

# Electricity price to rise in Armenia from August 1, 2015



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## Armenian President congratulates Queen Elizabeth II on birthday, visits UK Embassy

President Serzh Sargsyan has sent a congratulatory message to Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom and Prime Minister David Cameron on the national holiday of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the official birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.

The Armenian president has congratulated the queen, the royal family and the friendly people of Great Britain and has sent them his best wishes. The president wished the United Kingdom further prosperity and continued progress. Serzh Sargsyan expressed confidence that Armenian-British relations will continue to broaden and deepen to ensure the well-being of the two peoples.



In his congratulatory message to Prime Minister David Cameron, Serzh Sargsyan expressed his belief that only through joint efforts they will manage to further strengthen friendly relations between Armenia and the United Kingdom both in bilateral and multilateral formats.

Serzh Sargsyan also visited the Embassy of the United Kingdom in the Republic of Armenia on June 16 and congratulated Ambassador Katherine Jane Leach and the entire embassy staff on the occasion of British National Day.

## New Karabakh Army Chief Named



Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian visited on June 17 the Armenian-Azerbaijani frontline east of Nagorno-Karabakh together with the new commander of Karabakh's Armenian-backed army.

Lieutenant-General Levon Mnatsakanyan took over the Karabakh Defense Army in what amounted to a job swap with its previous commander, Lieutenant General Movses Hakobyan. Earlier this week, President Serzh Sargsyan appointed Hakobyan as deputy chief of staff of Armenia's armed forces, a position held by Mnatsakanyan until now.

Both generals were born in Karabakh in 1965. They commanded Karabakh Armenian units during the 1991-1994 war with Azerbaijan.

Mnatsakanyan studied at a Russian military academy for high-ranking officers several years before moving to Yerevan in 2012. Bako Sahakyan, the Karabakh president, announced his latest appointment and introduced him to the Defense Army's top brass in Stepanakert on Wednesday. Ohanian, who is also a Karabakh Armenian veteran of the war, was present at the ceremony.

Sahakyan was quoted by his office as praising Hakobyan's eight-year track record as army commander and describing Mnatsakanyan as an experienced and respected officer. But he gave no reasons for their job swap.

Later in the day, Ohanian, Mnatsakanyan and Hakobyan visited sections of the Armenian-Azerbaijani "line of

contact" east of Karabakh. A Defense Army statement said they familiarized themselves with recent reinforcements of "the defensive potential" of Karabakh Armenian frontline positions. It gave no further details.

The conflicting parties have reported few deadly truce violations along "the line of contact" and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border since the beginning of April. Tensions on the frontlines rose dramatically in January, resulting in over two dozen casualties on both sides.

Observers in Armenia link the current relative calm with the European Games in Baku. They say that Azerbaijan has de-escalated the situation in order to ensure that armed incidents do not scare away foreign athletes participating in the games. Accordingly, there are fears that deadly fighting in the conflict zone will again intensify after the multi-sport event in the Azerbaijani capital ends on June 28.

## Armenia 'Forced To Choose Between EU, Russia'

Armenia's 2013 decision to join a Russian-led bloc and failure to sign a far-reaching agreement with the European Union was not an abrupt foreign policy U-turn, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian claimed on June 17.

Nalbandian said that the EU itself unexpectedly changed course and forced Armenia to choose between deeper integration with Europe and Russia. He blamed the 28-nation union for the collapse of an Association Agreement which was all but finalized by Brussels and Yerevan in the summer of 2013.

The EU cancelled the agreement after President Serzh Sargsyan announced in September 2013 his decision to seek Armenia's accession to Russia's trade alliance with Belarus and Kazakhstan, which was subsequently transformed into the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

EU officials stressed both before and after Sargsyan's move, widely attributed to strong Russian pressure, that membership in the EEU is "not compatible" with key terms of the Association Agreement. Those envisaged the creation of a "deep and comprehensive free trade area," or DCFTA, between the EU and Armenia.

Speaking at a NATO seminar in Yerevan, Nalbandian said that when the Armenian government began association talks with Brussels in 2010 it made clear that it wants to combine European integration with Armenia's involvement in "Eurasian integration processes" championed by Russia. He said the EU initially accepted this complementary policy but "suddenly" changed its stance during "the final stage" of the negotiating process.

In Nalbandian's words, EU leaders told Armenia and five other ex-Soviet states involved in the EU's Eastern Partnership program: "You must make a choice: either the EU or Russia."

"At meetings of the foreign ministers of EU member and partner states ... I said I don't think it's a good approach to demand that we make an 'either-or' choice and that that approach could lead to new escalations," continued the minister.

"But that policy continued and they even went further, saying that 'this is a civilizational choice.' I replied that we had made our



civilizational choice several thousand years ago," he said.

Accordingly, Nalbandian rejected the notion that it was the Armenian side that killed the Association Agreement. He argued that the EU rejected in September-October 2013 an Armenian proposal to sign only the political chapters of the agreement on the grounds that the two sides had negotiated over a single text. He pointed out that by contrast the political and economic parts of the EU's Association Agreement with Ukraine were signed separately in 2014.

Ukraine's former President Viktor Yanukovich put that agreement on hold in late 2013 amid strong pressure from Russia, which has always viewed the Eastern Partnership as a threat to its geopolitical interests. Yanukovich was ousted in early 2014 in a popular revolt strongly condemned by Moscow.

Armenian and EU began last year exploring the possibility of hammering out a less far-reaching accord that would not run counter to Armenia's membership commitments to the EEU. Earlier this year they identified concrete areas of closer cooperation to be covered by the new deal. It is expected to contain not only political but also some economic provisions of the scrapped Association Agreement.

Nalbandian sounded optimistic on that score. He said he expects the European Commission to receive "in the coming days" the green light from EU member states for the start of official negotiations with Yerevan.

## Armenia builds a multi-vector security system: Defense Minister



Armenia is building a multi-vector security system, taking into consideration the existing challenges, Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan said at NATO's Rose Roth seminar in Yerevan.

Besides the traditional threats, the Minister pointed to the rapidly aggravat-

ing challenges, such as trans-national terrorism and radicalism, which is "knocking the door of the South Caucasus."

"In a short period of time the so-called Islamic State managed to expand the area under its control and continues to stretch in different directions, automatically challenging the South Caucasus, as two of the latter's neighbors - Turkey and Iran - are in some way involved in the developments around ISIS," the Defense Minister said.

"Being a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Armenia actively cooperates with NATO and its member states and views the relations with NATO as an indispensable part of its security system," Minister Ohanyan said.

The Defense Minister noted that "Armenia is the only CSTO member state and the only strategic ally of Russia, which has been actively involved in NATO-led peacekeeping missions.

Speaking about NATO's role in ensuring security in the region, Minister Ohanyan said "being the guarantor of security in the Euro-Atlantic area, NATO should play a distinct role in defending the South Caucasus from outer challenges and support the negotiations on conflict settlement in different formats."

"NATO's involvement in the region should be targeted against challenges common for all countries of the region, irrespective of the collective security systems they have chosen to join," he added.

## Switch to Parliamentary Republic 'Approved By Sargsyan'

President Serzh Sargsyan appears to have made a final decision to try to transform Armenia into a parliamentary republic with a largely ceremonial head of state not elected by popular vote, an opposition politician said on June 18.

Armen Rustamyan, a leader of the opposition Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun), also revealed that he and top representatives of about a dozen other parties held fresh discussions on the issue with Sargsyan on Tuesday.

The presidential press office issued no statements on the meeting. It featured politicians that are loyal to Sargsyan or at least do not reject out of hand his plans to amend Armenia's constitution. According to Rustamyan and other participants, the meeting was also attended by members of a presidential commission tasked with drafting constitutional amendments.

The commission formally recommended a sharp reduction of presidential powers in a reform "concept" that was submitted to Sargsyan in October. It argued that the parliamentary form of governance involving a powerful prime minister would be more democratic and effective.

Sargsyan formally approved the 49-page document in March. Still, citing national security considerations, he voiced misgivings about the wisdom of the radical change envisaged by it.



In Rustamyan's words, the commission has managed to address the president's concerns. In particular, he said, the ad hoc body has clarified that Armenia's armed forces would be collectively led by the prime minister and his or cabinet in peacetime. The prime minister would become their commander-in-chief during a war, he said.

Also, Rustamyan went on, the next president of the republic would be elected by the Armenian parliament, rather than popular vote. "There will be no presidential elections in 2018," he told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am).

Vahram Baghdasaryan, the parliamentary leader of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK), said the commission stands by its strong support for the parliamentary model. But he cautioned that it has

still not finished the drafting of amendments that are expected to be put on a referendum next year.

Baghdasaryan said the commission will hold more discussions with experts from the Council of Europe and Armenian parties before submitting a final constitutional package to the National Assembly in September.

Two other major opposition parties, the Armenian National Congress (HAK) and Zharangutyun (Heritage), are categorically against the proposed switch to the parliamentary republic. They maintain that Sargsyan is only seeking to stay in power in another capacity after completing his second presidential term in 2018. Both parties have signaled their intention to try to scuttle the constitutional reform with street protests.

## Armenia will get assistance from CSTO partners if necessary: Nikolay Bordyuzha

"Armenia is a full member of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and has the right to get assistance from allies in case of negative developments on its territory. Armenia will get support from partners if necessary," CSTO Secretary General Nikolay Bordyuzha said at the Yerevan-Moscow-Astana space bridge.

Asked by an Armenian journalist whether he ever sent an invitation to Azerbaijan to join the CSTO, Bordyuzha said: "I don't remember having sent an invitation to Azerbaijan, although I think all countries should participate in the works of a security system."

"The CSTO is ready to discuss the membership of any country - be it Iran, Georgia or Azerbaijan. Should Azerbaijan file an application to join the CSTO, we'll

discuss it, but will discuss with all member states, including Armenia," Bordyuzha stated.

Asked by a Moscow-based Azerbaijani journalist what the CSTO is doing regarding the Karabakh conflict, the CSTO Secretary General said: "International mechanisms, including the Minsk Group, have been created to seek ways for the settlement of the conflict and find solutions acceptable to both parties. I'm more than assured that no other institutions should interfere."

"We are well aware of the situation at the line of contact, we are aware of the ceasefire violations and the number of victims, but we have no right to interfere with the settlement process," he added.

At the same time, the Secretary



General added that "Armenia is a full member of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and has the right to get assistance from allies in case of negative developments on its territory. Armenia will get support from partners if necessary."

## Return of Nagorno Karabakh to Azerbaijan impossible, former Co-Chair says



Azerbaijan will fail to regain control over Nagorno-Karabakh despite its frequent threats of military action, a former French mediator in Armenian-Azerbaijani peace talks reportedly said on June 19.

"Only Armenians live in Nagorno-Karabakh and they don't want a change in their status. Therefore, Nagorno-Karabakh's return to Azerbaijan is no longer possible," Armenian media outlets quoted Jacques Faure as saying dur-

ing a NATO seminar in Yerevan.

Faure, who co-headed the OSCE Minsk Group together with U.S. and Russian diplomats from 2011-2014, said the Karabakh Armenians should therefore have a chance to gain international recognition of their de facto status through a "free expression of will." "I personally hope that this will become possible," he added.

Peace proposals made by U.S., Russian and French mediators over the past decade appear to allow for such recognition. One of the key elements of their Basic Principles of a peaceful settlement is the future conduct of a referendum on Karabakh's status. In return, the Karabakh Armenians would have to withdraw from all but one of the seven districts in Azerbaijan proper that were fully or partly occupied by them in 1992-1993.

Faure said that despite its massive military buildup the Azerbaijani leadership is unlikely to act on its regular threats to reconquer Karabakh and the surrounding territories. He said Azerbaijan would suffer huge economic losses in case of another war with the Armenians.

The retired French diplomat also asserted that both the Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders lack the "political will" to make unpopular mutual concessions needed for achieving a long-awaited peace deal.

## Thousands again rally against energy price hike

Thousands of people demonstrated in Yerevan on June 19 to condemn the latest increase in the prices of electricity in Armenia which was authorized by regulatory authorities on Thursday.

A non-partisan pressure group that organized the demonstration in the city's Liberty Square gave the authorities until Monday to reverse the more than 16 percent price rise or face fresh street protests. Leaders of the Voch Talanin (No To Plunder) movement said they will urge supporters to march to President Serzh Sargsyan's headquarters if the unpopular measure is not reversed by that time.

In the meantime, they said, they will hold a three-day sit-in in the square. Hundreds of mostly young protesters joined the nonstop protest.

The group issued the ultimatum after angry speeches by its leaders rejecting the official rationale for raising the energy tariffs for a third time in two years. They stood by their claims that Armenia's power distribution network has been making massive financial losses because of corruption and mismanagement, rather than the low cost of electricity supplied to households and corporate consumers.

"We will not put up with the plunder of the already impoverished people," warned Maxim Sargsyan, a No To Plunder leader.

"The price must not go up by a single penny. It's already high enough," said another leader, Aram Manukyan. He

Sargsyan and Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian are personally responsible for the price hike.

The crowd agreed, chanting "Serzhik, go away!" -- a traditional slogan of radical opposition groups.

Leaders of Armenia's main opposition parties attended and even addressed No To Plunder's previous demonstration held late last month. But only one opposition heavyweight, Raffi Hovannisian of the Zharangutyun (Heritage) party, was present at the latest protest.

"It's a very serious and, I hope, justified tactical decision," Hovannisian told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) commenting on the announcement of the group's further steps.

The protest organizers did not specify what they will do if the authorities reject their ultimatum. They only called for more people to join the Liberty Square sit-in with blankets and even tents.

The Armenian government and its political allies have repeatedly defended the higher electricity prices that will take effect on August 1. Citing massive debts incurred by the Electricity Networks of Armenia (ENA) operator in recent years, they say that failure to raise the tariffs would disrupt energy supplies in the country.

The ENA, which is owned by Russia's national electric utility, last month, requested a nearly 40 percent price rise from Public Services Regulatory Commission.

## Electricity price to rise in Armenia from August 1, 2015

Utility regulators formally raised the prices of electricity in Armenia by over 16 percent on June 17 as dozens of people scuffled with riot police in Yerevan in protest against the unpopular measure expected to spark larger anti-government demonstrations.

The decision unanimously made by the five members of the Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC) also failed to satisfy Armenia's Russian-owned power distribution network. The Electricity Networks of Armenia (ENA) operator has been seeking a more than 40 percent increase in the prices of its electricity delivered to households and corporate consumers, citing the need to end its massive losses.

The PSRC chairman, Robert Nazaryan, said earlier this month that the daytime electricity price for households will rise from 42 drams to almost 49 drams (10 U.S. cents) per kilowatt/hour. The households will pay almost 39 drams per kilowatt/hour during night hours, he said.

The commission formalized these tariff increases, effective from August 1, in the presence of other government officials, journalists and anti-government activists. The latter responded by chanting "Shame!"

Dozens of other activists, most of them young members of the opposition Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun), protested outside the PSRC offices in downtown Yerevan. Scuffles broke out as riot police stopped them from breaking into the building after the announcement of the PSRC's decision.

Some protesters threw eggs and tomatoes at law-enforcement officers led by Valeri Osipian, a deputy chief of the Yerevan police. Six of them were detained as a result. They all were set free later in the day.

A much larger number of people took to the streets of the cap-

ital late last month to protest against the impending price hikes. A non-partisan pressure group that organized the protest is scheduled to again rally supporters on Friday.

The protesters' anger reflected a widely held belief in Armenia that the ENA is forcing consumers to pay for its perceived mismanagement.

Speaking during parliamentary hearings last week, Nazaryan acknowledged that the ENA management has failed to tackle fraud within its ranks and indulged in extravagant expenses such as lease of expensive cars and office space for senior company executives.

Still, Nazaryan insisted that the ENA, which is owned by Russia's UES national electric utility, cannot stop incurring substantial losses with the existing electricity prices. He said higher tariffs are also needed to enable the ENA to repay 106 billion drams (\$225 million) in outstanding debts to power plants and commercial banks.

The ENA, meanwhile, criticized the price rises approved by the regulators as not far-reaching enough. In a letter to the PSRC sent ahead of its latest meeting, the ENA's Russian chief executive, Yevgeny Bibin, accused the commission of ignoring most of its "economically justified operational costs."

Bibin warned that his company will not be able to meet the necessary "requirements for the quality and reliability of electricity supplies" if the PRSC refuses to accept its tariff application in full. Nazaryan publicly condemned the warning as "blackmail."

The daytime electricity price for households already went up by 27 percent in July 2013 because of the increased cost of Russian natural gas generating more than one-third of Armenia's electricity. The PSRC raised it by another 10 percent in July 2014.

## Armenian Parliament Approves Tax Rises



After two days of heated debates, the Armenian parliament tentatively approved on Friday a government proposal to raise taxes collected from alcohol, tobacco and fuel.

A relevant government bill passed by the National Assembly in the first reading envisages roughly 10 percent increases in the rates of excise tax on sales of alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, gasoline and diesel fuel. It also introduces the same duty for liquefied natural gas used by at least half of the vehicles in Armenia.

Presenting the bill, Deputy Finance Minister Vakhtang Mirumyan said it will earn the Armenian government 9 billion drams (\$19 million) in extra tax revenue. The figure is

equivalent to less than 1 percent of the government's entire budgetary revenue projected for this year.

The bill met on Thursday with strong resistance from not only opposition deputies but also some of their colleagues affiliated with the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK). They claimed that it would push up the prices of not only alcohol, tobacco and fuel but also other goods and services.

Hakob Hakobyan, a senior HHK lawmaker, said the government risks thereby increasing poverty in the country. He pointed in that context to a 16 percent increase in electricity prices that will take effect on August 1.

Mirumyan dismissed these concerns. "This is not the kind of increase that could have a major impact on consumer prices," he told the parliament. "It will most likely have no impact at all."

The HHK deputies stopped criticizing the proposed tax rises on the second day of the debates, overwhelmingly voting for them afterwards. Galust Sahakyan, the parliament speaker and a senior HHK figure, said the government has agreed to come up with more detailed justifications for the controversial measure. This is why, he said, the parliament will not debate it in the second and final reading before this fall.

## World Bank Warns Of Future Power Shortages In Armenia



Armenia could face a shortage of electricity unless it builds a new and large power plant in the coming years, energy experts from the World Bank warned in a report made public on Tuesday.

Their 67-page "policy note" analyzes challenges facing the Armenian energy sector and suggests concrete ways of confronting them.

"Armenia will need an additional power generation capacity in the near future in order to avoid supply shortages in the long run," one of its authors, Artur Kochnakyan, told reporters. He argued that the combined capacity of all Armenian power plants will fall well short of nationwide demand by 2026, the anticipated date of the decommissioning of the nuclear station at Metsamor.

Metsamor's sole functioning reactor accounts for around 40 percent of electricity generated in the country annually. Its 30-year design life span ends in 2016. The Armenian government plans to modernize the 400 megawatt facility and keep it operational for 10 more years. It obtained last year a \$270 million Russian government loan for that purpose.

The decision to extend Metsamor's life reflected its failure so far to make good on its promises to build a new and twice as pow-

erful nuclear plant. The government says that it is still committed to implementing the ambitious project worth billions of dollars. However, it has set no dates for the construction of the new plant.

The World Bank report does not seem to regard Metsamor's replacement as a real possibility. It proposes instead that the government start looking for investors interested in financing the construction of a new 500 megawatt thermal power plant by 2020.

Two new gas-fired plants have already gone on stream in Armenia in the last few years. One of them was built in Yerevan in 2010 with a \$247 million loan provided by Japan's government. The state-owned facility has a capacity of 242 megawatts.

The other, more powerful thermal-power plant is located in the central town of Hrazdan. The Russian gas monopoly Gazprom inaugurated it in 2013.

Kochnakyan agreed that investments in another gas-fired station will most probably necessitate a further rise in electricity prices in Armenia. State utility regulators are widely expected to raise them this month for a third time in two years.

Electricity in Armenia is already almost twice as expensive as it was in 2009. The World Bank report effectively justifies its growing cost, while acknowledging that Armenians are increasingly struggling to pay their energy bills

"Climbing energy costs increased the share of household energy expenses to 10 percent," says the report. "It will get worse as the much needed new investments are made."

The World Bank experts also stressed the importance of upgrading Armenia's power transmission infrastructure. "Many transmission lines and substations incur high outage rates, which could lead to system-wide failure," they warned.

Earlier this year, the World Bank provided the Armenian government with a \$52 million loan to that will be used for modernizing some of these facilities. The government is due to contribute \$17 million of its own funds to that project.

## USAID Improves water supply in Hartavan, Armenia



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On June 17, USAID marked the completion of a water supply improvement project in the village of Hartavan, Aragatsotn region. The community event was attended by USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia Jonathan Katz, USAID Armenia Mission Director Karen Hilliard, Governor of Aragatsotn Sargis Sahakyan, community mayor Zhirayr Avetisyan, local residents, and partners. During the event, the attendees viewed the newly-installed pumping station and water supply network of the village and met with project beneficiaries.

Before the inception of the USAID/CEWP water improvement proj-

ect, Hartavan did not have access to a safe and reliable water supply. Most of the village's water sources were seasonal and did not have any protection from potential pollution. The village's only reliable source of water was the small and obsolete pumping station located on the Aparan-Yerevan water main. The water distribution network of Hartavan was also in poor condition. Household connections were not metered, and the water loss due to leakage and waste was very high (80% or more). Water was available only 2-3 hours a day, and the risk of waterborne diseases was high.

In response, USAID made several critical improvements to Hartavan's existing water system, resulting in a safe chlorinated water supply for all the households in the village that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Thanks to the installation of water meters throughout the village,

water consumption is more accurately accounted for. CEWP also provided the municipality with new software to help them with billing and the collection of water fees. As a result, the community's water service revenue has almost doubled, and it is anticipated that Hartavan will annually save about 23,360 cubic meters of water and 17,280 kilowatt-hours of electric energy due to improved efficiency.

Since 2011, nearly 50,000 people living in vulnerable communities in six Armenian provinces have benefitted from improved energy and water services made possible through USAID. When improving rural infrastructures, USAID also introduces modern and energy-efficient approaches to street-lighting, heating, and the drinking water supply, allowing communities to generate additional savings in water and energy expenses.



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- ♦1715- **Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- ♦1680- **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- ♦1674. **Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor, 70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- ♦1698- **Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capially repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

## 2 ROOMS

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



## 3 ROOMS

- ♦3046. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m., without divisions. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦3012. **Aram str**, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price: 300.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2998. **North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- ♦2682. **Aram Str.**, Newly built, 13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capially repaired, heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2958. **Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building, 4 bedrooms, capially repaired, heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦2895. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- ♦2802. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capially repaired, central heating, AC, security system. Price: 320.000 USD.
- ♦1104. **Komitas Ave., Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m, stone bld, h-2.75m., 3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- ♦2836. **Pushkin str.**, 4/4, 5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.

- ♦2990. **North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

## PREMISES

- ♦1789. **Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m, 5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m., basement, capially repaired, parkings. Price: 4.000.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1598. **Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant, 1st line, capially repaired. Price: negotiable.
- ♦1603. **Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m., zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- ♦2035. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capially repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2013. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capially repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2012. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capially repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2155. **Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses, parking. Price: 3.600.000 USD
- ♦2020. **Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m, 1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m., each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m, without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1986. **Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price: 1.000.000 USD.
- ♦2167. **Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capially repaired. Price: 200.000 USD
- ♦2175. **Tumanyan str**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor 300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capially repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- ♦2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capially repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

## LANDS

- ♦2122. **Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.
- ♦2121. **Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m., building permits. Price: 2million USD.
- ♦2013. **Cascade**. 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 460.000 USD
- ♦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: 100.000 USD.
- ♦2406. **Avan**, Mher Mkrtyan block, 1000 sq.m., electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price: 30USD per sq.m
- ♦2310. **Monument, Babayan str**, 1000 sq. m, facade-25m, privatized, Price: 350 USD negotiable
- ♦2107. **Monument**, 2400sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: 400 USD per sq.m.
- ♦2413. **Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2414. **Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price: 750.000 USD.

## PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦3739. **Nork Marash** Land- 2000sq.m, two separate houses, total bld-600sq.m, capially repaired, swimming pool, sauna, guard house. 2 car parking, garden. Price: 950.000 USD
- ♦3348. **Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capially repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ♦3146. **Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m., each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- ♦3583. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 1.350.000 USD.
- ♦3432. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m , 3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price: 1.000.000 USD
- ♦3576. **Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capially repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 USD
- ♦3606. **Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capially repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD
- ♦3574. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capially repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD
- ♦3590 **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD
- ♦3651. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capially repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 1.700.000 USD.
- ♦3401. **Antarayin str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capially repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD
- ♦3712 **Cascade** Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 storied bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 USD

## NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

- ♦74. **Cascade**, Verin Antarayin. 136-315 sq m., walls plastered, electricity, water, gas, euro windows, no exploitation fees. Price: 1200 USD per sq.m, parking -15.000 USD.
- ♦107. **Monument**, Verin Antarayin. inhabited, 8 floors, gas, windows, street view -1000 USD per sq.m., city looking -1500 USD per sq.m., parking - 4 million USD preliminary.
- ♦87. **Sayat-Nova str.**, 21 floors, 3 bedrooms -188 sq.m., 199 sq.m., Price 1900 USD per sq.m., 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight - 117 sq.m., 120 sq.m., 124 sq.m., Price: 1700 USD per sq.m., climate control, gas.
- ♦93. **Kievyan str.**, Given to the operation in October 2011, 16 floors, walls plastered, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas, parking. Price: 1500-1600USD per sq.m, parking-12 000 USD. Possible with mortgage, for 13 years term.
- ♦94. **Masiv**. 3floors, 8 flats, each flat has 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking. Price: negotiable.
- ♦130. **Antarayin str.**, 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m., available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable
- ♦131. **Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable





**YOUR CHOICE IS OUR CHOICE**

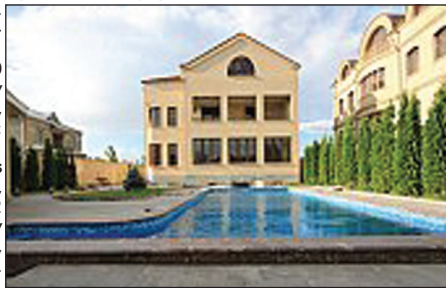
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 Mrealty@list.ru (010) 562181  
 12 G. Lusavorich str., Yerevan, Armenia

### 1 ROOM

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

### 2 ROOMS

- 2302 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2295 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 16/15, 173sq.m., 2bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 5000 USD
- 2290 **Bayron str.**, Newly built, /5th floor, 220sq.m, 2bedrooms, study, open kitchen, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, furnished, parking. Price: 4000 USD
- 1780. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.



- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 2089. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 2243. **Buzand str.**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

### 3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished,

- parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capitally repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2286. **Sose str**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4., 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi, /North Avenue/,** Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

### PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathroom, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- 999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- 1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m, 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms,

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

### PREMISES

- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6 000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitally repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitally repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- 2033. **Abovyan str.**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m., capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD
- 2031. **Vardanants str**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m, Price: 8000 USD
- 2027. **Sayat Nova str**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

## U.S.-Armenian Tycoon Kirk Kerkorian Dies

Kirk Kerkorian, a prominent American billionaire financier of Armenian descent who has poured hundreds of millions of dollars in aid into Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, died at the age of 98.

Born to Armenian immigrant parents in California, Kerkorian worked as a civilian transport pilot in World War II before building a financial empire that included some of the biggest and best-known Las Vegas casinos and hotels as well as major stakes in leading U.S. carmakers. He is also known for buying and selling the world-famous MGM film studio for three times.

Kerkorian's benevolent activities in Armenia began after a catastrophic 1988 earthquake that devastated northern regions of what was then a Soviet republic. He provided medical and other supplies to survivors of the calamity that killed some 25,000 people.

Through his Lincy Foundation charity, Kerkorian went on to cover half of the cost of an 80-kilometer highway connecting Armenia to Karabakh. The mountainous road was completed in 1998 four years after a Russian-mediated truce stopped a bloody Armenian-Azerbaijani war for the disputed territory. It has since served as Karabakh's main transport link to the outside world.

Kerkorian visited Armenia for the first

time later in 1998. Over the next decade Lincy financed more than \$200 million worth of infrastructure projects in his ancestral homeland, making Kerkorian its number one Diaspora benefactor.

Roughly \$150 million of that money was spent between 2001 and 2004. It was mainly channeled into the repair and construction of 430 kilometers of major highways, bridges, tunnels as well as 3,700 new homes in the Armenian regions still reeling from the 1988 earthquake. Lincy's funds were also used for the renovation of dozens of Armenian museums, theaters and concert halls. The lavish aid led then President Robert Kocharyan to give Kerkorian Armenia's highest state award: the Order of Fatherland carrying the title of "national hero." The media-shy tycoon received it during his second and last visit to the country in May 2005.

Kerkorian used that trip to inspect roads in and outside Yerevan that were refurbished with his money. "I just couldn't imagine how beautiful this place is," he told a reporter while sitting in a street café in the Armenian capital. Two months later, Kerkorian contributed another \$60 million to the reconstruction of rundown schools and more highways and streets in Yerevan.

Kerkorian shut down Lincy and trans-



ferred its assets to the UCLA university in California in 2011. The university set up a special fund to support Armenian schools and other education programs of the Armenian-American community.

Kerkorian's last Armenian-related project was his reported decision to fund a film about the 1915 Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey. Showbiz411.com, an American entertainment industry news website, reported details of the upcoming movie on Monday, just hours before the tycoon passed away. "This could be a big epic hit," it wrote.

Last month, "Forbes" magazine estimated Kerkorian's wealth at \$4.2 billion, down from an estimated \$16 billion in 2008.

## Armenia Pays Tribute To 'Legendary' Kerkorian

Armenia's current and former leaders on June 17 recalled Kirk Kerkorian's multi-million-dollar contributions to their country in messages offering their condolences on the death of the Armenian-American billionaire.

President Serzh Sargsyan referred to Kerkorian as a "great Armenian benefactor" who became a living "legend" thanks to his entrepreneurial and philanthropist activities. He singled out more than \$220 million in economic assistance which the tycoon's Lincy Foundation charity has provided to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

"The projects financed by the foundation gave new impetus to Armenia's economy, significantly changing the face of our country," Sargsyan wrote in a letter to the family of Kerkorian, who died on Monday night at the age of 98.

Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan similarly praised Kerkorian's "invaluable

role in the development of newly independent Armenia." Abrahamyan said his lavish donations left a "lasting imprint" on his ancestral homeland.

"The Armenian people have lost one of their renowned sons," read a separate statement by parliament speaker Galust Sahakyan.

The bulk of Kerkorian's aid was spent on the construction and repair of roads, housing, schools and cultural institutions during the 1998-2008 presidency of Sargsyan's predecessor Robert Kocharyan. The latter twice received the tycoon in Yerevan in 1998 and 2005.

"I fondly remember my meetings with Kirk," Kocharyan said in a statement publicized by his unofficial website, 2rd.am. Kerkorian was a "true patriot who will forever remain in the hearts of the Armenians," he said.

Leaders of the Armenian community in

the United States also paid tribute to Kerkorian's legacy. "He made a huge difference in our homeland with his tremendous generosity. Armenia is on a path to modernization after years of economic stagnation thanks to his support," said Hirair Hovnanian, the founder of the Armenian Assembly of America, an influential advocacy group.

Kerkorian's death also prompted a statement by Senator Harry Reid, a longtime friend leading the Democratic minority in the U.S. Senate. "My relationship with him is one of the special things in my life," Reid said on the Senate floor on Tuesday.

"He was one of a kind," added the veteran lawmaker representing Nevada, the U.S. state where Kerkorian had for decades done business.

A financial empire built by Kerkorian included some of the biggest and best-known casinos of Las Vegas.

## Armenian Genocide no longer litmus test for presidential endorsements



By *Harut Sassounian*

*Publisher, The California Courier*

Now that over a dozen candidates have announced their intention to run for President in 2016, Armenian-Americans are wondering whom to support in next year's elections.

Faced with that same question in 2012, I wrote a column explaining why I was not voting for either the Democratic incumbent, Barack Obama or his Republican rival, Mitt Romney.

During his first four years as President, Obama not only did not keep his repeated promises on the Armenian Genocide, but also failed to support many other Armenian-American issues.

Romney did not fare any better. During the presidential campaign, the Republican candidate made no promises to and held no meetings with the Armenian community. Some interpreted his detachment as a sign of honesty, thinking that he did not wish to make promises that he would not keep. Romney's problem was that if a presidential candidate exhibits such callous disregard toward a block of voters right when he most needs their support, imagine how much less attention he would pay to Armenian-Americans and their issues after he becomes President!

For several decades, the Armenian-American community has sought a pledge from all presidential candidates that as President they would recognize the Armenian Genocide. All too often, the thrill of anticipated victory has turned into agony, as every President since Ronald Reagan has suffered from amnesia upon entering the White House. Consequently, the Armenian community has become disappointed and disengaged from the American political process, believing that all

politicians are liars!

To break this vicious circle of promise and deception, I would like to suggest two alternative strategies:

The first is to evaluate all Presidential candidates on the totality of their positions on many issues of significance to the Armenian-American community:

- Increasing the amount of U.S. aid to Armenia and Artsakh (Karabagh);

- Pressuring Turkey to lift the blockade of Armenia;

- Demanding that Turkey return the confiscated Christian churches to their rightful owners - Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks;

- Condemning Azerbaijan for its repeated threats and frequent attacks on Artsakh;

- Supporting Artsakh's self-determination;

- Promoting U.S. trade with Armenia;

- Holding annual meetings with representatives of the Armenian-American community.

I have intentionally left out from the above list the request from presidential candidates to "recognize" the Armenian Genocide, as it has been repeatedly recognized by the United States! Hence, there is no need to make genocide recognition a litmus test for Presidential endorsements, particularly after its global acknowledgment during the Centennial! Moreover, when presidential candidates make a campaign promise on the Armenian Genocide, they should not be automatically endorsed based on that single issue, ignoring their positions on all other issues!

Of course, there is no guarantee that the elected president would keep the promises on other Armenian issues. However, if Armenian-Americans make a large number of requests, they may be

able to obtain satisfaction on a few of them.

It is important to note that those candidates who have already deceived the Armenian community during previously held elective or appointive positions should be eliminated from all consideration. One such candidate is Hillary Clinton who as Secretary of State called the Armenian Genocide "a matter of historical debate," after staunchly defending it as Senator, and then as presidential candidate in 2008. Armenian-Americans should not trust any candidate who has already lied to them! As the popular saying goes, "fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me!" The real issue transcends genocide recognition and reflects the character and integrity of the candidate!

An alternate election strategy would be not to endorse candidates during their first run for office to avoid being misled by false promises. Let elected officials earn Armenian-Americans' trust by taking positive actions on issues important to them during previous terms in office.

Finally, not voting for presidential candidates in their first run for office does not mean staying away from elections or the political process. One third of the US Senate and all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives are up for reelection every two years. Armenian-Americans should support all incumbents in federal, state and local elections who have a proven record of accomplishments on Armenian issues, while helping defeat those who have opposed Armenian interests during their term in office!

It is more prudent to engage in intelligent and efficient political activism rather than wasteful and abortive electoral participation.

## European Court rules on appeals from Armenian, Azeri refugees

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has handed down its first rulings on lawsuits filed by scores of Armenians and Azerbaijanis displaced during the war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

In two separate verdicts announced late on Tuesday, the Strasbourg-based court said both Armenia and Azerbaijan violated property rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights. But it stopped short of ordering any material compensation to any of the plaintiffs for now.

One of the lawsuits was filed in 2005 by six former residents of Azerbaijan's Lachin district straddling Armenia and Karabakh. They fled their homes in the face of advancing Armenian forces that occupied the district in May 1992.

The other case was brought in 2006 by Minas Sargsyan, a former resident of the Shahumian district just north of Karabakh which the Azerbaijani army seized from the Karabakh Armenians in June 1992. Sargsyan, who died in 2009, his family as well as Shahumyan's entire Armenian population were driven out of their homes as a result.

Hundreds of thousands of other Armenians and Azerbaijanis were displaced in similar circumstances during the 1991-1994 war. "There are currently more than one thousand individual applications pending before the Court which were lodged by persons displaced during the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh," the ECHR said on Tuesday.

In both cases, the court found violations of the articles of the convention relating to protection of property and an "effective remedy" for its loss. In particular, it faulted Azerbaijan for denying the Sargsyan family access to a village house where it used to live.

The ECHR also held Armenia responsible for the displacement of the six Azerbaijani plaintiffs, all of them ethnic Kurds, and the loss of their homes in Lachin. Significantly, it dismissed Armenian officials' assertions that the area is controlled by the unrecognized Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR), rather than Armenia.



The ECHR said "numerous reports and public statements ... demonstrated that Armenia, through its military presence and by providing military equipment and expertise, had been significantly involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict from an early date." "Armenia thus exercised effective control over Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories," it said.

The Azerbaijani government seized upon this conclusion in its official reaction to the Strasbourg rulings. "The court decision put an end to Armenia's nonstop denial of the occupation of Azerbaijani lands and the presence of its troops there," the Foreign Ministry in Baku said on Wednesday.

But one of Armenia's representatives at the Strasbourg litigation, Emil Babayan, disputed this claim. "They are talking about not occupation but assistance provided by Armenia [to the NKR,]" he told RFE/RL's Armenian service.

In both cases, the ECHR awarded no damages to the plaintiffs, saying that the question of material compensation is "not ready for decision" yet. Still, it gave Sargsyan's relatives and the Azerbaijani government one year to "submit their observations on this matter and to notify the Court of any agreement they might reach." The court issued no such order in its ruling on the Azerbaijani suit.

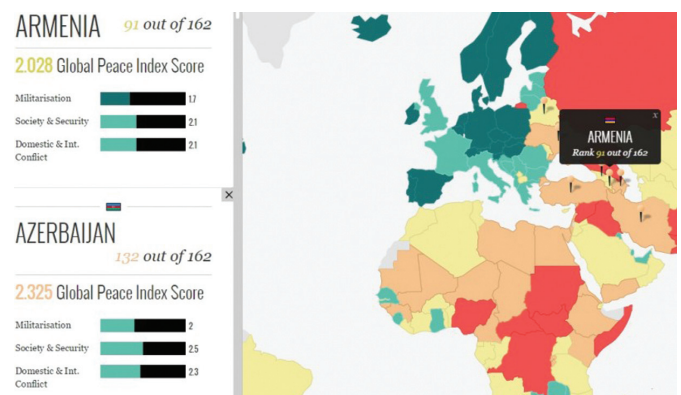
## Armenia ranked 91st in Global Peace Index 2015

Armenia is ranked 91st among 162 countries in the Global Peace Index 2015. Armenia's neighbors in the region are placed as follows: Georgia - 79th, Azerbaijan 132nd, Turkey - 135th, Iran - 138th. As for Armenia's partners in the Eurasian Economic Union, Russia is 152nd, Belarus is 110th, Kazakhstan is 87th and Kyrgyzstan is 121st.

The Global Peace Index measures the state of peace in 162 countries according to 23 indicators that gauge the absence of violence or the fear of violence. It is produced annually by the Institute for Economics and Peace.

The 2015 Global Peace Index shows that the world is becoming increasingly divided with some countries enjoying unprecedented levels of peace and prosperity while others spiral further into violence and conflict.

This year the results show that globally, levels of peace remained stable over the last year, however are still lower than in 2008. The most peaceful countries are Iceland, Denmark and Austria.



The country that suffered the most severe deterioration in peace was Libya, which now ranks 149th of 162 countries. Ukraine suffered the second largest deterioration, falling to 150th position.

Syria remains the world's least peaceful country, followed by Iraq and Afghanistan.

## UK House of Lords holds debate on Armenian Genocide recognition

On June 16 the UK House of Lords held a debate on the recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

"Her Majesty's Government recognizes the terrible suffering inflicted on the Armenian people and other groups living in the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century," James Stopford, the Earl of Courtown, said in response to a question by Baroness Caroline Cox on the Government plans to recognize the killings of Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians in 1915 as genocide.

"While remembering and honoring the victims of the past, we believe that the UK's priority should be to help the peoples and Governments of Turkey and Armenia to face their joint history together," he added.

Baroness Cox reminded that over 20 states have recognised the genocide, including France, Canada, Poland, Chile and Austria, as well as the European Parliament and the Welsh Assembly, on the basis of irrefutable evidence of the systematic slaughter of 1.5 million Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians. Noting that His Holiness Pope Francis has emphasized the necessity of genocide recognition for healing, reconciliation and moving forward, she asked whether Her Majesty's Government would seri-



ously consider reviewing their position.

"Her Majesty's Government are aware of His Holiness the Pope's comments during the papal mass to commemorate the victims of 1915, which was held in



Rome. We respect his view and agree that it is important to face the lessons of history with courage and do all that we can to prevent similar atrocities. Her Majesty's Government reviewed their position of recognition in 2013 and, at

present, we have no plans to conduct another review," the Earl of Courtown said.

Lord Lyndon Harrison noted, in turn, that "it is true that it was genocide that was practised on the Armenians and other peoples in 1915." He emphasized the necessity of bringing together the Armenians and Turks in order to find reconciliation.

In response to that, James Stopford said: "We are trying to promote links between Turkey and Armenia in a number of ways. We have had a successful exchange of Turkish and Armenian Chevening alumni, who have visited each other's countries for the first time. We have also targeted funding on projects such as CivilNet TV, which is a media source for Turkey-related news in Armenia."

"In addition we have supported an initiative of our Armenian NGO to publish a book of personal stories from survivors about Turks who saved the lives of Armenians during the massacres and deportations of 1915," he said.

"Our priority should be to promote reconciliation between the peoples and Governments of Armenia and Turkey and to enable the two countries to face their joint history together," the Earl of Courtown said. In this context he said "it's pleasing to see MPs of Armenian background in the Turkish Parliament."

Speaking about the Karabakh conflict, James Stopford said "the status quo is not sustainable."

"Twenty-one years have now passed since the ceasefire brought the active phase of the conflict to an end. For over 20 years the parties have not been able to reach a peace settlement. That has also meant over 20 years of continued hostility, hatred and suffering. The status quo is certainly not sustainable," he stated.



## Armenian, Assyrian and Greek Genocides Discussed at Conference

The experiences of the Armenian, Assyrian and Greek minorities of the Ottoman Empire were discussed at the conference, “World War I and Beyond,” May 21-22, 2015 at The Graduate Center, City University of New York. These experiences are today more relevant than ever because the world once again witnesses ethnic cleansing and genocide in the Middle East, GreekNews reports.

Now, as during the period 1914-1923, the Christians are subjected to the pressures of an Islamic state—the Ottoman Empire then, ISIS today. Even though at one time the Christians made up 65% of the population of the Ottoman Empire, they were second-class citizens, and were subjected to systemic violence in many ways. By 1914, Greeks represented 20% of the population and were a vulnerable minority. The Young Turk government viewed the Christian citizens (Greeks, Armenians, Assyrians) not only as inferior subjects of the Empire, but also as agents for foreign powers. Those who would not convert to Islam were deported and killed. Similarly, ISIS seeks to convert not only Christians, but also Yezidis and Shia to Sunni Islam, and has committed mass murder of those who do not convert. Kidnapping, rape, and terror are common in both cases and on a massive scale.

In a joint effort to understand the forces and factors responsible for the early genocides of the 20th century, the Asia Minor and Pontos Hellenic Research Center, together with the Zoryan Institute and the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center at the City University of New York (CUNY), organized this conference in order to address the experiences of the Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks in a joint narrative that will be able to give us a comprehensive picture of what the objectives and strategies were of the early Ottoman campaigns. In this event, scholars from Armenia, Australia, Canada, Greece, Norway, Sweden, and the US were brought together to explore various aspects of the shared experiences of the Christian minorities, in what has traditionally been treated as three separate cases.



A comparative approach allows historians and communities to address and appreciate the historical events within a more global perspective. During such presentations as “A Zone of Extreme Violence – the Intertwining of the Armenian and Assyrian Genocides,” “The Kemalist Movement and the Christians of Pontos, in 1919-1923, from an International Politics’ Perspective,” and “The State and Fate of Jews in the Ottoman Empire during World War I,” it became evident multiple times that what was happening to one group was happening to the others, sometimes in the same places and at the same time.

It becomes now clear that the Greeks had been targeted even earlier than Armenians, in 1913 and 1914, with an economic boycott, violent persecution and deportations. Felix Sartiaux, a member of a French archaeological delegation witnesses the destruction of the Greek coastal city Phocaea, and the pogrom against its population—an event that took place within one day on June 30, 1914. Due to German pressure, the Young Turk regime temporarily suspended the deportation of the Greeks, but in the meantime, once the deportation and killing of the Armenians was in full operation in 1915, it was often said that the Greeks would be next, and indeed they were with renewed fierceness.

Another recurrent theme at the conference was the role of women during the genocides. The experiences of Armenian and Assyrian women victims, as well as American and Norwegian missionaries

and relief workers, received close attention by several scholars. The issue of denial was also addressed and discussed from unusual perspectives in “State Denial, Music and Memory in Contemporary Trebizond” and “Mass Media and Denial.” The aftermath of genocide was described in these papers, as well as in “National Security Justifications for Genocidal Acts: From the Ottoman Empire to Iraq, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Darfur.” A complete list of the scholars and their presentations is available at [www.hellenicresearchcenter.org](http://www.hellenicresearchcenter.org)

The International Association of Genocide Scholars acknowledges, in its 2007 resolution, the collective genocide of the three Christian communities of the late Ottoman Empire, introducing the term “Ottoman Genocides” in its 2007 resolution. Turkey, to this day, denies that the genocides against the Armenians, the Greeks, and the Assyrians ever happened.

The Asia Minor and Pontos Hellenic Research Center and The Pan-Pontian Federation of U.S.A-Canada is committed to the study of these facts, and to honoring the lives lost and their memory. To this end, the Center has produced a number of publications, and organizes academic conferences and presentations for academic and wider audiences. The Center is also planning the production of a documentary to bring to light specifically the historical events of the Greek genocide, which are largely unknown to the American public.

# 8<sup>th</sup> annual DigiTec Business Forum opens in Yerevan

Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan attended the opening of the 8th annual DigiTec Business Forum in Yerevan on June 19.

The forum has been organized by the Union of Information Technology Enterprises under the high auspices of the Prime Minister.

Greeting the participants of the forum, PM Hovik Abrahamyan said "the forum is an opportunity for the companies offering new technologies and services to present their achievements, approaches and solutions."

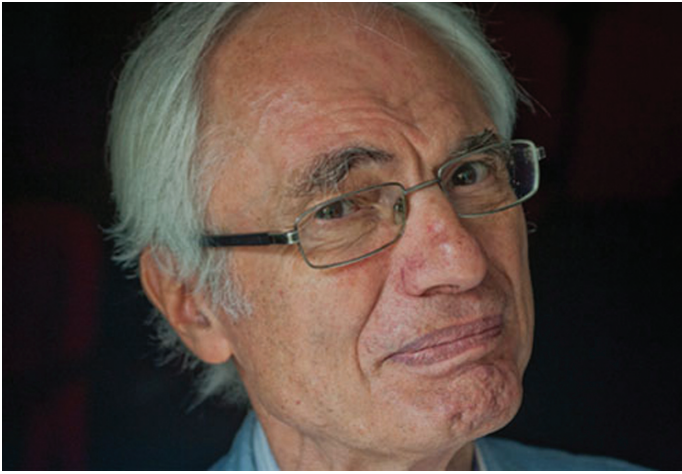
"The field of Information Technologies is one of the most rapidly developing ones in Armenia, and is one of the key directions of the Government program. We greatly value the implementation of far-reaching programs through close cooperation between the public and private sectors targeted at the development of technologies, which help attract foreign investments, promote entrepreneurship and contribute to the creation of new companies and jobs," the Prime Minister said.

Mr. Abrahamyan noted that the new ICT solutions and proposals are being successfully implemented in different spheres of Armenian economy, which contributes to the overall progress of the economy and boosts competitiveness.

The 8th DigiTec Business Forum has brought together more than 70 companies representing the IT, business and other spheres. For the first time 10 companies will be honored with DigiBusiness Awards.



## Tigran Mansuryan: I am the musician of the Armenian language



Known as the greatest living Armenian composer, Tigran Mansuryan was in Istanbul for a special occasion. Commissioned by the 43rd Istanbul Music Festival, the premiere of Mansuryan's work titled 'Sonata da Chiesa for Viola and Piano, In Memoriam Gomidas Vartabed' was held in the evening of June 10 at the Surp Vortvots Vorodman Church with a concert titled 'A World Premiere with Kim Kashkashian & Péter Nagy'.

In an interview with Istanbul based Agos weekly Mansuryan told about his friend Parajanov, composing film scores, the feelings he has had while visiting Turkey for the first time.

"It was 1969, and I was 30 years old when Parajanov asked me to compose the score of 'The Colour of Pomegranates'. 'I am travelling to Kiev, I'll come back when you're finished,' he said, gave me the film, and went. There was no sound in the film, but the images were complete. For three months, I worked every day, from 9 in the morning until 9 in the evening. It was fascinating work. Parajanov would transform even the simplest things in such ways... He would elevate them from the ground into the sky, and then, take them even higher than the sky. He would conjure up incredible symbols from very simple objects, giving them artistic forms. I tried to do for sounds what Parajanov had done with images," Mansuryan said.

Speaking about the difference between the film scores and other compositions, the composer said: "It's a completely different kind of work. My approach changes entirely when I am composing a film score. Because the music I make for a film does not belong to me but to the film, and every film has its own unique music. So I become a different person from one

film to the next. I have composed scores for more than hundred films, and each work is different. But the music that belongs to me, that has stayed the same over the years. No doubt, some things change, but I can say that the essence of my music has always remained the same."

"There is a truth within me, and when that truth meets with the work you are doing, then you know you are doing something right," Mansuryan said. Speaking of the source of that truth, he said: "I love Armenian music. Our culture has been conveyed to the present day from very ancient times. For instance, 'Anganimk', from the 5th century... 'Anganimk' is a hymn that takes me back 1,500 years. In a single second, I go back 1,500 years and return to the present day. This journey is my wealth. And this journey of immense wealth has been travelled by a great number of people throughout history. The work of each and every one of them has been inscribed along this path."

"I believe that the language a musician speaks is his or her greatest teacher. You constantly speak and hear this language. Every language has its unique phonetics and intonation. For instance, in some languages the emphasis is on the final syllable of the word. That is how it is in Armenian, and also in French; but it is entirely different in Russian... So in the works of a musician who speaks Armenian, you observe influences unique to that language, and that musician becomes 'the musician of the Armenian language'. I, too, am a musician of the Armenian language," the composer noted.

Tigran Mansuryan also spoke about three names in Armenian classical music:

"Komitas is our father; he is the father of us all. He brought us everything about us, laid it all out before us and said, "Here, this is what we are". And the whole world saw this, began to discover Komidas, and that discovery continues to this day

"Aram Khachaturian came to say, "We lost one and a half million of us, but we continue to live". And he made that heard with such a voice that the whole world heard him, and they came to know him and Armenian music."

"Tigran Hamasyan is a very sweet musician. His singing takes me back to Armenia. Whether with his piano or his voice, he shows that he is a child of those lands. He has a very rich memory. It's fascinating how he has such an immense memory. I can't tell whether the music is borne from him, or he from the music."



## Aram, Aram- one of the most successful movies at L. A. Film Festival



A mission of the L.A. Film Festival in recent years has been to highlight stories that are intrinsic to Los Angeles. One of the most intriguing and successful of these L.A.-themed movies is Aram, Aram, set in the Armenian community of

Hollywood, according to Hollywood Reporter.

First-time writer-director Christopher Chambers has crafted a potent, lovingly detailed evocation of an unfamiliar California subculture.

Aram (John Roohinian) is a preadolescent boy from Beirut, but when his parents are killed in an automobile accident, he comes to live with his grandfather (Levon Sharafyan), a shoemaker in Los Angeles. Exploring the streets of the neighborhood, Aram is attracted to the Armenian gang culture run by Hakop (Sevak Hakoyan). His grandfather disapproves, but Aram is susceptible to the macho posturing of Hakop and his cronies.

The score by Katy Jarzebowski, which includes Armenian hip-hop music, also gives the film an electric charge. The last section of the film depends on handheld camera work, and it builds tremendous tension. Chambers trained as a cinematographer, and he has probably studied the classic opening tracking shots from Touch of Evil and Goodfellas. His direction of this final sequence is remarkably intense, as the filmmaker takes Aram through a dangerous night journey that ends in a deeply moving moment of connection and redemption.

## European Union community in Armenia celebrates the European climate diplomacy day

The European Union community in Armenia celebrates the European climate diplomacy day and stresses the importance of the next climate change negotiations - COP 21 - to be held in Paris, France, in less than 200 days, in December 2015.

COP 21 will be key to reach a sustainable, dynamic, universal and legally binding agreement on climate designed by all and applicable to all beyond 2020, to limit global warming to a maximum of 2°C.

Climate change is a non-traditional, risk-multiplying threat with a broad strategic dimension. In various parts of the world, climate change will have increasing security impacts, many of which will flow from economic and social impacts. Key risks with possible implications for human and national security include water scarcity, food crises, natural disasters, and displacement.

Climate change affects us all: collectively, individually, politically and economically, strong Greenhouse gas (GHG)

emitters, as well as "small" GHG emitters. The involvement of all stakeholders is crucial.

Actions to be taken and measures to be implemented to adapt and mitigate to climate change needs a clear leadership on this issue at the institutional level, effective and constructive dialogue with the civil society, and the concrete commitment of the private sector to expand activity, growth and job while limiting environmental impact as well as GHG emissions.

The involvement of all parties is essential to build the "Paris Alliance". The European community in Armenia strongly welcomes Armenia's involvement in the Conference of Parties, and its commitment in the preparation of COP21.

Today, almost 40 developed and emerging countries have submitted their Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC). The EU was the first one that tabled at the beginning of this year its ambitious contribution of reaching at



least 40 % domestic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990. The European community in Armenia encourages the submission of its INDC as early as possible before December 2015, with the support of the European Union and the United Nations.

The European community strongly supports the continuation and deepening of the collective effort to identify the most tailored measures to ensure Armenia's sustainable development and combat climate change.

**WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?****Enjoy your leisure****15 June**

**19:00.** Dear Pamela. Premiere. Play | H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors

**16 June**

**19:00.** Anush. Opera in 3 acts. Opera | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

**19:00.** Unabi. Dance | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

**20:00.** Dark SHOCKolate. Premiere. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

**17 June**

**19:00.** Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

**19:00.** Glamourous Chobans. Transparent comedy. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

**19:00.** From Here and There. Sergey Danielyan's mono-play. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

**19:00.** The Witch. Premiere. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**20:00.** As a Beginning. Poetry, ?vening of literature and music | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

**20:00.** The Curtain of Time. Within the framework of ArmMono Festival. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

**18 June**

**19:00.** 11th "National Gallery" International Music Festival. Pianist Svetlana Navasardyan, soloists of the National Opera Theater, Soprano Artsvik Demurchyan, Mezzo-Soprano Kristine Sahakyan, the State Chamber Orchestra of Armenia (artistic director and principal conductor Vahan Martirosyan) and conductor Harutyun Arzumanyan. Frescoes Hall | National Gallery of Armenia

**19:00.** The Witch. Premiere. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** Don Quijote. Ballet in 3 acts. Ballet | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

**19:00.** 40 days before Ascension. Tragicomedy in 1 act. Play | Student Theater

**19:00.** Ardalion. Historical mimodrama. Play | Yerevan State Pantomime Theater

**19:00.** Royal Concert. Musical-amusing

show. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

**19 June**

**15:00.** The Snow Queen. Play for kids | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater

**18:00.** A Tale from the Clouds. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** Feast at Summer House. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

**19:00.** 44 degree. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater

**19:00.** The Last Clown. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

**19:00.** Coma Nostra. New performance dedicated to the author's 55th anniversary. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** Tales. Play for kids | H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors

**19:00.** Show No 3. Musical show. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

**20 June**

**12:00, 14:00.** Lazy Huri. Play for kids | Hamazgayin State Theater

**12:00, 14:00.** Little Ida's Flowers. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**12:30.** The Princess and the Pea. Musical Performance. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

**16:00.** The Silly Man. Based on Hovhannes Tumanyan's tale. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**16:00, 18:00.** The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

**19:00.** The Prime Minister's Counselor, the Opposition Leader's Secretary and... a Dead Body. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

**19:00.** Albania+. Pessimistic comedy. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

**19:00.** Getting Married Is Not Easy. Comedy in 1 act. Play | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater

**19:00.** Jackpot. Comedy in 1 act. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater

**19:00.** The Family of Orphans. Lyrical Comedy in 2 acts. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan

**19:00.** Mrs. Ministress. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

**21 June**

**12:00.** The Cheating Hunter. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**12:30, 14:00, 15:30.** Hansel and Gretel. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater

**14:00.** Snow White and 7 Dwarfs. Play for kids | Hamazgayin State Theater

**15:00.** The Will of Unlucky Panos. Play for kids | M. Mkrtchyan Artistic Theater

**16:00.** Little Red Riding Hood. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** Love Rectangle. Comedy in 1 act. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan

**19:00.** Emma Petrosyan. Concert | Chamber Music House after Komitas

**19:00.** Oh Anna, Anna or Passionate Sunday. Romantic comedy in 2 acts. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

**19:00.** 8 Women. Dangerous comedy. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

**19:00.** Blaise. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater

**19:00.** We Won. Premiere. Play | Russian Drama Theater after K. Stanislavski

**19:00.** Amnesia. Melodrama. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

**MASTER OF THE GARDEN****Opera according to an oral traditional Armenian Folk-Tale****PERFORMANCE**

Composer and Head of the Orchestra: Suren Shahi-Djanyan

Libretto by Danielle Dalloz

Stage Manager: Yves Coudray

Decorator/Theatrical Painter: Damien Schoëvaërt-Brossault

Folk-Tale Narrator: Vincent Pavesi (bass)

King: Christian Termis (Actor)

12th Gardener: Christophe Schuwey (Tenor)

Samvel: Romain Champion (Tenor)

Vard: Malia Bendi Merad (Soprano)

La Péniche Opéra in Paris

Saturday – April 4, at 8:30 p.m. 2015

Sunday – April 5, at 4p.m., 2015

Monday – April 6, at 8:30p.m., 2015

Studio Raspali in Paris

Saturday – June 27, 2015

Sunday – June 28, 2015

## Zodiac Weekly Forecast

### Aries (March 20-April 19)

There are various irritants at your place of daily work. The environment may be cluttered by things requiring repair. Maybe even the street needs to be fixed. For some reason it is hard for you to get organized and stay on target with these irritating conditions. You are not in control, but it is not your fault.

### Taurus (April 20-May 19)

Necessary expenses (those not of the "fun" type) may develop this week. If not that, you could be just having a little blue mood. It is one of those times when we operate better in solitude. This is an existential dilemma that everyone encounters now and then. It will pass quickly.

### Gemini (May 20-June 20)

Take everything slowly and easily throughout this week. Aspects warn against attempts to move aggressively in any direction. Concentrate carefully on any project requiring calculations and multiple plans. The probability of making an error or accessing inaccurate information is high.

### Cancer (June 21-July 21)

The sun returns "home" to your sign this week, as it always does on the solstice. You likely will find it to be energizing. Now is the time to focus on new plans for this next year of your life. You are in a reasonably good place with yourself at this time. Your heart and mind are flowing together.

### Leo (July 22-August 21)

A new initiative or idea that began in late Oct. of 2014 has come to a point in which you can move no further without making adjustments. You may be required to wait on another factor before proceeding. This is not a fault of anyone. You just need to wait for the timing to catch up with you.

### Virgo (August 22-September 22)

Your mind may be sharp as a pointed pencil in your work and daily routine. However, communications with significant others may be misunderstood, snarled, or lost altogether. Do not make assumptions about what others are saying. Ask questions and clarify for best results.

### Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

You may be taking a sober look at one or more relationships. Even the very closest friends cannot know each other from the inside. Sometimes we forget this fact and need to become aware that we are actually separate beings, helping when we can. Sometimes our energy is too low to be there for one another.

### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

There are fears lurking in the back of your mind that may cause you to feel discouraged and prone to quit. Make an effort to shine a bright light upon them. Are they real or imagined? Is there any way to bring them out of the darkness so you can engage them?

### Sagittarius (November 22-December 20)

Cosmic energies favor new design of old or outmoded business or organizational systems. Financial or business pressures may be the motivator. It is time to update and modernize, especially if you are working with a method out of old habit. Constructive and fresh ideas will flow freely and you may wonder why a particular solution hasn't occurred to you before now.

### Capricorn (December 21-January 19)

Your life is not your own this week. Multiple demands call for a variety of tools and skills and use all your time. Moving forward with your own agenda is a real challenge. It will be easier if you just accept this time is not your best and wait for better weeks ahead. They will come.

### Aquarius (January 20-February 17)

For any number of reasons, circumstances may leave you out of the social loop this week. Astrologically this is a time for self-reflection and not self-condemnation. Having a quiet week is appropriate at this time. Don't turn this into a negative belief about yourself.

### Pisces (February 18-March 19)

A misunderstanding could develop between you and a close friend or family member. The blame game is useless. Do your best to unwind the thread to the point that it began and start fresh. It is possible that you will have a minor case of laryngitis. Pipes, whether in your body or your house may need to be cleared.

## ARMENIAN POETRY

### Vahan Teryan

#### ESTONIAN SONG

When you're sated, weighted down  
and tired of fate,  
you can always turn, turn back again,  
to the heart, like yours, that's racked  
with pain  
but where the walls still echo  
with your name.

When good fortune brightens up your  
road with light,  
and clinging strangers spring up  
left and right,  
someone will be happy but  
wary of fickle fame,  
still hoping that you turn, return again.

But if fate hardens your heart and  
turns your head  
so you cannot feel delight and  
you forget  
what it is to love, someone  
will mourn your loss,  
but can do nothing more. Do not return.  
You're lost.

#### ARARAT

Earthbound, but soaring,  
floating, piercing the blue fog,  
you are an angel winged in light.  
You are not matter, you are flight  
and spirit of the Armenian world.  
White, effulgent fires blaze  
from your forehead as if with rage,  
as you stand vigil, stand guard  
over our ruined land and heart.

I have not seen you but you reign,  
illuminating all my dreams  
with your crown of smoking flame,  
Armenia's symbol and unblemished  
flag,  
altar of God's love for man,  
resurrection's witness, immaculate,  
clean.

However humiliated the flesh  
you give hope to the Armenian soul.

Luminous vision of pure light,  
shining with gleaming snow intact,  
you are the refuge and the proof  
of the covenant and pact  
that our people will endure.  
Mist-endowed mystery, rampart  
of the sublime force,  
promise that the crucified will rise,  
refuge of dying man, Ararat,  
undyng heart of our ashen land.

## Armenian pianist Tigran Hamasyan performs at Ani ruins

Award-winning Armenian jazz pianist Tigran Hamasyan performed a concert on June 21 in the historic ruins of Ani, the medieval Armenian capital, the Hurriyet Daily News reports.

Within the scope of his project titled “Luys i Luso,” Hamasyan will perform in various Turkish provinces until June 30. He will also give concerts at 100 churches in Armenia, Georgia, Lebanon, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Czech Republic, England, Germany, Luxembourg, Russia and the U.S.

Hamasyan, 27, who started playing piano at the age of three and won the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2003 and the Thelonious Monk Institute piano contest at the age of 18, performs traditional Armenian music in his concerts.

The 90-minute event at the ancient ruins drew great interest from the audience. The master pianist was accompanied by the Yerevan State Chamber Music Choir under the baton of Harutyun Topikyan.

Tamar Nalci, the project coordinator at



Anadolu Kültür, which organized Hamasyan’s concerts in Turkey, said the first concert of the program was performed in Ani, and continued:

“Hamasyan is famous Armenian jazz pianist. He gives mini concerts in historic places and churches in many parts of the world, accompanied by the Armenian State

Chamber Choir. This is a church music concert. He is taking the stage with a team of 25 persons. At the same time, a documentary film is being made on this process. The documentary team records these concerts. What is happening here is a historic moment because Armenians have an emotional time due to their past in Ani.”

## International Human Rights Film Festival launched in Argentina with Armenian movies

The 16th edition of the International Human Rights Film Festival (FICDH) organized by the DerHumALC Multimedia Institute and sponsored by Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo, Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, Relatives of the Disappeared and Detained for Political Reasons and the Armenian National Committee of South America was launched on Wednesday June 17th, Asbarez reports

One of the festival sections will be the “Focus on Armenia”. The Armenian films that will be screened are “A World Without Men”, “Beyond the Ararat”, “Memories without Borders”, and “Tevanik”. Carolina Karagueuzian, Director of the Armenian National Committee of Buenos Aires and one of the jury members of the festival, said that the films related to Armenia “are materials that account the current consequences of this genocide that even today, after almost a century, remains unpunished

and continually denied by its perpetrator, the Turkish State and, in recent years, with the support of its strategic partner, Azerbaijan.”

“It is important to remember in this festival, which focuses on the Armenian Genocide, that the genocide was completely unpunished. There were trials, but there was also denial,” added Vera Jarach, member of Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo. Florencia Santucho, the festival director, detailed that they will screen 112 films from 39 countries in a total of eleven cultural centers.

The opening ceremony was attended by important figures and defenders of human rights, like the President of Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo Estela de Carlotto, Vera Jarach and Nora Cortinas, representatives of Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, the organizations that search the stolen and illegally adopted children of the Argentine Dirty War. The event was also attended by Judge Daniel



Rafecas, Undersecretary for Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism of the City of Buenos Aires Claudio Avruj, member of Human Rights Secretary of Argentina Carlos Pisoni, along with Alfonso Tabakian and Carolina Karagueuzian, from the Armenian National Committee of South America.

DerHumALC Multimedia Institute is an organization created in 1999 in Argentina to “strengthen the treatment and study of topics on human rights from civil society.”

**The Noyan Tapan** Noah's Ark  
HIGHLIGHTS

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