Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan in early 2015 has already proved ineffectual.

"In Transparency International's view, consultative anti-corruption bodies formed by governments have not achieved tangible results anywhere in the world and Armenia is no exception," Hoktanian told reporters. He said the government should set up instead an independent and far more powerful body if it really wants to tackle the problem.

The Anti-Corruption Council approved a three-year plan of actions when it held its first meeting in July 2015. In February this year, the U.S. Agency for International Development allocated \$750,000 for the plan's implementation.

Abrahamyan said in May that his government will further step up its declared fight against corruption and improve the domestic business environment because of new security challenges facing Armenia.



Hoktanian said his Anti-Corruption Center (ACC) sees no evidence yet of any decrease in the scale of various corrupt practices in Armenia. He again singled out administration of state procurements that have long been scrutinized by the ACC.

Hoktanian claimed that various government agencies continue to routinely purchase many goods and services at disproportionately high prices from a handful of companies usually owned by government officials or their friends and relatives. The Armenian authorities should be legally banned from signing procurement contracts with such companies, he said.

Abrahamyan promised stronger government action against procurement fraud in May. He said the Armenian Finance Ministry should publicize more details of contracts signed with private contractors.

Gagik Melikyan, a senior lawmaker from the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK), insisted on Wednesday that the government is serious about its anti-graft drive, having done "a huge amount of work" over the past year. "The authorities have always had and will always have a political will to combat corruption and quite serious processes are underway right now," he claimed.

Iran plans to build railway connecting Turkey, Armenia and Nakhichevan

Iran plans to build a railway that will connect cities in Turkey, Armenia and the Azerbaijani exclave Nakhichevan, said Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Abbas Akhoundi. The Iranian minister said that his country is eager to connect the northern Iranian city of Rasht with Turkey through a railway.

"We are developing a railway project from Rasht to Zenjan and Tabriz. That railway will connect the cities in Turkey, Armenia and Nakhichevan," he said.

Akhoundi said that the project includes the city of Tabriz and the Iranian province of Gilan, to connect them with Azerbaijan. He also said that Iran is seeking to expand the railway network to Qasr-e Shirin in Iraq, and

then to Syria and the Mediterranean Sea through Kurdistan. The railway between Armenia and Nakhichevan does not currently operate because of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

In 2014, the Armenian government upheld the 300-kilometer railway project to connect Iran and Armenia, estimated to cost \$3.5 billion. The project calls for construction of 64 bridges of total extent of 19.4 kilometers, 60 tunnels (102.3 kilometers) and 27 stations. It is reported that if the road is built, it will transport 25 million tons of cargo per year.

The project of the railroad was developed by China's CCCC International, and Chinese banks have expressed willingness to finance 60% of the cost.

EU makes €7 million payment to the Government of Armenia to support agricultural and rural development

In December 2014, the European Union confirmed financial support with total value of €25 million to the Government of Armenia, within the programme ENPARD (European Neighborhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development) Armenia. This programme is being implemented over three years, providing €20 million of budget support for the Government of Armenia to sustain agricultural and rural development. A further €5 million is being provided to support the Ministry of Agriculture and to promote the development of farmers groups and value adding chains throughout Armenia.

The budget support payments are being made over three years, and the 2016 payment of €7 million has just been transferred to the Government of Armenia. In confirming the payment, Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Piotr Świtalski, commented: "I very much welcome the progress achieved in the implementation of

this programme as a whole, including the valuable role played by the complementary assistance. I would therefore like to congratulate the Government and the Ministry of Agriculture in particular for the achievements in the context of this support.”

This support, in line with EU assistance priorities, contributes directly to achieving the Eastern Partnership key objective of reducing economic and social disparities. Given the high unemployment and lack of livelihoods and income, poverty levels in Armenia remain high, particularly in rural areas. Agriculture and subsistence farming represent a broad-based opportunity for food security and informal employment. Thus, there is a great need for agricultural and rural development through improving agricultural institutions, strengthening the capacity and performance of farmers associations and cooperatives, increasing access to affordable food, and supporting the roll-out of a general agricultural census. All of these areas are being supported through ENPARD Armenia.

Within the framework of the programme, over €5 million has been committed to

UNIDO, UNDP and FAO to provide technical support to the Government of Armenia in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, local authorities and other stakeholders. UNIDO and UNDP are working jointly to strengthen and establish producer groups and engage them effec-



tively in value chain development. FAO provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture for institutional development and policy harmonization, as well as the roll-out of the national agricultural census. Beneficiaries of the programme are

rural communities, farmers, producer group members, employees in agricultural value chains, and their families.

ENPARD is improving the lives of nearly 800 farmers directly, and indirectly 3,200 people, through the creation of agricultural cooperatives. The cooperatives have been provided with the latest equipment and technology, and their staff trained in the production of high quality products. 55 cooperatives have been formed and registration initiated under the Law on Agricultural Cooperatives. The farmer groups are producing buckwheat, European type high value cheeses, non-traditional vegetables such as broccoli, and dried fruits and herbs. In every case value is added to the products before sale. Members of the groups have invested nearly €240,000 of their own funds in their cooperatives, while partner development organizations have given or lent at favorable terms a further €150,000. All ENPARD products (to be available in stores from November 2016) will meet food safety standards, and will be certified. In addition, fourteen unique brands are being developed and will be registered.

Former Georgian FM favors more commerce with Iran, Armenia

Armenia and Georgia should try to deepen their trilateral economic cooperation with Iran after the recent lifting of international sanctions against the Islamic Republic, former Georgian Foreign Minister Maia Panjikidze said on September 12.

“As regards the expansion of economic cooperation among Armenia, Georgia and Iran, I think that everything is possible,” Panjikidze told journalists in Yerevan. “Everything depends on national interests and those interests are often connected to the economy.”

“Many prospects are emerging with the opening up of Iran,” she said. “We should therefore think about that and devise a strategic program of making those relations more intensive.”

Armenia and Georgia are already trying to jointly capitalize on the lifting of the sanctions. As recently as in April, top energy officials from the two South Caucasus neighbors as well as Iran and Russia signed a “roadmap” in Yerevan to the creation of an “energy corridor” that would sharply increase electricity supplies among them.

The four countries are to synchronize their power grids and engage in significant seasonal swaps of electricity, including with two new transmission lines that will connect Armenia to Iran and Georgia in 2018.

In recent months, Georgian and Iranian officials have also discussed the possibility of supplying Iranian natural gas to Georgia via Armenia. No final agreements have been reached so far, with

Georgia continuing to buy the bulk of its gas from Azerbaijan.

Georgia is also the principal transit route for Azerbaijani oil and gas exported to world markets. The two states describe their relationship as “strategic partnership.”

“I will in no case say that Azerbaijan is more important to us than Armenia,” insisted Panjikidze, who served as foreign minister from 2012-2014 and is now a senior member of the Free Democrats, a major Georgian opposition party.

“Both countries are our neighbors, and we have always had very good relations with Armenia,” she said. “There are no political problems in Georgian-Armenian relations. It’s just that unfortunately our economic relations are not as developed as political ones.”

“I see great potential for the development of Georgian-Armenian economic relations,” added Panjikidze.

According to Armenian government data, Armenia’s trade with Georgia rose by 17 percent in 2015 and as much as 63 percent in the first half of this year. The rapid growth followed the 2014 signing of Georgia’s Association Agreement with the European Union and Armenia’s controversial accession in January 2015 to the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

Georgia’s Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili and is outgoing Armenian counterpart, Hovik Abrahamyan, praised growing bilateral trade and called for its further expansion when they met in Yerevan on September 5.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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1 ROOM

- 2037. **Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, gas, heating system, AC, modern furnished, equipped. Price: negotiable
- 2189. **Vardanants str.**, Newly built, 24/12, 90 sqm, 1 bedroom, 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, 2 bedrooms, 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, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, furnished, 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, 2 bedrooms, 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, 3 bedrooms, 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, 3 bedrooms, 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, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, guest toilet, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500

USD

- 2303. **Hanrapetutyun str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 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, 4 bathrooms, 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, 3 storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 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, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str.** Land-400sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 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, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.

PREMISES

- 2049. **Teryan str.**, ground floor+basement, 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

Piotr Świtalski: For the EU, Armenia is not just a neighbor but part of the European family

In an interview produced by the EU Neighbors East project, the Head of the European Union Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Piotr Świtalski, explains why Armenia is so important to the EU, and highlights the significant impact of cooperation on the ground.

What are the important values shared by the EU and Armenia?

Armenia is part of the European family in a wider sense. Armenia shares the values that we consider to be European values. European values, in the cultural sense, are sometimes associated with rationalism, striving for truth, but also respect for diversity, tolerance, and I think in this sense Armenians are as European as many other members of the European Union and the bigger European family.

In the political sense, the common European identity is linked to the three fundamental values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. By becoming a member of the Council of Europe, Armenia has subscribed to these values. In this sense, the EU and Armenia build their relationship on the strong basis of common values.

Sometimes here in Armenia, some people believe that because Armenian society is so conservative, European values, so-called European values, are too liberal for them. They overlook the fact that one of the elements of the European identity is plurality and diversity, even within the European family. Inside the European Union there are definitely more conservative societies than Armenian society. The beauty of Europe is the richness of its cultures, and this makes enough space for Armenians to feel at home in terms of values.

Why is the partnership between the EU and Armenia important for Europe?

For centuries, Armenia has considered itself to be a European state. Armenia is the first state in history that adopted Christianity as its official religion, and therefore the bridge between Armenia and Europe here, perceived from this local perspective, is very strong.

For Europe, Armenia is not only part of the neighborhood – and neighborhood is important because of the risks originating from the neighborhood, that proximity is what makes us feel particularly concerned about what is happening here – but Armenia is part of the European space, Europe in its larger sense.

Therefore for the European Union Armenia is important.

Still, being a small country, in some ways an isolated country, because one long frontier is closed, another one is still on fire, due to the conflict in and around Nagorno Karabakh, but still Armenia is important for Europe, Armenia is one of the gates connecting Europe with Asia. Armenia through its border to Iran has a strategic importance, the whole region of the South Caucasus is a crossroad, is a gate, it is a meeting place of different cultures, different interests, but also a place important for trade and for communication. Therefore the European Union is interested in having a strong relationship with a country like Armenia.



You talked about the neighbourhood: what does it mean to be a good neighbor?

From the legal point of view, the idea of good neighborly relations is well recorded in fundamental international and European documents, starting from the United Nations charter, going through the OSCE Helsinki final Act, the Charter of Paris for a new Europe, so good neighborly relations are one of the fundamental principles of international law, and international relations as such.

Good neighbors are friendly neighbors. Good neighbors are open neighbors. Good neighbors are reliable neighbors. Good neighbors are neighbors whose mutual attitude is based on respect, on solidarity, and on mutual tolerance. But the main essential elements of good neighborly relations are a peaceful attitude, cooperation, solidarity, the readiness to help in times of need.

What impact does the EU really have in Armenia?

I think the European Union in Armenia is

an important factor. We are the number one international donor in Armenia. We are the number one foreign investor in Armenia. And we are the number one foreign trade partner of Armenia. But our relationship goes beyond this element of trade, of investment, of development cooperation.

Our contribution to the development of this country is very versatile, visible everywhere in the country, we contribute to the improvement of infrastructure: the EU is the main supporter of the north-south corridor going through the whole of Armenia from the southern border to the northern border, we have provided more than 10 million in the upgrading of the metro system in Yerevan, we spent millions in helping Armenia to organize a modern waste collection system, a water purification system. The EU is helping to close the development gap between Yerevan and other regions, and in particular our efforts in the field of agriculture have this important economic and social aspect. We improve border management, we contribute a lot to improve governance...

The European Union is the main promoter of e-governance in Armenia – few people know for instance that, thanks to the EU, all Armenians are being equipped with new ID cards, more than half a million Armenians have new biometric ID cards. We support improvement of the justice system. With the help of the European Union, 12 court buildings were built in Armenia, but more importantly, several important pieces of legislation strengthening the independence of the judiciary, streamlining the functioning of the justice system were enacted in Armenia.

Education is an important field where we are very present, not only through the possibilities offered by the Erasmus programme, but also the European Union is very visible contributing to the improvement of the vocational education system. We have built, renovated or upgraded several colleges in Armenia, and we also contributed to reforming the education system.

We are also helping Armenia to modernize their human rights protection system, we are helping Armenia to boost their economic environment, in particular through the support to small and medium-sized enterprises, so as you can see, the spectrum of activities of the European Union is very wide, we have our priorities, and I think that the European Union is a visible factor of modernization of this country.

Turkey Conspired with ISIS in its Deceptive Invasion of Syria



*Harut
Sassounian*

Syria has been the hub of shifting international military and political intrigues since the start of the ‘civil war’ in 2011. The diverse conflicting sides include: Hezbollah, Iran, Islamic State (ISIS), Israel, Jordan, Kurdish fighters, Lebanon, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, assorted terrorists from around the world, Syria, Syrian opposition groups, Turkey, the United States, and other NATO states.

The latest ominous development is the Turkish invasion of the Syrian border town Jarablus, which had been occupied by ISIS. However, contrary to Turkish propaganda, Turkey’s military did not invade Syria to chase out ISIS, and the U.S. Air Force did not drop any bombs on Jarablus to pave the way for the advancing Turkish troops, according to David Phillips, Director of the Program on Peace-Building and Rights at Columbia University’s Institute for the Study of Human Rights. Phillips had served as a Senior Adviser and Foreign Affairs Expert to the U.S. Department of State under Presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama.

Turkey’s actual plans were to prevent further inroads into North-West Syria by Kurdish YPG fighters (People’s Protection Forces) who have been the most reliable military allies of the United States in countering ISIS, while Erdogan calls the YPG ‘terrorists.’

Phillips revealed in his Huffington Post article that “Turkish-backed Islamists never engaged ISIS in the so-called battle for Jarablus. Before

invading, Ankara made a deal with the Islamic State. Rather than resist, ISIS forces simply changed into FSA [Free Syrian Army] uniforms. Jarablus was ‘liberated’ from ISIS with barely a shot.” ISIS had evacuated all civilians from Jarablus prior to the Turkish invasion because it did not “want civilians to identify newly clad FSA members as hard core ISIS fighters,” Phillips wrote.

“It is not surprising that Erdogan and ISIS made a deal. ISIS and Erdogan’s Justice and Development Party (AKP) are ideologically aligned,” Phillips asserted, since “they are both branches of the Muslim Brotherhood. Despite official denials, there is a mountain of evidence that Turkey provided weapons, money, and logistical support to Islamists in Syria beginning in 2014. Turkey also underwrote the Islamic State by transporting its oil and selling it on the international market. About 500 Islamist fighters are still transiting from Turkey to Syria each month.”

Turkish leaders have made no secret of their true aim. Erdogan announced that his objective is to go after YPG and “terror groups that threaten our country.” Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu pledged that Ankara would “do what is necessary” to keep the Kurdish fighters away from the Turkish border.

Washington is not pleased with Turkey’s misdirected military actions in Northern Syria. Senior Pentagon official Brett McGurk told CNN that “the Turks never cared about Jarablus until the Kurds wanted to get there.” McGurk called the Turkish attacks on Kurdish fighters “unacceptable and a source of deep concern” for the United States.

The Editor of Veterans Today was also highly critical of the Turkish invasion of Syria as reflected in his cynical explanation: “Turkish troops who had been in Syria for years dressed up as ‘ISIS’ have simply gone home to Turkey, had a good wash and shave, put back on their Turkish uniforms then returned to Syria.”

Saadeddine Somaa, a Syrian Arab militant who joined the Turkish incursion into Syria, expressed to The New York Times his disappointment for being misled into fighting the Kurds instead of ISIS and the Syrian government. “Everyone is pursuing their own interests, not Syria’s,” Somaa complained.

The New York Times article stressed that due to in-fighting, the rebel groups “risk reinforcing criticism that they are Turkish and American proxies at best, de facto allies of ISIS at worst.” Furthermore, “Turkish airstrikes had killed 35 civilians in Kurdish-held villages. And there was a video online showing rebels kicking prisoners from the Kurdish-led militias.” Some of the fighters accompanying the Turkish troops’ incursion into Syria, such as members of Nooredine al-Zinki, “were accused of having ties to Qaeda-linked groups” and were “widely condemned when a group of its fighters videotaped themselves beheading a young prisoner.... Its participation in the Jarablus operation was an indication that it has not been completely shunned, at least by Turkey.”

David Phillips ended his revealing Huffington Post article with an ominous prediction for Turkey: “Syria will be Erdogan’s Waterloo. The U.S. Government must not be tethered to Turkey’s sinking ship.”

Armenian Church Leaders Meet In Karabakh

Catholicos Garegin (Karekin) II and the heads of worldwide dioceses of the Armenian Apostolic Church have converged on Nagorno-Karabakh for a three-day meeting timed to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the territory's declaration of independence from Azerbaijan.

Garegin hailed the “glorious jubilee of the most significant event in our modern history” after the regular session of the church's Supreme Spiritual Council (SSC) that drew to a close on Thursday evening.

“The people of Artsakh (Karabakh), despite all difficulties, continue to heroically endure to build a prosperous future for their homeland,” he said in a sermon read out at Karabakh's largest church located in the town of Shushi.

“Our Holy Apostolic Church with its dioceses and church organizations throughout the world stands with you, dear beloved people of Artsakh, and supports every effort which is made towards the recognition of the independence of the Nagorno-Kharabakh Republic,” he said.

“Artsakh is in the soul of all Armenians,” the supreme head of the Armenian Church added after leading a procession of senior clergymen to Shushi's 19th century Holy Savior Church.

They were greeted by hundreds of local worshippers. Karabakh's leadership also attended the ceremony.

Earlier on Thursday, Garegin and other SSC members visited Karabakh Armenian troops deployed along “the line of contact” with Azerbaijani forces. An Armenian Apostolic Church statement said Garegin donated a cross icon to a frontline chapel and wished soldiers serving there a “triumphant return to their homes.”

All Armenian churches in Karabakh, including the 13th century Gandzasar Monastery, were forcibly shut down after the region was incorporated into Soviet Azerbaijan in the 1920s.

The Armenian Church resumed its legal activities there in 1989 one year after the Karabakh Armenians began campaigning for unification with Armenia. According to the local diocese of the Armenian Church, 70 Christian worship sites have been built or renovated in Karabakh since then.



VivaCell-MTS Last Week: Street Lighting System Installed Throughout the Borderland Community of Vahan

The Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) and VivaCell-MTS have summed up the results of yet another joint program implemented within the framework of The Alternative Energy Project. An outdoor lighting system, consisting of 51 LED lamps, has been installed in borderland Vahan community of Gegharkunik region, providing lighting along a 1,100 m area of the village. As a result of the implemented project, the whole territory of the community has been provided with a street lighting system.

In the autumn of 2015, during the first phase of the project of provisioning street lighting to Vahan community, 37 LED lamps have been installed in the village, providing lighting along a 1,100 m area of the village.

In the outcome of the project, 2600 meters long street lighting system has been installed throughout the borderland community of Vahan.

General Engineer and Project Manager **Martin Maralchyan**, VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**, head of Vahan community **Gourgen Balyan**, and community residents attended the launch of the system.

The environmentally friendly and energy efficient LED lights will reduce outdoor lighting costs up to 80%. Outdoor lighting will be provided from 21:00 to 01:00 in summer, and from 18:30 to 00:00 in winter. On holidays, street lighting will be provided all night long. LED bulbs are efficient and durable, and last much longer than the regular ones.

“Where there is a will, there is a way. We have made a commitment to support the borderland village of Vahan. A few years ago, the community had so many problems, that it was impossible to solve them in a short period. A systematic approach was needed. We chose a model of support

based on patience and the readiness to handle the problems one by one. It is with pleasure I state, that in the course of years we have managed to reach our goals: now Vahan community has outdoor lighting, a gas line, a computer classroom, a solar water heating system in the village kindergarten, but most important of all – the community has hope. Hope is what our compatriots need to stay in our land and continue defending the border like a shield,” VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** noted.



The use of latest technologies in environmental protection initiatives promotes nature conservation, energy efficiency and community development. In 2014, within the frames of the project, installation of a solar water heating system has been implemented in the kindergarten of Vahan community ensuring up to 60% saving on gas consumption and heating costs.



About the “Alternative Energy” Project

The “Alternative Energy” project aims to reduce pollution and protect the environment by using alternative energy resources, particularly solar thermal systems and LED street lights. This year the project is being implemented in a number of communities in Aragatsotn, Tavush, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor, and Syunik regions. As Armenia has a good potential for solar energy, investments in alternative and energy-efficient technologies can significantly benefit to the solution of environmental and social



issues. The project is a new format of the long-term cooperation between the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) and VivaCell-MTS in the field of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

“The Independence Generation” Pan-Armenian Orchestra and Choir: the Last Rehearsals

The Highlights has informed its readers about the “The Independence Generation” Pan-Armenian Orchestra and Choir Project aimed at revealing talented musicians from Yerevan and especially Marzes (provinces) of the country and further promoting them, especially at the intl arenas.

The Orchestra and Choir having up to 800 performers aged from 9 to 30 will

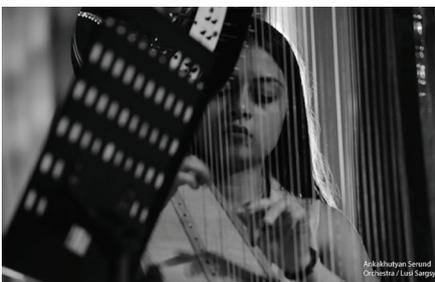
give a Gala-concert on the Armenia’s 25th Independence Day on 21 September playing exclusively Armenian composers. This Megaproject was initiated by the Founding Artistic Director and the Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia **Sergey Smbatyan** who will conduct the concert.

It’s expected that a number of the

world-recognized musicians of the Armenian origin such as cellist **Narek Hakhnazaryan** will be starring at the concert.

By the moment everyday rehearsals of the Orchestra/Choir are conducted.

Below The Highlights readers could see photocaptures of the most attractive moments of those rehearsals (author L.Sargsyan).



Russia to boost military training for Armenia



In a further boost to its close defense links with Armenia, Russia has agreed to increase the number of Armenian cadets and officers studying at Russian military academies.

“The increase in military personnel training for Yerevan is the realization of the Armenian army’s needs to fill command positions,” Nikolay Bordyuzha, the secretary general of the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), said this week.

“We will train as many [personnel] as Armenia needs,” Bordyuzha told a news conference in Moscow.

Russia has been a key provider of free education and training for Armenian military personnel ever since the Soviet collapse. As of 2014, as many as 250 Armenians were reportedly enrolled in its military academies. This figure is comparable to the total number of cadets graduating from Armenia’s own military colleges annually.

Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu reportedly pledged to step up this assistance when he met with his Armenian counterpart Seyran Ohanyan in Yerevan on August 16.

“At the moment, 203 Armenian servicemen are studying free of charge at 24 academies of Russia’s Defense Ministry,” Shoygu’s deputy Anatoly Antonov said after those talks. “They all are receiving quality education.”

“This year we will admit another 211 people [from Armenia,]” added Antonov.

Russia has also been main supplier of weapons to the Armenian army. Membership in the CSTO, a defense alliance of six ex-Soviet states, entitles Yerevan to receiving them at discount prices or even for free.

In Bordyuzha’s words, the free training of Armenian military personnel also stems from that membership. Russia has military education quotas for all of its ex-Soviet allies, he said.

The Russian-Armenian military ties have been clouded in recent years by billions of dollars worth of offensive weapons which Moscow has sold to Azerbaijan. The Armenian government stepped up its criticism of the Russian arms sales to its arch-foe following last April’s four-day hostilities around Nagorno-Karabakh that nearly escalated into an all-out war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin pub-

licly dismissed the Armenian criticism after holding talks in Moscow with President Serzh Sargsyan on August 10. In that regard, Putin also pointed to the Russian military aid to Armenia.

Despite its frustration with the Russian-Azerbaijani arms deals, Yerevan continued to step up military cooperation with Moscow after the April fighting in Karabakh. In particular, it pressed the Russians to speed up the delivery of new weapons to the Armenian military. Yerevan is to pay for them with a \$200 million Russian loan allocated in 2015.

In June, the Armenian parliament ratified a controversial Russian-Armenian agreement on the creation of a new system of joint air defense. Pro-Western critics of the Armenian government condemned it as a serious threat to Armenia’s independence and even security.

The Defense Ministry in Yerevan has dismissed those claims, saying an Armenian army general will command all air-defense forces deployed within Armenia. Those include sophisticated S-300 and Buk surface-to-air missiles as well as MiG-29 fighter jets that are part of the Russian military base in Armenia. According to the ministry, the Armenian military will also gain access to Russian spy satellite data.

The two sides further plan to sign a new deal on a joint contingent of Russian and Armenian troops that has operated in Armenia for more than a decade. No details of the planned deal, which Shoygu and Ohanyan discussed in Yerevan, have been made public yet.



Michigan students will be learning about Armenian Genocide and Holocaust

Starting this school year, it will be mandatory for Michigan schools to add lessons about genocide to the social studies curriculum for grades 8-12, particularly teachings about the Holocaust and the Armenian genocide, Detroit Free Press reports.

The mandate is part of bipartisan legislation that received near-unanimous support when the Legislature approved it in May. Gov. Rick Snyder signed it into law in June. Eleven other states already require instruction in genocide, according to the Genocide Education Project.

The new requirements “are not a lot of work for most districts” because genocide is already part of their curriculum, said Bill DiSessa, spokesman for the Michigan Department of Education. But “some districts may need to take a look at what’s in it.”

The Holocaust and Armenian genocide were specifically cited because the Michigan Legislature has already passed laws commemorating both, said Rep. Klint Kesto, R-Commerce Township, the primary sponsor of the legislation.



“This is something that should be a priority — teaching our children how to recognize genocide through past genocides,” Kesto said.

He said he has been discouraged by international studies that show large numbers of people have never heard of the Holocaust or have little knowledge of it. He said the motivation is that when people say “never again,” it actually means something.

The new law goes beyond mandating the teaching of genocide. It requires the state’s assessment system test students on genocide. It also requires the creation of a temporary commission, called the Governor’s Council on Genocide and Holocaust Education that will have a number of functions, including looking for ways to enhance genocide education, advising school leaders on those efforts, promoting genocide education in schools and the general population.

Snyder, when announcing he had signed the legislation, said the next generation of leaders “needs to have the wherewithal to recognize and help prevent widespread harm to their fellow men and women. Teaching the students of Michigan about genocide is important because we should remember and learn about these terrible events in our past while continuing to work toward creating a more tolerant society.”



Taner Akcam to speak on authenticity of long-disputed Genocide documents

Massis Post – Prof. Taner Akcam of Clark University will give a lecture entitled “The Memoir of Naim Bey and Talat Pasha Telegrams: Are They ‘Armenian Forgeries’?” on Thursday, October 4, 2016, at 7:30 p.m., at First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA. The program is sponsored by the friends of the Kaloosdian-Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). A reception will take place following the program at the NAASR Center across the street from the church.

In 1920-21, author and editor Aram Andonian published a book known in English as *The Memoirs of Naim Bey* and in Armenian as *Medz Vojiri* (The Great Crime). It contained the writings of an Ottoman official and telegrams from Talat Pasha containing orders for the killing of Armenians.

In 1983, Turkish authors Sinasi Orel and Sureyya Yuca published a book to establish

that the memoir was fake and the telegrams were forgeries.

The argument had three main pillars:

- 1) there was no such person as Naim Bey;
- 2) there is no actual memoir, since a non-existing person cannot write a memoir; and
- 3) the so-called Talat Pasha telegrams, like the alleged memoir, were invented by Andonian.

Although noted researcher Fr. Krikor Guerguerian (Kriger) in 1965 published a detailed examination of Andonian’s published and unpublished materials and Vahakn N. Dadrian in 1986 published a lengthy response to Orel and Yuca, in general the scholarly world ceased using the memoir and telegrams as trustworthy sources. Until now, the claims against Andonian have remained unanswered and became the cornerstone of denialism.

Taner Akcam risked venturing into this highly disputed territory and pursued the

matter to its necessary conclusion, seeking out the archival sources and documents needed for a proper scholarly assessment. The first results of his research will be presented in this lecture and in a book to be published in Turkish later this fall. The question must be asked: Is it time to remove one of the last bricks in the denialist wall and watch the façade crumble?

Taner Akcam is the author of *From Empire To Republic: Turkish Nationalism and the Armenian Genocide* and *A Shameful Act: the Armenian Genocide and Turkish Responsibility*, and *The Young Turks’ Crime Against Humanity: The Armenian Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing in the Ottoman Empire* as well as other works in the English and Turkish Languages. Since 2008 he has been the Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University in Worcester, MA.

U.S. Embassy Armenia and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia build a home in Ararat Region



Volunteers from the United States Embassy in Armenia joined the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia (FCHA) to build a home for the Aloyan family from Sisavan Village in the Ararat Region

The partnership between the U.S. Embassy and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia started in 2008. Every year, the U.S. Embassy's "Helping Hands" volunteer organization joins forces with FCHA to create an event where Embassy staff and family member can help build a home for an Armenian fam-

ily living in inadequate housing conditions. This year, U.S. Embassy personnel joined the Aloyans to help with painting and concreting projects for their new home.

The Aloyans are a family of eleven. Sargis and his wife, Anie – together with their 2 children – live with Sargis' parents and his brother's family, making for eleven people in a three-room house. The extended family started building a house for Sargis and his family four years ago.

"Perhaps it is the cherished dream of ev-

eryone to have a home. As a father of two I was always downhearted that I could not provide my little ones with a decent home. It is impossible to explain the happiness we feel each day when we see the progress on the construction of our house and feel that soon, very soon, we will move to our new home," shared Sargis.

"Back in the spring of 2016, this house had only walls and a ceiling. Today, construction is nearly complete and we are already painting the walls. The U.S. Embassy has joined us in our mission since 2008. And it is thanks to the strong conviction and dedication of our partners, volunteers, and supporters that the Aloyans and many other Armenian families enjoy the happiness of homeownership," stated FCHA President Ashot Yeghiazaryan.

In 2009, the United States Congress designated September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance to commemorate the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in New York City. In 2016, as the American people mark the 15th anniversary of those senseless acts of destruction, the U.S. Embassy was honored to partner with FCHA to give the Aloyans renewed hope as they prepare to move into their new home and begin to construct a new, brighter future.

Oscar Isaac and Christian Bale face the Armenian Genocide in "The Promise"

It can be difficult to balance a love story with one of the deadliest wars ever as a backdrop, and some films have done it better than others. The latest to try is *The Promise* starring Oscar Isaac and Christian Bale. Set during the heart of World War I, the film will tackle the Armenian Genocide, with Isaac and Bale's characters thrown into the middle of the conflict, according to Cinema Blend.

Set in 1914 right before the fall of the Ottoman Empire, the film follows Michael Boghosian (Oscar Isaac), a hopeful medical student who arrives in Constantinople to bring modern medicine to his ancestral village of Siroun in Southern Turkey. In the bustling capital, he soon meets Chris Myers (Christian Bale), an American photo-journalist, and Ana (Charlotte Le Bon), an Armenian artist. Both Michael and Chris soon fall in love with Ana and a love triangle ensues just as the Turks join the war on the German side, turning against the Armenians. Everyone must find a way to settle their differences in order to survive the coming chaos.

The Promise has some serious heavy hitters in the form of Christian Bale and Oscar Isaac. Bale has a variety of experience in a number of genres like *The Dark Knight* and *The Fighter* (for which he won an Oscar), more than proving he can take the heat.

Isaac, meanwhile, is a newer face but a quickly rising star. After his breakout role in *Inside Llewyn Davis*, he went on to make a big impression on audiences as the charismatic Poe Dameron in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. Rounding out the main cast is Charlotte Le Bon. She's less well known than her co-stars but has made an impression in films like *The Walk* and *The Hundred-Foot Journey*.

Leading the team behind the camera is Terry George, who co-wrote and directed the film. George is no stranger to political films with sweeping stories. He wrote and directed the Oscar-nominated *Hotel Rwanda*, as well as other films such as *Reservation Road* and *The Stand-Off*.

The Promise seems intriguing enough and seems poised to be a hit when it comes to theaters, but there are some questionable decisions that could weigh it down. The trailer really walks the line with its love story and we'll see how it balances a love triangle with the violent war scenes. In addition, the movie is bound to get flak for its decision to cast Isaac (a Latino man) and Le Bon (French-Canadian) as a Turkish man and Armenian woman respectively. Given the film's heavy emphasis on race, it seems like a strange decision.

ANCA, IDC and IGE announce policy agenda at press conference

Asbarez

On September 8, at a press conference that kicked off its three-day convention, the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA), In Defense of Christians (IDC) and the Institute for Global Engagement (IGE), and U.S. Representative Dave Trott (R-IL), gathered to announce an ambitious policy agenda. The conference addressed human rights and foreign policy concerns in the Middle East, with an emphasis on the religious persecution of Christians and other ethno-religious minorities in the region.

Recalling the success IDC and its partners in getting the U.S. government to declare that the Islamic State of Syria and Iraq (ISIS) is perpetrating genocide against Christians and other ethno-religious minorities in territories under its control, the conference's panelists asked what's next, laying out a number of bold initiatives, frameworks and resolutions to address the concerns of some of the region's most vulnerable communities.

The conference was held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Katrina Lantos-Swett, President of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice, commended IDC for the name of its convention: "Beyond Genocide: Preserving and Protecting the Future of Christianity in the Middle East".

"Naming the evil alone is not enough," said Lantos-Swett, who keyed the conference. "With the focus of this convention, a call to action is implied."

Lantos decried the destruction of Christian communities in the Middle East, stating, "I am baffled and broken, as the daughter of Holocaust survivors, to see the West so willfully blind or perhaps unwilling to act in the face of such destruction." A personal call to action is needed, she continued. "The question should be: Am I my brother's keeper? We dare not answer in any way other than the affirmative."

Within that context, the press conference's participants and panelists made some bold requests during the press conference, asking the U.S. government to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide, to support the establishment of a province for persecuted minorities in Iraq's Nineveh Plain and to encourage the reform of Egypt's legal regulations regarding the rebuilding of destroyed churches.

Rep. Trott announced his historic resolution, "The Coptic Churches Accountability Act" at the conference, stating, "Coptic Christians in Egypt are second class citizens, even though they are indigenous to the region."

Trott recounted that after the Muslim Brotherhood came to power in Egypt in 2014, Coptic Christians experienced the worst violence the community had seen since the 14th century. Dozens of churches were destroyed. And although President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi should be commended for his pledge to restore the rights of the Copts, said Trott,

the U.S. government should encourage this progress and hold the leadership of Egypt to account.

Andrew Doran, Senior Policy Advisor for IDC applauded Trott. "We are very proud to have Rep. Trott today and we will support his resolution," he said. "This is a concrete example of what Washington can do in the face of such persecution and destruction."

Not only are the initiatives we announce today in the interest of the Middle East's persecuted populations, they're also in the interest of the American people, continued Doran. "Violence and terrorism is not contained to the Middle East. And it's not coming to America and the West; it's already here — it's ravaged our nightclubs, our public spaces, our churches."

Toufik Baaklani, president of IDC, also commended Trott's resolution. "We are the strongest country in the world. When Congress or our lawmakers act, the whole world listens," he said. "With the question of justice in mind, I believe our next act should be to sanction the individuals and countries that have supported and funded ISIS."

The discussion moved to the creation, within the framework of Iraq's constitutional governance, of the Nineveh Plain Province in northeastern Iraq, which would be preserved as an autonomous zone for persecuted Christians, Yezidis and others who have faced persecution and genocide at the hands of ISIS.

"The Iraqi government and the Kurdish Regional Government have recognized the need for the Nineveh Plain Province. It's time for United States to do the same," said panelist Robert Nicholson, Executive Director of the Philos Project, noting that the plain is the ancient homeland of northeastern Iraq's Christians and Yezidis, who were displaced when ISIS invaded the area.

"The problems of the Middle East never stay there," Nicholson continued. "When ISIS is rolled back, we will need a vision, a long-term plan and Christians should be part of this plan. New provinces, based on a decentralized, federated Iraq, will allow Christian and minority communities to feel empowered in the post-ISIS future."

The region's indigenous peoples include Christian Assyrians, Chaldeans and Syriacs, Kurds, Yezidis as well as Shabaks. There are also significant numbers of Turkmen, Armenians, Kawliya and Mandaeans.

The need for a safe zone for these persecuted minorities, rent from their Nineveh homeland during the ISIS onslaught in 2014, is more pressing than ever. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has stated that the Mosul invasion could result in a severe humanitarian crisis in a region already besieged by horrific human tragedy. UNCHR predicts that as many as 1.2 million refugees will flee the city and surroundings as the offense commences.

And the Assyrian, Chaldean and Syriac Christians, all victims of genocide, should be given first priority in support for the creation of the Nineveh Plain Province, he said. "The United States and the international community should help this community in securing safe passage, aid and administrative autonomy, in fielding their police and local security forces, and in saving their culture and languages".

"The last act of genocide is cultural and historical erasure," said panelist and Prof Alexis Mourkazel, Former Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of the Holy Spirit, noting the death and persecution of Christians and Yezidis in northern Iraq and Syria.

He shared his vision for a revitalized Nineveh Plain through the creation and support of intellectual, cultural and academic centers of learning that will be a focal point for the region and a link between East and West. "Let us create an interactive climate in the Nineveh Plain, where its scholars, artists and educated people can return and be a link to the world," said Mourkazel. "If you leave the region dry, it will not survive; rather let it survive and grow through culture."

The panelists also discussed how failing to recognize past genocides is not only a moral failure but also emboldens current and future perpetrators of genocide.

Aram Hamparian, Executive Director of the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA), decried a century of American inaction regarding the Armenian genocide, stating that IDC's success in getting the U.S. government to recognize the genocide being perpetrated by ISIS set a powerful example.

"Sadly, the United States has been complicit in Turkey's refusal to recognize the Armenian genocide, which is not in alignment with American values," said Hamparian. "ANCA joins with all of you, bound together in support of IDC's policy agenda, which asks for a truthful and just recognition of the Turkish genocide against Armenians, Assyrians, Greeks, and other minorities. Justice for one equals justice for all, progress for one equals progress for all."

Doran set the tone for the rest of the conference, stating that the progress and initiatives IDC and its partners are advocating for are not sectarian in nature. "IDC does not advocate for the rights of Christians over and above Muslims or any other group," said Doran. "More sectarianism will only lead to more violence. To the Muslims in the West and East, we say, we are not adversaries, but brothers and sisters, struggling against violence and extremism. They are welcome here as they have welcomed so many of us in their homes in the region. We are acutely aware of the suffering of millions of Muslims in the face of ISIS and the sectarian violence in the Middle East. The policies that IDC and its partners advocate for will support all peoples in the Middle East, of all faiths."

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

Events and circumstances may come up that require you to act swiftly and with an element of force. Drive carefully. Apply heavy muscle to exercise or a chore that needs to be done. Otherwise you may become snappy and are liable to pick a

fight. Avoid battles over ego, which waste your energy.



Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Good planning on your part allows you to help one or more others to achieve their goals. If there are “power” issues between you and another, this is the week that they will be in full bloom. Remember that Mercury is retrograde at this time and it is proba-

ble that one or both of you does not have all the necessary facts.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

This is a highly significant period in your family relationships. You have issues to work through and healing to do for everyone involved. Sidestep the temptation to drill your truth into the mind of another. If you do not share a consensus reality, then

search for a higher perspective that allows for both of you.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

This is a challenging eclipse season for you because there are three in a row. That means three times the intensity. This is a rare occurrence. This week is the valley of time between the last two. One was Sep. 1 and the last will be Sep 16. There

have probably been many things requiring change that have become apparent. You can manage these changes. Take them one at a time.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

The bright lights of Mercury and the Sun are in your house of resources and financial matters. You may not have a clear perspective on these areas. You feel the pressure to spend in a hurry. Listen to your closest friends who know you well. They

can see what you may not at this time.



Virgo (August 22–September 22)

Take your vitamins and get plenty of rest this week. You are subject to allergic reactions or opportunistic viruses that cross your path. Your mind may feel foggy and unclear (perhaps due to allergy medica-

tions). Drive and handle tools carefully. Your dreaming mind could be especially active now.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

This is an intense week. You may feel it necessary to let go of something that has been of value to you. This may be an object or possibly a family member. Do not attempt to

press anyone to adopt your point of view now. That would only create negative feelings. Let some time go by to allow the intensity to decline.



Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

Give close attention to details, such as where the keys are, and whether you have the needed tickets. The situation around you may change rapidly and cause you to mislay a credit card or your billfold. At the

beginning of the week, a friend may offer assistance. Restlessness and high energy want you to keep moving, whatever else you do.



Sagittarius (November 22–December 20)

One of your upcoming plans may be sabotaged by the mishandling of details. Take a deep breath and try again in better times, maybe when you can move at a more careful

pace. It is too easy to be angered into snappish behavior. Admit your frustration. The cosmos is rough right now, but it isn't trying to run over you specifically.



Capricorn (December 21–January 19)

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

Forward motion moves slowly but smoothly. It is possible that you are the one who offers mentoring to someone newer or younger to your profession.



Aquarius (January 20–February 17)

You have lost something of value in recent months. It may have been returned on a gradual basis, but it will probably not be whole as it once was. Whatever the damage, it is

done, so you do not have to worry about additional consequences.



Pisces (February 18–March 19)

You may have allowed your body to go without serious attention for a while. It is clear to you now that you cannot continue on that path. Age is creeping up, no matter how old you are. Saturn has been squaring your Neptune ruler for a year. If you have

been wise and maintained a good health routine you will be rewarded. Saturn demands work and it also compensates fairly.

6th World Doll Festival to feature Armenian dolls

Asbarez – The 6th World Doll Festival in Japan will display about 1,500 dolls from 71 countries, among them 14 dolls from Armenia. Various booths will provide tourist information about the countries as well.

The event will be held from October 28-30, 2016, at Izutsu Yashiki.

This year the exhibition is devoted to Germany and will harbor dolls from Bayern, hand-made Nutcrackers, smokers from the Harz Mountains made out wood, Christmas pyramids, doll houses, etc.

The Embassy of Germany to Japan, the German House in Naruto City, and Naruto City Tourism Association are patrons of the event.

The program will conclude with a performance of the 9th Symphony by Beethoven. Local restaurants will also offer their international dishes.



Apartment For Rent

A comfortable apartment in the center of Yerevan on the second floor of the house.

The apartment (110 sq. m.) has a dining room, two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and two balconies. The house has a central heating system, permanent cold and hot water, TV satellite, air conditioners and all other facilities.

There is a nice view to Mount Ararat. The house has a nice garden and a garage. The place is quiet and secure. 3 minutes by walk from Marshal Baghramian ave. and Metro station.

The price is 1000 USD monthly, for a long term, 40-50 USD daily for a short term.

Address:
3 Aygedzor Str, Yerevan.

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095-27- 87-09 mob.,
093- 22-95-70 mob.,
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