

Victory Day celebrations kick off in Yerevan

President Serzh Sargsyan's message on Victory and Peace Day

Dear Compatriots,

I cordially congratulate you on the occasion of Victory and Peace Day.

For our nation the WWII was really a Patriotic War. Many of the sons of our nation fought for the freedom of our Fatherland and its bright future. They fought at all fronts, at the battle field and at the home front. Today, we pay tribute and express gratitude to the bright memory of our heroic predecessors, hundred thousands of whom fell in the struggle with the evil. We also pay tribute and express gratitude to a sadly small number of veterans who today stand with us.

This holiday is dedicated not only to the military victory but also to peace. Along with other nations of the Soviet Union, we paid dearly for the victory and earned peace. That victory had given us a historic chance to get again as a nation to our feet economically, culturally, and politically. We know all too well the price of that victory.

Dear Fellow Citizens,

For us, May 9 was reconsidered and reassessed with the liberation of Shushi in



1992. The cultural center of Artsakh, which for centuries had always been spreading light, education, science and arts, was turned into a monstrous weapon emplacement which was spreading death and destruction all around. For us, liberation of Shushi was the matter of life and death; on May 9 we repeated the heroic act of our fathers and grandfathers and changed the course of the war:

Twenty-four years later, last month now

sons of the liberators of Shushi repeated the heroic act of their fathers. This time, these were not the fidiyi units but regiments of the mature regular army. They proved that each new generation of the Armenian nation is ready to again and resolutely defend our security, peace, and rights.

Dear Compatriots,

I congratulate us all on this glorious holiday. I wish us all peaceful skies and productive work.

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Armenia MOD: We are watching movement of Azerbaijani military equipment and armed forces

Through its diplomatic activity, Armenia is now gradually carrying out the task aimed at the recognition of Karabakh, Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan told journalists in Yerevan's Victory Park Monday.

In his words, this is a very delicate diplomatic work: the military and political leadership of Armenia is dealing with it and they are on the right path.

Referring to the amassments of the adversary's armed forces on the border, Ohanyan stressed that all the movements of the military equipment and armed forced of Azerbaijan are being fixed and analyzed.

"Both the Defense Army of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR) and the Armenian Armed Forces are making changes in the planning in order to raise our defense potential," Ohanyan said.



Russian Ambassador to Armenia: I am not responsible for Azerbaijan



Karabakh conflict cannot be resolved by any arms, Russian Ambassador to Armenia Ivan Volinkin told journalists in Yerevan's Victory Park Monday.

Responding to the question as to Russia's sale of weapons to Azerbaijan, the Ambassador said: "In my opinion, the conflict can be resolved only by peaceful means. It can never be normalized by any arms but only at the negotiation table".

Asked the same question for the second time, Volinkin said: "Show me data and documents, according to which Russia continues selling weapons to Azerbaijan". Russia also sells weapons to Armenia, the Ambassador noted.

To the comment that Azerbaijan continues to violate the arrangement to cease fire, the Ambassador said: "I am not responsible for Azerbaijan".

Russia ready to assist in Armenian-Azerbaijani talks

Moscow confirms its readiness to assist in the negotiation process between Azerbaijan and Armenia as this issue is high on the agenda, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Friday, TASS reports.

"We have stressed on many occasions that the fate of Nagorno-Karabakh should be settled through negotiations," the Russian diplomat said.

"We're confirming our readiness as an international mediator to provide all assistance together with the co-chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group to the sides in implementing this goal," Zakharova said.

"This theme does not get away anywhere from the agenda of the foreign min-



istry and contacts at the level of the ministry's leadership and priority attention is

paid to it at the current time interval," the spokeswoman said.

HH Karekin II's Message on Victory and Liberation of Shushi Day

From the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, we extend our Pontifical blessings and congratulations to our faithful people on the occasion of the day of the glorious victory of May 9 and the Liberation of Shushi.

With nations and states we celebrate the historic victory in the struggle against fascism and violence, which was participated by thousands of children of our nation. We are celebrating the liberation of Shushi and the victory in the Artsakh war, through which we defended the fair right of the free and dignified life of our people.

Today, the victorious wonder of May 9, fills our souls with special feelings, the same patriotic warm spirit of our sons who with their heroic deeds withstood the military operations unleashed by Azerbaijan on those April days, safeguarding our borders.

We pray that Almighty God keeps our native land under His peaceful grace and



blesses our God-loving people, Army, soldiers, and commanders, granting them a secure and prosperous life, who courageously continue to defend the free and peaceful life of our people.

We're on the right track: Armenia's Defense Minister on Artsakh recognition

"Today we are celebrating the feats of all our generations, which never fade and find their reflection in the deeds of today's soldiers and volunteers. They further enrich our history," Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan told reporters today.

The Defense Minister said the situation at the frontline is relatively calm.

Asked whether the recognition of Artsakh could lead to new aggression on the part of Azerbaijan, Minister Ohanyan said: "The Armenian diplomacy is fulfilling its task at full, and the efforts are targeted at the gradual recognition of NKR. It demands a delicate and consistent work, and the military-political leadership of Armenia is busy with that. I think we're on the right track," Seyran Ohanyan noted.

Turkey: Armenian lawmaker claims attack on ethnic grounds

Garos Paylan, a Turkish-Armenian legislator from the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), says he was targeted in a brawl in the Turkish Parliament on Monday for being Armenian.

The fight was instigated by members of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) as the parliament's Constitutional Commission was debating whether to strip pro-Kurdish deputies of their immunity.

"It is evident that the members of AKP had targeted me in advance as several of its representatives attacked me in a coordinated manner," Paylan told bianet.org, adding that the attacks were accompanied with racist epithets, reports Asbarez.com.

Paylan said that the AKP members attacked him after he dismissed the announcement by the Justice Minister of Turkey who claimed that the pro-Kurdish HDP members had abused other parliament members during a previous session.

"I just said that no, it is not the case, which was followed by the attacks of 10-15 people. The attack had been planned in advance, and the reason was that I am an



ethnic Armenian. I have posted that footage in social media. Those interested can watch it and judge for themselves," Paylan said, adding that the attackers shouted "Garos is here. Garos is here."

Paylan, who said he was beaten around 100 times, said he found it futile to appeal his case, since the parliament judiciary committee is controlled by AKP members, who would not objectively review his claims.

"What they can't digest is this: A person of Armenian heritage is calling them out on their lies and is a stand up person," said Paylan. "They want to see Armenians obeying them. I as an Armenia putting up a fight for rights and I have been targeted and subjected to lynching."

The Armenian National Committee of America has condemned the attack on Paylan, urging President Barack Obama to also condemn it.

Defense Ministry Spokesman: No mobilization in Armenia



A spokesman for Armenia's Defense Ministry has denied media reports about planned mobilization in the country in

connection with the situation at the borders with Azerbaijan and in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Speaking at a press conference today, Artsrun Hovhannisyan said there can be no mobilization unless it is declared officially.

"If any decision is made on mobilization, there will be proper notification about it," Hovhannisyan stated, as quoted by 1in.am.

No mobilization was declared in Armenia during the four-day war in Nagorno-Karabakh in early April that ended in a fragile truce verbally agreed

by the Armenian and Azerbaijan sides.

Allegations about planned mobilization appeared in the press against the background of continuing tensions in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zone and speculation in Armenia about a possible new Azerbaijani offensive against Nagorno-Karabakh later this month.

Media and pundits have specifically mentioned May 8-9 as possible dates for such an offensive considering that it coincides with the anniversary of the Armenian liberation of the town of Shushi still during the first Karabakh war in 1992.

Issue of Artsakh recognition should remain on the agenda as a restraining factor: David Babayan

The government opinion on Artsakh recognition bill was an important step by Armenia in terms of contributing to the maintenance of peace and stability in the South Caucasus, Spokesman for the NKR President David Babayan told Public Radio of Armenia.

"Armenia thus makes it clear to the world that it will recognize Artsakh, if Azerbaijan unleashes new war," he said.

"The fact that Armenia has not recognized Artsakh for 25 years of negotiations is an unprecedented example of constructive policy. But when Azerbaijan unleashes war with an aim of destructing Artsakh, recognition becomes a must. The process has started, and it's a message to both the international community and Azerbaijan," Babayan said.

He further clarified that "it's a process, not the final step," and adding that "the issue should always remain on the agenda, even if no positive or negative conclusion is given."

Referring to the misunderstanding in the press connected with the government opinion on the bill, the Spokesman said "it was a message of peace, a message of preventing war." "It cannot be compared to what Azerbaijan did in April in what became the worst blow to the talks."

"This is an answer to Azerbaijani offensive, which implies that if aggression repeats, there will be no alternative to recognition."

"We want Artsakh to be recognized, but Armenia should not be the first country to do that. However, the issue should always be on the agenda as a restraining factor," Babayan concluded.



Now is not the best time to recognize Artsakh

The government opinion on the bill on recognition of Artsakh was a message to the world, a warning that Armenia will recognize the Nagorno Karabakh Republic if Azerbaijan unleashes new aggression, journalist and expert Tatul Hakobyan told Public Radio of Armenia.

He said it's hard to find any Armenian in the world that would not rejoice for the recognition of Artsakh, but pointed to several challenges the decision could bring about.

Tatul Hakobyan said it will serve a justification for Azerbaijan to start new war. "Azerbaijan has long been trying to foil the Minsk process and transfer the issue to other platforms. In case of recognition, Azerbaijan will accuse Armenia of taking a unilateral step and frustrating the Minsk process," he added.

He said recognition will "intoxicate" the Armenian-Russian relations, Russia will be one of the first countries to condemn the move. "Anti-Armenian Russia is more dangerous than Azerbaijan and Turkey together," he noted.

"In case Armenia recognizes the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, the UN Security Council will convene a sitting and adopt a resolution that will not be favorable to Armenia," he said.

"We live in a world where we are not alone, and different interests have to be taken into consideration."

"It's not the best time to recognize Artsakh," Tatul Hakobyan concluded.

Bundestag to recognize Armenian Genocide with vast majority of votes: Albert Weiler



The German Bundestag will approve the Resolution on recognition of the Armenian Genocide on June 2, Member of Bundestag, Head of the Germany-Armenia Forum Albert Weiler declared in Yerevan today.

“I assure that the Armenian Genocide recognition bill will

be put on a vote at the plenary session of the Bundestag. I think the resolution will pass with a vast majority of the votes, he said.

According to Weiler, the parliamentary forces are still holding discussions on the content of the bill, but one thing is clear – the term ‘genocide’ will be included in the title, and the events of 1915 will finally have the right formulation.

Referring to Turkish Ambassador’s warning to Germany, Weiler noted that “not only the Turkish, but also the Azerbaijani side is trying to interfere with the issue.” Despite that he hopes that the bill will pass almost unanimously.

The German lawmaker said “part of the resolution will refer to the restructuring of the Armenian-German relations.” “Germany should take up the responsibility of contributing to the normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations,” he said.

“Recognition of the Armenian Genocide will be a message to Armenia and Turkey to normalize the bilateral relations irrespective of the forces in power in Turkey. I hope the day we’ll be able to cross the Turkish border with my Armenian friends is not far away,” the Member of Bundestag said.

Thousands of Montrealers march to commemorate Armenian and other genocides



More than 10,000 people marched in Montreal on May 8 in honour of victims of all genocides of the 20th century. The March for Humanity and Prevention of Genocide (M4H) as held to raise awareness and prevent such atrocities from taking place again in the future.

“One hundred and one years after the Armenian Genocide, we continue to witness horrors around the world. Today, thousands march to raise awareness on the genocides and crimes against humanity of the 20th century,” declared Hrag Jinjian, Chair of the Armenian Genocide Commemoration

Committee of Quebec. “It is our duty, as victims but also that of every Quebecer, to fight denial, fight indifference, and force governments into action where help is needed.”

The M4H began at Cabot Square with participants walking towards the Quartier des Spectacles along Sainte-Catherine Street. Among the many participants attending were political figures, including Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Christine St-Pierre, Quebec Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, and former Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism and

Minister of Defense, Honourable Jason Kenney as well as ambassadors, foreign diplomats as well as representatives of Montreal and Laval mayors.

This year event was organized in collaboration with MIGS – Montreal Institute for Genocide and human rights Studies, AGAR (Alliance for Genocide Awareness and Remembrance), CIJA (Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs) and Amnesty International Canada. Returning community participants included members of the Jewish, Rwandan Tutsi, Cambodian, Ukrainian, Assyrian, Lebanese, and Pontian Greeks.

Gas and Electricity Review: PSRC expects to lower tariffs

The Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC) says it intends to reduce natural gas prices in Armenia in response to a request from provider Gazprom Armenia.

It is expected that the tariff will be lowered by about 10 drams – from current 156 to about 146 drams (33 to 30 cents) per cubic meter for ordinary users. For consumers using up to 10,000 cubic meters of natural gas a month (i.e. enterprises), it is suggested that the current price of \$276.98 per thousand cubic meters be lowered to \$257.56 in dram equivalents.

At last week's government session Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan said that he expected reduction of not only gas tariffs, but also tariffs for electricity.

"In our research we came to the conclusion that electricity and gas prices are calculated by the logic of the old Soviet planned economy, and I cannot specify how much it will decrease, because we are busy with doing new calculations," economist Vahagn Khachatryan, a member of the opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC) party, told media on Friday.

According to him, the proposal submitted by the public services, which stipulates that the electricity tariff might be reduced to



some extent, may not satisfy the public.

"Our calculations show that we can pay 100 drams (about 20 cents) for gas instead of 156 (about 30 cents), and the electricity tariff should be measured based on that," he said.

Vazgen Safaryan, the chairman of the Union of Domestic Manufacturers, claims that the PSRC has decided to reduce electricity tariff, based on the fact that hydro-electric power plants produced 28 percent more electricity in the first three months because the year was water abundant.

"Last year our the Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant produced 13.1 percent more electricity, and hydro power plants produced

10.7 percent, and it's natural that changes should take place. The question is to what extent this change will be and to what extent it will satisfy the industry and the population," he said

Economic analyst Hayk Gevorgyan believes that an important issue remains open: "Now we are discussing the issue on raising or lowering the tariff, but we need to look at the fact to what extent the existing tariff corresponds to reality," he concluded.

Last summer, thousands of people took to the streets against the decision of the same body, according to which, the electricity tariff increased by seven drams (less than 2 cents).

The last breathe of bankrupt Nairit Plant: once chemical giant will remain without employees on July 1

The employees and the managing staff of the Nairit chemical plant have received notifications about their dismissal on July 1 2016, Karine Shahverdyan, a member of the NAIRIT NGO Coordination Group of the former employees of the chemical giant, told ArmInfo. She said the employees have not received salaries since February. Considering the Plant's new arrears of wages (for 3 months), it is not surprising that the remaining 480-500 staff members received dismissal notifications.

Shahverdyan recalled that a similar situation was in December 2014 when all the 2,200 employees of the plant received notifications about dismissal and about 500 of them were recalled in a few months. "We think something similar may happen this time too," she said commenting on the information that some of the staff members will be offered to join either Nairit-2 or Yerevan TPP.

To note, Nairit Plant has been idle since April 2010. At the moment the debts of Nairit Plant amount to 50 billion AMD (about 130

million USD). The Plant's shares were given as security against the CIS InterStateBank's 70 mln USD loan provided in 2006 for 5 years - till late Dec 2011 - at 12.5% p.a. In 2006, 90% of Nairit Plant's shares were sold to Rhinoville Property Limited (UK). The latter owns an 89,999% stake in the plant, Armenian Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources - 4,496%, Gazprom Armenia CJSC (previously ArmRusgasprom) - 3,596%, and Yerevan Thermal Power Plant - 1,907%. In 2015 the World Bank conducted a financial and technical audit at Nairit Plant at the request of the Armenian Government. The WB considers the re-launch of the plant to be inexpedient because it will need at least \$250 mln. But even if investors are found, the WB experts do not think the product will be competitive, because it will have a high prime cost. Most experts say that the results of the WB audit can be considered as recommendations to the Plant's bankruptcy process.

Earlier, on March 16 Minister of Energy

and Natural Resources of Armenia Levon Yolyan stated that Russian "RT-Khimkomposit" holding, which is a part of "Rostekh" State Corporation, is preparing proposals to the Armenian government for restarting Nairit, a giant chemical plant in Armenia. At the same time by the order of Armenian Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Levon Yolyan, a working group has been set up to research the current condition of Nairit Plant CJSC and the further steps to help the plant overcome the current situation. The working group is headed by Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources L. Shahverdyan, and includes representatives of the Ministry, Nairit Plant and Yerevan Thermal Power Plant. The Energy Minister has instructed the working group to submit the proposals on development of Nairit Plant in the shortest time possible. The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Armenia told ArmInfo the negotiations with the Russian company continue and it is early to speak of the outcome yet.

Economist: Ban on import of Turkish goods would have more negative effect on Armenia

While Armenia's government, responding to the demands of some public circles, is carrying out studies as to gains and losses of a possible move to ban the import of Turkish goods, some local experts already present their calculations.

Economist Vilen Khachatryan, for example, thinks that if Armenia refuses to import Turkish goods it will have more negative consequences for its economy. While the two countries have no diplomatic relations and are divided over historical events, Turkey is the fifth largest partner of Armenia in terms of imports. Armenians mainly import foodstuffs and apparel, a total of 700 names of products. Armenian exports to Turkey are much lower than imports.

"The highest imports from Turkey were observed in 2011 when they amounted to \$240 million. In 2015, \$137 million worth of Turkish goods were imported to Armenia. During the first three months of 2016, imports from Turkey stood at \$24 million. If we stop trade with Turkey, both importers and exporters will suffer losses," Khachatryan said.

"If we only suspend imports, Turkey will immediately stop exports from Armenia. In

other words, it won't work as a scenario," he added.

Calls for boycotting Turkish products are made in Armenia from time to time as Turkey is an ally of Armenia's regional archrival Azerbaijan. These calls intensified after four-day deadly fighting with Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh in early April. Those who want a ban on Turkish goods believe that imports from Turkey contribute to a country that supplies Azerbaijan with weapons and helps its army kill Armenian soldiers.

According to Khachatryan, however, the money received by Turkish companies through exports to Armenia is negligent for the Turkish budget.

During a question and answer session in parliament last week Minister of Economy Artsvik Minasyan said that his ministry was studying the issue, first of all on the goods that could "threaten the national economy" in terms of quality and competition.

"As a result of preliminary studies, we have identified two circumstances. We are a member of the World Trade Organization, of which Turkey is also a member. When Armenia was entering the organization, Turkey made a reservation under the



Marrakesh Agreement, by which it would actually not have relations with Armenia as a WTO member, which means that Armenia is entitled to use all tools to protect its economy," said Minasyan, promising to present in the time to come a comprehensive package of the studies.

"The thing is that our actions must be calculated accurately to avoid social risks," the minister added.

Armenian Prime Minister: Government is ready to support mining sector enterprises

In Q1 2016, Vallex Group, which develops the Teghout copper molybdenum deposit, ensured 57% growth in output, Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan said during his visit to the deposit on May 4.

He pointed out the need to retain the growth rates till the end of the year. "This year, the company's output has already totaled 16 bln AMD. Due to the decline in the world prices of copper concentrate, Vallex has come across a number of financial problems. The Government is ready to discuss the issue and to support such a large company, which has big development perspectives, especially as the Armenian President has also given such an instruction. We give high priority to development of the mining sector and we are ready to support other mining enterprises as well," Abrahamyan said.

Abrahamyan was told that more than 350 mln USD was invested to launch the

first phase of the project. From December 2014 till April 2016, the company extracted and processed 8.8 mln tons of minerals, produced 141 thsd tons of copper concentrate with 27.89% content of copper. At the moment, the Teghout deposit is employing 1,200 people mostly from the adjacent communities - Teghout, Shnogh and other districts of Lori Province. As of March 2016, the average salary of the company's employees was 352 thsd AMD. In 2015, the company paid 2.5 bln AMS in taxes. In Jan-Apr 2016, this index totaled 4.55 bln AMD.

Teghout CJSC was founded on 22 May 2006 by Vallex Group. 100% of its shares belong to Teghout Investments Ltd. (Cyprus), whose 100% preferred shares are owned by the Armenian Copper Programme belonging to Valery Mejlumyan. By its reserves, Teghout deposit holds the second place in the



republic after the Kajaran copper and molybdenum deposit in Syunik. In 1991 the approved reserves amounted to 450 mln tons of ore, including 1.6 mln tons of copper (with 0.355% content), and 99 thsd tons of molybdenum (with 0.022% content). The program to develop the mine was approved by the Armenian Government in Nov 2007.



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1 ROOM

- 1696.**Tumanyan str.**, 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 160.000 USD.
- 1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m, euro repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 350.000 USD.
- 1715-**Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- 1680-**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- 1674-**Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor, 70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- 1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

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



3 ROOMS

- 3090 **Dzorap Newly built**, 190sq.m, 2 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, capitally renovated, parking. Price: 460.000 USD
- 3090. **Busand str./Near Republic Square/**, Newly built, /6th floor, 116sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms one in master bedroom, capitally renovated, open balcony. Price: 350.000 USD negotiable
- 3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m., without divisions. Price: Negotiable.
- 3012.**Aram str.**, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar. Price: 300.000 USD negotiable.
- 2998.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- 2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built, 13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally repaired, heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- 2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building, 4 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- 2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, security system. Price: 320.000 USD.
- 1104.**Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m., stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price:

130.000 USD

- 2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4,5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.
- 2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- 1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable
- 1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capitally repaired. Price: negotiable.
- 1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.

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

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

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

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

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

•1986.**Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.

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

•2175.**Tumanyan str.** Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor 300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,

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

LANDS

- 2122.**Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.
- 2121.**Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m., building permits. Price: 2million USD.
- 2013.**Cascade**. 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 460.000USD
- 1402.**Hr. Kochar Str.**, 1100 sq. m. facade -25 m. Price negotiable.
- 2090.**Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000USD.
- 2406.**Avan**, Mher Mkrtyan block, 1000 sq.m.,

electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price: 30USD per sq.m

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

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

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

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

•3712 **Cascade** Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 storied bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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1 ROOM

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

2 ROOMS

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

3 ROOMS AND MORE

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

- 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyun str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capially repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capially repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially 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, capially repaired, climate control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially 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, capially repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.



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

PRIVATE HOUSES

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

PREMISES

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

Azeri aggression against Artsakh nothing, but fascism: Armenian FM



The liberation of Shushi became a turning point in a war waged by Azerbaijan, and the fact that the day overlaps with the victory over fascism may not be accidental, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said in comments to Public TV.

"Today the victorious Army of Artsakh is fighting a new expression of fascism. The aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh in early April was nothing but fascism. The statements full of xenophobia, intolerance and hostility coming from Baku were nothing but fascism. Today's holiday is a vivid example of what happens to fascism," Minister Nalbandian said.

"Six hundred thousand Armenian participated in World War Second, and only half returned home. My father participated in the victorious Battle of Stalingrad, my two uncles were killed in the war. There is no Armenian family that has not participated in the Great Patriotic War," he added.

According to Edward Nalbandian, the Armenian nation has made a great contribution to the victory over fascism, and as we see, keeps doing that today.

Israeli President visits Jerusalem Armenian Patriarch

President Reuven Rivlin visited the Apostolic Armenian Church in Jerusalem's Old City on Monday morning and met with leaders of the Christian community in Israel. He was welcomed by Armenian Patriarch Nourhan Manougian, Israel National News reports.

President Rivlin thanked Patriarch Manougian for his and his community's hospitality. "A meeting with leaders of your community is always important to me, but during these days, is perhaps even more important." He stressed, "These are difficult times for our city. Terror and death have returned to our streets. The violent attacks all over the city cause growing fear and with fear comes intolerance and hatred."

President Rivlin reiterated Israel's commitment to the values of freedom of worship, and to the well-being of the Christian community which was facing persecution across the Middle East.



Jacques Hakobyan: He Came with Love, Lived with Love and Passed away with Love...

On May 1 Jacques Hakobyan, Deputy Director of the Armenian State Philharmony, Holder of the honorary title "Honored Worker of Culture of the Republic of Armenia", President of the Pan-Armenian Union of Satirists, a prominent public and art/culture figure passed away at the age of 72.

In 1977 Mr Hakobyan graduated from the History Department of the Yerevan State University.

After graduation he worked at the Yerevan Institute of Fine Arts and Theatre.

In 1987 Jacques Hakobyan becomes Vice President of the Armenian Cultural Fund.

In 2004 Jacques Hakobyan joined Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute of the National Academy of Sciences, and in 2005 he was appointed Deputy Director of the Institute.

In 2007 he becomes Director of the "Arno Babajanyan International Memorial Fund".



In 2010 Mr Hakobyan was appointed Deputy Director of the Armenian State Philharmony.

A great lover of art and literature, Jacques N. Hakobyan authored five satirical books such as "The Laughter Garden", "Jokes of the Armenian Radio," "19 Moments of Humor and Satire", "This Son of Dog is Crazy" and "Let's Live Smiling".

In 2009 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the RA Ministry of Culture.

In 2010, with a presidential decree, Jacques N. Hakobyan was awarded the title "Honored Worker of Culture of the Republic of Armenia".

As poet, satirist, journalist Albert Parsadanyan said once on Jacques Hakobyan, "With permanent laughter at his face, smile in the eyes, sociable and humane - that is Jacques Hakobyan, and a prominent Armenian satirist Aramayis Sahakyan of the blessed memory said the following words on Mr Hakobyan: "A lively, agile, inventive, caring and warm".

...It is very difficult to imagine a Yerevan (that yet some twenty years ago was called "a beautiful tufa stone city") without Jacques Hakobyan, our universally beloved "Jack Nikolayich" who was a symbol of THE TRUE Yerevan himself, a bright rep of the (brilliant) generation that has been called "The City Guys".

Rest in peace, dear "Older Bro", we'll miss you INDEED!

Gourgen Khazhakian

Victory Day, Shushi liberation celebrated in Stepanakert

On 9 May within the framework of celebrations to mark the Victory Holiday, the Day of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic Defense Army and the Liberation of Shushi Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan together with Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan and NKR second President Arkady Ghukasyan attended the Stepanakert Memorial Complex, laid a wreath and flowers to the monuments commemorating martyrs perished in the

Great Patriotic War and the Artsakh Liberation Struggle.

On the same day Bako Sahakyan, Hovik Abrahamyan and Arkady Ghukasyan visited the town of Shushi and laid garlands and flowers to the pedestal of the tank-monument and the monument of Sparapet Vazgen Sargsyan. They partook in the opening of “Karabakh’s Revival” photo-exhibition of prominent photographer Martin Shahbazyan and his “Artsakh-Revival”

book presentation, as well as were present at the candle lighting held at the Ghazanchetsots Church of Christ the Savior.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, NA chairman Ashot Ghoulyan, prime-minister Arayik Haroutyunyan, high-ranking officials from Artsakh and Armenia, guests from the Diaspora and abroad partook at the festive events.



Impossible to postpone Armenian Genocide bill further, Bundestag VP says

Twice-postponed Armenian Genocide draft will be brought to Bundestag's agenda on June 2. Green Party member and Vice President of the Bundestag Claudia Roth spoke to Agos. Reminding that Ambassador of Turkey to Germany Hüseyin Avni Karslıoglu warned Bundestag about the draft, Roth said, "We don't accept it. I hope the groups in the parliament won't obey Turkey once again and the draft will be accepted as planned."

With "Erdowie, Erdowo, Erdogan" video clip and Erdogan's lawsuit against comedian Böhmerrmann, freedom of expression and oppression on press in Turkey came to the fore in German public agenda. Though EU countries, especially Chancellor Merkel, seemingly evaded the responsibility by signing the Readmission Agreement with Turkey, the German public opinion is divided over this issue. While the ruling coalition followers and right-wing support the agreement, liberals and left-wing criticize it because it is done at the cost of the lives of the refugees and EU connives at the violation of rights in Turkey. In the midst of these discussions, Berlin-based national newspaper Die Tageszeitung issued a special supplement focusing on freedom of press in Turkey on May 3 World Press Freedom Day. In order to prepare this issue, which includes articles from Turkish journalists and published in Turkish-German for the first time in German press history, 2 editors from Turkey, including me, was invited. This 16-paged supplement was published with "Uncensored" title and on the day it was published, a panel discussion on freedom of press in Turkey was held. Die Welt Turkey representative Deniz Yücel and the Vice President of the Bundestag Claudia Roth gave speeches at the session.

It is no coincidence that Green Party member and Vice President of the Bundestag Claudia Roth attended this session. Working for Turkey's EU membership since 1989, Roth was one of the Bundestag members who brought the grave human rights violations in Turkey during '90s to the parliamentary agenda. In 2013, during Gezi Park protests, she was subjected to police brutality. During the recent years, she became the leading critics of Turkey's governmental policies.

We spoke to Claudia Roth about Armenian Genocide draft, Germany's responsibility in the genocide and the meaning of the Readmission Agreement in terms of German-Turkish relations.

It is announced that the draft concerning the Armenian Genocide will be brought to the parliamentary agenda on June 2. Do you think that it will be accepted this time?

It's about time. The draft hasn't been

brought to the agenda sooner because of Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) and Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU); it is not our fault. We wanted it to be accepted last year, on the centennial of the genocide. On the anniversary of the genocide, President Joachim Gauck and the President of Bundestag Norbert Lammert used the word "genocide". We said that we will prepare a draft that all parliamentary groups would accept. However, the other groups didn't do this, they tried to postpone it. And now, CDU leader promised that a common draft will be brought to the agenda on June 2. On the other hand, we saw on the newspapers that Turkey Ambassador to Germany warned our parliament about this draft. He said, "Calling it genocide is not under the authority of a foreign parliament." I hope the groups in the parliament won't obey Turkey once again and the draft will be accepted as planned.



What do you think about this warning?

This attitude is incomprehensible for me. An ambassador warns Bundestag openly. We don't accept it. No embassy and no government can threaten us. What we discuss or how we resolve an issue is at our disposal. I hope CDU and SPD will keep their promise, vote for the draft and define what happened in 1915. And this definition can be nothing but genocide. We are already late; we should have accepted it last year. However, SPD thought that it might constitute an obstacle to the Readmission Agreement. It is impossible to postpone it further.

What will Bundestag's recognition of the genocide mean?

Recognition will pave the way for discussing our responsibility, because Germany is also responsible for what happened. German Monarchy was an ally of Turkey; they didn't do anything for preventing the genocide, though they knew everything about it. We have to confront our past.

Germany's role in the genocide has come to be discussed more and more both in Turkey and Germany. Is this also a topic of public discussions?

Especially on the centennial, this issue was intensely discussed. However, it started long before the centennial. I remember that Hrant Dink came to Germany and attended some panel discussions about 10 years ago. I person-

ally discussed this issue with him. We were talking about whether it is necessary to insist on defining the events as genocide. He said that opening the issue up for discussion is more important. However, 10 years passed and Hrant Dink was murdered. Today, I think that calling it genocide is also our responsibility to Hrant Dink. So, we will discuss this issue and say that what happened is genocide. And there is another reason that makes it so important: the Armenian Genocide is accepted as the first genocide in 20th century, but Germany is responsible for another genocide, which was committed 11 years before the Armenian Genocide. The country that is known as Namibia today was a colony called German South-West Africa. And in 1904-1907, Germany carried out a genocide against indigenous Herero and Nama people. We think that the recognition of the Armenian Genocide will enable the discussion of Herero genocide and Germany will also accept its responsibility for it too. As a result of our efforts, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs recognized the Herero Genocide. However, this is not enough, because nothing has been done for reconciliation yet.

Especially in the recent period, human rights violations in Turkey is begun to be discussed in Germany. On the other hand, there are criticisms against EU countries on the ground that they connive at what is happening in Turkey because of the refugee agreement. As a politician, do you think that German Parliament should criticize itself?

Yes, a self-criticism is necessary. When Erdogan came to power at first, left-wing and liberals in Turkey was supporting him. There was a peace process and we thought that a new period is about to start in Turkey. However, on this point, the self-criticism should be about the EU membership process of Turkey. We, as EU and Germany, haven't made enough effort for Turkey's full membership. Such an effort would have led to democratic reforms. We didn't insist on this process and find the membership convincing and this was a huge mistake in terms of the relations with Turkey. Offering "privileged partnership" instead of full membership doesn't mean anything. At the end of this process, Turkey became more alienated from the idea of EU membership. Preventing Turkey's full membership but signing an agreement with it for protecting the "Europe castle" is nothing but hypocrisy. What was our contribution to the escalation of autocracy in Turkey? Did we sell out the democrats, journalists and opponents in Turkey by signing this agreement? Did we sell out democracy? Did we connive at what happened? We should discuss these issues.

Turkish Denialist Helps Publicize Truth about the Armenian Genocide

By Harut Sassounian
 Publisher The California Courier

Ergun Kirlikovali, a resident of Orange County, California, and former president of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, has carried out a life-long Don Quixotic battle against recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Unfortunately for him, the more he denies the Genocide, the more he helps publicize it.

Here is the latest episode of Kirli's "heroic" actions which once again backfired on him and his obsessive denialism.

On April 24, as 60,000 protestors gathered in front of the Turkish Consulate in Los Angeles, Kirli showed up with a handful of his denialist compatriots trying to cover up the tarnished image of their homeland! The Turks' presence at the protest attracted the attention of the local news media, generating more publicity for the 101st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

To take credit for his anti-Armenian protest, Kirli had a cohort videotape his interview with KABC-TV, during which he once again denied the Armenian Genocide. Shockingly, in the midst of the interview, the KABC cameraman made derogatory remarks about Armenians, calling them "thug-like idiots."

In its news coverage of the April 24 protest, KABC used a sound bite from Kirli's 8-minute rant. However, no one would have known about the cameraman's prejudicial comments, if it were not for Kirli posting the raw footage of his interview on Facebook, which got the anti-Armenian cameraman in hot water.

In response to complaints from the public, KABC promptly issued a statement apologizing for its freelance cameraman's remarks and announcing the termination of his services with the TV station. However, KABC insisted that its story was "fair and accurate." Many viewers disagreed, citing the inclusion of Kirli's denialist views in the broadcast. In a phone conversation with KABC's General Manager last week, I discussed the pitfalls of providing airtime to a denialist and the positive steps the TV station could initiate to educate viewers about the Armenian Genocide. Upset by



the station's conciliatory statement, Kirli posted on Facebook his "disappointment" with KABC's apology and dismissal of the cameraman after complaints from "Armenian pressure groups."

The Armenian National Committee of America -- Western Region (ANCA) and Armenian Youth Federation -- Western US (AYF) issued a joint statement contesting KABC's decision to provide a platform to a notorious genocide denier and asked for a meeting with the TV station's management. They justifiably contended that KABC would never interview a neo-Nazi while covering a Holocaust commemorative event.

Subsequently, KABC's management agreed to meet with representatives of ANCA, AYF, and the Armenian Bar Association, and removed from the TV station's website Kirli's offensive words along with the questionable news story! After the meeting, Cheryl Kunin Fair, President and General Manager of KABC-TV, issued the following highly principled statement on May 2:

"ABC7 regrets what happened and apologizes for the pain this incident caused the Armenian community, especially on Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. The actions of the cameraman in question, who no longer works for the station, and the resulting story that aired that day, were not an accurate reflection of ABC7's commit-

ment to the Armenian community. While the cameraman's comments did not air, we regret the inclusion in our story of a short bite from the interview denying the existence of the Genocide on historical grounds, which is counter to the position of a majority of historians today who do call it a Genocide, and see the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians as a premeditated and systematic campaign to exterminate an entire people. Efforts are underway in partnership with the ANCA, AYF, Armenian Bar Association and others to provide opportunities for public dialogue, internal education, and meaningful stories about and for the Armenian community and their efforts for Genocide recognition and education. We are committed to moving forward with these initiatives and we thank the ANCA and its partner organizations for their leadership in this dialogue and willingness to listen."

KABC-TV should be commended for issuing such a reassuring statement, apologizing for the offense caused to the Armenian community, promising not to use the services of the bigoted cameraman, expressing regret for interviewing a genocide denialist, reaffirming the truth of the Armenian Genocide, and pledging to work with community organizations to educate the public on this critical issue. Without Kirli's persistent denialist endeavors, none of these constructive steps would have been possible!

Charles Aznavour's family saved Jews from Nazis

Charles Aznavour's family hid Jews in their home during the German occupation of Paris in World War II, French-Armenian singer reveals in new book.

Avner Shapira, Haaretz

"I knew the chains/I knew the wound/I knew the hate/I knew the hurt/ the thirst and hunger/I knew the fear/from one day to the next."

So go the lyrics to Charles Aznavour's song "J'ai Connue," from his 50th studio album, released in 2011. The song, told from the perspective of a Jewish prisoner in the Nazi concentration camps, doesn't describe the singer's direct experiences during World War II. But Aznavour, who will celebrate his 92nd birthday later this month, did have some personal awareness of some of the horrors depicted in the song, as the son of refugees who survived the Armenian genocide and rebuilt their lives in Paris after losing most of their relatives.

Although Aznavour's life has been extensively chronicled, up to now he has said very little about an especially humane and heroic chapter in his and his family's life: Their decision to shelter and save Jews, Armenian deserters and underground activists in their home during the German occupation of France during the war, and their involvement in anti-Nazi activity.

Aznavour family Aznavour family in the 1920s. Charles' father, Mischa (center), is next to his wife, Knar

Now Aznavour has decided to tell the whole story, in Hebrew, in a self-published book, "Matzlim (Tzadikim) Ve'Lohamim" ("Righteous Saviors and Fighters"), by genocide researcher Prof. Yair Auron.

The latter spoke at length with Aznavour and his sister, Aida Aznavour-Garvarentz, who told him about their lives under the German occupation and what led their family, especially their father, to take part in rescue missions despite the many risks. The book, which will also be translated into French and Armenian, recounts a specific case, but offers a moral lesson on human behavior under conditions of widespread terror, and political and ideological violence. Above all, it is the moving story of survivors of one genocide who, at great personal risk, felt compelled to help victims of another.

In an interview conducted by email, Aznavour emphasizes the common threads that bind the Armenians and Jews.

"We come from the same pain and the same suffering, and without the annihilation of the Armenians in 1915-1918, the annihilation of the Jews in the Holocaust would not have been possible, because the Germans learned from their predecessors," he writes.

He cites what Hitler told the commanders of the German army in August 1939, on the eve of the invasion of Poland, as he tried to dispel their anxiety over the use of extreme violence: "Who talks about the annihilation of the Armenians anymore?"

Auron says German officers who were involved in the command of the Turkish army in World War I and signed orders to expel the Armenians later served in high-ranking positions in the Nazi leadership and took part in the annihilation of the Jews.

Aznavour says he knew many Jews when he was a child in Paris.

"We grew up together in the Le Marais district, where many refugees and immigrants – including many Jews and Armenians – lived in the period between the two world wars. My father's stall in the market was next to the stalls of some Jewish vendors.

"Armenian peddlers, including my father, looked after the stalls



of the Jews after they were arrested in the mass deportation of Parisian Jews ["the roundup"] in July 1942. So taking in and hiding Jews in our home during the war was a very natural thing for us to do: they were our neighbors and friends," he adds. "We had a life together. We were there for them and they were there for us. We had to try to help them, just as it was natural for us to try and help the Armenians who were drafted into the German army and deserted."

In his three previous autobiographical works, Aznavour made very little mention of these acts of salvation. He told Auron he didn't think they were so special and didn't want to be perceived as immodest. But the professor convinced him of the importance of telling the story. Now the singer says, "I'm very proud of my family's story and the beautiful, noble humanity of the act of rescue. Nothing makes me happier than to think that my dear parents saved people's lives."

Burning the uniforms

Aznavour was born in Paris on May 22, 1924, not long after his parents first arrived there. His father, Mischa Aznavourian, was born in Georgia in 1895 and lost his entire family in the Armenian genocide. His mother, Knar Baghdasaryan, was born in Izmir in 1904, and only she and her grandmother out of her entire family survived the genocide.

The couple fled Turkey on an Italian ship that brought them to Thessaloniki, Greece, where their eldest daughter, Aida, was born in 1923.

The family had many Armenian friends in Paris, among them a couple named Mélinée and Missak Manouchian. The latter was the military commander of the underground group known as L'Affiche Rouge (The Red Poster), which was the first to carry out armed resistance actions against the Nazis. Aznavour's family aided the group on many occasions and also hid the Manouchians for several months while they were being hunted by the French police and Gestapo.

The first time the family hid someone during World War II was when a friend of Aznavour's father brought his brother to them – a Romanian Jew who lived in Germany, was accused of subversion and sentenced to death. He had managed to escape to France disguised as a German soldier, and he knew that the Gestapo was after him. He found refuge in the family's three-room apartment at 22

continued on page 20

NSW Armenia-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group highlights Azeri aggression with joint statement

The New South Wales Parliament's Armenia-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group has released a joint statement supporting "the people of Nagorno Karabakh in seeking self-determination" and expressing "its strong concern at recent Azeri aggression" towards the Armenians of Artsakh.

The statement, was moved as a Group Resolution by Chairman Jonathan O'Dea MP and supported by all members during their joint meeting this week, attended by members of the Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC Australia).

The Armenia-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group includes members of all parties, as well as Independents of the Upper and Lower Houses of the NSW Parliament.

ANC Australia Executive Administrator, Arin Markarian praised the move by O'Dea and his colleagues, at a time when reports indicate that Azerbaijan is again building up its border military resources after its unprecedented post-Ceasefire attacks on the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh from April 1-5.

"This resolution shows the unequivocal and continuing support from members of a Parliament, which has already recognised the rights to self-determination of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh in its Legislative Council," said Markarian.

"The people of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh seek and deserve peace, and this statement shows that a bipartisan group of NSW Parliamentarians stand with the government and people of Artsakh," Markarian added.

The full statement reads:

"The Armenia-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group indicates its support for the people of Nagorno Karabakh in seeking self-determination, and expresses its strong concern at recent Azeri aggression towards the people of Armenian background in that region."

In Armenia Neonatal Mortality Can Be Reduced up to 30 Percent. AANM

Despite tangible improvements in decreasing neonatal mortality rate in recent decades the gaps in neonatal sector stills exists. Armenian Association of Neonatal Medicine (AANM) has come to such conclusion after conducting monitoring and evaluation referring to the general neonatal services in Armenia. The nationwide assessment was implemented during the months of January-March for revealing key causes of neonatal morbidity and mortality, and identifying the gaps in providing quality neonatal services. As the head of



Neonatal Unit of Slavmed Medical Centre, AANM researcher Hovhannes Khazaryan mentioned the aim of the research was to discover what kind of problems are there in neonatal sector and to offer a comprehensive package of solutions. According to the research, a number of problems have been revealed in Armenian Children's hospitals, including gaps in policy implementation, weak policies on neonatal standards and the absence of the permanent staff. As H. Khazaryan said, the main reasons of the insufficient condition of regional obstetrics are the lack of necessary technical equipments in the medical centers, the problem of improving quality of professionals: Also one of the reasons is that in the regions the treatment of the newborns is not paid by the state so there is no motivation for organizing and implementing neonatal treatment on the spot. "It is very important to understand and to take into the account the fact that child should receive proper medical treatment at least until the moment of transferring to the other medical center, otherwise, in the third level institutions, whatever they do, the results will not be satisfying"- emphasizes H Khazaryan adding, that Neonatal death accounts for over 60 per-



cent of under-five mortality rate in Armenia. The main causes of neonatal mortality are premature birth, inborn diseases, birth asphyxia, sepsis and pneumonia. "According to the approved information, neonatal mortality rate can be prevented up to 70% if necessary medical interventions are implemented on the spot", - mentioned director of USAID Armenia's Office of Democracy, Health and Social Reform Alison McFarland. According to the H. Khazaryan, in case of consolidating medical institutions it will be possible to save the regional obstetric service because, as he said, 65 medical institutions are quite a lot for a country, whose population is nearly three million. As he mentioned, the consolidation of medical institutions may lead to a decrease of neonatal mortalities because in this case several professionals will be work



in the medical centers who will succeed each other ensuring an effective work. As AANM President Dr. Hrant Kalenteryan stressed the results of the AANM analysis showed that the regulation of the neonatal services and consistent implementation of the guidelines will reduce neonatal mortality in Armenia up to 30 percent.

*Eliza Zakharyan, Noyan Tapan
Translated by Sarah Melkonyan*

VivaCell-MTS: Non-Stop Support to Wildlife Rescue and Many More...

Numerous wildlife rescue projects have been supported by Armenia's leading telecom operator within years, and below The highlights readers can find info on another one.

Official opening of the Wildlife Rescue Center took place in Urtsadzor

The official opening of Wildlife Rescue Centre (WRC) took place in the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge (CWR), a privately protected area managed by the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC). The first temporary inhabitants of the quarantine station - the first completed and fully equipped facility of the WRC - will be the three lions rescued from Gyumri Private Zoo by joint commitment and concerted actions of the FPWC and Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS). The construction of the quarantine station, as well as the food and care for the lions since they have been moved to



the CWR has been funded by the WVS. After undergoing the quarantine stage in Armenia the lionesses will be transferred to Manor Wildlife Park for their initial UK quarantine before going to their state of the art lion enclosure in Peak Wildlife Park, UK.

In frames of the project a memorandum of cooperation will be signed between the FPWC, RA Ministry of Nature Protection and RA Ministry of Emergency stating the parties' interest and willingness to collaborate for a coordinated and professional management of incidents involving wild animals both in Yerevan and the other regions of Armenia. Earlier, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between FPWC and WVS. FPWC's General Partner VivaCell-MTS has also announced its long-term support to the project. A fully equipped emergency vehicle was donated to the Centre by VivaCell-MTS.

"When we learn to preserve the nature and not hinder the process of its regeneration, we will have considerable progress not only in the conservation of the flora and fauna, but also raise the level of consciousness about our responsibility for the planet we live in. If we do not pay due attention to environmental issues, we will pass a devastated planet to the next generations. However, quitting and accepting defeat is not characteristic of our nation. We should be brave, accept the challenges and continue proving the world that civilization is not about words, but about one's actions and behavior. We stand for and try to instill this attitude in the society", said VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager Mr **Ralph Yirikian**.

The expert team of the Wildlife Rescue Centre will comprise

specialists from the FPWC, WVS, the Ministry of Nature Protection and the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

The expert team will examine the animals which being in wildlife or in urban environment appear in vulnerable situations and/or become dangerous and a threat as a result of human activity. Depending on their particular situation, the animals will be provided an appropriate treatment and care, and returned to wildlife and/or transferred to the international wildlife sanctuaries.

The Wildlife Rescue Centre will be sustainably addressing issues such as damage to the wildlife by human intervention, inappropriate conditions of wild animals in captivity and half-captivity and cruel treatment and torture of animals.



Additionally, the Wildlife Rescue Centre will implement regular informational and educational campaigns aimed at different target groups against illegal exploitation of wild animals and its consequences.

A new service from VivaCell-MTS "Deactivation of Internet roaming"

Now VivaCell-MTS subscribers can control communication expenses while in roaming, especially the expenses connected with unwanted Internet usage which can happen when the smartphone makes automatic updates, with the "Deactivation of Internet roaming" service.

By activating this service, you switch off the Internet roaming and continue using voice and SMS roaming services.

To use the service please dial *115*1#.

"Easy-to-understand services are another advantage of being a VivaCell-MTS subscriber. Easily accessible and free-of-charge service activation and deactivations features are as important from the viewpoint of comfortable communication, as having the best geographical coverage, high quality and affordability of services that make VivaCell-MTS the choice of more than 2 million subscriber," VivaCell-MTS General Manager said.

To deactivate the service and reactivate the option of using Internet when in roaming one should dial *115*0#.

It is hard to be an Armenian in Turkey: Elif Shafak

By *Elif Shafak*
The Guardian

Amid the political turmoil in Turkey this week, culminating in the prime minister's announcement that he'll stand down within days, it was Oscar Wilde who became the subject of a heated debate in the Turkish parliament. A member of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) said he wanted to quote a line from Wilde. A deputy from the ruling AKP party objected to the idea of citing someone who was neither Muslim nor Turkish. "Do you not have any examples from this culture, this civilisation?" Yet another AKP member confused the Irish author with the Oscars, to which a female HDP deputy, Burcu Özkan protested: "It's Oscar Wilde. He is not an award, he is a man!"

When they are not debating Wilde, MPs are busy exchanging blows. During a discussion to strip them of their immunity – a deliberate amendment that might lead to the trial and incarceration of Kurdish MPs – Garo Paylan, an Armenian deputy, was kicked, punched and subjected to hate speech by several AKP members. Paylan said: "What they can't digest is this: a person of Armenian identity reveals their lies and stands upright."

It is hard to be an Armenian in Turkey. Or a Kurd, or an Alevi, or gay, or a conscientious objector, or a Jew, or a woman, or someone who just doesn't agree with what is happening in the country. If you happen to tick more than one box, life is even harder. The list goes on and on. Diversity has been stifled. Freedom of speech has been abandoned. An "ideology of sameness" dominates the land. That ideology is shaped by Turkish nationalism, Islamism and authoritarianism blended with machismo and patriarchy. The tension in politics penetrates all aspects of daily life.

Turkey is no longer simply politically polarised. It is now bitterly divided into two planets: those who support and will continue to support the president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, no matter what; and those who are, for a variety of reasons, against him. The president, who is theoretically above political parties and strictly neutral, is in truth, anything but. Erdogan is the most divisive politician in Turkey's modern political history.

A full, unconditional obedience to the leader is expected from AKP members.

There isn't even the slightest trace of inner-party democracy. Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's announcement surprised everyone. He said his resignation was not a choice, but rather "a necessity". It is no secret that his successor will be someone fully approved and controlled by Erdogan, who will even further consolidate his power. Eventually, Erdogan wants to change Turkey into a presidential regime with a monopoly of power.

What little opposition exists is fragmented, scattered, and demoralised. Since the Gezi Park riots three years ago, people have been increasingly and systematically intimidated. On average, every four days someone is being sued in Turkey for insulting Erdogan – almost 2,000 people since he became pres-



ident. Among them are artists, journalists, cartoonists, academics, even students for Facebook comments. Over the years, as Turkey's media has been curbed, social media has become more politicised. Now that too is heavily monitored. Turkey tops the countries demanding content removal from Twitter.

Everything is shifting in Turkey – and very fast. We Turks live with a feeling of "what now?", knowing that every day something new happens. As the country slides backwards, what we have in our hands is not a democracy but a crude form of majoritarianism. The central components of democracy – such as separation of powers, rule of law, freedom of speech – are all but broken.

Murat Belge, a well-known academic and columnist, was put on trial for insulting the president. Academics who signed a peace petition criticising the government's actions in southeast Anatolia have been slated in pro-government media. Some have lost their jobs. Four were imprisoned. The infamous article 301, which claims to protect "Turkishness", even though nobody knows what exactly that means, has re-emerged.

There are three major dangers: an absolutist monopoly of power; the total collapse of the Turkish-Kurdish peace process; and the loss of secularism. Recently the parliamentary speaker, Ismail Kahraman, came up with a horrifying proposition: "Secularism shouldn't take place in the new constitution." Secularism was the one principle that separated Turkey from other parts of the Middle East. It made the country relatively more liberal, more open, more diverse. And the recent talk by some AKP members about developing a religious constitution is alarming – particularly for women, who need to uphold secularism more loudly and wholeheartedly than men because they have more to lose in an Islamic fundamentalist regime. Befittingly, Bayan Yani, a humour magazine produced by an all-female staff, and whose title means "the seat next to a woman on public transportation", drew a cartoon of a Turkish Marianne leading the people with the caption: "Long live secularism!"

Hikmet Çetinkaya and Ceyda Karan, two veteran journalists from the daily *Cumhuriyet* – one of the last remaining alternative voices in the media – have been sentenced to two years in prison for reprinting Charlie Hebdo cartoons. During their trial Islamist slogans were chanted in the courtroom. The sentence profoundly shocked Turkey's democrats. Today, in Reporters Without Borders' world press freedom index, Turkey ranks 151st of 180 countries.

In the past we had a solid tradition of black humour. Politics was always rough, but it was OK for the people to laugh at politicians. Not any more. Recent research shows that only half of Turkey's people think it OK to criticise the government publicly. When Angela Merkel allows German comedians to be sued by Erdogan, it is a clear message to Turkey's democrats: "You are all alone."

So what happened to the Turkish model we used to be so hopeful about? That unique blend of western democracy, secularism and majority-Muslim culture and pluralistic society is today empty rhetoric. Even the EU, to which we Turks once so aspired, has turned into a political game.

However, Turkey has millions of beautiful people who – though deeply depressed, demoralised and lonely – are globally connected and ahead of their government. And that quote in parliament which fell on deaf ears? It was about the vulgarity of power.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20-April 19)

It is hard for you to make forward motion at this time. Partly this has to do with your own inner hesitation. Let it be. Drive and handle tools carefully this week. Exercise judiciously. You may be edgy and irritable, thus making an accident of some kind more likely.



Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)

During this period you may have especially good fortune in the areas of romance, children, education, the law, or travel. The one pothole is in the category of debt. Those who owe you are recalcitrant about maintaining their promises. Or you may be the one who is debt-avoidant. Perhaps you cannot pay because others have not paid you. It's a conundrum



Gemini (May 20-June 20)

Memories from your life history may surface for examination at this time. Old friends or acquaintances who return for a short time could be the trigger for this life review. Do not assign blame until you have examined your own behavior. For that reason circumstances will slow down in your outer life.



Cancer (June 21-July 21)

This week you may be feeling stress related to your lover or a partner, or maybe a child. Underneath it all, the issue is tied to your internalized sense of what a woman "should" do or be (whether you are male or female). Our culture has always struggled with images of the feminine. Is she a caretaker or a seductress?



Leo (July 22-August 21)

Your planetary ruler is in the prime position to give generously and have the same given to you. Read the lead paragraph about the "grand trine" in the zodiac this week, because you are a participant in that arrangement. Your ability to dispense wisdom and equanimity is necessary now. You are in an effective position.



Virgo (August 22-September 22)

Your mood is expansive and optimistic this week. It is one of those "good luck" times that occasionally happen in life. You have a grasp of the big picture and could use this energy to promote your projects and gain support. Any interests you have in travel, publishing, the internet, or education are given a green light.



Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

Debts owed to you are delayed due to some kind of paperwork nit. If you are impatient, see what you can do about tracking on the original problem. This may help, but probably won't speed up the works. Hold your tongue in any unpleasant encounter. Aggression will not help you at this time. Just try to discover and correct the original nit.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your work or daily routine may be thwarted by detours and challenges. High tech equipment could be belligerent. However, aspects favor in depth discussion and understanding with partners. One relationship is subject to growth and flowering while another one is stalled out for this period.



Sagittarius

(November 22-December 20)

There are hurdles and potholes in the road to achieving your goals. At least you know exactly what you hope to accomplish. So many others are totally stuck with no direction in sight. Take your time and hold to the faith that you will eventually materialize what you need. Create an emotionally charged image/sense to hold in your mind. That is how magic works.



Capricorn (December 21-January 19)

A creative project or a relationship that began near the New Year is beginning to blossom now. At the very least you can see that it is on track to turn out well. You are struggling with your inner self. It feeds you false information that somehow you are not good enough or worthy enough. Put those dark thoughts behind you, or at least put them in the closet.



Aquarius (January 20-February 17)

You are caught in a holding pattern which keeps you from moving in any direction for the present. You don't know the outcome and do not have the promise of success that you need. Although it may feel like forever, it is not. By mid-summer you will know what to do next. Make an effort to take this waiting time as a mini-vacation from pressure to produce.



Pisces (February 18-March 19)

Stay alert for persistent peddlers, flim-flam folks, and others who want to sell you a "deal". Do not engage in any business without thoroughly investigating the proposition. Even then, take two steps back for a large overview before you move into anything new. If you have investigated this in times past, then fresh information may help you decide now.

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

10 May

19:30. Mikhail Pletnev: Recital. Recital, Mikhail Pletnev, piano, Program: J. S. Bach: Organ Prelude and Fugue in A minor, E. Grieg: Piano Sonata in E minor; Ballade, op. 24, W. A. Mozart: Sonata in D major KV311; Sonata in C minor KV457; Sonata in F major KV533.//Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall.

11 May

19:00. The Curtain of Time. Hasmik Ter-Karapetyan's mono-performance, Staged by Garnik Seyranyan.// Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

12:00. Under The Bethlehem Star. R. Babayan, Performance in 2 acts suitable for any age.// State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

19:00. Anoush. A. Tigranian, Opera in 3 acts. Staged by People's Artist of RA and Lithuania, G. Grigoryan, Painter: Honoured Worker of Art of Armenia, Grisha Sahakyan

Principal Choirmaster: Radik Melikyan, Choirmaster: Hrach Boryan, Choreographer: People's Artist of Armenia, Vilen Galstyan, Conductor: Atanes Arakelyan

Characters and cast: Anoush: Mary Movsisyan /1 performance /, Saro: Sargis Aghamalyan

Mosi: Gevorg Maghakyan, Anoush's mother: Kristine Sahakyan /Honoured Artist of Armenia/

Saro's mother: Lilit Grigoryan /Honored Art Worker of Armenia/, Kyokhya: Sergey Sargsyan Ohan: Grigor Abrahamyan, Groomsman: Tigran Koninyan, Guard: Zohrab Zohrabyan

Passer-by: Armen Badalyan, Friends: Lusine Ordukhanyan, Christine Giloyan, Tatevik Ashotyan,

Roza Hovsepyan, Maya African.// National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian.

19:00. NCOA & Arahet Choir. "Arahet" Choir, Choirmaster: Tatyana Minasyan, Anna Bakunts, organ, Armine Grigoryan, piano, Conductor: Harutyun Arzumanyan, Program:

Faure: Pavane for Choir and Orchestra, Poulenc: Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani, Franck: Piano Quintet (orchestral version), Dvorak: "Dumka" from Piano Quintet (orchestral version).// Chamber Music House after Komitas.

19:00. Ah, Women, Women. Genre: Comedy, Author: Robert Lamoureux

Director: Vigen Stepanyan, Scenography by: Davit Minasyan, Musical arrangement/Composer: Vigen Stepanyan, Duration: 2 hour, Actors:

Gagik Madoyan, Narine Grigoryan/Ani Ghazaryan, Arman Navasardyan, Alla Sahakyan, Tatev Ghazaryan, Armine Andreasyan, Karapet Balyan/Sergey Tovmasyan, Karen Khachatryan. // Sos Sargsyan Hamazgayin Theater.

12 May

19:00. Ah, Women, Women. Genre: Comedy, Author: Robert Lamoureux

Director: Vigen Stepanyan, Scenography by: Davit Minasyan, Musical arrangement/Composer: Vigen Stepanyan, Duration: 2 hour, Actors:

Gagik Madoyan, Narine Grigoryan/Ani Ghazaryan, Arman Navasardyan, Alla Sahakyan, Tatev Ghazaryan, Armine Andreasyan, Karapet Balyan/Sergey Tovmasyan, Karen Khachatryan. // Sos Sargsyan Hamazgayin Theater.

19:00. Flight. Drama in 2 acts, Duration: 60 min, Staging: Pantomime Theater, Director: Zhirayr Dadasyan.// Yerevan State Pantomime Theater.

19:00. Piano and Vocal Duets. Musical Thursday at Khachaturian's House, Anna Mayilyan, mezzo soprano, Ani Brutyan, piano, Armine Vardanyan, soprano

Elen Kirakosyan, piano.// Aram Khachaturian House-Museum.

19:00. Mrs. Ministress. Branislav Nushich, Comedy in 2 acts.// State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

19:00. Like Gods.// Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

19:00. Show No 3. Musical show, Author and Director of the play: Lusine Yernjakyan.// Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

19:00. I'm Here / ? ??????. Performance in Russian, for adults. Author: T. Dorst

Director: Tatevik Melkonyan, Animation: Lusine Khandilyan. Cast: Aram Karakhanyan, Samvel Tadevosyan.// State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

13 May

19:00. Show No 3. Musical show, Author and Director of the play: Lusine Yernjakyan.// Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

19:00. Lyu-Boeuf. Genre: Comedy, Author: Daniil Kharns, Director: Narine Grigoryan

Scenography by: Davit Minasyan, Musical arrangement/Composer: Narek Baghdasaryan

Costumes by: Tamara Baroyan, Videographics by: Mushegh Garukyan, Duration: 1 hour 15 min. Actors: Tatev Ghazaryan, Ani Ghazaryan, Arman Navasardyan, Gagik Madoyan, Segey Tovmasyan, Narek Baghdasaryan.// Sos Sargsyan Hamazgayin Theater

19:00. Ak. Ak. Based on N. Gogol's "The Overcoat".//State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

19:00. Love Stir. Marc Camoletti, Play in 2 acts.// State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan.

17:00. The Frog Prince. Stage Director: Lily Elbakyan.// State Marionette Theater.

19:00. N 707. Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan.

19:00. The Maniac. Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

11:00. The Third. Author: Boris Aprilov, Staging: Ruben Babayan.//State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

16:00. David of Sasun. Author: Hovh. Tumanyan, Staged by David Hakobyan, Musical arrangement: Armen Margaryan.// State Musical Chamber Theater.

14 May

18:00. Golden Chicken. Author: Vladimir Orlov, Staging: Karen Khachatryan.// State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

19:00. To Arms!. Author and director of the play - Ara Yernjakyan., Tragicomedy, 2 acts, 110 min.// Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

19:00. Jackpot. Genre: Comedy, Author: Ray Cooney, Director: Samson Stepanyan

Scenography by: Davit Minasyan, Musical arrangement/Composer: Samson Stepanyan

Duration: 1 hour 20 min.// Sos Sargsyan Hamazgayin Theater.

20:00. Aram MP3. The April events changed the way of our lives, and the Armenian soldiers with their bravery and heroic deeds defended our lives in peace.

Honour and glory to Armenian soldiers!

With this unbending will and victorious mood, Aram MP3 will present you his postponed concert on May 14 at 20:00 at SCC. All proceeds from the concert will be given to the NKR Army of Defense.// Sports & Concert Complex after K. Demirchyan.

19:00. Aunt from Paris. Comedy, Cast: Narek Duryan, Zaven Abrahamyan, Ara Deghtrikyan and others.// State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

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

12:30, 14:00, 15:30. Hansel and Gretel. Brothers Grimm, Staging: Lily Elbakyan.// State Marionette Theater.

19:00. An Evening of Armenian Folk Music. Participants: Ruben Sasuntsi, Gohar Hovhannisyun, Aghasi Ispiryan, Tarontsiner Folk Song and Dance Ensemble.// Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall.

19:00. Giselle. Cast: Giselle: Syuzanna Pirumyan, Duke Albrecht: Sevak Avetisyan, Myrtha: Sona Vardanyan, Hans: Boris Eminyan, Willises: Maria Aghababova, Zhanna Tevosyan.// National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian.

13:00. The Turnip. Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

19:00. Parliamentary Comedy. Satirical farce in 2 acts, Author: David Haier, Translation: Sergey Task, Staging: A. Grigoryan, Scenography: A. Harutyunyan, A. Grigoryan.// Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

19:00. Wild and Crazy Boys. Neil Simon, Comedy in 2 acts, Staged by Honoured Artist of Armenia, Zhan Nshanyan.// Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan.

14:00. Cinderella. Author: Charles Perrault, Staged by: A. Miridjanyan, Music: S. Alexanyan, Designer: M. Areyan, Dances: N. Mirzoyan.// State Musical Chamber Theater.

15 May

12:00. Sweet Bite Operation. Author: Gelo Ramos, Staged by Tigran Zahalyan.// State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan.

19:00. Wild and Crazy Boys. Neil Simon, Comedy in 2 acts, Staged by Honoured Artist of Armenia, Zhan Nshanyan.// Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan.

13:00. New Adventures of Gingerbread Man (Kolobok). Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

12:30, 14:00, 15:30. Thumbelina. Musical performance, Hans Christian Andersen, Stage Director: Anna Elbakyan, 3+// State Marionette Theater.

19:00. It Doesn't Matter With Whom. Original "Butterflies Are Free" by Leonard Gershe.

Director: Lusine Yernjakyan. //Yerevan State Chamber Theater.

19:00. Feast at Summer House. Staging: Nora Grigoryan, Author: Vladimir Zherebtsov, Tragicomedy in 2 acts.// Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski.

12:00, 14:00. Beauty and the Beast. French folk tale, Children's Musical Fun Show

Director: Armen Margaryan.// State Musical Chamber Theater.

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

Charles Aznavour's family saved Jews from Nazis

From page 14

rue de Navarin, in Paris' ninth arrondissement.

At the start of the war, Aida recounts in the book, "We understood that the Jews were going to be the victims of brutality. We looked upon the Jews with sadness and sorrow. We knew what genocide was." She says her parents showed no hesitation in taking in the Jewish refugee, "even though it was clear that if the Nazis found this man in our house, they'd kill us right away. We told him that our home was his home, and we treated him warmly, like a good friend who had to extend his stay. For a few days, he even slept in the same bed as Charles."

Sheltering 11 refugees at a time

The two Aznavour children, who were 16 and 17 at the start of the German occupation in 1940, pitched in to help, not knowing then that they would go on offering shelter to strangers. But then a woman came to the family, asking them to hide her Jewish husband, whose name was Simon. He had escaped from the Drancy internment camp, where the Jews of Paris were sent before being sent to the concentration camps outside of France.

For a while, the family also sheltered another Jew, and later on their apartment also served as a hideout for Armenians

who'd deserted after being forcibly drafted into the Germany army.

Aznavour and his sister say there were days when 11 refugees were all hiding in the family's apartment simultaneously. They hid in different corners of the house, and at night had to sleep on the floor.

The family prepared false papers for them, and one of the tasks assigned to the two children was to burn the deserters' German uniforms and dispose of them far from the house.

How aware were you of the political significance of hiding wanted people in your family home? How aware of the danger were you?

Aznavour: "My parents knew the danger was there every day, but my sister and I only grasped it later. We were 'crazy' young people. We were living out our youth and we followed in our parents' footsteps. Only after the war did we realize how great the risk really was."

Auron dedicates a large part of his book to the activities of L'Affiche Rouge – whose story is barely known in Israel, despite significant Jewish participation in it.

The group, which was associated with the French Communist Party and whose members were mostly immigrants without French citizenship, was active in 1942-

1943 as part of the French Resistance, and carried out armed attacks against the French police and Gestapo, inflicting casualties among the Germans.

It was named after the red propaganda poster the authorities distributed against it, which included photographs of 10 members who were apprehended.

The group had about 200 members; 67 were arrested, including 34 Jews and three Armenians. Of the 23 who were sentenced to death, 12 were Jews and two Armenian, including Missak Manouchian.

When Manouchian was arrested, his wife found refuge with her friends the Aznavours, after other friends refused to take her in. Aznavour says his parents' close friendship with the Manouchians was part of the special kinship shared by Armenian survivors. He has vivid memories of the couple from his childhood - "Missak taught me to play chess," he recalls.

He says that although his parents didn't officially belong to the Resistance, they aided much of the underground's activity. His mother helped a group transport weapons that were hidden in a baby carriage.

When Manouchian was arrested, he sent a postcard to Aznavour's mother, telling her that her son would bring honor to the Armenian people and glory to France. His words helped reassure his mother and planted hope for her son's future success.

Auron says there were many other Armenian families, like the Aznavour family, who saved Jews during the Holocaust. Twenty-four of them have been recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations, but there were even more.

Because of this connection between Armenians and Jews, both Auron and Aznavour are upset by Israel's stance on the Armenian genocide. "I'm very sorry that Israel does not recognize the Armenian genocide," says Aznavour, "because it was the model the Nazis used for the Jewish genocide."



Aznavour family in the 1920s. Charles' father, Mischa (center), is next to his wife, Knar

The Noyan Tapan Noah's Ark
HIGHLIGHTS

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