

PG
03▶ Article
Turkish News Media in ShacklesPG
05▶ Diaspora News
International Women's DayPG
07▶ Arts & Society
Aram Khachaturian is The Only Foreigner to Be Granted The First Class Order by an Egyptian President

News from Armenia

Serge Sarkisian Visits "Armenia: Legend Of Being" Exhibition In Russia



The President of Armenia Serge Sarkisian, on March 11 in Moscow, visited the exhibition entitled "Armenia. Legend of being", in the State History Museum of Russia, which was organized in the framework of cooperation between the Ministries of Culture of Armenia and Russia. More than 160 exhibits from the Museum of History of Armenia, Museum of the Mother Cathedral and the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts "Matenadaran" were presented during the exhibition. The organizers also have published an album of the exhibition, which presents the history and culture of the Armenian people from ancient times to the present day, and by a separate section – the theme of the Armenian Genocide. At the end of the visit, President Serge Sarkisian made a note in the guest book of the museum: "For me, as president of Armenia, it is an honor today to be in one of the oldest buildings in Russia – the State Historical Museum, where an exhibition titled "Armenia. Legend of being" dedicated to the multi-millennial

Page 02 ►►

NATO and Armenia Committed to Partnership



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg met with Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian on Wednesday, March 9 for talks on the partnership between the Alliance and Yerevan. The Secretary General thanked Armenia for its contributions to NATO's missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo. The two Ministers also met with the North Atlantic Council for an exchange of views on Armenia's cooperation with the Alliance and regional security. The Secretary General welcomed Armenia's commitment to the NATO Building Integrity Programme and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Stoltenberg also highlighted Armenia's sustained cooperation with NATO in the areas of defense reform, enhanced interoperability, defense education reform and civil emergency planning. Armenia has been a NATO partner for over 20 years, developing political dialogue with Allies and cooperating on democratic, institutional, and defense reforms.

News from the World

Russia MFA: Karasin and Mammadyarov Discussed Karabakh Conflict Settlement



During the meeting of State Secretary Grigory Karasin, who is also Russia's Deputy FM, and Azerbaijani FM Elmar Mammadyarov in Baku today, special attention was attached to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement, the Russian MFA reports. "The issues on Russian-Azerbaijani bilateral relations, including preparation to meetings at political level in accordance with the signed agreements were discussed. The sides [also] exchanged opinions on the

development of the situation in the region and prospects for cooperation of Russia and Azerbaijan with neighbor countries.

Special attention was attached to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement, as well as the process of drawing up documents related to international cooperation in the Caspian" the MFA statement reads.

Page 02 ►►

News from Armenia

Serge Sarkisian Visits "Armenia: Legend Of Being " Exhibition In Russia

Page 01 ▶▶

history of the Armenian people, in which there are many glorious pages of the interweaving history and culture of our fraternal peoples. I am convinced that the series of unique documents and artifacts stored here will continue to be updated with new valuable evidence of the Armenian-Russian long-lasting friendship. " At the same day awarding ceremony was held at the Armenian Embassy in Moscow by the participation of Armenian President. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan

awarded the Order of Friendship to the chairman of the Investigative Committee of Russia Alexander Bastrykin. Bastrykin thanked the President of Armenia and said that "he considers this award as a high assessment of the whole work of the Russian Investigative Committee, as well as recognition of the high level interaction and cooperation with law enforcement bodies of the Republic of Armenia in strengthening law and order". President of Armenia, Chairman of Armenia's Chess Federation Serzh Sargsyan attended the official ceremony of opening the Candidates Tournament on March 11. Serzh Sargsyan

defeated FIDE president Kirsan Ilyumzhivov in an unforeseen blitz chess game. The game took place on the sidelines of the Candidates Tournament in Moscow. The President welcomed a number of tournament's strongest grandmasters and many fans watching their games, wished the tournament success and made the first move in a chess game with the participation of international grand master Levon Aronian. The Presidents of Armenia and FIDE played an unplanned game of speed chess in parallel with the Tournament, which ended with the victory of the Armenian President.

Armenian PM Welcomes Dutch-Armenian Businessmen's Willingness To Make Investments In Armenia

Prime Minister Hovig Aprahamian today received Dutch-Armenian businessmen Arram Haikaz and Yervand Haikaz.

businessmen's willingness to make investments in the homeland and noted that the government was ready to support the implementation of mutually beneficial investment projects that will contribute to the growth of economic activity and the creation of new jobs.



As reports the Government's press service, the Dutch-Armenian businessmen mentioned that they were interested in carrying out long-term investment projects in Armenia and making investments in the field of leather production in particular. The Prime Minister welcomed the Dutch-Armenian

Several issues related to the implementation of an investment project in the sphere of leather production were discussed.

Efforts for Artsakh's International Recognition Continue



Press Secretary of the President of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic David Babayan assures that an interesting development in terms of international recognition of Artsakh is expected in 2016. In an interview with "Armenpress", Babayan did not want to disclose the details yet, but noted that relevant work is being done towards Artsakh's international recognition. "The adoption of the draft in the US State of Georgia on recognition of Artsakh's independence will not be the last move of its kind," Babayan said. He praised the call of the "Californian Courier" Editor Harut Sassounian, who stated that the issue of Artsakh's recognition needs to be raised to all US presidential

candidates. "Questions about the Armenian Genocide and Artsakh independence should be linked to each other. In recent years, we see a lot of sympathy for Karabakh in the international arena, and striking evidence of this is the recent decision of the State of Georgia. Azerbaijan carries out its propaganda, based on bribes, and we do business based on values and friendship. Moneygrubbing will never become an ideological ally," Babayan said. According to Babayan, it is necessary to continue fighting for the recognition of Artsakh's independence in the international arena as much as possible.

News from the World

Page 01 ▶▶

Warlick: We will Discuss Karabakh Peace in Tbilisi : Americans For Artsakh Hails US State Of Georgia's Recognition Of Nagorno Karabakh Republic



The Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) conflict will be discussed Wednesday in Tbilisi, the capital city of Georgia. The US Co-Chair of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, Ambassador James Warlick, who arrived in Tbilisi on Tuesday evening, noted about the aforesaid in his Twitter account. "Just arrived in Tbilisi and look forward to discussing the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and NKpeace," Warlick tweeted.

Americans for Artsakh (AFA) welcomes Georgia House of Representatives' adoption of the House Resolution 1580 that honors and recognizes the democratic achievements of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, the organization states in a press release. "We join the Armenian American community in the state of Georgia and throughout the United States in welcoming the Georgia House of Representatives' recognition of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and its fledgling democracy," reads the statement, quoting AFA Executive Director Noel Thompson, who also decribed the move as "the triumph of democracy over tyranny." "On behalf of Americans for Artsakh, I would like to express gratitude to you for co-sponsoring H.R. 1580. Your leadership in supporting Artsakh's independence is in a par with universal ideals and values of liberty and democracy, which represent cornerstones of the American nation," stated Thompson in his letter to Rep. Gardner and Rep. Douglas. To remind the Georgia State House has adopted resolution on March 2 recognizing the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh and



PRESS RELEASE: AMERICANS FOR ARTSAKH HAILS STATE OF GEORGIA'S LEGISLATOR FOR ADOPTING RESOLUTION ON ARTSAKH

calling upon the international community "to give appropriate recognition to the Nagorno Karabakh Republic as a free, independent, and sovereign democracy." The resolution titled "Honoring and recognizing the Nagorno Karabakh Republic" was initiated by Representatives Pat Gardner and Demetrius Douglas. Georgia became the sixth state to recognize and support the independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh after California, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine and Louisiana.

Turkish News Media in Shackles

By Edmond Y. Azadian

"Zaman, killed on Friday, wakes up on Sunday as a pro-government zombie," writes journalist Piotr Zalewski this week.

But the "killing" of Zaman on March 4 did not happen quietly and without incident. Instead, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government, a court order in hand from a docile judiciary, raided the editorial offices of the newspaper, fighting demonstrators with tear gas and water canons. Now Zaman is in government custody, rededicated to praise the glory of a defiant president. The violent crackdown on the free press brings the "darkest hours" in the country's history, as the editors described the incident before being ousted from their offices.

Zaman and its sister publication, Today's Zaman, had a daily circulation of 650,000, one of the largest in Turkey.

Zaman, before its takeover this past week, was affiliated with the Gulenist movement, controlled by the exiled cleric Fetullah Gulen. At one time, Gulen and Erdogan were allies in promoting the Islamist AK Party to take over power in Turkey. After Erdogan established himself as the authoritarian ruler of Turkey, he had a fallout with his erstwhile ally, who continued to enjoy broad support in the Turkish armed forces, police and judiciary.

Erdogan purged most of those establishments under the guise of fighting the "Deep State." The free press and one of its most prominent representatives, Zaman, were the last bastions in Turkey propagating Gulenist policies and following a critical line against government excesses.

Erdogan had vowed to bring that paper into the fold too, to silence all criticisms in the country. Therefore, today, Turkey's free press is in shackles.

The European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) said they have been closely monitoring the situation with great concern.

"The European Union cannot remain silent about the political seizure of Zaman newspaper, Today's Zaman and Cihan news agency," they said in a statement.

The EFJ/IFJ will report the case to the Council of Europe's platform for the protection and safety of journalists to the Mapping Media Freedom platform as a new example of violations of freedoms in Turkey. In Europe the perception is that the Zaman takeover shows Erdogan moving from authoritarianism to all-out despotism.

The takeover of Zaman is only the tip of an iceberg. It is part of a much broader crackdown on dissent. Indeed, last January, the intelligence forces there placed more than 1,000 academics under investigation for having protested the government's military operation in the southeastern part of Turkey, which is currently wreaking havoc on the Kurdish minority living there. The city of Diyarbakir is a virtual war zone and under the pretense of ridding the country of terrorists. Additionally, since 2014, 1,845 cases have been launched against people accused of insulting the president.

The Zaman scandal had its precedent when journalists Can Dunder and Erdem Gul were arrested three months earlier on charges of espionage. In fact, they had reported in their newspaper, Cumhuriyet, that the government was supplying terrorist organizations in Syria with armaments. They had even supplied photographs.

The government accused them of divulging state secrets and Mr. Erdogan bragged that they would pay

a price. Then the Constitutional Court released them from jail. An irate Erdogan decried, "I don't obey or respect the decision."

The journalists still face pending charges and they may get life sentences.

"In normal countries, the president is there to ask the people to obey the laws," said Mr. Dunder. "But in Turkey, it's the people who have to ask the president to do so."

Cumhuriyet and Zaman are not the only media outlets which have become victims of a crackdown last week; police have raided the Istanbul offices of Koza Ipek group and shut down its live TV broadcast. Earlier victims included Bengutur TV and IMC TV, which have since been dropped from the state-run communication satellite Turksat.

Under Erdogan, Turkey has become the largest jailer of journalists and now ranks 149th out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index compiled by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

France, Germany and the EU officials have all condemned Turkey's seizure of Zaman newspaper. A German government spokesman has announced that Chancellor Angela Merkel has raised the issue of press freedom with Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in Brussels. French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault similarly has expressed his concern and said that the move was contrary to European values. "It is not acceptable. We cannot want to get close to European standards and not respect the pluralism of the media. It is obvious and we have said it clearly to the Turks." In his turn, the European Parliament President Martin Schultz said that he had spoken to Davutoglu and told him that a free press was "a non-negotiable element of our European identity."

"He who wants to join the European Union must support freedom of expression, freedom of press and must tolerate criticism," said German Green Party leader Cem Ozdemir, who is an ethnic Turk born in Germany.

Incidentally, Ozdemir is spearheading the battle in the German Bundestag for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Further, on a side note, Today's Zaman (pre-zombie change) reported that Garo Paylan, an ethnic Armenian in the Turkish parliament and a member of the People's Democratic Party (HDP), delivered a speech in the Turkish general assembly last Thursday and showed some photos featuring graffiti with the words "Armenian bastards" which he has labeled as a serious case of racism.

Continuing his speech, Paylan added, "This crime was committed not only by the security forces, but also by the prime minister."

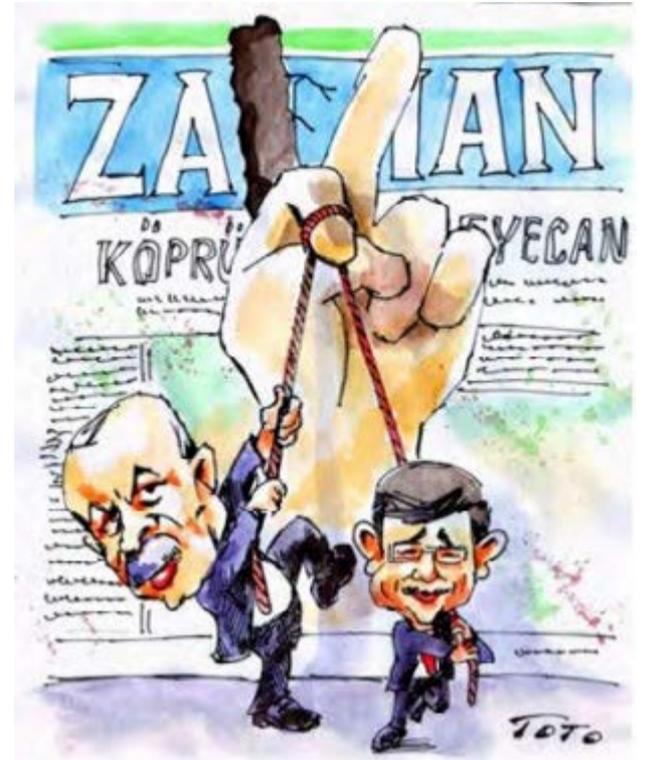
Indeed, last week Prime Minister Davutoglu, visiting Bingol, said the Armenian gangs cooperated with the Russians during World War I.

"What kind of racism is this? Am I permitted to say 'Turkish gangs'?"

With all the crimes and trespasses of the Turkish government Europe and the US, at best, give it a slap on the wrist and continue cooperating with the Erdogan regime.

Roy Greenslade has published an article in the Guardian under the title "Erdogan, the enemy of press freedom, will humiliate the EU again."

In that article, he quotes Christophe Deloire, the secretary general of RSF, who has said, "EU must exercise all of its potential leverage. ... There can be no question of resuming EU accession talks while Ankara visibly tramples on basic European values." And then Greenslade continues his comments, "He isn't holding



his breath about EU action, however, until now, the European Union has demonstrated culpable weakness in response to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's attacks on the media."

Then he asks, "Is the EU determined to let itself be humiliated? The answer is clear: Yes."

The pessimistic conclusion is based on objective assessment. At this point, Mr. Davutoglu is in Brussels negotiating a deal with the leaders of the European Union, to extort another \$3.5 billion in return for admitting waves of refugees from Greece and European shores. Throughout his negotiations, after hearing all the criticism and sermons, he will perhaps think in his mind cynically that "beggars can't be choosers. If you need Turkey to help you in the refugee issue, you need to cough up the money and mind your business. You have no leverage on us and how we treat journalists in our country."

This is in essence the basis of the Erdogan government's arrogance. No European Union leader has yet had the temerity to point the finger at Turkey, accusing it as the cause of this may-hem. Turkey's aggression against a stable country like Syria exacerbated the situation, forcing out the peaceful population to scatter to the shores of the Aegean Sea and beyond. And instead of Turkey, it is Europe which is paying the price for this epic humanitarian tragedy.

Turkey tramples European values and gets away with murder. Erdogan's military is on a murderous rampage against the nation's Kurdish population, the carnage is paramount; the EU and the US have their conscience clear, when they classify the PKK as a terrorist organization.

Turkey is in a standoff with Russia, rattling the structures of the NATO alliance and Mr. Obama pontificates, "Turkey has the right to defend itself." Since the beginning of the Cold War, Turkey has assumed the role of serving as a surrogate to do the dirty jobs of the West in the Middle East. It arms the terrorist groups in Syria, and the West looks the other way.

Indeed, the Guardian writer is right: Don't hold your breath. Erdogan will not be held accountable for his domestic problems and international blunders, because he has become a necessary evil.

Former Congressman Quits Promoting Azerbaijan's Interests in Washington

By Harut Sassounian

Here is news that you don't hear every day: a former Congressman stops working for a foreign client after not receiving his pay for a year!

This is exactly what happened to Cong. Dan Burton (Republican-Indiana) who quit last week as chairman of Azerbaijan America Alliance, a powerful Azeri propaganda outfit in the United States, after waiting a whole year to get paid.

What were his Azeri masters thinking? How could they cheat one of their agents in Washington? This is a good way to get your lobbyist turn against you!

Lobbyists promote a client's interests, not because they support its cause, but to make money. Personal financial gain was the only reason why Cong. Burton was backing one of the world's most repressive and corrupt governments. When the money stopped, there was no longer a reason for him to promote Pres. Aliyev's dictatorial regime.

The Azerbaijan America Alliance was founded by tycoon Anar Mammadov, a 34-year-old billionaire playboy. Interestingly, Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump had lent his name for a substantial fee to a luxurious hotel built by Mammadov's company in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Reporter Carl Schreck and Radio Free Europe & Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) obtained a copy of the e-mail Cong. Burton sent on March 1, 2016 to James Fabiani whose Washington-based firm does lobbying work for the Azerbaijan America Alliance. "As I have not heard from you or Anar, and have not been paid for a year, please consider this e-mail as a letter of resignation as Chairman of the Azerbaijan America Alliance," Cong. Burton wrote.

Here are further details from this scandalous affair disclosed by RFE/RL:

"Burton's resignation follows months of speculation about the

fate of the Azerbaijan America Alliance, a prominent pillar of a broader Azerbaijani lobbying campaign in the United States to portray Azerbaijan as a stable energy and security partner for the West. The lobby involves both private and state money."

"Baku's detractors accuse President Ilham Aliyev's government and its proxies of trying to paper over an abysmal human rights record with 'caviar diplomacy,' using gifts, vacations, and other expensive incentives to gain friends and curry favor with foreign officials."

"Aliyev recently removed broad powers from the Transport Ministry, overseen by Mammadov's father, suggesting the family's influence in the government is waning."

"Several reports in the Azerbaijani media since August have cited unidentified sources as saying that Mammadov planned to shutter the Azerbaijan America Alliance due to financial difficulties amid the broader economic crisis Azerbaijan is grappling with due to plunging energy prices."

"Over the past five years, the Azerbaijan America Alliance has poured a total of \$12.3 million into U.S. lobbying efforts, according to the public-interest website Opensecrets.org, having wined and dined Washington's elite and pushed Baku's interests in meetings with senior members of Congress."

"The organization, which is not formally affiliated with the Azerbaijani state but has hewn closely to the Aliyev government's line, has continued this spending, paying \$1.46 million for U.S. lobbying services in 2015, most of which went to Fabiani & Company, according to public lobbying disclosures."

"The group spent \$430,000 for its 2012 dinner, which was attended by then-House of Representatives speaker John Boehner and 15 other members of Congress, including Burton, according to a 2013 filing under the U.S. Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA)."

"Burton was named chairman of the Azerbaijan America



Alliance in February 2013, a month after he left office after a 30-year career in Congress. He told RFE/RL this week that Fabiani introduced him to Mammadov, chairman of Garant Holding, a conglomerate with interests that include construction firms, hotels, and insurance companies."

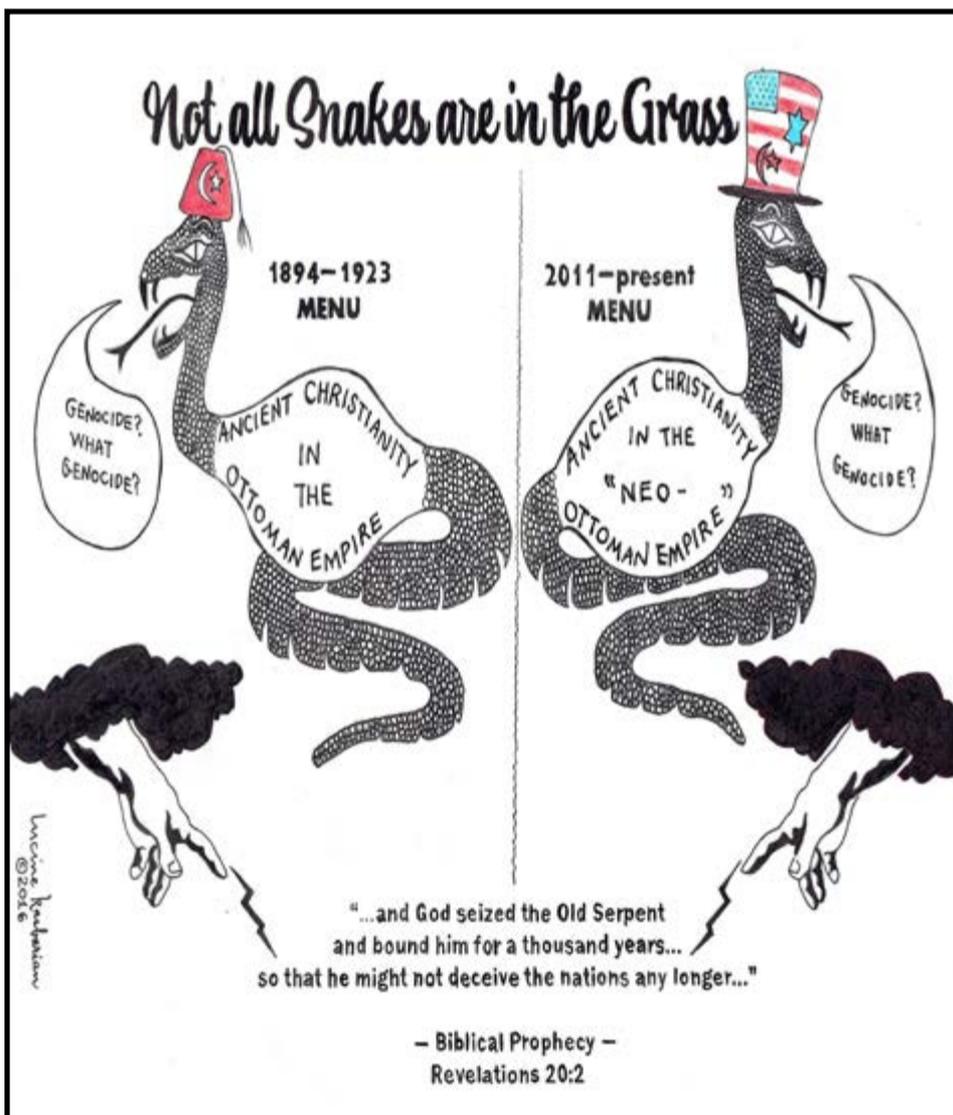
"Investigations by RFE/RL have previously revealed that Anar Mammadov's business interests are tied to the ministry overseen by his father, Ziya Mammadov."

"Burton said that he did not engage in lobbying during his time with the Azerbaijan America Alliance, but that he would occasionally invite members of Congress to 'social functions' staged by the group. He also published opinion articles supporting the Azerbaijani government."

Last May, I ran into Cong. Burton in the lobby of a New York hotel. I complained to him about his ongoing efforts on behalf of Azerbaijan and his votes against resolutions on the Armenian Genocide during his tenure in Congress. He gave me his business card, asking me to contact him.... I did not, and have no plans to do so now that he is no longer working as a propagandist for Azerbaijan.

www.TheCaliforniaCourier.com

Political Cartoon by Lucine Kasbarian



Press Release

ICFJ Partners With 100 LIVES to Launch Reporting Award

The International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) announces the creation of an award to recognize courageous reporters who bring humanitarian crises to the world's attention, "Mediamax?" reports.

The ICFJ Award for Integrity in Journalism in partnership with the Aurora Prize, will be presented at a 100 LIVES ceremony on April 24 in Yerevan.

100 LIVES is an organization that celebrates those who helped Armenians during the genocide 100 years ago and supports people and organizations that keep the legacy of gratitude alive.

100 LIVES will also give its inaugural Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity to honor heroes who continue the spirit of responsibility and compassion today. ICFJ will join 100 LIVES and Aurora Prize Co-Chair George Clooney to announce the recipient of the journalism award in Yerevan.

"I cannot overstate the impact that journalism can have on illuminating and alleviating human suffering," says 100 LIVES co-founder Ruben Vardanyan. "At the time of the Armenian genocide, sustained commitment and coverage by international journalists helped spur others to act and intervene. Today, we see that commitment continue in places like Syria, Sudan and other war zones around the world."

In that same spirit, the ICFJ Award for Integrity in Journalism will be given to a journalist



who sheds light on important humanitarian issues in difficult environments. The recipient demonstrates unparalleled courage in covering the plight of imperiled communities and unwavering commitment to integrity, freedom and justice. The coverage inspires others to take action to save lives.

"ICFJ is honored to work with 100 LIVES to emphasize the crucial role journalists play in telling the stories of persecution in hot spots around the world," says ICFJ President Joyce Barnathan. "We're delighted to recognize journalists in this meaningful way."

The Aurora Prize Selection Committee includes Nobel Laureates Elie Wiesel, Oscar Arias, Shirin Ebadi and Leymah Gbowee; former President of Ireland Mary Robinson; human rights activist Hina Jilani; former Australian Foreign Minister and President and CEO of the International Crisis Group Gareth Evans; President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York Vartan Gregorian; and Academy Award-winning actor and humanitarian George Clooney.

Diaspora News

Beirut

International Women's Day

By Mira Yardemian
Public Relations Director

On Tuesday, March 8, 2016, Haigazian University celebrated the International Women's Day, by honoring four accomplished women from diverse backgrounds and experiences, who had great impact on the Lebanese society in concrete ways. The ladies were: Helene Badaro, Asma Zein, Claudia Marshalian and Lena Gebrane.



The event, which was organized by the joint efforts of the Haigazian University Women's Auxiliary and the Public Relations Department, opened with the welcoming words of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Arda Ekmekji who underlined the substantial importance of this occasion throughout the world. She acknowledged that the honorees have "merited and not inherited this evening's tribute."

In her turn, Chairwoman of the Haigazian University Women's Auxiliary (HUWA), Terine Hasserjian shared with the audience the history of this celebration which dates back to 15 years, during which more than 40

women from different Lebanese denominations and regions have been honored in recognition of their achievements and breakthroughs in their societies. Public Relations Director, Mira Yardemian led the audience in a "down memory lane", presenting the lives and major accomplishments of the honorees: Helene Badaro has spent her life serving on committees of educational and cultural institutions, raising funds for scholarships and preserving the Lebanese national heritage; Asma Zein is a business entrepreneur with an amassed wealth of experience and knowledge in the service industry, in addition to being an advocate of women's rights, especially in the fields of business and entrepreneurship; Claudia Marshalian is a prolific scriptwriter, actress and journalist whose works allowed her to become a major player in Drama in Lebanon and the Arab world; Lena Gebrane is the founder of the organization Kunhadi for road safety awareness. She has turned her tragedy of losing her only son Hadi to a car crash into a new culture of safe driving habits among the Lebanese youth.



In his remarks, President Paul Haidostian seriously addressed the issue of women's rights considering that "it is not simply laws, religious statements, symbolic gestures, and generous compliments that can address the problem. But formal and informal education, at home, in school, university and elsewhere. It is reform in mentality that leads to better laws and practices." Giving the concrete example of Haigazian, President Haidostian considered "every celebration of success at Haigazian is also a celebration of the potential, the skills and the toil of women in a very real way," as 63% of the student body is composed of women students, and 69% of the administrative staff and almost half of the faculty are women.

The celebration was musically animated by Soprano Dr. Reem Deeb who enchanted the audience with the song "Climb Every Mountain", and the talented musicians Loucine Panjarian on the piano and Roubina Artinian on the flute, graciously playing "Carmen Fantasia Brilliant".

The program concluded with a decent reception.

Armenian-Syrian Diary

Syrian Armenian Asmarians: One must Contribute to Prosperity of his Country

Syrian-Armenian brothers Hovhannes Asmarian and Vrej Asmarian repatriated and resettled in Artsakh 4 years ago. Vrej Asmarian says that the idea of repatriating originated in 2010, but the war in Syria accelerated the course of events.

government. First, we studied the climatic conditions of different regions of Artsakh, sent soil samples to Syria for expertise, and upon received a positive response we started the development of new citrus and other fruit trees in Artsakh.

fact, our two greenhouses are also housing fruit cactuses, rose and fir. The cactuses in particular, which are already being sold, can be used for pharmaceutical and cosmetics purposes.



"At first we wanted to settle in Yerevan, but the crop activities that we wanted to apply needed special climatic conditions and a proposal was made to try in Artsakh. Coming here, we had a very warm welcome, both by the public and the



When we brought the first batch of trees, a part of them was used to establish a garden of about 15 hectares, and the citrus trees are now in the greenhouses, where we were able to bring their frost resistance from 0 to -4 degrees. In



Armenian-Syrian Diary

Syrian Armenian Asmarians: One must Contribute to Prosperity of his Country

Page 05 ►►

This year we aim to bring out the citrus trees from the greenhouses and in case of success, to establish an unprecedented citrus garden in Artsakh. Notably, citrus trees, particularly lemons and oranges will start harvesting next year. Unfortunately our kiwi plants were damaged due to water shortage and severe cold weather last year, but we will continue to develop them, as we dug out an artesian well and the trees are irrigated by drip method.



Coming to Artsakh, we were initially concerned that we will not have success in terms of business, as in business, theoretical and practical calculations very often do not match in terms of supply and demand. But recently we

imported about 20 thousand mulberry trees with state sponsorship. We have also imported from Syria about 13 thousand new species of apple, peach and apricot trees. The development of the trees was successful. Currently we employ 30 people, with 4000-5000 AMD salary per day. When all our projects become reality, of course, the number of positions will increase. We are sure that when people see that we are getting good crops, they will also contribute to the development of tree species. We are trying to establish business relations with as many countries as possible to be able to introduce new species of trees to our homeland. In terms of export, there are separate programs, but it is early to speak about that, because we have to have all means to be able to provide much in demand", Vrej Asmarian said.



The Asmarian brothers, who had about 4000 hectares of agricultural land in Syria, lost everything as a result of the Syrian war, and settled in Artsakh by rediscovering success, proving that the homeland can be a reliable supporter for hard working people.



Artsakhpress-Armenpress

Press Release

The Calouste Gulbenkian Translation Series. Titles Selected and Call for Translators

The Armenian Communities Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation has embarked on The Calouste Gulbenkian Translation Series which will make seminal texts in the humanities and the social sciences available in Armenian, as well as significant Armenian texts available in other languages. At this stage, we are happy to announce the list of books which will be translated from foreign languages into Armenian, and to call for potential translators to submit their interest to us. Through these translations, we are aiming to advance intellectual discourse in Armenian, and to contribute to the development of the Armenian language. The following 12 texts will be translated in the first instance:

1. Giorgio Agamben, *Quel che resta di Auschwitz. L'archivio e il testimone (Homo sacer III)*.
2. Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*.
3. Alain Badiou, *Le Siècle*.
4. Judith Butler, Ernesto Laclau and Slavoj Žižek, *Contingency, Hegemony, Universality: Contemporary Dialogues on the Left*.
5. Simone de Beauvoir, *Le deuxième sexe*.
6. Gilles Deleuze, *Différence et répétition*.
7. Jacques Derrida, *L'écriture et la différence*.
8. Michel Foucault, *L'archéologie du savoir*.
9. Antonio Gramsci, *Quaderni del carcere (selezioni)*.
10. Jürgen Habermas, *Strukturwandel der Öffentlichkeit*.
11. Jean-François Lyotard, *Instructions Postmodernes*; and *La condition postmoderne*.
12. Edward Said, *Orientalism*.

The above texts were selected by an international



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advisory committee comprised of Shushan Avagyan, Vardan Azatyan, Hagop Gulludjian, Smbat Hovhannisyan, Armine Ishkanian, Raymond Kevorkian, Ardashes Margosyan and Ara Sanjian. They worked closely with Razmik Panossian, the Director of the Armenian Communities Department, and Ani Garmiryan, the Department's Senior Programme Officer.

Through this Call, we are seeking to select translators for this Series, and to augment our pool of qualified translators. We ask potential translators to contact us only if they wish to translate title(s) from the list above, from the original language into Armenian (Western or Eastern).

Responses should be sent to the Armenian Communities Department by 5 April 2016, to the following email address carmenias@gulbenkian.pt, and clearly indicate in the subject line "Translation Series, Call for Translators." The application should be comprised of the following mandatory documents:

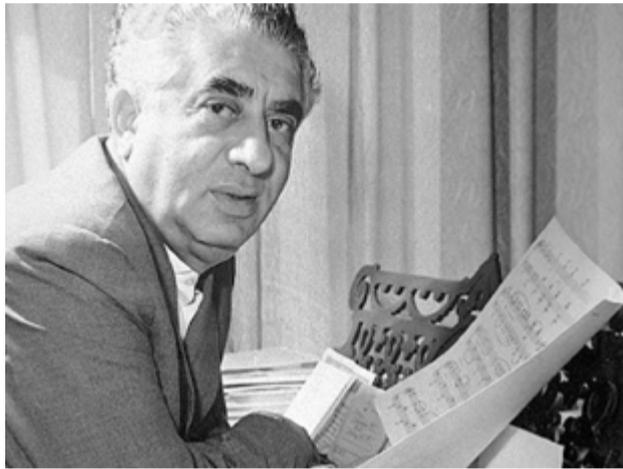
Mandatory Documents:

- An up-to-date Curriculum Vitae, with applicant's contact information (email, telephone, address).
- The title(s) from the above list which the translator is interested in translating.
- A sample of previous translation work, from the original language of the books above (i.e. Italian, English, French and German) into Armenian (at least 20 pages).
- An indication of the translation fee.
- Contact details of three referees (peers or supervisors).
- A one page cover letter stating qualifications and interest in translating the requested title(s). Selected translators will be notified by mid-May 2016. Those who are not notified will be put on a reserve list for future reference.

Arts & Society

Aram Khachaturian is The Only Foreigner to Be Granted The First Class Order by an Egyptian President

“100 years have already passed since the first genocide of the 20th century. History has recorded the killings of 1.5 million Armenians in 1915 perpetrated by the Turks, the deportations of the survivors towards the deserts, the seizure and pillaging of their homeland,” writes Mekawi Sayid in his article printed in the Al Masri Al Eau Egyptian newspaper, according to Hayern Aysor.



The author of the article emphasizes the fact that Egypt was the first country in the Middle East to condemn the Armenian Genocide. Egypt also received the deported Armenians, regardless of pressure from Turkey.

“There have been proclaimed Armenian artists, including painters, musicians and actors. Armenians have played a huge and wonderful role in music, creating musical groups that have captivated the Egyptians with their concerts.

In 1962, composer Aram Khachaturian gave a concert in Egypt, and it was a major event in the country. It should be mentioned that at the time, President of Egypt Abdul Nasir presented Aram Khachaturian with the First Class Order of Art, which has not been granted to any other foreigner in Egypt,” writes Mekawy Sayid.

Holy Martyrs Museum-BBC Covers The History of The Armenian Church in Deir ez-Zor



A church dedicated to the Armenian martyrs of the 1915 massacres was erected in the Syrian city of Deir ez-Zor 25 years ago. By a twist of fate, the monument to the victims of the atrocity is now collapsing as a result of a bombing. BBC has released an article presenting the Holy Martyrs Church of Syria, according to Tert.am. The author of the article

describes the crypt/holy place located in the center of the church. It represents a mound coated with sand, on the peak of which there are remains of humans.

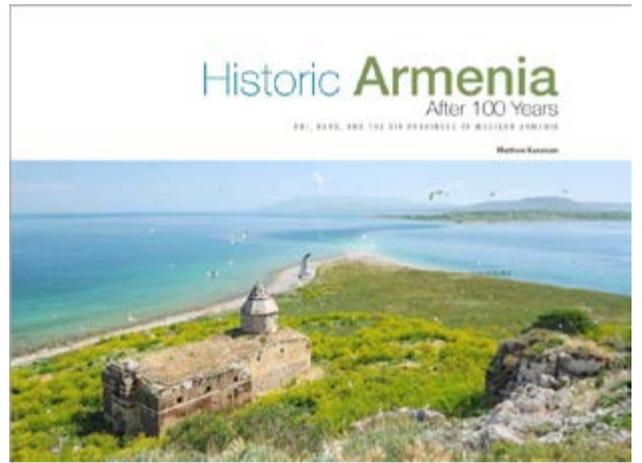
“I was shocked when I saw the bones. They don’t make you mourn or cry, but make you delve into thoughts that are simple valuable and sincere,” the source cites British-Armenian writer Nuritsa Matosian, who visited the church in 2001. Matosian’s ancestors were martyred during the tragedy that took place 100 years ago.

“Over the years, Deir ez-Zor has become a place of pilgrimage for Armenians, but the monument to the Armenian martyrs remained standing for less than a quarter of a century. In 2014, it was destroyed as a result of a bombing organized by ISIS and the Al-Nusra Front adjunct to Al-Qaeda,” the author of the article says.

The source notes that there used to be 100,000 ethnic Armenians living in Syria before the civil war broke out, most of which were descendants of those who had been displaced.

Karanian’s ‘Historic Armenia’ is Finalist in INDIEFAB Book of the Year Awards

Historic Armenia After 100 Years, the historical guide to Western Armenia by author Matthew Karanian, is a finalist in the INDIEFAB Book of the Year Awards for best travel book of 2015. Foreword Reviews, the sponsor of the awards, announced the finalists this week, reports Armenianweekly.com.



Historic Armenia was published in 2015 and is the first-ever historical guide to the cultural sites of Western Armenia. The book features 125 color photographs and maps, including antique maps and images from a century ago.

The INDIEFAB Book of the Year Awards honor independent publishers and university presses. Stone Garden Press, the publisher of Historic Armenia, is an independent publisher in Pasadena, Calif.

A panel of more than 100 volunteer librarians and booksellers determined the award finalists in numerous categories of fiction and non-fiction books. The complete list of award finalists is available online at: <https://indiefab.forewordreviews.com/finalists/2015/>

Author Matthew Karanian said he is pleased with this recognition for Historic Armenia. “One of the objectives of publishing Historic Armenia was to shine a bright light on the often-forgotten cultural heritage of the Armenians in their ancient homeland [of Western Armenia],” said Karanian. “This honor furthers that objective.”

Foreword Reviews will celebrate the winners during a program at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Orlando, Fla. in June.

Historic Armenia After 100 Years is sold at independent bookstores, including the Hairenik Bookstore, and at Barnes and Noble in the U.S., and is available for purchase online from the publisher, Stone Garden Press.

New Analysis on Frescoes of Akhtamar to be Presented in Venice



The Ca’ Foscari University of Venice will host lectures devoted to the history and culture of Armenia, reports discover-armenia.it, according to News.am.

The topics of the March 10-12 lectures will be “The Frescoes of Akhtamar: Open-Ended Questions”, “Planning of Cities in the Royalities of Cilicia” and “Cross-Stones of the “Holy Savior” Sample”.

Arts & Society

'The Playlist' Predicts 'The Promise' Lead Actors as 2017 Oscar Hopefuls

The entertainment blog, The Playlist, is predicting that much-anticipated Genocide-themed film, "The Promise," with its lead actors Oscar Issac and Christian Bale, will be on a short list for Academy Award consideration in 2017.



"Right now, 'The Promise,' from 'Hotel Rwanda' director Terry George, is a little under the radar, but we don't expect that to last. Firstly, it's a lavish period love triangle set against the Armenian genocide in the last days of the Ottoman Empire, a subject matter rarely examined on film but is long overdue for the big-budget treatment. Secondly, it has a heavyweight cast, particularly when it comes to its two male leads Christian Bale and Oscar Isaac, and we think either one could end up registering with the Academy. It'll depend on which actor ends up campaigning for lead (assuming it's picked up in time for an awards season release), but both are deserving: Bale earned his third nomination last year for 'The Big Short' (having won for 'The Fighter,' his first nod), while Isaac has never been recognized but is much more familiar to voters now after 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' and likely stands his best chance yet. Either could follow in the footsteps of George's 'Hotel Rwanda' star Don Cheadle for a nod," wrote Oliver Lyttelton of the Playlist Blog, published on the entertainment website, Indiwire. Golden Globe-winner Issac and Oscar winner Bale were announced as leads of "The Promise" in June when Survivor Pictures, founded by late-billionaire Kirk Kerkorian revealed the long-rumored film project. According to early reports, Bale will play Chris, who is in love with both a woman and the danger of being in a combat zone during World War I. Isaac will play Michael, who is in love with the same woman but conflicted by old-world traditions and his heart.

The film, which also stars, Charlotte Le Bon, James Cromwell, Marwan Kenzari, Jean Reno, Shohreh Aghdashloo and Angela Sarafyan, among others, completed shooting in Europe last fall and is in post-production and editing stages. It is scheduled for release in 2016.

Photo Exhibition Dedicated To Famous Tbilisi Armenians Opens In Yerevan



The exhibition of famous Tbilisi Armenian photographer Yuri Akulyan opened in Yerevan at 52 Leo Street. It is entitled "Chronology of Modern Tbilisi Armenians".

As "Armenpress" reports, the displayed photos tell

about the life of Armenian in Georgia, their activities and how they became famous for their contribution over the past 15 years.

The program is directly supported by the 2011-2014 Armenian Ambassador to Georgia Hovhannes Manukyan. Co-Sponsors of the implementation are the "Horizon" Foundation and "Caucasian House" center. The project is implemented by Victoria Maxoeva of the Georgian "Agora-Georgia" NGO

"About Love" by Anna Melikyan nominated for Russian "Nika" award

Armenian director Anna Melikyan's film "About Love" is among the nominees for Russian "Nika" Film Awards in the "Best Film" category. As "Armenpress" reports, the film is also nominated for "Best Director" category, while the best actor in a supportive role nominees Michael Yefremov and Maria Shalaeva are nominated for their role in the film "About Love". The "Nika" award ceremony will be held on April 1, 2016. Directed by Anna Melikyan, "About Love" won the "Golden Eagle" awards on January 29, 2016 for best feature film. Earlier, the film won the "Grand Prix" prize at the "Kinotavr" festival. "About Love" is composed of several stories. What is love. heroes try to answer this question.



Michael Yefremov, Evgeniy Ciganov, Vladimir Mashkov, Yulia Snigir, Ravshana Kurkova are among the actors of the movie

Arev Petrosyan's Paintings Showcased At International Women's Day Exhibition At UNESCO Headquarters



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All published material is reviewed, however, we rely on the kind understanding of our audience when grammatical and spelling mistakes are missed. And in some rare cases, correction of submitted material is purposely not addressed, if it changes the implied context of the author.