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News from Armenia

CSTO SC Secretaries Discuss Anti-terrorism in Yerevan



On June 8, the session of the Committee of the CSTO Security Council Secretaries was held in Yerevan chaired by the Secretary of the National Security Council of Armenia Armen Kevorkian.

The Security Council delegations of all CSTO member states and CSTO Secretary General Nikolai Bordyuzha took part in the session, press service of the Armenian National Security Council informed.

Issues related to the cooperation in countering international terrorism and extremism, the coordination of the CSTO Collective Security Strategy until 2025 were discussed. CSTO Secretary General presented a report on conducting additional measures to develop the CSTO member states' collective security systems in the fight against the international terrorism and extremism.

A decision was made to hold the next session in October, 2016 in Yerevan.

As a part of the session, Armen Kevorkian held a meeting with Secretary of the Security Council of Russia Nikolai Patrushev.

Issues related to the cooperation between the staffs of the National Security Councils of the two states, the organization of upcoming consultations, as well as issues of mutual interests were discussed.

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74% of Germans Welcome German Bundestag's Decision



Based on the results of a survey conducted by ARD-Deutschlandtrend, 74% percent of Germans welcome the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the German Bundestag

Based on the results of a survey by Germany's leading Spiegel periodical, the majority of Germans don't consider Erdogan's Turkey a reliable partner, as reported "Artsakhpress". Out of all the participants, 91 percent don't trust Erdogan's Turkey.

Only 18 percent said it was wrong for the German Bundestag to pass the resolution on the Armenian Genocide and only 7 percent said Turkey is a reliable partner.

At the same time, 89 percent demanded that Turkey meet the requirements of the European Union first and then demand a regime for entry without a visa. Only 7 percent said Germany needed to pay heed to Turkey's demands so that the agreement between the EU and Turkey over refugees leads to success..

News from the World

Armenian Church Helps Restore Jesus' Tomb in Jerusalem



A team of experts has begun restoring the ancient tomb in Jerusalem where Christians believe Jesus was buried, in the first such works for 200 years.

The renovation in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre aims to reinforce and conserve the structure.

Rivalry between the three denominations that run the church has delayed work.

But clerics from the Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Armenian churches have put aside their differences, recognizing the need to begin repairs.

The work will focus on the Edicule, the ancient chamber

housing Jesus's tomb which Christians say stands above the spot where Jesus's body was anointed, wrapped in cloth and buried.

The last restoration work to take place there was in 1810 after a fire.

The Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Armenian authorities are responsible for running different parts of the church but share responsibility for the shrine.

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News from Armenia

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Milos Zeman to Call on Czech Parliament to Recognize Armenian Genocide



Czech President Milos Zeman says he will urge the Czech Parliament to follow the German Bundestag's example and condemn the Armenian Genocide.

"I have expressed my stance over the issue of the Armenia Genocide since 2014 during Armenian President's visit to the Czech Republic. In case of Nazi Germany's victory, people of my country also could experience such sufferings, the history could repeat. I know that 10 EU member states have condemned the Genocide, from non-EU member states Russia and Canada did it. As a next step to this statement, I will call on the Czech Parliament to follow Germany's example and issue such a statement", the Czech President stated after the meeting with the Armenian President in Yerevan, reports Armenpress.am.

Czech President Milos Zeman, who is currently on an official visit in Armenia, visited the Armenian Genocide Memorial. President Zeman paid tribute to the Armenian Genocide victims, laid a wreath at the Memorial and the Eternal Flame. Afterwards the President toured the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute. Milos Zeman signed the Guest Book, by writing: "With deepest respects, to the memory of the Genocide victims".

Multinational Inspection Team Visits Armenia Army Unit

A multinational assessment team from Estonia conducted an evaluation visit, from Tuesday to Friday, at a military unit of the Ministry of Defense (MOD) of Armenia.

The visit was conducted within the framework of the 2011 Vienna Document, an agreement between the participating states of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) which is intended to implement confidence and security building measures

As NEWS.am reports, the MOD informed that as a result of the evaluation visit, it was recorded that Armenia fully implements the respective obligations it has assumed.



At the end of the visit, the inspection team thanked the Armenian side for the transparency and hospitality.

Armenia's Work With Refugees Model For Other States – Hranush Hagopian



Syrian Armenians' desire to leave Armenia for Canada that was seen three or four months ago has now faded out, Armenia's Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hagopian told Tert.am.

Some families had to reunite and they left for Canada.

"Some other people were happy to leave for Canada due to simplified visa requirements. However, on arriving they saw that, in contrast to Armenia, they had no opportunities or privileges to settle down there," Ms Hagopian said.

And not so many Syrian Armenians are leaving Armenia now.

About 20,000 Armenians arrived in Armenia from Syria. Seventeen thousand of them have settled down in the country, while 3,000 regularly leave and return to the country.

"And the problems in Syria force many Armenians to come to Armenia even now," the minister said.

The Armenians that have come to Armenia are sure their Arab neighbors are in a grave situation in Syria now. They are living

in camps on less than US \$1 a day.

"The refugees that have fled Syria have found themselves in a disastrous situation. More than two million refugees are half-starved or have drowned in the sea. So Syrian Armenians are now comparing their conditions with the situation their neighbors have found themselves in," Ms Hagopian said.

Syrian Armenians are living and working in the same conditions as Armenian citizens.

"The Armenian state has done its best, and the United Nations has now made Armenia a model for other countries in terms of working with refugees. Refugees are viewed as a negative factor in other countries, whereas in our country they are considered a positive one because they are involved in developing the country's economic and social life," Ms Hagopian said.

As regards integration problems, the minister said that Syrian Armenians are fully integrated in terms of education, healthcare social security.

"Thirteen thousand Syrian Armenians have acquired Armenia's citizenship during the past five years, and 1,800 have been granted residence permits, which is evidence of integration level," Ms Hagopian said.

Economic integration continues because not all employable Syrian Armenians have found jobs or are satisfied with their current employment. However, Armenia-based business are facing the same problems.

Temporary Dwellings to be Provided to Armenians of Talish in Alashan

Thanks to its geographical position and mild climate, the Alashan settlement of the Martakert region of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic served as a sanitary during the Soviet era and later obtained the status of a military hospital during the post-war era. From now on, Alashan will serve as a temporary settlement for 27 families who evacuated Talish when the war broke out in early April. Recovery efforts are underway. The existing villas, structures sand buildings and their infrastructures are being renovated to serve as temporary dwellings, as reported the Ministry of Urban Development of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, according to

Hayern Aysor.

Alashan neighbors the Drmbon and Mehmana villages of Martakert region and is located in the zone adjacent to the Sarsang Reservoir, which is the main reservoir of Artsakh. Compared to Talish, it is safe and quite far from the border. Alashan is a lowland territory. It has all the preconditions for agriculture, including farming, cattle-raising and beekeeping. Alashan also has rich water resources. Construction is being carried out at the expense of funds from the State Budget. The construction materials that citizens of the Republic of Armenia



and the Armenian communities of the Russian Federation provided to Artsakh as charity are also being used during construction.

News from the World

Page 01 ▶▶

Armenian Church Helps Restore Jesus' Tomb in Jerusalem

Relations between them can be tense - in 2008, an argument between Greek Orthodox and Armenian monks escalated into a brawl - but they have decided to act jointly after Israel's antiquities authority last year said the church was unsafe and Israeli police briefly closed it. "We equally decided the required renovation was necessary to be done, so we agreed upon it," said Samuel Aghoyan, the top Armenian Church official there.

The scientific coordinator for the repairs, Antonia Moropoulou, said the tomb was stable but warped and needed attention after many years of exposure to water, humidity and candle smoke.

"The structure also needed to be protected from the risk of earthquake damage," she said.

Work is expected to take between eight and 12 months and during that time pilgrims will be able to continue

visiting the site, church officials said.

Each denomination is contributing funds for the \$3.3m (£2.3m) project. In addition, King Abdullah of Jordan has made a personal donation.

Jordan controlled Jerusalem's Old City, where the church is located, until the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and continues to play a role in safeguarding Muslim and Christian holy sites there.

Karabagh After the War

By Edmond Y. Azadian

After the four-day war in April on the contact line with Azerbaijan, almost one hundred victims were buried but not the worries that were left behind; on the contrary, the concerns and the weaknesses rose to the surface to be discussed publicly.

When the dust settled, it turned out that 809 square meters of territory was lost to the enemy. Government supporters dismissed the importance of the loss as strategically insignificant. And since the war aroused patriotic fervor, some true patriots, along with a few demagogues, maintained that the loss of even one centimeter is intolerable.

When the outcry became louder about the misappropriation of the military funds allocated to the army, heads began to roll among the military brass. Some politicians began to extract mileage out of the tragedy by blaming the government; "Russia's large-scale arms sales to Azerbaijan changed the Armenian-Azerbaijani military balance and greatly facilitated the April 2 outbreak of heavy fighting around Nagorno-Karabagh," former President Robert Kocharian said, and blamed the Armenian government for failing to thwart the deal.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's visit in the aftermath of the flare-up did not bring any clarity to the situation; it only helped to quell anti-Russian sentiments, which were getting out of hand.

Obviously, the conflict had some other international ramifications; a high-powered Chinese delegation visited Armenia, which can bode well for the nation's economy and perhaps also defense.

Iran once again offered its good offices to help the warring parties settle their differences through diplomacy. Barely released from the yoke of international sanctions, the last thing Iranian leaders want is war in their neighborhood.

Alarm bells also went off in Western capitals, because as a news analyst wrote, "The four-days' war had serious humanitarian repercussions. But the violence also notably underscored the vulnerability of regional energy infrastructures located on Europe's North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) strategic southern flank — namely the Baku-Supsa and Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipelines, the south Caucasus National Gas Pipeline and nearby oil and gas terminals."

Azattyun.am has already indicated that Armenia has deployed anti-aircraft air defense and missile defense systems and has held military exercises in Karabagh to simulate possible attacks and air-strike scenarios on Azerbaijani oil and gas infrastructures. To deter the Armenian side from being tempted to threaten western oil interests, Bakhityar Aslanbeyli, a Baku-based vice president with the oil multinational firm BP has suggested formulating a new concept for NATO — a kind of "Article 4.5" — that could contribute to the protection of trans-border and trans-regional energy infrastructure.

Armenia is a small, land-locked country blockaded and threatened by powerful enemies. It was proven time and again that should a doomsday scenario develop, we cannot depend on our strategic ally, Russia. A victim of genocide cannot be victimized by another genocide. Therefore, what is the solution for our ultimate survival?

There are 200 nuclear warheads in Israel, which are not legally allowed yet are tolerated by the international community. The reasoning for supporting that kind

of arsenal, under the US banner, is that the Jewish people have experienced the Holocaust and they are surrounded by powerful enemies. Never mind that some of those enemies (i.e., Iraq, Syria and Libya) have been pulverized by US muscle.

No matter how much we dream of a world free of nuclear weapons, Armenia, by the same token, is entitled to the same kind of deterrence. Recent news reports indicated that former prime minister of Armenia, and current member of parliament, Hrant Bagratian, and retired Armenian Maj. Gen. Arkady Ter-Tadevosyan, have threatened Azerbaijan with the use of nuclear weapons and dirty bombs.

As a doomsday weapon, Armenians have also threatened to blow up the Mingachevir Dam, which may create an ecological disaster with the destruction of many villages in Azerbaijan.

The logic of war is cruel. While destroying the Iraqi army, Gulf War Commander Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf said, "There is no better civilized way of killing people." In the May 31 issue of the Washington Post, Nina Casper draws some brutal conclusions about the recent Karabagh war: "The recent fighting appears to have shifted the front line in Azerbaijan's favor. This is significant, but not because the reclaimed territory is strategic or sizable. The Azerbaijan gains dealt a blow to Armenian pride, but more importantly, they signaled that Nagorno Karabagh's position is perhaps not as secure as the enclave's leadership believed it to be or as strong as they have portrayed it to their public."

Perhaps Samvel Babayan's arrival in Nagorno Karabagh is an indirect endorsement of the Washington Post assessment. General Babayan headed the Karabagh army from 1993 to 1999 and he rightly got credit for many victories. He received a hero's welcome in his native land, but his motives are not very clear. "I will do everything in my power to ensure that our security is properly protected," he said, in his attempt to justify and explain his return from self-imposed exile in Russia. He also called for an urgent modernization of the armed forces to neutralize the military threat from Azerbaijan.

War heroes rarely make wise statesmen. While in Karabagh, he acted as if he was above the law. He was convicted for his role in the assassination attempt on the former president of Karabagh, Arkady Ghukassian. After serving four years of his sentence, he moved to Armenia and founded his political party, Dashink. While in Armenia he was associated with some unsavory characters. He is critical of the government's handling of the recent war, but he has been denying his intention to lead once again Karabagh's army or taking up a political role. If his intentions are to lift the morale of the public, he has achieved that successfully.

There is unease and confusion all around. Karabagh could use some moral support, which many war veterans have been bringing, besides General Babayan. No one can verify if General Babayan is abreast of modern developments in weaponry and war strategies to entrust him with a critical role.

In these demoralizing times, patriotic zeal is essential for the public. But the leadership in Karabagh needs a more sober assessment of the situation and more wisdom and expertise.

Hopefully Armenians in the homeland can provide both for Karabagh's survival.

"Mirror-Spectator"

Press Release

Haigazian University

Dr. Nanor Karageozian Appointed as Director of the Armenian Studies Department

As part of its commitment to academic excellence and its particular role in the promotion of Armenian studies, the Haigazian University administration announces the appointment of Dr. Nanor Karageozian as director of its Armenian Studies Department starting academic year 2016-2017.

Dr. Karageozian, a Haigazian University (B.A.) and American University of Beirut (M.A.) graduate, completed her D.Phil. degree in International Development at the University of Oxford in January 2016. Her doctoral thesis is titled "Long-term Diasporic Return Migration in Post-Soviet Armenia: Balancing Mobility and Sedentarism," while her M.A. thesis at AUB's Department of Political Studies and Public Administration focused on the diaspora policies and the policy-making processes of post-Soviet Armenia.

Dr. Karageozian's research interests include the Armenian diaspora and homeland-diaspora relations; diaspora and migration studies; return migration and repatriation; social theory and its application to the study of (diasporic) return migration; ethnic identity and nationalism; forced migration and refugee studies; and international development in Armenia and the Middle East.

The Armenian Studies Department, which grants a B.A. in Armenian Studies, coordinates its efforts with the Derian Armenological Library, the Haigazian Armenological Review editorial board, and the Armenian Diaspora Research Center.

Press Release

AAF delivers \$5 million of aid to Armenia & Nagorno Karabakh



The "Armenia Artsakh" Fund has allocated \$5 million humanitarian aid on April-May. The Fund acquired \$4 million of medicines and other humanitarian materials, as well as valuable goods worth \$1 million to assist Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, press service of "The Armenia Artsakh" Fund informed "Armenpress".

President of "Armenia Artsakh" Fund Harut Sassounian informed that the AAF shipments in April and May included much needed medicines for treatment of oncology, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal mental disorders cases as well as medicines and medical supplies to treat war injuries. Since December 1, 2015, AAF delivered to Armenia and Artsakh a total of \$14.1 million worth of humanitarian aid on board 14 air shipments and 23 sea containers.

"The Armenia Artsakh Fund is regularly offered millions of dollars worth of life-saving medicines and medical supplies. We would welcome your generous donations to be able to continue delivering this valuable assistance to all medical centers in Armenia and Artsakh," Sassounian stated.

Barouyr Kouyoumdjian: "The Consulate Always Creates An Armenian Environment Within The Community"

Interview by Gevorg Chichyan



The RA Ministry of Diaspora recently hosted Executive Director of the Armenian-Thai Chamber of Commerce and Industry Barouyr Kouyoumdjian. Hayern Aysor's correspondent and Barouyr Kouyoumdjian talked about not only the activities of the chamber of commerce and industry, but also about the small Armenian community of Thailand.

Hayern Aysor: Mr. Kouyoumdjian, what is the Armenian-Thai Chamber of Commerce and Industry involved in?

Barouyr Kouyoumdjian: The Armenian-Thai Chamber of Commerce and Industry was established by Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Thailand Arto Artinian. It is a member to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Thailand and collaborates with the chambers of commerce and industry of various countries in Thailand. We collaborate very well with everyone and have already created a field of cooperation in order to establish a network of businesses and raise awareness about the opportunities of the IT sector in Armenia. The members of the chambers of commerce and industry think highly of Armenia and work with us with pleasure. They admire the Armenians' skills, their progressive mindset, diligence and reliability.



Hayern Aysor: How do you establish closer ties with them?

P. K.: We are always seeking ways and try to expand the field of cooperation with new programs and projects.

On April 21, the chairmen of chambers of commerce and industry of over 25 countries based in Thailand organized a banquet/meeting, which began after welcoming remarks by Arto Artinian. We discussed the opportunities of the IT sector in Armenia that interested foreign businessmen and other issues.

It was a very constructive and effective meeting during which we specified the paths for trade and joint ventures. During the meeting, we heard speeches about the state of Thai economy and discussed the various economic activities being carried out in Thailand and the Thai government's support.

Hayern Aysor: What was the speech by the Armenian-Thai Chamber of Commerce and Industry about?

P. K.: This year, as a host, Mr. Artinian decided to present the field of information technologies in Armenia.

After conducting quite serious studies, we managed to organize an influential presentation that was praised by the attendees. We presented the structure of information technologies in Armenia and the number of companies that have been established over the past few years.

We talked about the support that the Government of the Republic of Armenia has provided, the legislative reforms, the economic growth that was recently recorded and the two main strategies related to this field.

We also touched upon the engagement of alumni with an education in the IT sector, their perspectives, the difference in the labor market of Armenia (i.e. high level of logic, skills in mathematics and analysis) and the search for solutions. We also discussed the eco-mechanisms of various organizations, the presence of international organizations and the challenges that we might face. We briefly presented

Armenia's economic situation, the problems facing the country, the domestic instability and foreign policy issues.



Hayern Aysor: Were there offers for cooperation after the meeting?

P. K.: The high-profile meeting truly led to the desired outcome. Right after the meeting, representatives of several countries sent us e-mails and let us know that the presidents of their chambers wanted to collaborate with the relevant IT experts and companies in Armenia. Taking into consideration the size of the market in Thailand, the activism, the commotion and advantages of investments, Arto Artinian accepted the offers. For that purpose, the Consul sent me to Armenia to meet with the representatives of various companies and organizations to discuss issues related to collaboration.

I had quite a lot of meetings in Armenia. We hope to take more active and effective steps in the future.



Hayern Aysor: Mr. Kouyoumdjian, do you see perspectives of cooperation in other sectors besides the IT sector in Armenia?

P. K.: Of course, we can create opportunities for the growth and development of other sectors. We simply need to conduct the right studies in order to have greater opportunities of achieving success and reducing the risks. Paying attention to the education sector is goal-oriented since I see that potential among the youth in Armenia. Due to my job, I follow the strategy on the development of various spheres in Thailand and in the countries of the region and the new programs and projects of governments. For instance, the Thai government creates cluster economies in bordering states where there is less economic growth. Those economies help raise the living standard of the population and ensure the sustainable growth of various sectors.

Hayern Aysor: Mr. Kouyoumdjian, now let's talk about the Armenian community of Thailand.

P. K.: The Armenian community of Thailand is relatively new, but is one of the unified communities of the Diaspora. Overall, there are nearly 150 Armenians living in Thailand. This is a little relative because we meet Armenians who came to Thailand many years ago and never maintained ties with the community.

The Armenians of Thailand are mainly involved in trade, business and jewelry making. They also work in the tourism sector and provide other services.

The Consulate of the Republic of Armenia always creates an Armenian environment for the community. The Armenians are united around the Consulate of the Republic of Armenia and especially Honorary Consul Arto Artinian, under whose leadership we carry out programs for preservation of the Armenian identity, as well as state and community programs with our compatriots. We also establish relations with local and foreign businessmen.

Generally speaking, Arto Artinian has made great contributions to the community. His diligence, patriotic activities and organizational skills inspires all of us. Whenever we organize any event or program, we always consult with the Consul and then take action.



Hayern Aysor: The Armenian community of Thailand is small in number. Doesn't this create obstacles for community life?

P. K.: Each member of the community knows how important it is to be united and is always willing to collaborate. Mutual support and understanding help us carry out our tasks.

We often hear how other communities talk about our community with admiration. They are amazed at how this small community can organize such big events and have gained a good reputation. The members are Armenians from Syria, Lebanon, the United States of America, Iraq, France, Armenia and Russia. However, that diversity doesn't bother us.

There is still no Armenian church, school or other organization, but this doesn't stand in our way. We traditionally celebrate all church and national holidays, and this is very exciting for our compatriots.

Hayern Aysor: Mr. Kouyoumdjian, how connected are the Armenians of Thailand to Armenia and Armenian national values?

P. K.: First, we attach importance to activities with the parents of Thai-Armenian children. We need to work with them first. Instilling in their souls the feeling of patriotism and keeping them clung to national roots are our priorities, and helping children preserve the Armenian identity is the imperative of the time.

I must say that the programs of the RA Ministry of Diaspora, particularly the "Ari Tun" Program and the "Diaspora" Summer School Program serve as a great impetus for preservation of the Armenian identity, and we try to engage the Armenians of Thailand in those programs on a regular basis.

Last year, one of the young Armenians of Thailand, Sergio Artinian participated in one of the programs. When he returned, he was so happy and excited that he constantly talked about his impressions. In general, we attach great importance to the establishment of the RA Ministry of Diaspora and highly appreciate its activities. The consulate is always in touch with the Ministry of Diaspora. During my visit to Armenia, I paid a visit to the Ministry of Diaspora to become familiar with the news and upcoming programs.

Hayern Aysor: During the four-day war in Artsakh, Armenians of the Diaspora rose to their feet and expressed their solidarity with Artsakh and the Armenian people. What did the Armenian community of Thailand do?

P. K.: We were all very concerned about the actions that Azerbaijan unleashed against Nagorno-Karabakh. All the members of the community were following the events taking place in Artsakh and Armenia. The consulate hosted discussions to provide the people with news about the events taking place, and we quickly spread information on the Internet in order to prevent the danger of misinformation.

The important thing was that the entire Armenian Diaspora helped raise a wave of patriotism and expressed its protest against Azerbaijan's atrocities with marches and demonstrations. Even the communities that were a little indifferent towards life in Armenia responded.

No Armenian could be indifferent. Everyone showed how patriotic they were during those days.



Hayern Aysor: Mr. Kouyoumdjian, you often visit Armenia. What major changes have you noticed?

P. K.: The progress can be seen in different sectors, and that makes me very happy. The new ideas, working style and innovations of the youth of Armenia serve as tremendous potential for the reforms and advancement in Armenia.

We need to rely on and encourage them. By supporting the youth, we can have a more competitive economy and a more prosperous society.

Let us be optimistic and believe in the vision of the future, that is, the strong Armenia.

Armenian Genocide 100 + 1

Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute to organize One-day Exhibition on The Occasion of Pope's Visit



His Holiness Pope Francis will visit Tsitsernakaberd, the Armenian Genocide Memorial Complex and Museum in Yerevan on June 25.

During a press conference, director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, Hayk Demoyan said that on the occasion of the Pope's visit, one-day exhibition is planned, Panorama.am reports.

"We'll present the role of the Catholic Church and the Popes in the process of orphan care and the reaction of the Catholic Church. Significant, interesting and unique exhibits will be displayed. We think the Pope will be interested," he said.

It should be noted that the visit of Pope Francis to the Republic of Armenia will start on June 24.

Bundestag Vote: Erdogan's Barrage of Criticism Continues



President of Turkey Erdogan continues criticizing and condemning Germany over the recent Bundestag vote on the Armenian Genocide recognition.

Anadolu reports Erdogan delivered a speech on this issue during the commencement ceremony of Sabahattin Zaim University.

"Germany! I am telling again: first, you give an account of the Holocaust. How you decimated, killed over 100,000 Namibians in Namibia, you should give an account of that", Erdogan said. Erdogan reminded of the 100,000 Armenians currently living in Turkey, and said "If we were a country that was an enemy of Armenians, we would have sent all of these people back". The President also commented on the ethnic Turkish MPs of the Bundestag who voted in favor of the resolution, by saying: "Turkish? Their blood should be tested".

Germany's Recognition of Armenian Genocide Weakens Turkey's Denial Policy

The recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the German Bundestag was a serious psychological and moral blow to the Turkish side, a blow to its policy of denial, Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute (AGMI) Hayk Demoyan said on June 6.

"Turkey had a small field for maneuvering in its policy of denial before this decision," Demoyan said, adding that almost nothing of that policy is left.

According to him, the importance of the vote will spread all throughout the European Union, considering that Germany is a key country in the EU. "Turkey is well aware that this recognition will lead to many others," Demoyan said.

AGMI's Director believes there is a political pretext behind the decision; a restraining message to Turkey from the German side, adding that "We understand that adoption of such resolutions never leads to concrete legal consequences, but this is serious and weighty step towards creation of a legal package."

"Such recognition will logically lead to new inquiries and research on where the Armenian property went," Demoyan said. He believes results in that direction are possible, if correct archive materials are revealed and presented with a view of pursuing a legal and financial reimbursement.

As for UK's failure to recognize the Armenian Genocide, the AGMI



Director said "Great Britain does not recognize the Armenian Genocide not because of fear of spoiling their relationship with Turkey, but because of close their partnership with Azerbaijan. "United Kingdom's recognition of the Armenian Genocide would be very important to us, but we have to remember that it does not stem from UK's business goals," he added.

"The history of the UK is rich in examples of humanism. Our museum is preparing a special exhibition of exclusive items from the archives. We want to introduce them to the British people and awaken their memory," Demoyan concluded.

Hamshen Armenian's Film on Genocide is Declared Best in Montreal Festival



Hamshen Armenian filmmaker Ozcan Alper's movie titled "Memories of the Wind," and which is devoted to the Armenian Genocide, was declared the best in a Turkish film festival that was held in Montreal, Canada, News.am reports, referring to Akunq.net.

Alper received the respective prize and spoke at the event. "One of the reasons for the events currently taking place, both in the territories of Turkey and in Middle East, is that we [i.e. mankind] have not been able to sufficiently face the incidents that occurred in the past centuries, and, as mankind, we have not learned a sufficient lesson from them," Ozcan Alper specifically said. "I wish that, from now on, we create films not about exiles, genocides, but rather about the beautiful days mankind has lived."

Ballet Dedicated to Armenian Genocide Wins Emmy Award

A ballet titled "Meran Vor Aprink" (They Died So We May Live), dedicated to the Armenian Genocide, was honored with television's prestigious Emmy Award at the 45th Annual Emmy Awards 2016 Ceremony. The Emmys were presented to the film's Executive Producers, Diane and Charles Paskerian.

The Emmy Award is presented for outstanding achievement in television by The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS), San Francisco Northern California Chapter, including Hawaii, Reno, and Sacramento, Oregon. This year there was a record number of 757 English and 179 Spanish entries in 67 categories. "Meran Vor Abrink" was listed under the Arts/Entertainment-Program/Special category.

Davit Karapetyan, Principle Dancer with the San Francisco Ballet, was so inspired when he saw San Francisco's Armenian Genocide Memorial "Mount Davidson Cross" for the first time, he envisioned choreographing a 100th Genocide Ballet Dance Video as a "Tribute to the Survival of our Ancestors through creative dance and music. We agreed to raise necessary funds for talent and crew...and the "creative process began!"

The ballet took over a year to produce, with original choreography by



Davit Karapetyan, fourteen San Francisco Ballet dancers including Karapetyan, Vanessa Zahorian, and a crew of 23. Writing, editing, and development input was done by Diane and Charles Paskerian. Filming took place at Baker's Beach and the Mount Davidson Cross. The video project was enthusiastically endorsed by the Bay Area Centennial Committee and the Council of Armenian American Organizations of the Bay Area. The Council is charged with maintaining and supporting the Armenian Genocide Memorial Cross at Mount Davidson, the home of the Annual San Francisco Easter Sunrise Service for almost 100 years, and supporting Armenian Genocide education. The historical cross is the tallest Armenian Genocide Monument in the World.

Arts & Society

Anush Elbakian Receives Boston/ New England Emmy Award



Anush Elbakian, 25, has received a Boston/New England Emmy Award in the "Outstanding News Report - Serious Feature" nomination, reports Aravot.am. Anush Elbakian is a recipient of two other prestigious awards - a Boston Globe's Pulitzer Prize for Marathon bombing coverage and Online Journalism Award of the Online News Association.

Armenian Television Network Launched in Las Vegas

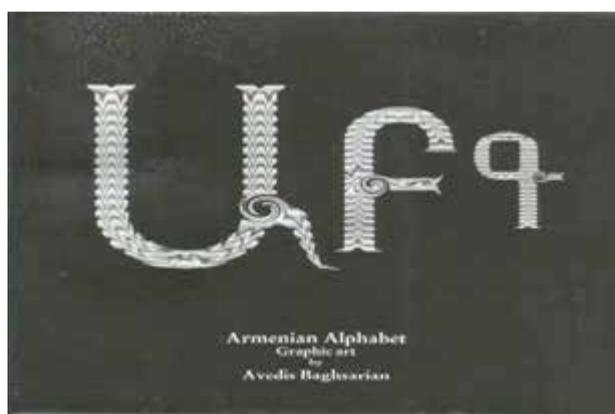
The first 24-hour Armenian television network has been officially launched in Las Vegas. The television network started broadcasting its programs on a cable TV channel in January, but was officially launched today. The opening ceremony was held last week, reports Hayernaysor.am.



The new Armount TV Network will start working closely with various mass media outlets of Armenia and will become a platform for communication between Armenia and the Armenian community of the State of Nevada, as well as the Armenians residing in different states across the United States of America," the official press release of the television network reads.

Graphic Rendition of a Precious Gift: The Armenian Alphabet

By Arthur Hagopian



When Avedis Baghsarian, versatile artist, photographer, sculptor, was seven years old, and living in the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem where he was born, he was intrigued, as all the young children were, by the intricate, panoramic threads of the entangled panoply of humanity around him: Jews, Moslems, Greeks, Copts, Syriacs, Ethiopians... What did it all mean to him, as an Armenian? Was there any

point of intersection among these fascinating and confusing threads?

What was the difference between Jews, Moslems and Christians?

He asked his father Arakel, whom he knew to be endowed with wisdom and charity, for he had for some time been enrolled as a seminarian at the Armenian Patriarchate, with the (now abandoned) hope of studying for the priesthood.

Arakel, a strong family man (and avid football fan), had expected such a loaded question, but did not want to make his explanation too complicated.

Avedis will never forget what his father told him:

"We think that religion is a source of communication with God and we will eventually go there," he said, pointing to the sky.

"But the means to arrive there will be different: some will take the bus, others might take the train. It is not the means of transportation that counts but rather the final destination we are all aiming for," he added.

He concluded with a Shakespearian dictum: "Do not judge a person from his religious beliefs but rather evaluate a person from his actions."

That, and a keen pride in his precious Armenian heritage, have guided Avedis through his prolific artistic endeavors, the most recent, a graphic rendition of the Armenian alphabet, a vivid expression of his desire to inspire and encourage young Armenians to keep the faith.

"I am worried that if we do not raise awareness of our children about our language, and alphabet, our poetry and literature, we will lose our culture and our millennia year-old history," he says.

The avenue he has chosen, with the intention of "empowering our children through education and enriching their life," is one that leads to the innermost core of the Armenian soul.

Armenians are rightly proud of their unique alphabet invented 1700 years ago by Saints Sahag and Mesrob. It originally consisted of 36 letters, including more than half a dozen duplicate sounds and a double ("yev"), that have created major headaches for children trying to distinguish between the uses of a "tah" and a "toh." Two more letters were added in the 12th Century.

Is it any wonder then that Armenians will opt for the more easily manageable English alphabet with its 26 letters when communicating via social media, SMS or Facebook?

In a world where unending "text messaging with short symbolic tags" are taking over the means of communication, it is easy to visualize the abandonment of proper language and alphabet, Avedis avers.

His concern is tangible: future generations of Armenians, mainly those in the Diaspora, run a very real risk of losing their ethnic identity through assimilation and acclimatization if they neglect to inculcate in their children the delights and travails of their mother language and its alphabet.

The modest, but bold and innovative, step he has taken towards helping redress the anomaly is embodied in a slim volume, "Armenian Alphabet" (a companion volume, "Calligraphy in Motion," rhapsodizes the English alphabet), where he has created his rarified version of the invention of Saints Sahag and Serop, remaining punctiliously faithful to the original, while embellishing each of the 38 letters of our alphabet with ethereal curves and lines that seem to be climbing ever higher, towards a distant Ararat.

The silver sheen and the underlying undulations, underlined by the eddying whorls, dazzle the eye.

He has no plans yet to convert the graphic fonts into a computer software program, but is attracted by the prospect. There already are several Armenian fonts available for word processing, adding one more would be a breeze, IT experts confirm. The fact that like Latin characters, Armenian is written from left to write, unlike Hebrew and Arabic for instance, which move in the opposite direction, right to left, makes the job easier.

Kim Kardashian Becomes Honorary Armenian Ambassador Of Children's Hospital Los Angeles



Kim Kardashian is currently in New York where Kanye West was supposed to give a concert at a music festival, but the concert was cancelled, leading to mass disturbances on the streets, writes Artsakhpress.

Later, Kim was spotted watching a Broadway musical with her husband and daughter, North West. Before leaving for New York, the Los Angeles Children's Hospital gave special thanks to Kim Kardashian.

During a meeting with the Honorary Ambassadors of the Los Angeles Children's Hospital, President of the Los Angeles Children's Hospital Paul Viviano granted a plaque to Kim Kardashian, recognizing her as the Honorable Armenian Ambassador of Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Among the special guests was Archbishop Hovnan Derderian. Kim stated that she was delighted by the fact that her work was appreciated by the Armenian community and the Children's Hospital Los Angeles. The 35-year-old Armenian American woman has been visiting and helping the hospital for eight years running.

The Armenian Ambassadors of Children's Hospital Los Angeles is a group of Armenians who support the hospital and create a healthy future for the children.




Arts & Society




Armenia's Youth and the Tragedy of Untapped Potential



On May 30, ONEArmenia, a for-purpose organization focused on building a sustainable Armenian economy, launched a new campaign to accelerate the development of engineering labs throughout Armenia. The project is called "Hye Tech Kids," and its goals are ambitious.

In the past six years, the IT industry in Armenia has been growing by an average of 22 percent annually. The IT sector now employs more than 15,000 people, accounts for 5 percent of the country's GDP, and is a solid bet in a landlocked country with strong math skills.

These realities, coupled with a few success stories for Armenian companies in the tech world, have caused some to go as far as dubbing Armenia "the Silicon Valley of the Caucasus".

3,000 Vacancies and the Tragedy of Untapped Potential

While the country is struggling with high labor migration and an unemployment rate of 18.5 percent, sources indicate that there may be as many as 3,000 vacancies in the IT sector today.

"There is so much untapped potential," says Patrick Sarkissian, ONEArmenia's founder. "While IT firms are hiring, hundreds of young people leave Armenia every year to find work abroad."

The problem is straightforward enough: Armenia's IT sector has, in fact, grown so fast that now there is a lack of qualified workers to fill in the vacancies.

Bring Labs to Schools, and the Brightest Kids to IT

"Hye Tech Kids" is a program that will bring the latest technologies to classrooms in rural Armenia, and give every kid a fair chance.

ONEArmenia, in partnership with The Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE) will equip five schools with Armath labs, a made-in-Armenia engineering lab that includes a 3D printer, CNC devices, handmade mini-computers, a robot kit, and two educational coding programs.

The \$57,882 raised via ONEArmenia will also be used to train and deploy coaches to each lab with the mission to teach, accompany, and inspire the kids who attend the after-school club.

"Attendance isn't mandatory," explains Anna Sargsyan, project coordinator at UITE. "But the overwhelming majority of students who come once, come back for more."

A prototype of this program was implemented from 2008 to present by UITE, and has proven to be successful with 500 graduates to date, 70 percent of whom are now working, or continuing their education in the IT field.

The curriculum is designed so that students are directly employable once they graduate.

"Teenagers who attend for 3 or 4 years already acquire enough technical knowledge to find entry-level jobs in the IT sphere," explains Anna Sargsyan from UITE. "And those who choose to study STEM related fields at university benefit from a big head start."

From Potential to Growth

By connecting children and teenagers with the resources they need to work in IT, ONEArmenia and UITE capitalize on Armenia's greatest asset: its brain power. To help them bring the latest tech tools to rural schools, and the brightest kids to the IT sector, check out their campaign, and donate, by visiting www.onearmenia.org/campaign.

Armenia's First Smartphone Goes On Sale

The first smartphone to be manufactured in Armenia, called the ArmPhone, went on sale on Monday with a marketing campaign called "It's Time for Armenian [products]," during a kick-off celebration during which the various Armphone models were unveiled.

Produced by the Technology and Science Dynamics Inc./Armtab Technologies, an Armenian and American joint venture, the ArmPhone, according to the company founder Vahan Shakarian, compares to other smartphones being developed today in the open market.



"It is important to note that our product is high quality and we stand behind and take responsibility for the quality of our product," said Shakarian when presenting the ArmPhone. "We produce [our product] in Armenia, we are with our consumers and take full responsibility for every step, from production to customer service."

The ArmPhone features a 5.1-inch, full HD-screen and is priced at between \$100 to \$300 (51,000 to 151,000 drams). The ArmPhone, which also features 32GB memory run on the Android 6.0 or 5.1 operating system with a 4G connection, comes in five models with varying features—the 0502, 0505, 0508 0509 and 0520. The ArmPhone will also feature a variety of ringtones featuring music by Armenian composers.

Shakarian, who said that the production of the ArmPhone will greatly improve Armenia's economy, also added the company had plans to export the phone to Russia, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Ukraine and Belarus, before expanding to other markets in Europe. He also announced that an ArmPhone store will open soon in Moscow.

The company has already released the ArmTab tablet last year.

Carolyn Rafaelian Joins Forbes' Richest Self-Made Women List

Forbes has included C. Rafaelian in the "Self-Made Richest Women" List.

Carolyn Rafaelian founded fashion jewelry company Alex and Ani in 2004, taking over what had been her father's Rhode Island jewelry factory to manufacture the new age, celestialchic bangles that have become the brand's staple. To say growth has been explosive would be an understatement. In 2010, Alex and Ani — named after two of Rafaelian's daughters — did an estimated \$4.5 million in revenues. By 2015, sales had hit \$500 million, catapulting the 49-year-old onto Forbes' second annual list of America's Richest Self-Made Women thanks to her majority ownership. Rafaelian joins the ranks at #22, with an estimated net worth of \$700 million, making her the second richest newcomer to the list, after Gail Miller, billionaire owner of basketball's Utah Jazz.

She's the richest self-made woman in the nation to derive her wealth from jewelry, and joins an impressive group of

fashion and retail moguls on Forbes' ranking that includes Spanx founder Sara Blakely, preppie-chic designer Tory Burch, and bridal tycoon Vera Wang. Rafaelian's success can be partly attributed to her mastery of the supply chain. Alex and Ani's pieces — like its bestselling \$28 zodiac-themed charm bangles — are mainly made of recycled materials like scrap metal and vintage or surplus jewelry, keeping costs low and margins high. Everything is manufactured on-site at the company's Cranston, R.I. base.

Alex and Ani now has 65 freestanding stores as well as concessions in hundreds of department stores and boutiques.

As her fortune has grown, Rafaelian has invested in her home state, buying (and renovating) 40,000-square foot Belcourt Castle near Newport, R.I. and 163-acre Sakonnet Vineyards.

The daughter of a jewelry factory owner, Carolyn Rafaelian started her New Age, celestial-chic bangle company, Alex



and Ani — named after two of her daughters — in 2004. She remains its CEO and chief creative officer. To keep costs low, she uses mainly recycled materials, including scrap metals. Thanks to explosive growth, the company, known for its \$28 zodiac-themed charm bracelets, now brings in an estimated \$500 million in sales and has 65 stores.

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