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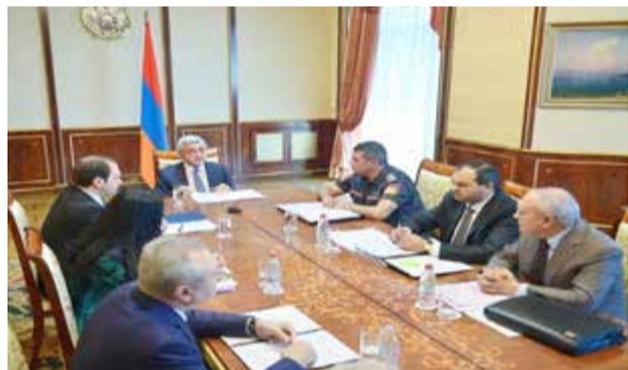
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News from Armenia

Violence and Hostage-taking Won't Solve Problems in Armenia. President Sarkisian



President of Armenia Serj Sargsyan chaired consultations with the participation of national security service, police, justice ministry representatives and investigators to discuss seizure of the police regiment in Yerevan.

President Sarkisian noted importance of doing everything for a peaceful solution to the crisis. The Armenian leader called to draw lessons from the difficult situation we are all faced with.

During the meeting, he expressed condolences to the family of killed Colonel Arthur Vanoian.

The Armenian leader added that the idea to solve problems through violence and force is very dangerous and is fraught with serious consequences for the entire country.

"I call on the militia who seized the police regiment to display restraint and not to threaten others' lives by their provocative actions," he said, calling to release the hostages and to surrender their weapons. The President warned all those who are dissatisfied with the reality against "undermining the foundations of our statehood."

"I urge all members of our society to exercise their political and civil rights exclusively in a peaceful way and within the law," Sarkisian said. Everyone must realize the real threats that provocations and extremal steps may contain.

President urged the representatives of the law enforcement agencies to exercise restraint and act "within the rule of law". He assured that the government would act patiently "without making society a hostage", and would not act "in a traditional way for such situations".

NSS Armenia: Police Patrol Headquarter In Yerevan Fully Liberated: 20 People Arrested



The National Security Service of Armenia announces the anti-terror operation launched on July 30-31 to liberate the police patrol station in Yerevan has been completed. "Armenpress" reports the consistent and coordinated steps of the law enforcement bodies of Armenia forced the members of the armed group to put down the weapons and surrender the authorities. 20 terrorists have been arrested. The police station is fully liberated

Before the police took control, mMember of the armed group that took control of a police headquarter in Yerevan on July 17 Varuzhan Avetisyan issued a statement about the group's decision to surrender. "Armenpress" reports Varuzhan Avetisyan called "First Informational" and mentioned in his statement that the number of the group members has drastically decreased. He pointed out two options of their future steps. One of them is to engage into clashes which can cause a lot of casualties, or to surrender. He mentioned that people fulfilling their duties are standing opposite them and they do not want to shed their blood. "We will put down our weapons and go out at 20:00 without shedding blood. We are convinced we will meet soon again", Avetisyan mentioned, urging the people to "take the decision as a positive step". The same has been announced at the Freedom Square. Producer Tigran Khzmalyan announced about this

Public Order Should Be Restored In Compliance With The Rule Of Law: OSCE



The OSCE Yerevan office has issued a statement on recent events in Yerevan. As "Armenpress" reports, the statement reads as follows: "We are following developments with growing concern. We deplore the death of another police officer this afternoon and wish to express our condolences to his family. With a view to the growing risk of escalation, we call on all sides to show maximum restraint from violence and to refrain from provocations. The situation should be resolved and public order restored in compliance with the rule of law".

News from Armenia

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EU Urges To Refrain From Violence In Solving Political Issues In Armenia



Spokesperson of the European Union External Action Service, issued a statement regarding the ongoing hostage crisis in Yerevan. The statement reads: "The latest developments in Armenia's capital Yerevan, related to the seized Erebuni police station, are very worrying. We call for an immediate release of the medical staff that is being held hostage. At the same time, we reiterate our call on the Armenian authorities to refrain from excessive use of force by the police in handling public manifestations. Likewise, demonstrators need to refrain from violence in the exercise of their civil rights. Use of force and violence to achieve political change are not acceptable. Conflicts need to be resolved through political dialogue with a respect for democracy, rule of law and fundamental freedoms."

Sniper Kills Police Officer From Seized Precinct In Yerevan



Police spokesman Ashot Aharonyan says a police officer has been killed by sniper fire from the seized police precinct, which was taken over by gunmen. "Moments ago a sniper has opened fire from the seized police precinct. 30 year old police officer Yura Tepanosyan, who was inside a vehicle 300-400 meters away from the precinct has been killed", Aharonyan wrote on Facebook

Warlick says Armenia and Azerbaijan Presidents Have Decided to Expand the OSCE Monitoring Group in Nagorno-Karabakh

President of Armenia Serj Sarkisian and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev have agreed on expanding the OSCE monitoring group on the Line of Contact in Nagorno-Karabakh and on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border. This is what U.S. Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group James Warlick told RIA Novosti, reported Armradio.am.

"The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs are actively working towards the fulfillment of the obligations assumed by the Presidents during the Vienna and St. Petersburg meetings to reduce the tension, settle the conflict peacefully and further advance the process of negotiations. The Presidents have reached an agreement over the enlargement of the OSCE Monitoring Group along the entire length of the Line of Contact and on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border. It is envisaged to continue the extensive negotiations over the settlement of the conflict with the involvement of senior officials from both parties. Progress in the diplomatic direction is necessary to reduce tensions between the parties," Warlick said.



Let us remind that the last meeting of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan was held in Saint Petersburg on June 20, 2016.

After the trilateral meeting of the Presidents of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan, Serj Sarkisian, Vladimir Putin and Ilham Aliyev issued a joint statement.

Having Strong Army and United Society it Will be Impossible to Defeat us: Davit Babayan



In an interview with "Armenpress", the NKR President's Spokesman Davit Babayan said the internal-political developments of Azerbaijan contribute to the activation of the Azerbaijanis in the Nagorno Karabakh-Azerbaijan border.

"In general, Azerbaijan's activity is not directly linked with any circumstances, Azerbaijan's behavior in the border shows its real essence. Azerbaijan is a terrorist, fascist state, and such state must act in that way. It is a one type of disease diagnosis. But there are also certain developments which more contribute to that behavior.

And this time I think that their activities in the border is connected with the constitutional reforms which are being held in Azerbaijan," Davit Babayan said.

He said Azerbaijan changes the Constitution, the President's term is going to be 7 years. There is not going to be any restrictions and the Azerbaijani President can be elected for several times. Based on the proposed changes, two positions of the Vice-President will be added and the President's institute will be being strengthened.

"The process of achieving this goal demands active work with the society. It is important to state that the Azerbaijani society does not have so positive attitude towards such developments, thus, the image of the foreign enemy will be again speculated, they are going to show that Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia are their enemies. In other words, foreign enemy, in this case Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh are again being selected as a mean to divert the public attention for legitimizing their plunder", he said.

Davit Babayan said regardless of what is happening in Baku, the Armenian side is always ready. "Our army must always be strong, and the society united. In this case it will be impossible to defeat us", he stated.

Mother See Calls For Rejecting Conflict

High ranking clergy assembled in the Mother See of Holy Etchmiatzin find unacceptable any type of illegal step and action of violence, which can result in bloodshed and endanger the future of our statehood.

On July 30 an expanded format Monastic Council session took place headed by His Holiness Catholicos of All Armenians Karegin II. Archbishops of Armenian dioceses were invited to the session. The assembled clergy issued a statement in regard to the situation in the capital.

The statement in particular reads: "The recent events in Yerevan have disrupted our peaceful lives. We deeply regret that the escalated situation led to new clashes yesterday evening, which resulted in dozens getting hurt, demonstrators, police officers and reporters. We



find unacceptable any type of illegal step and action of violence, which can result in bloodshed and endanger the future of our statehood".

Armenia Caught Between A Rock And A Hard Place

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Armenia's current domestic crisis could not have come at a worse time, when the country is still licking its wounds after the four-day war in early April.

Azerbaijan has been emboldened by its success during the latest flare-up, which was condoned by Russia and encouraged by Turkey.

Meanwhile, Turkey is more and more acting like a superpower rather than a regional one, flexing its political and military muscles way beyond the Middle East, over the Balkans and Central Asia. It has already established military bases in Qatar, Somalia, Georgia and most recently, in Azerbaijan, near Sumgait, despite official denials. This is where President Ilham Aliyev's intransigence stems from at the negotiation table. Many plans to resolve the Karabagh conflict have been promoted but then have crumbled. One thing is clear: time is not on Armenia's side. That is why pressure is building on Yerevan from the international community to compromise at the cost of impossible concessions.

At this point, the Kazan plan has been revived, whose terms postpone the referendum on Karabagh's status to the last stage, while requiring territorial concessions first.

After the April attack, a trial balloon was floated that Armenia was ready to withdraw its forces from the five extra territories in Azerbaijan it had taken as insurance, in exchange for some vague promises, while suggesting that the Azeri population could return to those lands.

That scenario alarmed the Armenian public and maybe became the straw that broke the camel's back and led to a revolt.

That revolt was in the offing even without pressure from external powers. The successive administrations of Presidents Robert Kocharian and Serzh Sargsyan have failed to improve the economy, reverse the course of emigration, keep the hands of the oligarchs off every enterprise that is founded and so much of the money entering the country, and create rule of law. Almost all elections have been won through coercion and corruption, allowing the affluent superclass to remain obscenely opulent while the standard of living for the general public declines.

Scandal after scandal was covered up. The authorities have delighted in their shortsighted success in breaking up the political opposition without realizing that after shutting down an organized opposition, they force the creation of an underground radical one.

The people have been pushed against the wall, where reactions may not always become rational ones. It is a miracle that it has taken this long for such a reaction.

Zhirair Sefilian, Varoujan Avedissian and the other members of the group who had won hero status during the Karabagh war became activists and they formed their own political party, the Founding Parliament, with the radical ideology of overthrowing the government and restoring democracy. The ideology is derived from the concept that war heroes are entitled to dictate their will to the government or better yet, they deserve to replace the elected government.

And this ambition is always fueled by the hero worship of the public.

But history has demonstrated time and again that revolutionary heroes become the most atrocious rulers. Take, for example, the leaders of the French, Russian, Chinese, Cuban, Zimbabwean, and Cambodian revolutions. The list goes on and on.

Only Nelson Mandela served as an exception in South Africa. Of course, his successor, Jacob Zuma, and the ruling ANC, are mired in corruption.

Incidentally, all revolutionaries and their admirers need to read a book by our celebrated satirist, Yervant Odian, *The Parasites of the Revolution*, to gauge the measure of revolutionaries' political acumen.

At the present time, Armenia is in the middle of a serious crisis. An armed militant group called Sasna Tsrer, which is an offshoot of the Founding Parliament has taken over a police station at Erebouni. One officer has been killed and four have been. The militants, 31 in number, have released their four remaining hostages and they are now holed up in the police

station, with a huge arsenal of arms and ammunition.

Their demands vary on a daily basis. Initially they demanded the release of Sefilian and other political prisoners and the resignation of President Sargsyan.

Last Monday was the ninth day of the standoff, which did not give any indication of resolution anytime soon.

People have been gathering around the police station to air their grievances. One thing is obvious: there is no love lost toward the authorities. The level of hatred and the rhetoric, mired in base foul language, is remarkable.

Clearly there is a certain level of freedom of expression in Armenia, where the authorities are insulted so openly and defied so publically. That, however, is just a novelty. Instead of hurling insults, a true platform of demands is needed which will help the country move forward, and not just one or two people.

People are also fed up with the political parties, which try to take advantage of the current political climate. The mob is moving rudderless. An atmosphere of anarchy is reigning. People are calling for the overthrow of the government and giving rule back to the people. The demand is clearly one that cannot take place. How can a mob take over the governance of a country? If, God forbid, these ruffians take over and overthrow the authorities, God save Armenia.

Armenians have a victim's mentality concerning all the calamities that have befallen them. The Seljuks are blamed for overrunning the Kingdom of Ani in the 11th century; the Mamluks are blamed for destroying the Cilician Kingdom in 1375; the Bolsheviks are blamed for the loss of our First Republic, nevermind that we had staged a bloodbath before that, and so on.

We never factor in our own self-destructive instincts and lack of respect for the rule of law and authority. That self-destructive instinct is alive and well today. The Turks and Azeris are determined to wipe out Armenia. Our internal crisis can only help their intentions.

In any civilized country, the government would not tolerate an armed insurrection this long. They would have found ways to overcome the situation. In Armenia's case, that would have led to more bloodshed. The government has precedents in mind. The October massacre in the parliament in 1999 and the 10 lives lost before Sargsyan took power in March 2008 have remained political liabilities for the ruling elite.

Further bloodshed would only add to that list of liabilities.

That is why the government is moving cautiously. The president has given a stern warning that the crisis must be solved lawfully. The militants are equally adamant in their demand. Mediators abound, with most of them seeking political mileage for their political careers: Vartan Oskanian, founder of a new political party; Nikol Pashinian, who quit Levon Ter-Petrosian's HAK to head his new party; Vitali Balassanian, one-time presidential contender in Karabagh, and a war hero. Yet the stalemate continues.

President Sargsyan is ready to meet the jailed opposition leader Sefilian, if the armed members of his organization occupying a police station in Yerevan lay down their arms, a negotiator said on Sunday.

In a written statement, former President Levon Ter-Petrosian, who is not very fond of Sargsyan, said that Sefilian of the Founding Parliament movement, is capable of making "sensible decisions" despite his views being seen as "extremist" by some Armenians. He argued that the serious hostage crisis is only aggravating Armenia's grave national security challenge rising from the recent escalation of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict. Karabagh's security "overshadows all other issues preoccupying the Armenian people," Ter-Petrosian concluded on Friday.

If the voice of reason prevails, bloodshed may be avoided, but Armenia will emerge weaker from their self-inflicted wound. Although one of the goals of the insurrection was to prevent territorial concessions, ironically that may exacerbate the situation if a weakened Sargsyan has to sit down at the negotiation table.

This is a lose-lose proposition because Armenia is between a rock and a hard place.

"Mirror-Spectator"

The Story Of A Life: Toros Toranian

By Karine Avagyan



After leaving his hometown of Aleppo and settling in Armenia due to the Syrian war, Armenian writer, publicist, prose writer, public figure, author of 120 books and doctor Toros Toranian continues to create with the same vigor, diligence and dedication and participates in the cultural events that take place in Armenia. Recently, Toranian added his new books released this year to the library of the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia. It has already been a couple of months since the author released his books entitled "Essays about the activities of Dr. Professor Suren Danielyan and the "Diaspora" Scientific and Educational Center", "Interviews with Armenians who were cordially received by the Republic of Armenia as a result of the war imposed on Syria from abroad" and "Anahid Topchian: Novelist, Prose Writer".

In the interview with Hayern Aysor, the merited intellectual shared the very touching and interesting story of his life and talked about his rich, impressive and substantial career.

"I was born and raised in Aleppo. My roots trace back to Cilicia. I don't remember my father because I was 2 when he died. During the Armenian Genocide, the Turks expelled my grandmother from our village, which was called Nerses Shnorhali. It was very close to Hromklay and used to be called Tchipin, but the Turks changed the name and called it Saylak Kaya. My mother told me how she and the other children would go out to the street for walks and how their parents would search them and find them in Hromklay. During the massacres, my mother was about five or six years old. With my uncle in her hands, my grandmother walked until the Suez Canal in Egypt and handed my mother over to a Kurdish family, telling them that it would be better for my mother to stay with that family instead of dying on the road. My grandfather was a soldier of the Ottoman army. He left the army, escaped and went to his village. They had told him that his daughter was living with a Kurdish family. He went to take his girl, and the Kurdish family didn't go against him. The Kurds told the girl that her father had come after her. The already Kurdish-speaking girl said the eyes were her father's eyes, but the beard caused confusion. However, the family convinced her that he was her father. My grandfather had trouble reaching Aleppo with the child in his arm. The armistice had been signed until then. In 1918, the Turks were defeated, and the English and French said the Armenians could return to their residences. The people were transported to Aleppo in a ship and later in buses. My grandfather, grandmother, maternal uncle and mother reunited in a church. They returned to Tchipin village, which had a church and a school, that is, the 6-year Kilikian School. My father had attended that school. Suddenly, the Kemal movement began, and the Armenians were deported again. We reached Aleppo where I was born on February 29, 1928. I grow old once every four years. The master Martiros Saryan was also born on that day. I didn't know Armenian until the age of 5, but I learned the language and attended the Boghos Gulbenkian National School, the benefactor of which had named

Which VP Candidate Has a Better Record On Armenian Genocide Recognition?

By Harut Sassounian

Now that Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have selected their vice presidential candidates, Armenian Democrats are claiming that Sen. Tim Kaine has the better record on recognition of the Armenian Genocide, while Republican Armenians are insisting that Gov. Mike Pence is the clear-cut favorite on this issue. The more important question is: does it really matter?

During his years as Mayor of Richmond and Governor of Virginia, Kaine was supportive of various Armenian issues, including Armenian Genocide recognition. As U.S. Senator, he did not cosponsor the Armenian Genocide Resolution, but voted for it in the Foreign Relations Committee in April 2014, only after demanding that all references to Turkey be removed from the Resolution. He wanted to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, without offending the Turkish government! Sen. Kaine has also not cosponsored the currently pending Armenian Genocide Resolution.

Sen. Kaine received a C+ grade from the Armenian National Committee of America in 2014 because he:

- 1) Insisted that the text of the Armenian Genocide Resolution be watered down before he voted for it;
- 2) Did not make remarks in remembrance of the Armenian Genocide in the Senate;
- 3) Did not participate in the Capitol Hill Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide;
- 4) Did not cosponsor the Haiti and Armenia Reforestation Act.

Gov. Pence of Indiana, Donald Trump's vice presidential nominee, also has a checkered record on Armenian Genocide recognition, while serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, 2001-13. As a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, he voted for the Armenian Genocide Resolution in 2005, but voted against it in 2007 and 2010 out of concern for its possible fallout on US-Turkey

relations, while acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. In 2012, his last year in Congress, Pence received a C grade from the Armenian National Committee of America.

Below are excerpts from Cong. Pence's remarks in the Committee on Foreign Affairs on March 4, 2010:

"...I believe a genocide was committed against the Armenian people in the early part of the last century and it should never be forgotten.... The fact that more than 1 million Christians were killed makes the loss even more personal to me."

Cong. Pence continued: "While we should never forget this genocide and the lives that were lost and the lives that are still marred to this day, I sadly cannot support this Resolution.... Now is not the time for this Committee or the American Congress to take up the measure that is before us.... Turkey is a strategic partner in our ongoing efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. They share our interest in defeating international terrorism.... I rise today in respectful opposition to this Resolution, but I do so with deep respect for those on this Committee and those who would be looking on that would have the Armenian people be heard on this point. While I cannot support this Resolution, let them at least note that this American identifies with their loss, acknowledges those tragic events of so many years ago and offers my condolences to the families who still bear the burden of what was in fact a genocide. I urge my colleagues to oppose this Resolution...."

Having reviewed the records of both candidates on this issue, one should keep in mind that:

- 1) Vice Presidents do not decide policy; Presidents do!
- 2) There is no need to argue over which candidate would recognize the Armenian Genocide, since it has been repeatedly recognized by the U.S. government as follows:
 - a) Official document was submitted to the World Court in 1951;
 - b) Pres. Ronald Reagan issued a Presidential Proclamation



in 1981;

c) House of Representatives adopted two Resolutions in 1975 and 1984.

Consequently, Armenians should no longer seek Genocide recognition, but justice! The candidates' position on this issue matters only if they have either denied the Armenian Genocide in the past or promised to recognize it, but did not keep their word!

There are, however, several other important Armenian issues that should be discussed with political candidates, such as, supporting Artsakh (Karabagh), pressuring Turkey to restore confiscated Armenian properties, providing larger U.S. foreign aid to Armenia and Artsakh, hiring qualified Armenian-Americans, and improving trade and economic relations with the Republic of Armenia.

Unfortunately, regardless of what the issues are, one can never be sure that promises made by presidential candidates during the campaign will be remembered and kept, once the President is elected and comfortably installed in the White House!

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The Story Of A Life: Toros Toranian

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the school after his deceased child Boghosik. He was the owner of large factories in London. After the passing of his wife, Verzhin, he opened the Verzhin Gulbenkian Maternity Ward. For adult men who couldn't go to school, he established a factory where they could chip wood with saws and learn at least a kind of craft. In Aleppo he also established the Yehpr Daily and served as editor for two years, after which he handed the job to another person. That wonderful man was one of the great devotees of the Armenian nation. So, for us, Aleppo became our second Armenia. We preserved all the customs of the Yergir (Land). Today, Aleppo is in ruins. I also attended the American college in Aleppo for two years. I couldn't pay the tuition and started cleaning classrooms. I finished the 8th grade and continued my secondary education at Melkonian School of Cyprus. Later, when I was married and had two children, we left for Bulgaria. My wife and I took courses at the local university. I was in my third year of studies, and my wife in her second year of studies when we came to Armenia. We studied in the Department of Philology of Yerevan State University for a year, and our children attended Yeghishe Charents School. Afterwards, my wife, Armine and I consulted and decided to become doctors. We studied and graduated. In the beginning, I went to Paris where I had a close friend, Garbis from Van. On the occasion of my graduation, he bought me a ticket to Paris and Van. I went to Van, wrote a book about it, and that book made me popular. Garbis gave me a house, found me a job as a night doctor and said I could go with my family. However, I consulted with Armine, and we decided that since our parents were old, it would be better for us to go to our birthplace. We left for Damascus and I started working

as an anesthesiologist because Damascus was in need of anesthesiologists. In my turn, I trained anesthesiologists, and Armine trained female doctors. We lived until the Syrian war. I lived with my Armine for 60 years. We read books together for 60 years, and our children also love to read. Now we are here with our extended family. My son and his family are here with their two daughters, the eldest of which was transferred to the 10th grade this year. My daughter and my brother and his family are also here. My great-grandchild, Areg was born in Armenia and is already 3 years old. My other great-grandchild, Noy lives abroad, but he is an Armenian national. Before settling in the Homeland, I had always visited Armenia. I have participated in the congresses of the Union of Writers of Armenia. I have had ties with great Armenian writers, been hosted in their homes and held interviews with them. I have toured the world, given lectures and made speeches. I have been to China and India twice, Australia, South America and Brazil twice and have given lectures devoted to various topics. I have given 60 speeches during each visit. In London I have given a lecture devoted to Paruyr Sevak and shown his photos. I have also given a lecture devoted to Hamo Sahyan...I have talked to and disputed with Sevak for one night and have had interesting conversations with Hamo Sahyan in his home...I became dedicated to literature and am still involved in the field. I write and publish books devoted to various topics. I wrote eight books this year alone, and only three have not been published since I am looking for a sponsor. Let me share a story about my age. A couple of days ago, I went to a meeting at Yerevan State Medical University (I am an alumnus of the Department of General Medicine at Yerevan State Medical University and have been a member of the Union of Writers of Armenia since 1968 when I was a student). I visited the

University's former rector, academician Vilen Hakobyan, who was amazed when he learned about the tremendous job that I had done and said he had to organize a medical consilium to find out how I had managed to achieve so much before the age of 90...Thirty years ago, Armenian writer Andranik Tsarukyan asked me when all that vigor would cease to exist, and I told him to ask the source of the mountain that comes day and night. Tsarukyan smiled and said I drew it perfectly and suggested that I write something about that...Thirty years later, I wrote about it and printed it in Andi magazine. Currently, I am living in Armenia. I am a repatriate and a Diaspora Armenian, but I am Armenian... Being a Diaspora Armenian, I want the people in Armenia to have a clear picture of the Armenian Diaspora. I am preparing to write a novel about my life and title it "Going to the Land is the Right Thing to Do". That will be the first part of the book, and the second part will be entitled "The Novel of My Life". The government will be publishing it and has promised to include it in the plan for the year 2017. I have 300 books that have been published (I have edited books and am the author of the prefaces of some books), of which 120 are my own. There is still a lot of work to do. I have to continue working. I have had a large library. I left a library in Aleppo, but I haven't lost my hope with Aleppo. My sixth book will be released in about two weeks, and my seventh book is devoted to Ruben Sevak. This was the long story of my life that I presented as briefly as possible."

...This is truly the long story of the great life of an unwavering cultural figure—a story that also serves as a database of encyclopedic knowledge and rich heritage for the generations with its many pages of substantial information.

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Armenian Genocide 100 + 1

Spain's Alicante Officially Recognizes Armenian Genocide



The city council of Alicante, Spain, officially recognized and condemned the Armenian Genocide on Thursday. The representatives of all the parties present delivered speeches at the discussions held in the city council, underscoring the importance of the Armenian Genocide recognition and its preventive significance, Armenian MFA press-service reports. Specifically, the representative of COMPROMIS political party noted in his speech that it is utterly important not to forget the crime committed against the Armenians especially today, considering the massive violations of human rights and endangered lives of thousands of people in the places where the Armenian Genocide was perpetuated. The overwhelming majority of the political forces taking part in the voting (PSOE, GUANYAR and COMPROMIS parties) voted for the adoption of the institutional statement. The petition to recognize and condemn the Armenian Genocide was submitted by Alicante's Armenia Association.

Egypt Lawmakers Call on Parliament to Recognize Armenian Genocide

Independent Egyptian lawmaker Mostafa Bakri said that he and 336 members of parliament have called on parliament to approve a draft resolution in favor of recognizing the death of 1.5 million Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman state in 1915 as a genocide, "Asbarez" reports. "Parliament must hold a special session on this subject because it was a crime of mass extermination that should be condemned by all world parliaments," said Bakri. "New historical evidence has exposed the slaughter of 1.5 million Armenians at the hands of Ottoman Turks between 1915 and 1922," Bakri said, adding that his proposal "comes after the German parliament voted last month in favor of recognizing the 1915 massacre as a genocide, and many other countries are expected to follow suit." Turkey does not officially recognize that the Armenian genocide took place. Following Germany's recent recognition of the genocide, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan recalled Turkey's ambassador to Germany for "consultation," with the Turkish government saying that the move by Berlin was "null and void." Bakri concluded that "while the Ottomans committed the 1915 massacre, the Erdogan regime is now moving to commit another crime against his political opponents and minorities that seek independence." The proposal comes after another Egyptian MP, Emad Mahrous, demanded on Sunday that the government grant political asylum to exiled Turkish opposition figure Fethullah Gulen. Mahrous accused Erdogan of exploiting the failed coup against him this month to detain hundreds of his political opponents and turn Turkey into a Muslim Brotherhood dictatorship. Talaat Khalil, an MP who supported Bakri's draft resolution, told reporters that genocide should be condemned by all world governments and parliaments. "Besides, the perpetrators must admit their crimes or even apologize for them," Khalil added. "But it is clear that the arrogant Erdogan regime will never admit that this massacre [took place] because he believes himself to be



a new Ottoman sultan," said Khalil. Khalil added that Egypt had close relations with both the Armenian people and the Turkish people. "Egypt has always been a shelter for the Armenians since the 1915 massacre," said Khalil, arguing that "out of its political responsibility, Egypt's parliament must move to recognize the [genocide] against Armenians." Khalil concluded by saying that "this should not be taken as a hostile move by the Egyptian parliament against Turkey, but should be seen as a move that comes out of purely humanist considerations." Relations between Turkey and Egypt have been strained since the 2013 ouster of Egypt's Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood group and a close ally of Erdogan's AKP government. Erdogan has repeatedly slammed Morsi's removal as an "unacceptable coup." Cairo has repeatedly accused Ankara of "interference" in its domestic affairs and supporting Islamist militants who carry out terrorist attacks in Egypt. Turkey provides a safe haven for leading members of the Muslim Brotherhood, which has been banned in Egypt. Ankara also allows TV stations run by sympathizers of the Brotherhood who criticize the government of President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi to broadcast out of Turkey.

Armenian National Institute Website Fully Accessible On Mobile Devices

The Armenian National Institute (ANI) is pleased to announce that its website (www.armenian-genocide.org) is now fully accessible on mobile devices such as tablets and smartphones. The Institute also announced the completion of another expansion of its heavily-used website, including the addition of twenty new documents affirming the Armenian Genocide. Many of the central features of the widely consulted website were also updated. The updated website features the most recent affirmation records, such as the text of the German Parliament's Armenian Genocide resolution adopted on June 2, 2016, acknowledging the responsibility of the World War I-era German government. This resolution prompted an international discussion with the participation of honest and thoughtful Parliament Members of Turkish origin in the Bundestag who were threatened by opponents in Turkey. Relevant statements from the recent visit of Pope Francis to Armenia are also available, as well as the reporting from his trip in the Press Coverage section of the ANI website. The current list of countries that have historically recognized the Armenian Genocide includes Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Paraguay, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, Uruguay, Vatican City, and Venezuela. The list of 26 countries is supported by 57 official documents available under the section titled Resolutions, Laws, and Declarations. Under the category of States and Provinces, the ANI website provides dozens of state-level resolutions and declarations from nine countries, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United

States. The U.S. category comprises records from 45 states acknowledging the Armenian Genocide, while countries like Spain and the United Kingdom are represented even as their central governments remain off the record. The recently adopted legislation in the state of Michigan and Rhode Island which mandates the teaching of the Armenian Genocide is accessible on the ANI website. Michigan and Rhode Island join New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Illinois, and California in promoting the teaching of human rights courses inclusive of the Armenian Genocide in middle and high schools. Relevant curricula and many other instructional aides can be retrieved from the ANI website to facilitate the teaching of these courses. The ANI Memorials database now contains information and images for over 200 sites dedicated to the Armenian Genocide in 32 countries and is continuously updated. The ANI website also features four large exhibits displaying hundreds of historic photographs. These exhibits include:

- The 10-panel Witness to the Armenian Genocide: Photographs by the Perpetrators' German and Austro-Hungarian Allies issued in 2013;
- The 20-panel exhibit The First Refuge and the Last Defense: The Armenian Church, Etchmiadzin, and the Armenian Genocide released in 2014;
- The 24-panel exhibit The First Deportation: The German Railroad, The American Hospital, and the Armenian Genocide released in January 2015;
- The 22-panel Iconic Images of the Armenian Genocide in March 2015;
- A one-page poster depicting survivors in April 2015.

Photographs from these exhibits are often cited, most recently in



a CNN report on the visit of Pope Francis to Armenia. The exhibits are also available through the Armenian Genocide Museum of America (AGMA) and Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) websites. Through the ANI website, visitors can also see the online museum launched by AGMA on April 24, 2015. The interactive site includes the entire story of the Armenian Genocide through expandable galleries, along with dynamic narratives featuring survivors and significant imagery. Like the ANI website, the AGMA website is mobile-friendly and available for use on tablets and smartphones. The success of these new products has continued to sustain ANI as the leading institution providing information about the Armenian Genocide. ANI takes this opportunity to recognize Mark Malkasian, its longtime webmaster who made the mobile-friendly version of the ANI website a reality. ANI also recognizes 2016 interns Robert Arzoumanian and Edward Barsoumian, as well as Mariam Khaloyan, 2016 Assembly Summer Intern Program Coordinator and 2015 ANI intern, who have been helping to upgrade the website.

Diaspora News

Professor Krikor Erzingatsian was conferred an Honourary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

In recognition of his great contribution to surgery Professor Krikor Erzingatsian was conferred an Honourary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the highest honour this College has to offer. Great philanthropist Professor Erzingatsian has devoted his life to improving healthcare, to the education, training and mentoring of surgeons of East, Central and



Southern Africa.

He was born in Ethiopia, in an Armenian family that had fled the Armenian Genocide. His secondary education was in North Wales, then he entered Medical School in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 1963. During this time he won several prizes and undertook Higher Surgical Training in several hospitals in Dublin.

Following surgical training in Ireland he returned to Africa where he spent most of his clinical career as a surgeon in Lusaka, Zambia. He held a number of key administrative posts and was appointed Professor of Surgery in the University of Zambia in 1999. He was also President of the Surgical Society of Zambia.

His educational activities during this time are too numerous to mention but the thematic approach was to promote and advance the cause of surgery and surgical training in East, Central and Southern Africa. He has

published extensively in topics very relevant to the local delivery of surgical practice including the importance of local anaesthesia and ketamine, the management of sepsis and trauma and also a recognition of the cancer burden in Africa.

Professor Erzingatsian then entered into a remarkable new phase in his career. The recognition of the need for a normal structure of surgical training in Africa resulted in the creation of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA). Professor Erzingatsian was a driving force behind the creation of this College. He is the longest serving member of its Council and was its Vice-President, President and now is Registrar.

His tireless energy helped nurture the young College and achieve success. For his great contribution to the rapid development of the College, Professor Erzingatsian was awarded an Honourary Fellowship of COSECSA in 2012. Thanks to the efforts of Professor Erzingatsian, the COSECSA started a deep collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 2007. It provides for staffing and resources, curricula, educational tools, accreditation and quality assurance processes.

During the last number of years, a professional secretariat has been put in place, great number of surgical trainers have received training, a mobile skills training unit has been delivered and an Africa-centric surgical e-learning platform has been established along with a bespoke electronic logbook and a database of every surgeon in the region. There has been a very substantial increase in the number of surgeons trained across the region, along with non-physicians, who have been trained in basic surgical techniques, in rural Zimbabwe, Zambia and Rwanda.

Professor Erzingatsian goes to Armenia on a regular basis to do charitable surgical work.

Catholicos of All Armenians Receives Pilgrims of the U.S. Eastern Diocese



On July 26, His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians received pilgrims from the U.S. Eastern Diocese accompanied by pastor of the St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, Rev. Fr. Priest Gomidas Zohrabian at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, as reported the information system of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

Introducing the pilgrims to the Catholicos of All Armenians, Fr. Gomidas talked about their impressions of the Homeland and asked His Holiness for his blessing. The Catholicos of All Armenians welcomed the pilgrims' visit to the Homeland and the spiritual center of all

Armenians and particularly expressed his appreciation to Fr. Gomidas, who had organized the pilgrims' trip to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

Touching upon the mission of the Armenian Holy Apostolic Church of saving souls, His Holiness Karekin II added that the Armenian Church has also assumed the responsible task of preserving the Armenian identity in Armenia and abroad for centuries.

Emphasizing the need for organizing similar pilgrimages, the Catholicos of All Armenians also said those pilgrimages serve as the best way of reinforcing and strengthening the awareness of the Armenian identity. In relation to this, His Holiness stated that the pilgrimages that are made to the Homeland provide young Armenians with the opportunity to mature and become the worthy sons of the Homeland and their ancestors and the descendants of the rich heritage created by their fathers.

The mission that the Armenian Church has accomplished in the field of education was touched upon during the meeting. His Holiness also answered questions from the pilgrims.

At the end, His Holiness brought his patriarchal blessing to the pilgrims and prayed that God protects them and that they stay clung to the Armenian Church and the nation with the same zeal.

2016 "Diaspora" Summer School Program: Diaspora Armenian Teachers Delivered Their Reports

By Lusine Grigorian

Volunteer for the "Diaspora" Summer School Program, student of the Department of Diaspora Studies of the Faculty of History at Yerevan State University



On July 27, the participants of the Training Course for Teachers of Armenian Language and History and Organizers of Education (part of the "Diaspora" Summer School Program of the RA Ministry of Diaspora) delivered the reports that they had been preparing throughout the month of July.

The participants delivered their reports to the members of a committee that had been specifically established for that purpose. Among the members of the committee were RA Deputy Minister of Diaspora Serzh Srapionyan; coordinator of the "Diaspora" Summer School Program, candidate of historical sciences Mher Hovhannisyan and candidate of pedagogical sciences Armine Ashikyan. Head of the Division for Scientific and Educational Programs of the Department of All-Armenian Programs at the RA Ministry of Diaspora Sirvard Hambaryan had also come to listen to the reports.

The teachers delivered reports based on the examples of the schools in their respective countries. They also discussed the current issues facing Armenians in the Diaspora. In their speeches, the teachers talked about issues of their concern and touched upon the problems with books, preservation of the Armenian identity and the Armenian language. The teachers also recited poems and turned the event into a celebration that was marking the end of the training course. Everyone was nervous, and this was mainly due to the fact that the training course was drawing to an end and that the teachers would soon be leaving the homeland.

According to Hayern Aysor, the members of the committee and the guests were very content and left with great impressions.

After delivering the reports, the teachers also submitted their applications and recommendations and letters of appreciation. "It has already been a month since we arrived in the homeland to participate in the "Diaspora" Summer School Program. Today, we Diaspora Armenian teachers delivered reports that, in my opinion, were wonderful and substantial. We are spending our last days in Yerevan. True, I wasn't visiting Armenia for the first time, but thanks to this summer school program, I started getting to know Yerevan and my homeland better and loving it more. We met wonderful people and made new friends. We got a lot out of the training course, and we will use all that in our respective countries of residence. I would like to express my gratitude to the lecturers of Yerevan State University for working with us and arming us with new knowledge," participant of the "Diaspora" Summer School Program, Russia-based Armenian teacher Asya Mardoyan said as she shared her impressions in an interview with Hayern Aysor.

Arts & Society

Bohjalian, Zanoian Join Mer Doon's New Advisory Board



Internationally acclaimed and best-selling author Chris Bohjalian and global energy expert and author Vahan Zanoian have joined Mer Doon's new Advisory Board. Their role will be to impart strategic advice and non-financial support to the organization. Bohjalian has penned 18 novels, most of which have

been New York Times best-sellers. His work has been translated into more than 30 languages and turned into movies 3 times. His books have been chosen as Best Books of the Year by the Washington Post, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the Hartford Courant, the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Publishers Weekly, Library Journal, Kirkus Reviews, Bookpage, and Salon.

His awards include the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Freedom Award for his work educating Americans about the Armenian Genocide, the ANCA Arts and Letters Award for The Sandcastle Girls, as well as the Saint Mesrob Mashdots Medal. His novel, Midwives, was a number one New York Times best-seller, a selection of Oprah's Book Club, and a New England Booksellers Association Discovery pick. He is a fellow of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Chris lives in Vermont with his wife, the photographer Victoria Blewer. Their daughter, Grace Experience, is a young actor in New York City. Among the audiobooks she has narrated are Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands and TheGuest Room.

Bohjalian shared, "I was so impressed by the young women I met at Mer Doon last year and so moved by their stories. These are smart, courageous, remarkable young people. And I was so honored to glimpse the incredible work of Mer Doon. It is a home, with all that word connotes, and it is changing lives in meaningful and important ways."

Zanoian is an author, traveler, and global energy expert. With more than 35 years of experience, he served as the CEO of First Energy Bank, and president of PFC Energy International, a part of PFC Energy, Inc. Zanoian serves as a consultant to numerous international and national oil companies, banks, and other private and public organizations throughout the United States, the Middle East, the Far East, and Latin America. He has traveled extensively throughout the world in both his professional and personal life. Zanoian has published two volumes of poetry.

Most notably, he published a debut novel in 2013, called A Place Far Away, and its sequel, The Doves of Ohanavank, in 2014, both of which tackle the horrifying activities of trans-national criminal organizations engaged in human and sex trafficking in Armenia and the Middle East. Zanoian is widely regarded as one of few writers with extensive knowledge and understanding of trafficking. He currently divides his time between Southern California, Armenia, and the Middle East.

Zanoian stated, "Mer Doon is a formidable organization which performs a critical function in Armenia, by providing a nurturing home to young girls as they get dismissed from orphanages upon turning 18. My wife and I have visited Mer Doon in Etchmiadzin on several occasions, and love seeing the wonderful and talented residents there as often as we can."

Stephen Ashekian, chairperson of Mer Doon, stated, "We are truly honored that Chris and Vahan have agreed to become Advisory Board members. I believe when great people support a great cause, it's a win-win for everyone."

Many corporate, organizational, and individual supporters help advance Mer Doon's mission. Mer Doon's corporate and organizational partners include U.S. Embassy Women's Mentoring Program, Embassy of Lithuania, Microsoft Armenia, Megerian Carpet, Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR), Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR), the Etchmiadzin municipality, Gavar Orphanage, Vanadzor Orphanage, Armenia Tree Project, Armenian Eyecare Project (AECF), SOS Children's Village, and St. John Armenian Church - Detroit Women's Guild.

Mer Doon provides orphaned and disadvantaged young women (ages 18-24) a loving and nurturing place to call "home." Its mission is to educate and empower them with skills to live independently in mainstream society. The organization's co-founder and executive director, Tigranuhi Karapetyan, manages the daily operations of the program.

Mer Doon is located in Etchmiadzin, Armenia. It is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the state of Connecticut and a non-governmental organization registered in the Republic of Armenia. It has no political or religious affiliations. Tax-deductible donations can be made by visiting www.mer-doon.com and clicking on "Donate."

New Tumo Center to Open in Village of Koghb

A memorandum of understanding was signed between Tumo Center for Creative Technologies and Koghb Education, Culture and Sports Development Fund on opening a Tumo Center in the northeastern village of Koghb.

Executive Director of Tumo, Marie Lou Papazian, said the center will stand out with its new equipment and modernity.

"This initiative will allow spreading Tumo in smaller communities. The Tumo center of Koghb will involve not only the youth of Koghb, but also from Noyemberyan, Berdavan and nearby villages, who will be able to specialize and get modern skills, as well as work in the future online or on spot," she said.

According to the schedule, the process will begin in 2018, and is predicted to have at least 600 students.

The Tumo Center for Creative Technologies is a free-of-charge digital media learning center for youth in Yerevan, Armenia.

Since its opening in 2011, the center has provided thousands of students aged 12-18 an open environment where they can use the latest in digital tools, learn from media professionals, and explore the intersection of technology and art.



Gulbenkian Organizes Western Armenian Language Revitalization Summer Workshop



The Armenian Communities Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation organized a week-long workshop in Western Armenian language acquisition. The workshop advanced the department's strategic priority of revitalizing Western Armenian by defining tangible outputs and creating working groups tasked with materializing those outputs. This initiative emerged out

of the "Innovation in Education: Challenges of Teaching Western Armenian in the 21st Century" conference, which was co-organized with the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) in Paris in fall 2015.

The Armenian Communities Department is committed to collaborating with specialists and practitioners in the field to assist with the development and implementation of its programs. As such, the department invited 41 participants, most from the field of Western Armenian language teaching, including some 15 individuals who took part in the Paris conference. These individuals brought unique perspectives and are willing to collaborate to develop new and innovative ways to transform language learning.

The transmission of the Western Armenian language to the next generation currently faces major challenges. The Western Armenian speaking community throughout the diaspora needs, in addition to existing schools and teachers, innovative and informal language acquisition methods, contemporary publications, and translations of literature for children and adolescents. The community also needs new educational tools and upgraded school curricula, including curricula that integrates art, music, and theatre into language teaching. Finally, a digital portal is needed that will enable stakeholders around the diaspora to connect with one another and share best practices.

Workshop participants began developing such outputs. Emphasis was placed on non-traditional methods that have proven to work in the Western Armenian Diasporan



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Gulbenkian Organizes Western Armenian Language Revitalization Summer Workshop

setting. The workshop did not aim to replace teacher training programs, but to develop complementary tools and methods. It went beyond analyzing problems and offers tangible solutions that can be implemented for the revitalization of Western Armenian. The workshop also was an opportunity for attendees to establish strong channels of communication, based on which they can partner with others in their respective communities and to continue the work begun during the workshop. The workshop took place from July 9-17 in Portugal.

The department aimed to ensure a well-balanced distribution of the major communities of the diaspora and to maintain diversity across the board: 74 percent of the participants are women, reflecting the gender ratio in the field of education; 26 percent are below 30 years of age, 41 percent are between 30 and 40, and 33 percent are above 40. Many of the participants wear more than one hat: 12 percent are affiliated with universities (INALCO, Paris; Haigazian University, Beirut; UCLA, Los Angeles); 67 percent are directly affiliated with formal/informal educational settings; 38 percent are in leadership positions; and 36 percent are specialists in writing, art, music, theater, special needs education, and technology.

The participants were Hasmig Chahinian, Anaid Donabedian, Meline Gazarian, Jirair Jolakian, Chouchane Kerovpyan, Maral Kerovpyan, Sose Manakian, Anouche Mekhsian, Dzovinar Mikirditsian, and Anahid Sarkissian (France); Janet Avanesian, Shogher Margosian (Belgium); Maral Kurkjian (Greece); Vahan Kerovpyan (Portugal); Anke al-Bataineh, Shant Demirjian, Nelly Komolian, Taline Ordoghlian, Hagop Yacoubian (Lebanon); Natali Bagdat, Sevan Degirmenciyan, Kayane Gavrilo, Maral Hergel, Arusyak Koc, Narod Kurugoglu, Maral Satar (Turkey); Chris Bedian, Vahe Berberian, Hagop Gulludjian, Amy Hughes, Shoushan Karapetian, Silva Mesrobian, Serouj Ourishian, Sanan Shirinian (United States); Lory Abrakian, Hasmig Injejkian, Sonia Kiledjian (Canada); Christian Batikian, Nairi Khatchadourian, Gevorg Palanjyan, Sevana Tchakerian (Armenia).

The workshop was organized by Ani Garmirian, with support from Ani Koulian.

The Guardian: World's Largest Yazidi Temple Under Construction in Armenia

A huge Yazidi temple is under construction in a small Armenian village, intended as a symbol of resilience for a persecuted religious tradition, the Guardian reports.

The temple is being built in Aknalich, about 35km from Yerevan, the Armenian capital. Seven domes will surround a central arched roof, crowned with a gold-plated sun. At 25m high, it will be built from Armenian granite and Iranian marble and house a 200-square-metre prayer hall.

The complex will also include a conference hall, seminary and museum.

"This temple is important for us because our community is facing extinction. Our community is displaced around the world, and we need temples in each place for our children to keep their culture and identity," said Ahmed Burjus of the UK branch of Yazda, a global Yazidi organization.

The project is being funded by Mirza Sloian, a Yazidi businessman based in Moscow. The construction works are scheduled to be completed next year.



Official Trailer For Film Ithaca Based On William Saroyan's Book Starring Tom Hanks

Great news for Armenian movie fans and book lovers-the official trailer for the film Ithaca (based on famous mid-20th century Armenian American writer William Saroyan's book The Human Comedy) is now available online, writes NEWS.amSTYLE.

The film is directed by famous Hollywood actress and producer Meg Ryan, who co-stars with Tom Hanks.

In the film Ithaca, which is Ryan's debut as a director, the plot unfolds during the years of WWII. The film is about 14-year-old messenger Homer Macauley. The boy's older brother goes to war, leaving Homer to take care of the entire family. One day, Homer receives a letter that changes his life forever...

The premiere of the film was held at Middleburg Film Festival, but the date of the premiere in movie theaters is not stated in the announcement.



Repatriate Painter Mariam Gharibyan Opens Exhibition Of Handmade Items In Yerevan



On July 26, at the initiative of the RA Ministry of Diaspora and Yerevan Municipality, Czech-Armenian repatriate painter, master of embroidery and designer Mariam Gharibyan opened her exhibition of handmade items at the Museum of History of Yerevan.

Director of the Museum of History of Yerevan Armine Sargsyan delivered her opening remarks at the event.

Head of the Department of All-Armenian Programs at the RA Ministry of Diaspora Gagik Gyanjulyan wished the artist more achievements and presented the welcoming speech of RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan which particularly read as follows: "Overcoming all the difficulties, Mariam Gharibyan received soul food and created during her regular visits to Armenia. Mariam is a unique artist, who has her own style and whose tender and delicate soul is reflected in her works, particularly in the painting called "Aintab". I am certain that Mariam is just starting to achieve real success and that we will take pride in her and admire her as a painter, as a creator and as a fashion designer in Armenia and abroad."

Head of the Department of Culture and Tourism of the Staff of Yerevan Municipality Ruben Hovhannisyan stated that Yerevan Municipality helped organize Mariam Gharibyan's exhibition with pleasure and pride.

Deputy Director of the Armenian Arts Development Center Anush Sharambeyan, painter and designer Nur and stylist and designer Aram Nikolyan congratulated the artist. They emphasized that Mariam has combined the old and new in a unique way by using traditional Armenian embroidery in designing modern clothes.

In her speech, Mariam Gharibyan expressed gratitude to the RA Ministry of Diaspora and Minister Hranush Hakobyan for organizing her exhibition in the Homeland and the high appreciation. The repatriate painter also expressed her gratitude to Yerevan Municipality and painter/designer Nur for their support. "For me, this exhibition is the most important because it was organized in the Homeland. I am certain that the native land will give me the strength and that I will create more valuable works."

Mariam has held exhibitions in the USA and several countries across Europe. During her years in the Czech Republic, she has been an active member of the Armenian community and has taught painting and embroidery at the local Armenian Saturday school.