

Davit Tonoyan: Armenia Changes its Military Doctrine



From February 16th to 17th, the delegation headed by RA First Deputy Minister of Defence Davit Tonoyan took part in the "Military Doctrine Seminar" in Vienna.

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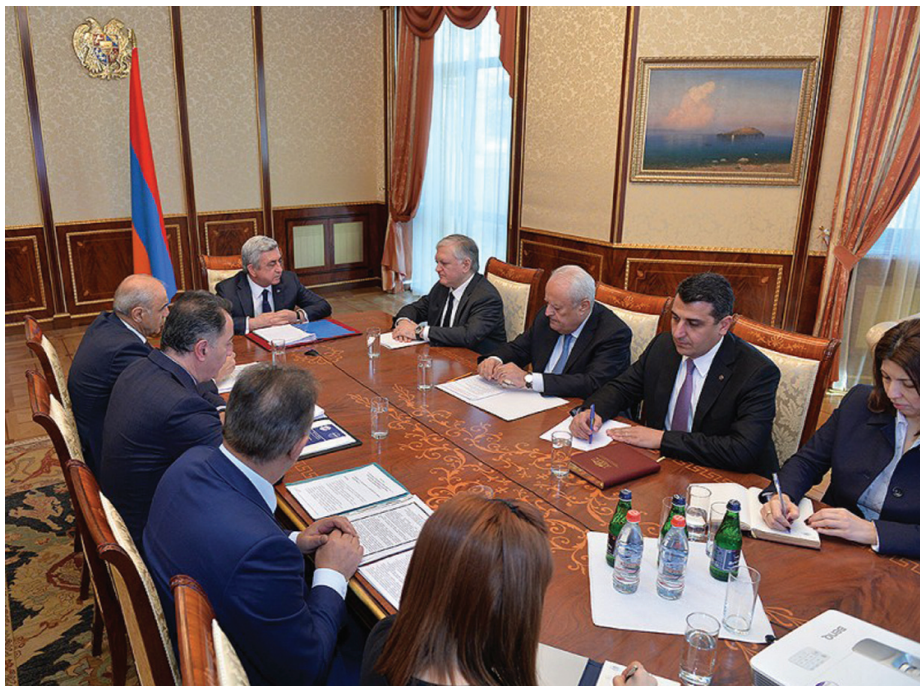
Perspectives of development of Armenia-Iran economic ties

President Serzh Sargsyan will hold a series of consultations with Armenian Ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions in foreign countries and international organizations to discuss the opportunities of furthering Armenia's economic interests, the perspectives of implementation of new projects, development of ties in a number of spheres.

The first meeting of the series was dedicated to issues on the agenda of Armenia-Iran relations, the ongoing programs and new initiatives. The discussion featured Armenia's Ambassador to Iran Artashes Tumanyan, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Karen Chshmarityan, Minister of Transport and Communication Gagik Beglaryan, other officials.

President Sargsyan asked Armenia's Ambassador Artashes Tumanyan to report on a wide range of issues on the bilateral agenda. "Naturally, the lifting of sanctions against Iran has opened perspectives for the implementation of new programs in a number of fields. I would like to know about Armenia's chances of becoming a key transit route for Iran," the President said.

Cooperation in the field of energy was the second important issue outlined by President Sargsyan. He stressed the need for establishment of additional infrastructures and generating capacities.



Another issue high on the agenda of today's consultations was Armenia's investment capacity, especially considering that it's the only member state of the Eurasian Economic Union sharing a land border with Iran.

Ambassador Tumanyan reported that the constriction of the third high-voltage power line is under way and will be completed by 2018. He said that serving as a transport corridor is of fundamental importance to Armenia. He referred to a recent statement by Iran's Transport Minister about his country's state policy

of "four corridors," one of which passes through Armenia.

"Two important political events have taken place in the region. First, the economic and financial sanctions against Iran have been lifted. Second, our country has become a member of the Eurasian Economic Union. The two developments are fundamental for building our economic policy," Artashes Tumanyan said.

At the end of the consultations, President Sargsyan gave instructions to the participants of the consultation and involved agencies.

Davit Tonoyan: Armenia Changes its Military Doctrine

The seminar that is held once every five years and attended by the high-ranking military and civil officials of all OSCE member states, is dedicated to the exchange of ideas about the change in the security environment, in parallel with doctrinal solutions.

During the seminar, RA First Deputy Minister of Defense Davit Tonoyan presented the results of the strategic review of Armenia's defense and specifically stated that: "In order to achieve the objectives of ensuring security in Armenia, and with intention of creating favorable conditions for peace talks within the OSCE Minsk Group, we plan to implement a series of measures.

It includes the Deterrence System that Armenia will use to reduce the armed confrontation. The Deterrence System gradu-

ally replaces the static defense concept of the Armenian Armed Forces that the foe may perceive as an evidence of insufficient power capacity. But in fact, that defensive strategy gave us nothing more than encouraged provocative actions by the foe.

Thus, the Republic of Armenia will implement qualitative solutions to neutralize quantitative disbalance, meantime strictly maintaining the existing restrictions on the arms control. The Deterrence System will include both responsive and proactive measures".

During his stay in Vienna, Davit Tonoyan met with Rose Gottemoeller, the US under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. The parties discussed issues concerning regional security, arms control as well as the implementation of humanitarian demining projects in Armenia.

Dashnaks reveal cabinet posts

Yerevan - (RFE/RL) The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun) confirmed on February 18 that it will receive three ministerial posts in Armenia's government as part of a "long-term" power-sharing deal with President Serzh Sargsyan

Armen Rustamyan, a Dashnaksutyun leader, told RFE/RL's Armenian service that Artsvik Minasyan will become minister of economy while two other prominent party members, Davit Lokyan and Levon Mkrtychyan, will take over as ministers of local government and education respectively.

Rustamyan said that Dashnaksutyun will also name new governors of the western Aragatsotn and Shirak provinces. "You will hear about other details later on," he said when asked about other government jobs to be covered by the upcoming deal.

Lokyan and Mkrtychyan already held cabinet positions before their party pulled out of Sargsyan's governing coalition in 2009.

Paving the way for Lokyan's new appointment, the government moved on Thursday to split the Armenian Ministry for Local Government and Emergency Situations. "As a result of political cooperation, there has risen a need to create the Ministry for Local Government and the Ministry of Emergency Situations," Justice Minister Arpine Hovannisyan told



a cabinet meeting.

The cabinet approved corresponding amendments to an Armenian law on the government's structure which were presented by Hovannisyan. The Armenian parliament will debate and almost certainly pass them later this week.

The two ministries were merged into a single agency for cost-cutting purposes 18 months ago.

In Rustamyan's words, the upcoming government appointments will be part of a broader political accord between Dashnaksutyun and Sargsyan that will be finalized "in a matter of days." "We are now working on the text of an agreement on political cooperation," he said.

"That agreement will be open-ended. We have already said that we are talking about not just an ordinary coalition bloc but long-term cooperation," he added.

Echoing statements made by Dashnaksutyun's Minasyan earlier this week, Rustamyan said the agreement will spell out concrete political and economic reforms stemming from the recently enacted amendments to the Armenian constitution.

Asked whether Sargsyan and the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) are really committed to significant policy changes, Rustamyan said: "That's what the agreement is all about."

Political groups remaining in opposition to Sargsyan dismiss such statements. One of them, the Armenian National Congress (HAK), claims that Dashnaksutyun is only anxious to retain its modest presence in the parliament by benefiting from fraud and government resources in next year's parliamentary elections.

Armenian National Committee expects Armenian Genocide to be included in Knesset's plenary session's agenda

In the near future it will be clear when the bill on the Armenian Genocide will be included in the agenda of the plenary session of the Knesset, the Chairman of the Armenian National Committee Hakob Sevan said during a phone conversation with "Armenpress".

"We are currently working on determining the exact date. We expect this to be clear in the nearest future. As we know, the bill on the Armenian Genocide was discussed in Knesset's Education, Culture and Sports Committee and now we are waiting for it to be included in the plenary session's agenda and discussed," Hakob Sevan said.

He noted that positive changes are observed in Israel regarding the Armenian Genocide issue. "There has been considerable progress in the approach of Israel's Knesset towards the Armenian Genocide issue in recent years. We are carrying out works on different levels. In particular, we are working with

those MPs who have a positive stance regarding the Armenian Genocide," Hakob Sevan said. According to him, their number is growing. Hakob Sevan also positively evaluated the conferences and initiatives which were organized in scientific institutions on the issue of the Armenian Genocide.

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Armenian Ex-PM takes over as Eurasian Union Head

Armenia's former Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan met on February 16 with Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in his new capacity as head of the executive body of the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

Tigran Sargsyan formally took over as chairman of the Eurasian Economic Commission on February 1 less than two months after the presidents of Russia, Armenia and three other ex-Soviet states aligned in the bloc announced his appointment at a summit in Moscow. He was Armenia's ambassador to the United States at the time.

He moved to Washington in July 2014, three months after resigning as prime minister amid mounting opposition challenges to President Serzh Sargsyan and the Armenian government. Tigran Sargsyan had served as prime minister since 2008. The 56-year-old economist had previously run Armenia's Central Bank.

"Tigran Surenovich, we last met at a time when you still headed Armenia's national government, and now you are a really big boss," Medvedev told him his opening remarks publicized by the Russian government. "You head a supranational body which oversees the work of other governments."

"I first of all want to wish you success," Medvedev went on. "It's a difficult but, I think, interesting job because it is aimed at integration, at achieving big results beneficial for all the countries



making up the Eurasian Economic Union."

"Both citizens and businesses in our countries want to see some real pluses resulting from integration, and we must show that integration is working," Sargsyan said for his part. "This will be an additional stimulus for integration processes."

Sargsyan's appointment as the top official in the EEU's Moscow-based executive leadership came as a surprise given his past statements against Armenia's accession to the trade bloc. The ex-premier renounced them after President Sargsyan unexpectedly decided in 2013 to join the EEU under apparent Russian pressure.

Georgia, Iran in fresh talks on energy supplies via Armenia

Georgian Energy Minister Kakha Kaladze called for mutual supplies of electricity between Georgia and Iran through Armenia at the start of a visit to Tehran on February 16.

Kaladze was scheduled to meet with his Iranian counterpart Hamid Chitchian and other senior Iranian officials for fresh talks expected to focus on the possibility of Iranian natural supplies to Georgia through a pipeline running across Armenia.

"When we have a surplus of water and hydropower in the spring and summer periods, Iran needs electricity and imports it from Armenia," Kaladze said in comments to the Georgian Energy Ministry's press office cited by Russian news agencies.

"We have a possibility of selling electricity to Iran through Armenia [during spring and summer months] and import it from Iran in the winter period -- when electricity consumption is at its peak -- through Armenia," he added before the planned talks with Chitchian.

Kaladze, Chitchian, Armenian Energy Minister Yervand Zakharyan as well as the chief executive of a Russian electric utility already met in Yerevan in late December to explore ways of significantly boosting



power supplies among their countries. Zakharyan said afterwards that their countries could do that after two new power transmission lines connecting Armenia with Georgia and Iran go on stream in 2017-2018.

The Georgian and Iranian governments also reportedly negotiated around that time on possible Iranian gas supplies to Georgia via Armenia. The head of the Iranian National Gas Export Company, Alireza Kameli, claimed in early January that two sides have already reached a tentative agreement on the matter.

Georgia has purchased the bulk of its gas from Azerbaijan for the past decade. The Georgian government announced in October that it is now considering buying gas also from Russia or Iran.

Kaladze told journalists in Tbilisi on Monday that the gas supplies will be on the agenda of his trip to Iran. He reiterated that Georgia could soon import Iranian gas via Armenia or Azerbaijan.

"We must make the most of this country's resources," the Georgian minister said in Tehran. "We must do everything to implement new and interesting projects."

Russia details fresh arms supplies to Armenia

Yerevan - (RFE/RL) Devastating multiple-launch rocket systems, heavy flamethrowers and advanced anti-tank missiles are among new weapons Armenia will buy from Russia soon with a \$200 million Russian loan, it emerged on February 18.

The Russian government posted on one of its websites a copy of the loan agreement that was signed by the two sides in Yerevan in June last year. The Armenian and Russian parliaments ratified it later in 2015.

Armenian officials have until now declined to specify the Russian weapons to be purchased with the relatively low-interest loan repayable in 13 years. They have said only that the Armenian army does not have most of them in its current arsenal.

The publicized agreement carries a long list of defense items which Yerevan will be able to purchase from Russian manufacturers by the end of 2017. But it does not specify their quantities. The heaviest weapon on that list is the Smerch multi-launch rocket system with a firing range of up to 90 kilometers. One of the most destructive weapons of its kind in the world, it can fire 12 300-milimeter rockets in less than a minute. The Armenia military reportedly acquired in 2011 six Chinese-made ARIA systems that have many technological similarities with Smerch. Both rocket launchers are designed to attack concentrations of troops, command centers and important ground targets.

The publicized list also includes TOS-1A heavy flamethrower systems that can fire up to 24 incendiary or thermobaric rockets in a single salvo. With a 6-kilometer range, the rockets are meant to destroy defense fortifications, enemy personnel, armored vehicles and transport.

Russia reportedly sold 18 Smerch launchers and as many TOS-1A flamethrowers to Azerbaijan in accordance with defense contracts signed in 2009-2010. The Russian-Azerbaijani arms deals worth more than \$4 billion have raised serious concerns in Armenia. Some Armenian politicians and commentators have accused Moscow of undercutting its main regional ally. The Russian arms loan might have been aimed at placating the Armenians.

The agreement on its disbursement coincided with dramatic street protests in Yerevan against a rise in electricity price engineered by Armenia's Russian-owner national electric utility. The so-called "Electric Yerevan" movement raised Russian fears of yet another Western-backed another "color revolution" in the former Soviet Union. The funding for fresh Russian arms supplies to Yerevan was therefore construed by some observers as an attempt to bolster the Armenian government. An annex to the 2015 Russian-Armenian agreement revealed on Thursday says that the Armenian government will also spend the \$200 million loan on buying

Russian-made anti-tank weapons, shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles, demining and communication equipment, armored personnel carriers and heavy military trucks.

The anti-tank systems include 9M133 guided missiles that first went into service with the Russian army in the late 1990s. The 135-milimeter rockets can supposedly destroy tanks within a 4-kilometer range.

Citing another Russian-Armenian accord signed in 2013, Armenian military official stress that Yerevan can now buy brand new weapons at domestic Russian prices that are well below international market-based levels. The 2015 loan agreement makes a reference to that deal.

The military alliance with Russia has already enabled Armenia to receive many Russian weapons at discount prices or even free of charge over the past two decades. That has put it in a position to fully or partly offset Azerbaijan's massive military buildup fueled by oil revenues. Ohanian thanked Moscow for its "huge" military assistance when he met with Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu in Moscow in December.

A Russian-Armenian intergovernmental commission on bilateral "military-technical cooperation" most probably discussed the fresh arms deliveries to be financed by the Russian loan when it met in Yerevan late last month. Few details of the four-day meeting were made public.

Analyst: Erdogan's cancelled visit to Baku "respite" for Aliyev in Russo-Turkish standoff orientation

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has canceled his visit to Baku, after the terrorist attack in Ankara on February 17. According to the political scientist, this cancellation will give President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev some "respite" in his geopolitical orientation.

A powerful blast occurred in Turkish capital Ankara on Wednesday, killing 28 people and wounding dozens more. According to Turkish officials, the probable cause of the explosion is a mined car, which is regarded as terrorism.

The 5th meeting of the Strategic Cooperation Council between Turkey and Azerbaijan was scheduled for today in Baku. The Nagorno-Karabakh issue should have been one of the topics of discussion at the meeting, which was also

expected to be attended by Erdogan.

"Azerbaijan faces a serious problem in the context of the Russian-Turkish conflict. In this situation both political and public affection is for the Turkish side, but Azerbaijan never forgets the Russian factor and avoids making a clear choice," political analyst Sergey Minasyan, the Deputy Chairman of the Yerevan-based Caucasus Institute, told media on Thursday.

Referring to the Armenian side, Minasyan said that Armenia should stay away from military confrontation and try to prevent it by working with western partners.

"When global crises occur, it immediately creates serious dangers and threats, and in theory can also create new opportunities for each player. Turkey obviously

conducts an adventurist policy with its Western partners, and this situation suggests that it will also try to get involved in the Karabakh issue," he said.

The Russo-Turkish relations worsened dramatically last November after Turkish air forces shot down a Russian bomber at the Syrian border.

In remarks made in Ukraine earlier this week, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu accused Russia of "jeopardizing Azerbaijan's territorial integrity" by supporting Armenia.

Azerbaijan, which as an ethnic cousin of Turkey and its top ally in the South Caucasus region, has repeatedly accused the international mediators of their pro-Armenian bias, but has so far been careful not to put blame on Russia for the status quo in Nagorno-Karabakh.

EU, Armenia launch first round of negotiations on trade and investment

On February 15, the first round of the EU-Armenia negotiations on trade and investment issues was launched within the process of forming a new legal basis for relations between the Republic of Armenia and European Union, the Armenian Ministry of Economy informs.

The negotiations were attended by the Armenian delegation headed by the First Deputy Minister of Economy of RA Garegin Melkonyan. The delegation comprises representatives of Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Central Bank, as well as other organizations.

The European delegation was led by Petros Sourmelis, head of unit, Russia, CIS, Ukraine, Western Balkan, EFTA, EEA, Turkey and Central Asia, the European Commission Directorate-General for Trade (DG TRADE).

The negotiations are held around the fields and directions previously clarified with the European side, in particular trade of goods and services, trade protection measures, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, intellectual property rights, competition, public procurement, sustainable development, transparency, current payments and movement of capital, investment cooperation and protection, dispute settle-



ments, etc.

Generally, the first round of negotiations is quite comprehensive and extensive. Besides the plenary session of negotiations, more than 12 meetings of the negotiating subgroups are being scheduled. During those meetings the draft texts of the corresponding directions will be discussed.

Further negotiating processes, rounds, timetable/ schedule, as well as some sectoral issues of future cooperation will also be discussed.

Armenia manages to conduct policy of restraint, economist says

Armenia manages to conduct policy of restraint to ensure that the fluctuations of foreign currency rate have minimal influence on our economy, economist Vardan Bostanjan told reporters on February 17.



He did not rule out that the USD exchange rate could hit 500 AMD, but said that it should be done 'fluently.' "I'm confident the Armenian financial authorities are doing their best to avoid price pressures that exist in a number of countries," he said.

The economist said the current situation does not provide for good conditions for exports and negatively affects the export-import ratio.

"Imports exceed exports several times, which is not good. There is no proper environment for exports," he said.

He also pointed out the high level of our economy's dependence on Russia, stressing that the state of the Russian ruble finds its reflection in Armenia.

World Bank loan to cover Armenian energy losses

The Armenian government announced on February 18 plans to borrow \$30 million from the World Bank to compensate two large power plants for their losses caused by the national electric utility and two chemical enterprises.

"We are taking a loan in order to solve previously accumulated problems," Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan said during a weekly session of his cabinet. He said the low-interest loan will be repayable in 30 years.

Energy Minister Yervand Zakharyan said the money will be provided to the state-owned Metsamor nuclear power station and a thermal power plant in Yerevan so that they can repay short-term loans extended by Armenian commercial banks. He said the energy facilities resorted to expensive borrowing last year in order to sustain their operations after failing to ensure timely payments for electricity supplied to the power grids and the idling chemical giants.

According a separate statement by the Armenian Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, the Electricity Networks of Armenia (ENA) utility alone owes them 22.4 billion drams (\$47 million). The loss-



making ENA's total debts to power plants and commercial banks exceeded \$200 million as of last September.

Russian-Armenian billionaire Samvel Karapetyan's Tashir Group was expected to assume the debts when it purchased the ENA from a state-controlled Russian company in October. The planned World Bank loan means, however, that the government will cover a part of them.

Speaking to reporters after the cabinet meeting, Zakharyan declined to clearly explain why Armenian taxpayers should pay for losses incurred as a result of poor management of the ENA and the other enterprises.

Opposition representatives were quick to condemn the government move. "This is theft committed in broad daylight," said Vahagn Khachatryan of the Armenian National Congress.

Iran interested in establishing medical center in Armenia

A delegation headed by Iran's Deputy Minister of Health Rasoul Dinarvand has arrived in Armenia with a view of deepening the cooperation between the two countries in the field of healthcare. The delegation comprising outstanding specialists of the sphere and representatives of the private sector had a meeting with Armenian Health Minister Armen Muradyan.

Rasoul Dinarvand said his country is interested in developing the cooperation with Armenia in the field of healthcare. "We want to make use of all opportunities for more effective cooperation," he said.

Iran's Deputy Health Minister said the Iranian private sector is interested in making investments in our country, namely establishing a medical center.

The parties pointed to pharmaceuticals as a promising sphere of cooperation. The development of advanced technologies and methods of drug production was discussed. Reference was



made to the promotion of exports and imports, as well as exchange of experience.

Armenian Ambassador, Canadian FM hail political dialogue, economic ties



On February 15 Armen Yeghanyan, the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Canada, met Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada.

The sides outlined with satisfaction the intensification of political dialogue between the two countries. Ambassador Yeghanyan stated that during 2015 Yervand Zakharyan, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, and Hranush Hakobyan, Minister of Diaspora, visited Canada; the official visit of Galust Sahakyan, Speaker of the National Assembly of Armenia, took place in May of 2015. At the same time, the Ambassador welcomed the visits of two Canadian official delegations to Armenia during last year, headed by Minister Chris Alexander and Minister Christian Paradis.

The progress achieved in bilateral trade and economic relations during the recent years was emphasized, and the

visit of the first Canadian trade mission to Armenia in 2015 is the proof of that progress. The Ambassador mentioned that Canadian companies are interested in the different branches of Armenian industry, especially in the mining sector.

Upon the request of Minister Dion, Ambassador Yeghanyan briefed on the commemoration events dedicated to the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide, held in different countries, including Canada.

The sides also discussed the results of the 31st Ministerial Conference of the International Organization of La Francophonie, which took place last October in Yerevan.

They agreed to continue efforts towards the further enhancement of bilateral political dialogue and deepening of trade and economic ties.

During the meeting regional issues were discussed as well.

New book spotlights 'Armenians of the Merrimack Valley'

Two Haverhill men - E. Philip Brown, a Haverhill High School world history teacher, and Thomas Vartabedian, a retired Haverhill Gazette reporter and photographer - researched and wrote "Armenians of the Merrimack Valley," newburyport-news.com reports.

The book, released this month, was officially launched Saturday at the Haverhill Public Library.

Vartabedian said the project was "about a year in the works."

Brown, who graduated from Haverhill High in 1976 and has taught there for nine years, does not claim Armenian heritage. He's half-Irish, half-Italian.

So how did he acquire an interest in the Armenians?

He was working toward a master's degree in public history from American Public University and was required to complete a capstone project.

"I was looking at different things," he said.

Meanwhile, Vartabedian did a presentation about the 1915 Armenian genocide at Haverhill High last year, the 100th anniversary of the massacre.

Brown wondered if the time had come to write about the Armenians who fled the genocide at the hands of the Ottoman Empire and came to the Merrimack Valley.

"I love culture," he said. "I'm a National Geographic type of guy."

He discussed the idea with Vartabedian, who has spoken at many

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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, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD.
- 2099. **Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600 USD.
- 1972. **Northern ave.**, 8/4, 80sqm, 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, climate control. Price: 1200 USD
- 2171. **Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capitolly repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2367. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9th floor, 98 sqm, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

2 ROOMS

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



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

PRIVATE HOUSES

3 ROOMS AND MORE

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

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

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

PREMISES

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

Recent News from Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator

Housewarming in Kotayk Region

Owing to the housing project financed by VivaCell-MTS, the construction of a half-built house and a renovation of another family house have been completed at the end of 2015. VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia President Ashot Yeghiazaryan visited Mayakovsky community to see the improved housing conditions of the two families and share with them their happiness.

For 13 years Arthur Antonyan's family has lived in his parents' house – 11 people in three rooms. For five years the house of a neighbor, who had left for a job abroad, served as a shelter for the family. It's already several years the Antonyans have started the construction of their house, but were unable to complete the works.



"It was a dream for me to have a home. My children grew up moving from one house to another not having their own. Nothing can be compared with the feeling of having your own home. Our happiness and gratitude is endless," said the mother of the family, **Nayira Antonyan**.

"In terms of the outcome all the measures undertaken within this project are equally efficient: the end result is a housewarming. Yet, the hardships and the deprivations that last for years for these families are different. It is a major achievement to see people in despair and uncertainty cheered by the positive attitudes. The more kindness and positive energy we give away to families like these, the more committed they get in terms of building their homes, raising decent children, and being useful to the country," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

"Today we are the witness of another success. Another Armenian family now stands on a solid ground. As a result of the partnership with VivaCell-MTS the housing problem of 93 families has been solved becoming a cornerstone of new opportunities and successes for those families," said "Fuller Center for Housing Armenia" President **Ashot Yeghiazaryan**.

Since 2007, VivaCell-MTS has contributed AMD 228.3 million for the basic reconstruction or renovation of houses thus improving the life quality of 480 people with social needs in 10 regions of the country, including 31 villages, of which 10 are borderland villages.

Housewarming in Syunik region: the realized dream of three brothers

The construction works which started in Darbas village of Syunik region half a year ago have now been completed. The dream of the Karapetyan brothers is fulfilled: the family celebrates housewarming. VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian and "Fuller Center for Housing Armenia" President Ashot Yeghiazaryan participated in the house blessing ceremony sharing the happiness of the Karapetyan



family.

Vrezh Karapetyan and his two brothers lost their parents when they were children. After the death of their grandparents, the brothers could rely only on themselves. For years they had been living in an earthen two-room house without a kitchen and a bathroom. Yet, the brothers never gave up on their dream and continued the construction of the half-built house inherited from their parents believing that one day they will have a decent house.

"It is hard to describe what I feel now. This house has become a real stronghold for us. Even in my bravest dreams, I could not imagine that we would have such a beautiful home. On behalf of my brothers and me I express our deepest gratitude for turning the seemingly unrealizable dream into reality," said the eldest of Karapetyan brothers, **Vrezh**.

In the frames of the housing project, the partnering organizations have completed the construction of the half-built house as well as installed a heating system. Owing to VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian's personal initiative, the house of the Karapetyan family has been furnished and replenished with necessary household appliances.

"I can't talk about these brothers without expressing my admiration to them. Meeting them for the first time and reading the motto written on the wall of their half-built house – "Fortune favors the brave" – filled me with great respect towards these remarkable young people. All the hardships they have been through have made them more determined, robust and persevering. I am glad and proud that we have managed to pass more confidence in the future through our support," said VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

"I want to stress that this project stands out from hundreds of others. The construction of a house for Karapetyan brothers was truly rewarding. The efforts, the enthusiasm and the seriousness with which the three brothers undertook the construction of their house is promising. Months ago it was still a half constructed building and now it has become a real home for the brothers who are about to enter adulthood,

but who have already seen so much for their young age," said **Ashot Yeghiazaryan**, "Fuller Center for Housing Armenia" President.

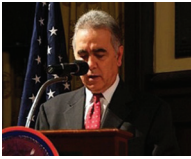
Special tariff plan: larger Internet package for the same monthly fee

The volume of the Internet provided within VivaCell-MTS' «Special» tariff plan has increased and now makes 2000 MB instead of 500 MB before.

"With time, the importance of Internet becomes more and more vital in our everyday life. Utilization of data is growing. In order to meet the consumer demand for more data, for now on the subscribers of "Special" tariff plan will be provided four times of the previous volume of internet," VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian commented.

To remind, in case of subscribing to the tariff plan till July 31, 2016, the monthly fee is just AMD 2500. For a fixed monthly fee, the subscriber to this tariff plan also gets 1500 on-net minutes and an opportunity to send 150 SMS to RA GSM networks every month.

Tight US presidential race: Good news for Armenian-Americans



By Harut
Sassounian

Publisher, *The
California Courier*

Now that the two major political parties have begun holding Primaries to select their nominees for this fall's Presidential elections, Armenian-Americans are weighing the merits of the eight remaining candidates.

I would like to propose that from now on Armenians refrain from asking presidential candidates whether they would recognize the Armenian Genocide once elected. There are two problems in posing such a question:

1) Armenians should know from previous disappointing experiences that they cannot trust promises made by most politicians.

2) There is no need to ask for such a promise since the Armenian Genocide has been repeatedly recognized by the various branches of the US government for many years:

- a) Document submitted by the US government to the World Court in 1951;
- b) Resolutions adopted by the House of Representatives in 1975 and 1984;
- c) Pres. Reagan's Proclamation referring to the Armenian Genocide on April 22, 1981.

Furthermore, the continued pursuit of genocide recognition - when it has been already recognized - would simply undermine its acknowledgment and cast doubt on its veracity.

Instead, Armenian-Americans should ask presidential candidates for their positions on more pressing issues such as:

- 1) Allocating more foreign aid to Armenia and Artsakh (Karabakh);
- 2) Promoting US trade with Armenia;
- 3) Pressuring Turkey to lift its blockade of Armenia;
- 4) Demanding that Turkey return the confiscated Armenian churches to the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul;
- 5) Condemning Azerbaijan for its repeated threats and attacks on Armenia and Artsakh;
- 6) Supporting the independence of Artsakh.

Once elected, officials would want to satisfy some of these demands in order to maintain the support of the Armenian community during their future campaign for reelection.

Here are the records of all six Republican presidential candidates on Armenian issues:

Gov. Jeb Bush (Florida)

- Traveled with his son on a humanitarian mission to Armenia on Dec. 24, 1988, shortly after the earthquake;

- Issued an Armenian Genocide proclamation on April 7, 2006;

- Received the Friend of Armenians Award in 2013 from the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church.

Gov. John Kasich (Ohio)

- Received ratings of C, D, and F from ANCA during most of his tenure in the House of Representatives, 1983-2001;

- Cosigned letters to Pres. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev supporting Artsakh's independence in 1991;

- Cosponsored the Armenian Genocide Resolution in 2000;

- As Governor, issued a proclamation in 2012 to celebrate Armenian Independence Day.

Sen. Ted Cruz (Texas)

- Received a C- rating from ANCA in 2014;

- In 2015, issued statement on the Armenian Genocide and cosponsored the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

Sen. Marco Rubio (Florida)

- Received a C rating in 2012 and B in 2014 from ANCA;

- Voted for passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 2014;

- Cosponsored the Armenian Genocide Resolution in 2015;

- Cosigned letter to Pres. Obama urging him to recognize the Armenian Genocide in 2015.

Neurosurgeon Ben Carson (Michigan):
No statements on Armenian issues.

Businessman Donald Trump (New York):
No statements on Armenian issues.

Here are the records of the two Democratic presidential candidates on Armenian issues:

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (New York)

- As Senator, cosigned letters to Pres. Bush urging him to recognize the Armenian Genocide in 2005 and 2006;

- Cosponsored Resolutions on the Armenian Genocide in 2006 and 2007;

- As Presidential candidate in 2008, made a promise to recognize the Armenian Genocide;

- Later in 2008, spoke at a Turkish Cultural Center banquet in New York City in the presence of then Prime Minister Erdogan;

- During an official visit to Yerevan in 2010, placed a wreath at the Genocide Monument, which the US Embassy in Armenia called a "private" act, even though the ribbon on the wreath carried the inscription: "From Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton";

- In 2012, as Secretary of State, referred to the Armenian Genocide as "a matter of historical debate," contradicting her earlier clear stand on this important issue.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (Vermont)

- Received an A+ rating in 2012 and C in 2014 from ANCA;

- During his tenure in the House of Representatives (1991-2007), he supported a variety of Armenian issues, including the Genocide Resolution, in 1996, 1997, and 2000;

- Cosigned letters to Pres. Bush urging him to recognize the Armenian Genocide in 2002, 2003, and 2004;

- As Senator, he cosponsored in 2012 two Resolutions on the Armenian Genocide and Return of Armenian Churches by Turkey.

The polls and results of the early Primary elections indicate that no candidate in either party is likely to have an overwhelming majority in the Primaries and the November elections which would encourage the candidates to be more accommodating to all voters, including Armenian-Americans.

Under these circumstances, my suggestion to the Armenian-American community is to refrain from making an early commitment to any candidate. The decision as to whom to support can be made later as the presidential race gets tighter and the candidates get more desperate for votes!

Recent Music News

Sergey Smbatyan: "Our Greatest Mission is to Perform Contemporary Armenian Composers"

On February 17, at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall they summed up the 7th Armenian Composing Art Festival. To remind, the Festival is being organized by the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, Union of Composers and Musicologists of Armenia and supported by the Ministry of Culture. The Festival is held under the patronage of the RA President. During the closing concert "All Rise, the Court is in Session!" symphonic suite, by Aram Nazaryan, Vardan Ajemyan's Fourth Symphony dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide (premiere), "Sound Theater" for Piano, Timpani and String Orchestra Concert Poem, Aram Satyan "The Song to the Nature" Symphony. Performances by the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia conducted by the SYOA Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Sergey Smbatyan, Arus Ajemyan (piano), Magda Mkrtchyan (soprano), A A leading way Armenian composer Vartan Ajemyan appreciated the Armenian Composing Art Festival, because, according to him, during the Fest musical compositions written in the 21th century are presented which is "extremely interesting and important because it is our future". "I want to thank the Youth Orchestra and Sergey Smbatyan for this great event," he said. Speaking about his Fourth Symphony, the composer stated that it was created in 2014 for a big symphony orchestra and dedicated to 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Symphony has a three-part structure. Notably, in the third part the composer used the church bells. Symphony symbolizes the image of the reborn and victorious people who is building its new history and a glorious future. Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia Sergey Smbatyan also highlighted Armenian Composing Art Festival for all, especially for contemporary composers. "We've been talking much about the fact that the contemporary music should sound, and I am proud of all that we've done... Our greatest mission is to perform works by contemporary Armenian

composers. Today, we have observed that there is a trend - more people are attending contemporary music concerts. In Armenia, we have a lot of composers whose works should be performed, and the world should hear their music, and this festival is a solution for this problem," said Smbatyan. Each year this festival is dedicated to anniversary of one of the Armenian composers. This year it was dedicated to the



95th anniversary of a prominent composer Edward Mirzoyan and entitled Mirzoyan-Fest. Sergey Smbatyan noted that every year, after the completion of the festival, they invite the Fest Council to decide what to do at the next festival. "In the near future the format and the content of the 8th Armenian Composing Art Festival will be decided. For me, as a musician, a greatest achievement is that the composers write works specifically for this festival. It is the greatest value of music today."

Choir music performed at the "Mirzoyan-Fest"

An evening of wonderful choir music was held on February 16 in Komitas Museum -Institute: The choral songs of Edgar Hovhannisyian were performed by the Yerevan State Chamber Choir. The concert was organized in the framework of the 7th Armenian Composer's Art Festival. The choral songs of Edgar Hovhannisyian with the lyrics of outstanding poet Vahan Teryan such as "Drape My Heart with a Sweet Dream", "I Seem to Have Returned Home" as well as interpretations of national songs were performed during the concert.

Talking about the composer Edgar Hovhannisyian, Tsovinar Movsisyan, PhD in Arts mentioned that he was author of vari-

ous and multi- genre pieces, such as operas, ballets, three symphonies, vocal-symphony, chamber- instrumental, chamber- vocal and choral pieces. One of the sources of the creative inspiration of Hovhannisyian was the human voice in his various performances. Among his unique pieces are well-known and beloved songs such as "Erebuni-Yerevan", "Sardarapat", " Arpa-Sevan", " In the Armenian Mountains" that have been exciting the audience for more than 4 decades already.

Chamber pieces of Edward Mirzoyan were performed in the framework of the festival

On February 12 the chamber pieces of Edward Mirzoyan were performed in the framework of the 7th Armenian Composers' Art Festival in the concert hall of the Komitas Museum-institute.

Artists such as Silva Petrosyan (soprano), Diana Haroutyunyan (soprano), Julianna Berberyan (soprano), Julietta Alexanyan (soprano), Arsen Gevorkyan (baritone), Levon Araqelyan (cello), Artur Avanesov (piano), the String Quartet of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (Erik Manoukyan – 1st violin, Ani Adikyan – 2nd violin, Elena Hayrapetyan – viola, Elya Balasanyan – cello) performed during the concert. The concert program included romances "They Say, That..." and "I had a Dream..." on the poetry of Avetic Isahakyan, as well as "You understood" (V. Teryan), "Now I Remember" (E. Charents), "Recollection" (S. Kapoutikyan). The String Quartet (Themes and Variations) and Sonata for Cello and Piano by Edward Mirzoyan were also performed during the the concert.



Thanks to Vladimir Avetisyan and His «D'Black Blues Orchestra» Music of Eric Clapton Sounded in Artsakh



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**
Chief Correspondent

... All his life your author considered himself a rocker familiar with all of more or less noticeable rock/pop groups. «D'Black Blues Orchestra», Vladimir Avetisyan ... Who is this? "- Yours truly did not even looked thru the Internet... I just kept in mind that the joint concert of the group and the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia conducted by Sergey Smbatyan on February 14, the Day of All Lovers will be dedicated

as well. Therefore «D'Black Blues Orchestra» appears in those countries and to those audiences where live, the authentic music of this band is more than just an ordinary concert. This is an opportunity to recharge yourself with new energy that opens new horizons and fills the life with new meanings. The Group has a rich history and many years of experience in blues and jazz festivals in Russia and Europe. Its musicians successfully toured in the UK, Spain, Switzerland, Finland, China, the Baltics as well as in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. «D'Black Blues

American singer Monica Green who sung a nice duet with Mane Sargsyan from Yerevan, brass section, and Vladimir Avetisyan himself with his special, typical blues voice and very artistic style of performance. Light and visual effects created a unique atmosphere ...

"Encore!" – required excited, singin' n' rocking audience, and the response was Clapton's "Rainbow" - this time our Youth Orchestra showed all their skills. Avetisyan, an ethnic Armenian, especially with Karabakh roots, simply could not avoid the issue of the Armenian



to the 70th anniversary of the great musician Eric Clapton. So for the first time the "Claptomania" project was presented in Armenia, and high class virtuosos led by our compatriot of the Karabakh origin Vladimir Avetisyan were not simply "copying" famous pieces of the legend of the world blues rock - «Sunshine of Your Love», «Layla», «I Shot the Sheriff» and others, but presenting them in a very special interpretation, synthesizing a variety of genres: rock, blues, jazz, classical music. And there were no tracks, sequencers, or electronic harmonizers, all the music and vocals were live, they were using clarinet, flute, Hammond organ and duduk – Armenian traditional instrument.

An extract from the official website of the group: "... Created in 2000, the team gathered the bright and talented artists from five countries: US, Russia, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain.

The attractiveness of «D'Black Blues Orchestra» is in a constant aspiration for professional self-improvement, and as a result, - the ability to fill with the new sound classic blues and jazz standards. Participants of this unique project believe that their mission is wider than the music itself. It bears educational and social trends

Orchestra» has participated in performances that accompanied the most important cultural events in Europe - from the "Monaco Yacht Show" to the Moscow Film Festival..." But the No.1 program of the Orchestra is the «Claptomania» project, and the list of Eric Clapton's compositions is permanently updated. And always in the project the Band is accompanied by a Symphony Orchestra, this time – the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia chosen by Vladimir Avetisyan. In an interview with the Armenian newspress Avetisyan noted that they pleased with the fact that the conductor of the orchestra was a young man 'cause this program requires "courage and boldness for the classical musicians". In turn, Sergey Smbatyan noted that they were happy to play with such a good group and that the new format of the legendary works was of the great interest. And he was confident that the concert would be a success... Definitely, it was a success... As the audience was surprised by actually everything, and especially musicians – Alex Raskopov who in addition to his "Hammond" played also saxophone, flute, harmonica, lead guitarist Maxim Kolchin whose riffs were very impressing ones, the drummer - "our" Roman Petrosyan, incomparable Afro-

Genocide: forget-me-not, a world-recognized symbol of the Genocide 100th Anniversary appeared on the screen, and Vladimir spoke about the project OneHundredLives. But the biggest surprise was waiting for your author immediately after the concert: "Vladimir Avetisyan is not a professional musician," I was "enlightened" by one of the technical crew members.

?! - It was found out that the founder and leader of the orchestra was a successful businessman in Russia in a number of areas - from energy to the publishing industry - from energy to the publishing industry who now cooperates with the "RUS-NANO" Corporation, and, according to himself, he has never been gaining money playing music... Vladimir met Eric Clapton himself, and the great musician presented him his guitars - one of them we saw at the concert. «D'Black Blues Orchestra» received from the blues-rock icon status of the official cover group, and thanks to this, in particular, a CD and a DVD with the performance of the Clapton's songs by «D'Black Blues Orchestra» have been released and the autobiography by Eric Clapton was translated and published in Russia thanks to generosity and efforts of our compatriot Vladimir Ye. Avetisyan.

Azerbaijan's continued war-mongering a threat to the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenian Amb. tells the UN

On 15 February Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations, Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan delivered a statement during the Security Council Open Debate on "Respect for the Principles and Purposes of the Charter of the United Nations as a key element for the maintenance of international peace and security."

In his statement, Ambassador Mnatsakanyan expressed appreciation to the Secretary General for his continued contribution to a comprehensive and consolidated approach to the trinity of peace, development and human rights. He noted that the history of humanity has indeed been marked by conflicts, conquests and wars; yet, the same history is overwhelmed with continued struggle of oppressed people for their freedom, self-determination and independence. Ambassador Mnatsakanyan furthermore reminded that the Charter is based on the reaffirmation of the faith in basic human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person, and it is exactly due to these fundamental principles of the Charter that 193 free nations are gathered under the roof of the United Nations.

The Ambassador of Armenia referred to fundamental difficulties that often arise when the voice of the affected people is drowned in the justification and abuse of

the principles of sovereignty, non-interference and territorial integrity, leading to political culture of repression, systematic violation of human rights and disregard of the rule of law. The people of Nagorno-Karabakh have effectively won their right to self-determination and freedom, yet, the continued cultivation of hatred and aggression, the entrenched culture of systematic violations of human rights in Azerbaijan, their continued war-mongering and effective refusal to achieve a swift and negotiated peace agreement, mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs, represent an actual physical threat to the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, Ambassador Mnatsakanyan explained. He furthermore stressed that consolidated support of the international community to the negotiating process within the agreed format is of uttermost importance, "not least in order to deny the unwilling party the privilege of procrastination, deviation from agreed principles of the settlement and forum shopping."

Referring to the principles of sovereignty, the Ambassador of Armenia noted that sovereignty entails responsibility, whereas irresponsible sovereignty represents a threat to international peace and security. Building peaceful and inclusive societies is, therefore, as much about responsibility of government, as it is about



sovereignty. In this regard, Ambassador Mnatsakanyan emphasized that enhanced international co-operation to this end is, therefore, compelling, not least when viewed strictly through the prism of maintenance of international peace. "The function of prevention and elaboration of early warning mechanisms and capacity to channel early signs of deteriorating situations into the UN system remains a vital objective," - suggested Ambassador Mnatsakanyan, recalling the Framework Analyses for Atrocity Crimes as an important tool in this regard.

The Open Debate was presided by H.E. Delcy Rodríguez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela. Representatives of about seventy state members, including Deputy Foreign Ministers of Angola, Spain, Guyana, Argentina and El Salvador, as well as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and a number of senior UN officials participated in the Open Debate.

MP criticizes Georgia's support for 'anti-Armenian' water resolution at PACE

Ethnic Armenian member of the Georgian parliament Samvel Petrosyan criticized some of his colleagues on Wednesday for voting for a controversial Council of Europe resolution regarding access to water in Nagorno-Karabakh, DFWatch reports.

The resolution passed at the Council of Europe parliamentary Assembly on January 26 asserts that "inhabitants of frontier regions of Azerbaijan are deliberately deprived of water". 98 MPs voted for it, 71 against, and 40 abstained.

Georgian MPs Tedo Japaridze, Irakli Chikovani and Giorgi Kandelaki voted for the resolution.

At a plenary session of parliament,



Petrosyan called the resolution biased and said people in the community he represents, the southern town Akhalkalaki, were astonished by the way the Georgian delegates voted.

"Despite the anti-Armenian views of

certain politicians, I am confident that brotherly ties between the Georgian and Armenian nations will deepen and develop in the future."

Head of Georgian Dream's faction Giorgi Volsky called Petrosyan's statement 'populist' and said the Georgian delegation to PACE did not do anything to cause tension in Georgia's neighborhood.

"The closer we get to the election the more populist statements there will be. Georgia is our common country for Georgians, Armenians and Azeri. Let's keep stability in this state," he said, adding that the energy supply problem has gotten worse and needs to be solved.

Pope's visit to Armenia 'expected in September'



Pope Francis is due to pay his first-ever visit to Armenia in September, the Armenian Apostolic Church announced on February 18.

The announcement came in an official statement on the ongoing session in Echmiadzin of the church's decision-making Supreme Spiritual Council chaired by Catholicos Garegin II.

The statement said members of the council were informed that Francis's trip is "expected in September" and that Garegin's Echmiadzin-based office is "in contact with the Vatican in connection with the visit's organization."

Francis will likely travel to Armenia as part of a tour of the three South Caucasus states. Citing unnamed Vatican sources, the Russian TASS news agency reported earlier this month that the pontiff plans to visit Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in

September.

Garegin and President Serzh Sarkisian personally invited the pontiff to visit their country in 2014, underlining increased links between the Roman Catholic and Armenian Apostolic Churches. Both men attended his papal inauguration in 2013.

One of Francis's predecessors, John Paul II, and the previous Armenia Church head, Garegin I, laid the groundwork for the rapprochement in 1996 with a joint declaration that put an end to centuries-old theological disputes between the two Christian denominations. John Paul went on to become in 2001 the first Catholic Church leader to set foot on Armenian soil. During that historic trip, he issued a joint declaration with Garegin I describing the 1915 Armenian massacres in Ottoman Turkey as genocide.

Francis has publicly reaffirmed the genocide recognition during his papacy, most recently at an April 2015 mass at the Vatican's St. Peter's Basilica dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the tragedy. Turkey reacted angrily to his reference to "the first genocide of the 20th century," accusing the pontiff of distorting history and recalling its ambassador to the Vatican in protest.

Armenia rejected the Turkish criticism. Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian praised Francis for delivering the "important message of solidarity with and support to the Armenian people."

Francis again paid tribute to Armenians massacred "just for being Christians" after holding a mass with Armenian Catholic Patriarch Gregory Peter XX at the Vatican's St. Martha chapel in September. He compared their suffering with the ongoing persecution of ancient Christian communities of the Middle East.

Tracing family roots: First Armenian Genealogy conference planned for April

An Armenian Genealogy Conference will take place April 9-10 in Watertown. The conference, which grew out of the Armenian Genealogy group on Facebook, will feature several speakers on various topics regarding Armenian genealogy, history, geography, and presentations on different organizations and initiatives, the Armenian Weekly reports.

George Aghjayan, a retired actuary and one of the conference organizers, noted that the study of Armenian genealogy has grown substantially over the last decade, and that organizing a conference was a necessary step. "Advances in technology have allowed access to information previously thought unattainable," said Aghjayan, who hopes the conference will become an annual event. Aghjayan has been working with Tracy Rivest Keeney and Mark Arslan to organize the conference, which is co-sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), Project Save Armenian Photograph Archives, Inc., Houshamadyan, the Armenian Museum of America (AMA), and Hamazkayin Boston. During the weekend, participants-both beginner and advanced-will learn how to carry out genealogical research specific to Armenians and will take part in workshops, during which experienced volunteers will help answer questions, teach how to get started, and how to go beyond existing research.

"The recent proliferation and acceptance of social media has allowed a level of collaboration on genealogical and historical research never before possible," Arslan told the Weekly. He noted that the Armenian Genealogy Facebook group has brought togeth-



er people from the Armenian Diaspora worldwide, as well as the Republic of Armenia-individuals who share a passionate interest in learning more about their Armenian families and heritage. "The collective knowledge of our online community is amazing, everyone brings their own special talents to uncover genealogical treasures from the primary records online and in archives, as well as shares their own family anecdotes, memories, and experiences," he said.

The conference will take place at the Armenian Museum of America.

Israeli party accused of lobbying for Azerbaijan, preventing Armenian Genocide recognition



Meretz chairman MK Zehava Galon charged on February 17 that Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu party is getting financial support from Azerbaijan government officials in return for advancing Baku's political and financial interests in Israel, Haaretz reports.

According to Galon, Yisrael Beiteinu is supporting the interests of the Azeri national fuel company and has been actively working to prevent Israel from officially recognizing the Turkish genocide of Armenians during World War I, because of Azerbaijan's territorial feud with Armenia.

Galon said that she has filed a complaint on the matter to Attorney General Avichai Mendelblit, along with evidence of her claims. Party chairman Lieberman vehemently denied Galon's allegations, saying "not a word of what Galon said is true."

Galon made the statement in the Knesset Wednesday while condemning Yisrael Beiteinu's support of the so-called "transparency bill," which primarily targets left-wing NGOs that get funding from foreign governments. Galon charged that Lieberman's own party benefited from Azeri government money.

"You are the foreign agents of the Azeris," she said. "You are

getting benefits from them; you have set up organizations through which you get money from them. You set up the organization called AZIZ, you are part of the management of AZIZ.

"Knesset colleagues, the AZIZ organization, the Israel-Azerbaijan International Association, serves as a financial and organization platform for Yisrael Beiteinu, and is funded by Azeri government officials. You are party of AZIZ's management in a revolving door fashion; whoever isn't an MK or a minister is part of AZIZ's management.

"Avigdor Lieberman, when he was foreign minister, attended a conference funded by the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic, the same company that a year before Lieberman helped get involved in oil and gas drilling off the Israeli coast. This company got a five percent share, and it's funded by a foundation headed by the president of Azerbaijan," said Galon.

She added that former Yisrael Beiteinu MK Faina Kirschenbaum "named a street in Israel after the father of Azerbaijan's great dictator." The Meretz leader also accused Lieberman and his party of "working to prevent the recognition of the Armenian genocide because you are envoys of the Azerbaijan government and because of Nagorno-Karabakh. You are getting millions from Azeri sources through the fund you've set up and you dare to speak of and demand transparency from civic society groups. You are a corrupt gang and now you are seeking to work against civic society organizations."

Lieberman categorically denied Galon's claims, saying, "In this case, as usual, there is not a word of truth in what Zehava Galon is saying. MK Galon, who was questioned for hours by the police [in 2001 on suspicion of financial irregularities in a peace center she ran] and whose case was closed for lack of evidence, has turned lies and libel into a way of life. Even Meretz doesn't deserve such a shallow and deceitful leader like Zehava Galon. In any case, every lie by Zehava Galon against me and Yisrael Beiteinu is a big compliment."

OSCE MG format effective in many ways, says Russian Foreign Ministry



Members of the OSCE Minsk Group themselves should solve the issue of modifying the existing format on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement, said Maria Zakharova, a spokesperson of Russia's Foreign Ministry, Feb. 18.

She made the remarks in response to a question of Trend correspondent on the possibility of holding an expanded meeting of the OSCE Minsk Group.

"The current format has been approved, and it is widely recognized and effective in many ways," said Zakharova. "Of course, everyone would like to have better results, however this format works."

Earlier, Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström said in Baku that Sweden offers to convene an enlarged meeting of the OSCE Minsk Group for settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. "If there is a need for a meeting in a broader format for the conflict settlement, we, as an OSCE Minsk Group member, are willing to participate in it," she added.

Genocide survivors share their experiences in panel discussion

The Tufts Daily - Approximately 60 people filled the chapel at the Granoff Family Hillel Center last night to hear survivors of genocide share their stories as a part of Tufts Against Genocide's (TAG) 6th annual Survivors Speak panel. The event was held as a component of the Cummings/Hillel Program for Holocaust and Genocide Education.

Senior Shoshana Weiner and sophomore Mariel Kieval, both interns for the Cummings Foundation, introduced the event with a joint speech about the importance of remembrance. Weiner and Kieval organized the event in conjunction with TAG President Caroline Atwood. In their speech, they said that while the phrase "never again" is often used while discussing such atrocities, events of genocide continue to happen to this day.

The first panelist to speak was sophomore Nairi Krafian, the great-granddaughter of Hagop Madoian, a survivor of the Armenian Genocide.

"My experience is so different from [his]," she said.

Krafian shared snippets of her great-grandfather's fractured childhood working as a forced gravedigger, who recorded the surreal experience of living among the dead in a journal. "Nobody would pay any attention," she shared from his journal. "People died, and deaths went unnoticed."

Krafian said that the repercussions of the Armenian Genocide, where masses of Armenian people were murdered in 1915 by the Ottoman government, have been passed onto her, and "that discomfort influences [her] life." She said she maintains a deep connection to her Armenian identity, and takes pride in what she describes as the failure of the Turkish people to extinguish her own.

The next panelist, Holocaust survivor Jack Trompetter, said that genocide stems from a process of demeaning and dehumanizing another people.

"To have a genocide, you need to have 'the other.' Once you have that other, the path is clear for an atrocity to occur," he said.



Trompetter was born in Nazi-occupied Holland in 1942, and was separated from his family as they split up to avoid persecution, ultimately reuniting with his family at the close of the war.

"When people went into hiding in those days, nobody had any idea how long it would be," he said. "I was one of the lucky children."

The next panelist, Edina Skaljic, spoke about living in constant fear during the Bosnian Genocide, where ethnic cleansing in the late 1990s took the lives of thousands of Bosniaks. Skaljic said she remembered being given a shopping bag by her mother, and being told to pack only what she needed while leaving their home.

"I didn't understand. Why did I have to choose?" she said. "That was the moment my childhood ended."

Skaljic said out of fear of danger, she was forced to assume a new name and hometown to shield the truth of her heritage. She recalled arguing with her mother at the time about pretending to be something she was not.

"Your name could actually mean life or death in Bosnia at that time," she said.

The last panelist to speak was Claude Kaitare, a survivor of the Rwandan Genocide, where the Tutsis were being targeted and slaughtered by the Hutu majority in 1994. Kaitare said the conflict began without warning; suddenly, neighbors were turning on neighbors, and

weapons and checkpoints were sprouting up everywhere.

He recalled a time when a Tutsi boy went up to a checkpoint and was beat by the guards with the blunt ends of their machetes. One guard hit the boy with the wrong side of the blade, drawing blood, he said.

"Once they start seeing blood, it's like open season," Kaitare said.

After the boy fell to the ground, the guards announced they were taking him to the hospital, which was really "a mass burial place," he said.

The survivors on the panel all spoke about the importance of remembering genocide.

"In telling you these stories, that makes you witnesses," Trompetter said.

Students should now carry the burden of preserving his history, he said. Skaljic echoed this sentiment, expressing her fears that their stories of death and survival would go untold.

"Silence is betrayal," she said. "We say we have to forgive, but not forget."

The panelists also discussed the difficulty in the healing process after surviving genocide. All of them said that no survivor can ever fully recover, but that educating the next generation helps survivors personally come to terms with their difficult histories. "There is nothing more amazing, there is nothing more healing for a genocide survivor than to see people who actually care," Skaljic said.

La Boheme: New play to track Charles Aznavour's creative path

The National Opera and Ballet Theatre after Alexander Spendiaryan will stage a ballet *La Boheme* based on the songs of Charles Aznavour, choreographer, People's Artist of Armenia Rudolph Kharatyan told reporters today. The one-act play will track Aznavour's creative path.

Among the important works of 2012, Rudolph Kharatyan pointed out the "Two suns" ballet dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

In 2016 Kharatyan will also stage "Anush" ballet, which, he said, has nothing to do with Armen Tigranyan's famous work.

Through combination of classical and Armenian national motifs, he will try to create something that will allow the Armenian ballet to enter the international arena. He's confident we cannot be part of world ballet with "Gayane," because the latter is too 'Armenian.'

"Folklore is interesting to foreigners, but within limits," Kharatyan said.



Czechs present lost music composed by Mozart and Salieri

A long-lost composition by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri was performed for the first time on Tuesday after a musicologist discovered the piece in the reserve collection of the Czech national music museum, Reuters reports.

The piece also appears to show the rivalry between the two was not especially fierce and provides more evidence that Salieri played no role in Mozart's death in 1791 at the age of 35, the play and Oscar-winning film "Amadeus" suggested.

The collaborative score was written in 1785, during one of the most fruitful periods of Mozart's career when he composed some of his best-known pieces, including the operas "Don Giovanni" and "The Magic Flute."

"We all know the picture drawn by the movie 'Amadeus'. It is false," said Ulrich Leisinger, director of research at the Mozarteum Foundation Salzburg. "Salieri did not poison Mozart, but they both worked in Vienna and were competitors."

The piece, titled "Per la Ricuperata Salute di Ofelia" ("For the recovered health of Ophelia"), was written to celebrate the recovery of a English singer who had performed pieces by Mozart and Salieri, museum officials said. It is unclear whether it was ever performed in public before today, they said.

"Here we have a short, not great,



piece by Mozart, but at least something that really sheds new light on his daily life as an opera composer in Vienna," Leisinger said.

German composer and musicologist Timo Jouko Herrmann discovered the work last November while searching for pieces by Salieri's students in the catalog of the Czech Museum of Music.

The piece's fate after Mozart and Salieri wrote it is unclear, but it came to the Czech Museum of Music in 1950s carrying the names of Mozart and Salieri in a kind of signature code common at the time, said Michal Lukes, director of the Czech National Museum.

That made it nearly impossible to identify the composers until the museum digitized its collection, allowing Herrmann to sift through a huge database to discover the joint effort that had been sitting unnoticed.

During the performance in a large hall in the former Baroque church that now houses the Czech Music Museum, a harpsichordist played the short and upbeat piece to the delight of a few dozen people hearing music that probably has not been performed in hundreds of years.

"To hear a joint piece by Mozart and Salieri ... lost for more than 200 years, is an amazing experience," Lukes said.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries (March 20-April 19)



In some way you are called upon to bring out one element of your personal genius in order to solve a problem or demonstrate what you can do. Often this comes as a surprise and requires that you think "out of the box". The usual rules don't fit here and you will need to resolve the dilemma in a way totally unique to yourself.

Taurus (April 20 -- May 20)



Your attention is on moving forward in your life direction, but various rocks and pebbles are in your way. One of them has to do with financing the budget for your plans. This is a challenge that won't go away, although you can resolve it with a determined mind. Love life is probably in a plus zone right now.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)



You have a desire to celebrate. The temptation to overspend is strong. Consider what would be fun and interesting that doesn't require a big expenditure. Activities concerning education, publishing, the law, and travel have positive aspects. You are talkative and in an exploring frame of mind. Curb your tendency to be opinionated.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)



At present your rational mind tells you one set of facts while the heart/instincts are in another camp altogether. A conflict of this type is one which ultimately will be resolved in a creative way. Take your conflict to a higher place--not one of either/or, but both/and. A larger perspective would satisfy both ends of the equation.

Leo (July 22-August 21)



There are occasionally moments in life when we are focused upon contemplation of the deeper topics in life. Why am I here? What is my purpose? Where am I headed? Do I take action based upon my principles or am I adopting the values of someone else? Taking stock brings greater clarity and needs to happen occasionally.

Virgo (August 22-September 22)



Your workplace or your daily living habits are given a boost in the positive direction. Fresh ideas are opening up new spaces for creativity. Someone may enter the picture who becomes a teacher. You have a lot of energy to direct toward physical health at this time. Maybe this person is a coach or educator.



Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

That which is normally creative energy for you becomes a challenge this week. It is similar to Sisyphus, rolling the rock uphill. It may feel as though your mind is sluggish and unable to communicate clearly or figure out problems. One of your senses, such as sight or hearing may be "off". This is a transiting phase and will be over within a week.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

It is of paramount importance that you control your mouth this week. Although you have an opinion about whatever is happening, let it go and say nothing unless asked for it. Being "right" is not as important as maintaining human relations. Later you can take action to correct what you perceive is wrong, but now you would be challenged to a fight.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 20)

Your feelings are exuberant and your mind is chattering like a magpie. Make an effort to watch the faces of others. They may not be so absorbed with your ideas as you are. Write about what you are thinking so you can take a good look at it later. Not everything you plan is practical, but it will probably lead you somewhere into creative territory.



Capricorn (December 21-January 19)

The Capricorn Goat is so focused on his or her direction that he sometimes becomes overbearing and pushy to others. Now is a time in which partners or other significant people are not cooperating. They may be fatigued with your constant management and delegation of projects. Ease off if you want to maintain these relationships.



Aquarius (January 20-February 17)

You may enjoy positive outcomes via joint resources. That includes partner's income, IRS, investments, or any other large body of money. It won't be huge, but gifts are in store. Gifts include money, time, or the use of another's resources. You may experience a challenge to your ego by a friend or associate. Try not to limit your attention to the situation.



Pisces (February 18-March 19)

The sun returns "home" to your sign this week. You likely will find it to be energizing. Now is the time to focus on new plans for this next year of your life. Take a fresh look at where you want to direct your energy. Use this month to let go of past hurts and take a deep breath of healing energy.

New book spotlights 'Armenians of the Merrimack Valley'

From page 7

schools about the genocide and its aftermath.

Vartabedian knew that writing such a book would be "no easy task."

"After hemming and hawing, I decided I'd collaborate," he said.

Vartabedian's mother survived the genocide by hiding in a well and came to the United States as a very young girl, he said.

He is an active member of the Armenian Genocide Education Committee of Merrimack Valley and decided the time was right to put the story of his people into a book.

"Armenians of the Merrimack Valley" tells readers about men and women who rose from humble circumstances and achieved prominence. Paul Kazarosian, for example, was a very successful lawyer who served as Haverhill's first city solicitor.

His parents survived the genocide and came to America.

His daughter, Marsha Kazarosian, has also achieved distinction as a lawyer, having won a high-profile gender discrimination suit against the Haverhill Country Club, among other accomplishments. Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly has described her as one of the top attorneys in New England.

Then there are the Jaffarians, who have built one of the biggest auto dealerships in the area. Other Armenian-Americans in the Merrimack Valley have achieved success as physicians, business owners, educators,



athletes, artists and entertainers.

The book also features folks who haven't become famous but have nevertheless made solid contributions to the Merrimack Valley and America. On the front cover, for instance, is a photo of Sebou Devejian standing in the grocery store he owned and operated at Washington Street and Washington Avenue in Haverhill.

Devejian was born in Armenia in 1890 and immigrated to the United States, where he, like his fellow Armenian immigrants, had to learn a language that has no similarity to his native tongue.

Both Brown and Vartabedian expressed disappointment that Turkey, the successor state to the Ottoman Empire, has never recognized the Armenian Genocide.

"It is very disturbing," Brown said.

"Nobody came to Armenia's aid," Vartabedian said.

Vartabedian estimates that there are 5,200 people of Armenian descent in the Merrimack Valley. The Armenian Apostolic churches in the region - Hye Pointe in Haverhill, St. Gregory in North Andover and St. Vartanantz in Chelmsford - have "done yeoman's work" in keeping their culture alive, he said.



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Address in Armenia: 28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009, RA.
Tel.: (+374 60) 27-64-62
(+374 60) 27-64-61

Address in France: Masion De L' Armenie, Paris 17e - 95
Bld. Gouvion, France.
Tel.: (+33) 01 43 59 66 72

Address in USA: 1146 E. Lexington Dr., #112, Glendale,
CA, USA, 91206.
Tel.: (+1 818) 646 10 72