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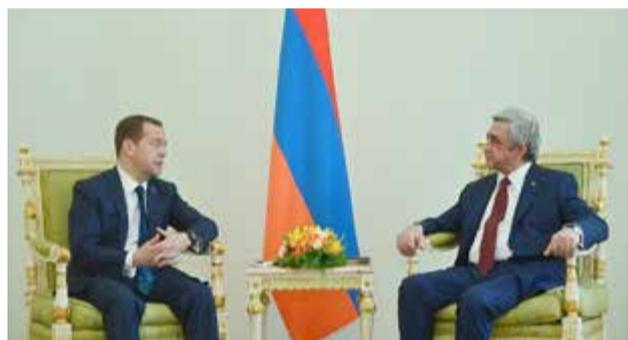
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News from Armenia

Sarksian, Medvedev Discuss Karabakh, Bilateral Relations



President Serj Sarksian received today Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, who has arrived in Yerevan to participate in the regular sitting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Yerevan.

President Sarksian briefed the Russian PM on the results of the Vienna discussions. "We've reached an agreement on the monitoring of ceasefire violations and implementation of a mechanism of investigation of border incidents. We're ready to do our best to exclude ceasefire violation, and I do hope that the Foreign Ministers of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing countries will be consistent in implementing the decisions," he said.

Dmitry Medvedev, in turn, expressed gratitude for hosting the meeting of the EEU Intergovernmental Council in Armenia and voiced confidence that the member countries would reach agreements necessary for boosting their economies.

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"Visit To The First Christian Nation"- Motto For Visit Of Pope Francis I To Armenia



The motto and logo for the June 24 visit of Pope Francis I to the Republic of Armenia have been confirmed with a relevant description. The motto is "VISIT TO THE FIRST CHRISTIAN NATION". This is what the information system of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin reported.

Description of the logo:

The logo is round. The picture of Khor Virap Monastery and the biblical Mount Ararat are in the background of the logo. St. Gregory the Illuminator was imprisoned in the Dungeon of Artashat for nearly 14 years, and the monastery was built after that. Afterwards, Saint Grigor became the first Armenian Patriarch, and through efforts with King Trdat III the Great, Christianity was declared as a state religion in Armenia.

The colors of the logo are purple and yellow, the official colors of the Armenian Holy Apostolic Church and the Roman Catholic Church. The logo also shows the coat-of-arms of the two churches.

News from the World

The Co-Chairs Insisted on the Importance of Respecting the 1994 and 1995 Ceasefire Agreements



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov, Secretary of State of the United States of

America John Kerry, and State Secretary for European Affairs of France Harlem Desir, representing the co-chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group, met today with President of Armenia Serj Sarksian and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to advance a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

According to joint statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Secretary of State of the United States of America and State Secretary for Europe Affairs of France they reiterated that there can be no military solution to the conflict. The Co-Chairs insisted on the importance of respecting the 1994 and 1995 ceasefire agreements.

The Presidents reiterated their commitment to the ceasefire and the peaceful settlement of the conflict. To reduce

the risk of further violence, they agreed to finalize in the shortest possible time an OSCE investigative mechanism. The Presidents also agreed to the expansion of the existing Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson in Office. Finally, they agreed to continue the exchange of data on missing persons under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to which the Presidents committed during the Paris summit of October 2014.

The Presidents agreed on a next round of talks, to be held in June at a place to be mutually agreed, with an aim to resuming negotiations on a comprehensive settlement.

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News from Armenia

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Sarksian, Medvedev Discuss Karabakh, Bilateral Relations

He said Russia is closely following the developments in the Karabakh conflict zone and doing the utmost to help settle the current situation.

"It's important to maintain the current ceasefire regime. In this context we welcome your meeting with the President of Azerbaijan in Vienna, and support the efforts within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group aimed at maintaining dialogue, and preventing such incidents in the future, taking into consideration of the agreements reached in 1994-1995 and with a view of ensuring stronger peace in the region and moving towards a final settlement to the Karabakh conflict," Medvedev said.

"You can rest assured that Russia has always assisted and will keep assisting in the settlement of this complex issue," the Prime Minister noted

Parliament Committee Does Not Endorse Bill on Recognizing Nagorno Karabakh



The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Armenian Parliament gave a negative conclusion for the bill on recognizing the independence of Nagorno Karabakh.

The bill had been presented by MPs Zaruhi Postanjian and Hrant Bagratian.

Head of the "Heritage" faction Zaruhi Postanjian said the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh meets all preconditions of international law for a sovereign state. She added that the law will allow Armenia along with Nagorno Karabakh and other interested countries to assist in eliminating the consequences in the conflict zone in the post-conflict period, resettlement of territories and return of refugees.

Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharian said the adoption of the bill is not appropriate in the moment. "Ensuring the security of Nagorno Karabakh and its population is the main goal of Armenia in the settlement issue of the conflict. This is our main goal, and the most important component of security is the status. That is, the independence of Nagorno Karabakh is a necessary condition for this security, but not enough. I only mention this. We look at the recognition issue in this context, and in this case, looking at it from this context, the Government concluded that it is not appropriate", the Deputy FM said.

After lengthy discussions Chairman of the Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs Artak Zakarian said it will be very difficult for him to vote against the bill, because during his entire career his goal was the international recognition of Nagorno Karabakh. "I cannot vote in favor of this bill. I don't know, maybe the day after tomorrow we will vote in favor, therefore, I won't even take part in the voting", Zakarian said.

Afterwards the Chairman began the voting. The majority of the Committee members did not take part.

MP of the "Heritage" faction Tevan Poghosian and RPA faction MP Hamlet Harutyunian took part in the voting. Poghosyan voted in favor of the bill, while Harutyunian against. Therefore, the conclusion of the Committee was negative. The Committee did not endorse the bill. The issue of including the bill in the agenda of the plenary session will be discussed later.

News from the World

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US Ready to Assist Armenia and Azerbaijan in Peace Talks

"The Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan committed themselves to respect the ceasefire, to put in place important confidence-building measures, and to begin negotiations next month that can lead to a comprehensive settlement," said Spokesperson for the US Department of State, John Kirby, reports ArmRadio. am.

"They demonstrated what we believe to be political will to move beyond the status quo and to take steps that can benefit all the people in the region. And so as the Secretary made clear, the United States, for our part, will stand ready to assist them in that regard in whatever way they can," he said.

The Spokesman said "it was a positive meeting and a step in the right direction. And now everybody has to do the hard work of implementing the things that they committed to."

The US Ambassador to Armenia, Richard Mills said that reports on the Vienna meeting between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan are positive. According to him, the parties' commitment to the 1994-1995 ceasefire agreements is the greatest achievement.



"The agreement on the implementation of methods to investigate ceasefire violations along the line of contact is an expression of goodwill. The agreement to meet for another round of talks in June is also inspiring," the Ambassador said.

"The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the government of my country are hopeful that the meeting will produce positive results and will lead to what we all want - comprehensive settlement of the Karabakh issue," Mills said.

Chile Condemns Azeri Aggression Against the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic



The Chamber of Deputies (parliament) of Chile issued a historic resolution passed unanimously that condemns the "armed attack of Azerbaijan against the Nagorno Karabakh Republic" on Wednesday.

The resolution, introduced by Deputies Gustavo Hasbun Zelume, Issa Kort Garriga, Denise Pascal Allende, Aldo Cornejo Gonzalez and Jorge Sabag Villalobos, sets a crucial precedent, since it is the first in South America that condemns the attacks of Azerbaijan and also call Nagorno-

Karabakh a Republic.

The Chilean Chamber of Deputies "reaffirms its commitment to peace and urges the Republic of Azerbaijan for the immediate cessation of all acts of war against the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh and the strict observance of the truce signed by both countries in 1994" and "requests the Government of Chile to urge the parties to circumscribe the conflict settlement within the framework of the negotiations held in the Minsk Group, and thus avoiding a regional explosion with unpredictable consequences."

"What Azerbaijan is doing undoubtedly marks a break not only of bilateral and international relations, but a permanent violation to the world peace and has to be condemned by the world, the citizenship and especially the countries like ours, that feel some degree of brotherhood with Armenia," said Deputy Gustavo Hasbun Zelume, President of the Armenian-Chilean Group of Friendship and the one who presented the project, in an interview with Prensa Armenia agency. "This will allow Chile to take a more active role in defending the sovereignty of individual countries."

Regional News

ISIS Seizes Armenian Cemetery in Deir Ezzor

The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) launched a new assault at Deir Ezzor City on Monday that targeted the Syrian Arab Army (SAA) controlled west district near the 137th Artillery Brigade Headquarters, Al-Masdar News informs.

ISIS began the offensive on Monday by seizing the Majbal area of Deir Ezzor City after a violent battle with the Syrian Arab Army.

On Tuesday, ISIS continued their offensive by imposing full control over the Armenian cemetery that is situated along the International Highway.

With the Armenian cemetery under their control, ISIS made their way to the Panorama Checkpoint, capturing this site from the Syrian Armed Forces after a battle on Tuesday.



The terrorist group is now targeting the Panorama Roundabout in western Deir Ezzor City for the second time in seven days; if captured, the Syrian Armed Forces will face ISIS at Al-Firat University.

Armenia(ns) Need Visionary Approach

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Last year marked the centennial of the Armenian Genocide. The ceremonial and political activities evolving from that occasion proved to be far reaching, so much so that people began wondering what could be done the following year to match or surpass the 2015 commemorations.

On the occasion of the 101st anniversary, Azerbaijan perpetrated a four-day war, upon Ankara's instigation. Losses were heavy and the mood was somber in Armenia. Despite adversity, a dignified commemoration was held, at the same time broadening our horizon. The events which accompanied the commemoration this year in Armenia came to prove that as a nation, we are being emancipated from the parochial frame of mind which thus far has shaped our political thinking.

We have always assumed that our victimhood was known all over the world, therefore we are entitled to some justice. Unfortunately, political processes do not work that way. Unless we raise our pain to a universal level and share it with the world, we remain sidelined. Also, on that level, there is some tacit reciprocity; if we don't care and share other people's pain, why should they care about our issues?

The Jews, as well, are caught in the same dichotomy; some of them uphold the uniqueness of the Holocaust, demanding paramount retribution, but more illuminated leaders view the phenomenon of the Holocaust within the perspective of man's inhumanity to man and they empathize with the other victims of mass extermination.

Whatever took place in Armenia this year can be qualified as the universalization of our collective pain. The reference is, of course, to the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, the brainchild of Ruben Vardanyan, Nubar Afeyan and Vartan Gregorian. George Clooney's presentation of the prize was a colossal media event, in addition to its great humanitarian aspect.

The winner of the prize was someone far removed from Armenia. She is Marguerite Barankitse, a humanitarian who founded Maison Shalom in Burundi. As the first Aurora Prize laureate, Barankitse will receive \$100,000 and continue the cycle of giving by donation the accompanying \$1-million award to organizations that have inspired her work. She has saved almost 30,000 children and in 2008, she opened a hospital which has treated 80,000 people.

Some might think that the award money could be used for more urgent needs in Armenia. But that would be a self-serving agenda. The impact of the award has been global and eventually will benefit Armenia and Armenians in many ways. A selfless individual dedicated to saving children is something we as Armenians have seen. While tens of thousands of children were drowned by the Trabzon governor in the Black Sea, there were those children who were saved by Western volunteers and missionaries.

"Marguerite Barankitse serves as a reminder of the impact that one person can have even when encountering seemingly insurmountable persecution and injustice," said Clooney when presenting the award.

Ruben Vardanyan's thinking fell within the same parameter when he founded the Dilijan International School, making Armenia a magnet for international students.

There is another lesson to be learned from this phenomenon; the concept and the execution of globalizing our cause do not come from our traditional power structures of lay and religious leadership; they come from individuals whose purses, pulses and perceptions are synchronized.

This humanitarian endeavor will also generate political dividends.

Therefore, it behooves us to broaden our thinking in line with the project just outlined above.

We have a perennial struggle with Turkey. As our power dwindles gradually in Armenia and the diaspora, Turkey is rising to the stature of a regional power. Our struggle is somewhat of a David and Goliath if we don't align ourselves with other groups who have suffered at the hands of the Turks, especially the Greeks and Kurds.

Our political relations with the Greeks do not go too far, especially in the diaspora. Fortunately, Armenia has been cooperating with Greece on the state level.

But the Kurds are waging a life-and-death struggle currently, yet we remain mere spectators to that struggle. Granted, we have some grievances from the past as Kurdish tribes were used historically by the Turkish authorities to massacre Armenians and usurp their properties. But, many Kurds have realized the mistakes of the previous generations and individual leaders and groups have apologized publicly. They will certainly appreciate the value of their friendship with the Armenians once they attain their autonomy or independence in Iraq, Syria and Turkey.

At this time, Turkey has been conducting a ruthless massacre of the Kurds and the West has cleared its conscience by labeling the Kurds as terrorists. Besides Turkey's atrocities and battles within its territories, it has created a power upheaval in Syria by supporting ISIS and murdering Kurds in full contradiction of US policy.

"Under the pretext of combatting PKK members, Turkish authorities are bombing the infrastructures and residential neighborhoods across Sirnak and Diyarbakir," says Hoshin Ebdullah, a Kurdish lawyer and human rights activist. "Dozens of civilians have been killed, hundreds injured and tens of thousands displaced due to the brutal operations by Turkish forces in the southeastern part of the country," Ebdullah told ARA news. "More than 100,000 displaced people have been documented in two months, while many others remain in war-town towns and villages in the Kurdish region."

A man-made humanitarian crisis is being staged in view of the entire world, yet political expediency is forcing the powers-that-be to keep silent.

The Kurdish deputies in the Turkish parliament have been emboldened. One of them, a female member, delivered an impassioned speech, shouting: "You will pay for the blood you are shedding in Kurdistan!"

There were video clips featuring other Kurds taking the podium and expressing their outrage. They all mention that the Turks belong in Central Asia, yet they have taken over land from the Armenians, Assyrians Greeks and Kurds.

They are all cognizant that President Erdogan has been manipulating the legislature to lift their immunity and send them to jail.

Even if he cannot garner enough votes, no illegal step will stop him from sending the Kurdish parliamentarians to jail. In the past decades the Kurds in Turkey have been fighting for their independence. Their jailed leader, Abdullah Ocalan toned down the demands to settle for some language and cultural rights. Thus, negotiations continued between the government and Kurdish leaders. But, in July 2015, Erdogan reversed his course and began his war against the Kurds, a war that has caused 40,000 casualties since 1980.

Erdogan resorted to war because he considered the Kurdish bloc in the parliament as an impediment to his rise to absolute power. But above all, gauging developments in Iraq, where an autonomous Kurdistan came forth, and in Syria, where the Kurds have almost carved an enclave for themselves, it was not very difficult for him to foresee the domino effect that these developments could bring to Turkey. The Kurds have been fighting for the same lands that the Armenians claim as their own. Should they attain autonomy or independence, Armenians have to deal with them. What are Armenians doing today when the Kurds are in dire need of their support?

Armenians in large part have become apolitical. Otherwise, they would have sent volunteers. But above all, the Kurds need political support to have their voices heard. It would be legitimate to coordinate our political actions with the Kurds around the world, so that in addition to a formal apology we may expect some territorial settlements from them. Being on the land, they have already won 90 percent of the argument. It is time for visionary and creative politics for the Armenians.

Nagorno-Karabakh And The Fate Of Azerbaijan's Hydrocarbon Transport Pipelines

By David Davidian



One need only look at a map of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh to see how close the recent fighting is to the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil and the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum (BTE, also known as the South Caucasus Pipeline) pipelines. A downhill stretch of about 40 km separates the current frontline from these pipelines, making them extremely vulnerable to attack. Numerous articles in the Armenian press and social media report that Azerbaijan is emptying villages of its residents along a track from the towns past the farthest northeast border of Nagorno-Karabakh towards Yevlakh (see top and upper right on the map).

These pipelines are capable of transporting over a million barrels per day of oil and almost 9 billion cubic meters of gas per year from Azerbaijan's Caspian hydrocarbon fields. They start at Baku and are laid across Azerbaijan from southeasterly to its northwest. After passing the Georgian border, the BTC pipeline passes near the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, continuing on to the Turkish Mediterranean coast. The BTE line goes to Erzurum, Turkey. A third, an updated Soviet-era pipeline, known as the Baku-Supsa pipeline, parallels these other two in Azerbaijan, diverging and passing north of Tbilisi and terminating at the Georgian Black Sea port at Supsa. Under construction is the Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (expected operation in 2018). BP and its partners alone invested more than \$50 billion in Azerbaijani energy projects and infrastructure.

Rumors continue to circulate in Armenia that these pipelines can and will be seriously damaged if the conflict intensifies beyond early April's Four-Day war between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh. While the cut-off of these hydrocarbon highways would not seriously impact world energy supplies, they would affect the coffers of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR), reduce the gas supply to Georgia by at least 90%, and to a lesser degree (10%) Turkey. However, half of Israel's crude is purchased from Azerbaijan, forcing it to secure spot contracts to make-up for the loss if Azerbaijani pipelines were destroyed.

The vast majority of Azerbaijan's economy is hydrocarbon based and a leading characteristic of such economies is the low priority given to diversification, especially in the post-Soviet space. Even though Azerbaijan has already passed peak oil and today's crude is less than one third its high market value of nearly \$150/bbl, Azerbaijan's leadership and oligarchs understand the impact of losing revenue that cannot be replaced if this pipeline infrastructure is severely damaged. This is perhaps one reason why Azerbaijani officials have stated they would rather engage in a battle of attrition against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh than an all-out attack. This fact was noted during a December 5, 2014 conference at the Carnegie Center in Moscow by Senior Associate Thomas De Waal.

Vladimir Grigoryan: "Armenians Are The Priceless Diamond On The Most Precious Ring In The World"

By Karine Avagyan

On 17-21 May, at the initiative of repatriate painter Vartkes Khakhamian and with the support of the RA Ministry of Diaspora, the Armenian Center for Contemporary Experimental Art opened the 2nd Art-Expo-2016 international exhibition, which has gathered 40 artists from 18 countries around the world. My interlocutor was Vladimir Grigoryan from the Kazakh city of Alma Ata. He is participating in the exhibition and believes such exhibitions serve as the best platform for Diaspora Armenian artists to communicate, establish contacts and, in some way, exchange experiences.

"Most Diaspora Armenian artists don't know each other and might never see each other or communicate with each other, if such events are not organized, and in Armenia, for that matter. I welcome Khakhamian's initiative and express my gratitude to him and the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia. I have come from Kazakhstan. I was born in Baku, but my roots trace back to Nagorno-Karabakh. I am participating in the exhibition for the first time and have presented four paintings, including three paintings by my wife, painter Elena Grigoryan and four photo collages by my daughter. My family and I are participating in this international exhibition. The opening was held on May 17 and was attended by notable artists and mass media representatives. I attach great importance to the presence of the Minister of Diaspora and the inspiring speech that she gave during the opening ceremony. It is a pain to see that local artists and Diaspora Armenian artists don't know each other well. I think this exhibition will help strengthen that relationship. We will exchange addresses, booklets, business cards and phone numbers. My wife and I often travel to different countries and participate in exhibitions, particularly in Europe, but this is the first time we are participating in an exhibition in Armenia, and I am very happy for and proud of that. It is very symbolic. In August 2016, my family and I will be participating in the exhibition of ceramic works to be held in Italy. The topic of my works is man, nature and the Creator of these marvels. I have many works, but they are scattered across the globe.



They are either sold, or part of private collections. I have also made donations. I love all my works, but I set aside my latest work. Over the past few years, I have been working with a totally different method. I come up with an idea that I bear within me, just like a pregnant woman bears her child for months. I continue to think about an idea that I still haven't turned into a reality. I talk to myself about that, think about it and then transfer it to the canvas. Thus, I don't make sketches like I used to. I immediately transfer the image to the canvas. God willing, I will open our family exhibition in Armenia. It is nice to be in Yerevan, the colors of which are the colors of a rainbow, as well as walk on Northern Avenue. Armenians serve as the best type of people who always create, love their families and are conventional. I praise Armenians and their talent. I love the art of Martiros Saryan and Minas Avetisyan and traditional Armenian architecture mixed with the new. Out of the world greats, I have loved the works of Rembrandt since my younger years. The works of Mark Shagal, Matis and Picasso are close to my heart. Overall, I love the masterpieces of painters and sculptors of the early period of the Renaissance.

...I have many dreams, one of which is to speak in pure and literate Armenian. I only know the dialect of Nagorno-Karabakh that my grandparents would speak at home. I also have wishes for Armenians, Armenia and Artsakh. Armenians should live and persist. We Armenians don't have the right to be in despair or become weak. Armenians are the priceless diamond on the most precious ring in the world.

Hayernaysor.am

Nagorno-Karabakh And The Fate Of Azerbaijan's Hydrocarbon Transport Pipelines

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However, political and economic conditions have changed since the end of 2014 and the chance of serious damage to these pipelines has been raised. The average wage in Azerbaijan has just dropped below that of Armenia because Azerbaijan's economic infrastructure is mainly indexed-off of hydrocarbons. Budgets have been lowered, and projects slowed or abandoned. Baku has issues paying Moscow for its heavy weaponry, noted in the Russian press. A policy that was once predicated on not seriously breaching the 1994 cease-fire between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan, keeping the pipelines full above all else, appears to have been compromised. The latest fighting, known as the "4-Day War" was not a miscalculation or an accident waiting to happen, but rather a planned offensive across the eastern front streaking from close proximity to these pipelines in the north to nearly the Iranian border to the south. Initially, Azerbaijan captured tiny swatches of land in no-man's land, several hundred square meters here and there, supported by hi technology weaponry. The result: basically a military draw that took the lives of many hundreds and wounded perhaps thousands.

A negotiated settlement between the warring parties, taking into account realities on the ground, will allow the residents of Nagorno-Karabakh to live in peace and create regional stability ensuring unfettered transport of energy reserves to waiting markets.

*David Davidian is an Adjunct Lecturer at the American University of Armenia. He has spent over a decade in technical intelligence analysis at major high technology firms.

Eurasia Review

Press Release

James Najarian Wins 6th Annual Frost Farm Prize for Poetry



The Trustees of the Robert Frost Farm in Derry, N.H., and the Hyla Brook Poets announced that the winner of the 6th Annual Frost Farm Prize for metrical poetry is James Najarian of Auburndale, Mass., for his blank verse poem, "The Dark Ages." The prize was judged by David J. Rothman, Director of Western State Colorado University's Graduate Program in Creative Writing. Najarian receives \$1,000, and publication in The Evansville Review. He will also be a featured reader at the Hyla Brook Reading Series at the Robert Frost Farm in Derry, on Fri., June 17, at 7 p.m. The reading kicks off the second annual Frost Farm Poetry Conference (June 17-19).

"The Dark Ages' participates in what has become, over the last several decades, a recognizable sub-genre of the elegy, even if it is an elegy of death-in-life: the Alzheimer's poem. This poem differs from all others on this theme I have ever read, however, in its successful use of an extended metaphor, in which the poet implicitly compares the mother's loss of memory to the aftermath of the Roman departure from Britain. The poem's six stanzas of blank verse, each nine lines long, alternate starkly between painfully clear-eyed description of

the mother's decline, and comparably evocative reimagining of the advent of 'the dark ages,' with the loss of wine and oil, the abandonment of towns, the vanishing of nails and so on," said Rothman about Najarian's poem, adding, "The result of such a strategy might have seemed predictable, but with an unsentimental eloquence and restraint that only make the unstated pain and loss that much more powerful, the poet never rhetorically asserts the connection between the alternating sections, but simply lets them stand and resonate with each other until the personal and the historical merge in ways that illuminate both. This is compelling, masterful work, not only technically adroit but also thematically fierce and focused, and emotionally profound: an intense yet also measured depiction of destruction and grief."

Rothman went on, "With more than 600 entries, this year's submissions to the Frost Farm Prize for Metrical Poetry presented a tremendous range of subjects, themes, tones, styles and techniques. After spending many hours with them, my overwhelming impression is that hundreds upon hundreds of poets continue to care about craft."

Najarian grew up on a goat farm near Kempton, Pennsylvania. He teaches nineteenth-century poetry and prose at Boston College, where he directs the Ph.D. program in English and edits the scholarly journal Religion and the Arts. His poetry has been published in West Branch, Christianity and Literature, Tar River Poetry, Southern Poetry Review, The Literary Imagination, and other journals. He also published a scholarly monograph, Victorian Keats, with Palgrave Macmillan. His manuscript of poems, An Introduction to the Devout Life, has made finalist several times at volume contests, and is seeking a publisher.

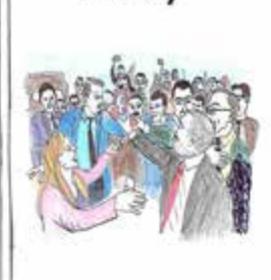
The Price of Progress

Civil Rights Movement in the USA



Black civil rights activist Rosa Parks was arrested in Alabama, 1955, for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger.

Civil Rights Movement in Turkey



Armenian civil rights activist Garo Paylan was slandered and assaulted in Turkish Parliament, 2016, for free speech advocacy.

Price paid by her people:
Vilification; imprisonments; beatings; assassinations.

Price paid by his people:
Vilification; imprisonments; beatings; assassinations.

Progress made:
Achieving the Black vote; integrated schools and neighborhoods; illumination of minds.

Progress made:

Lorraine Kaufman © 2016

**The truth will set you free ...
if it doesn't kill you first !**

Diaspora News

Beirut

Antonine University Of Lebanon Hosts Armenia Day



On May 20, the Antonine University of Lebanon hosted a day devoted to Armenia, as reported the press service of the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Before the event, Patriarchal Vicar of Catholic Armenians, Primate of the Beirut Diocese, Bishop Kevork Asadourian served a Holy Mass in the church located near the University.

Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia Levon Mkrtychyan addressed the participants of the event and all Armenians of Lebanon with a video message. The event included screenings of videos devoted to Armenia, the Armenian Church, Armenian

culture, as well as Armenians internationally recognized in various spheres. Among the speakers were President of Haigazian University Paul Haytostian and Member of the Parliament of Lebanon Hagop Pakradouni.

In his closing speech, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Lebanon Samvel Mkrtychyan expressed gratitude to the organizers and stressed the importance of holding such events, which serve as a good opportunity to present Armenia and the Armenian people. The Ambassador touched upon the history of the Armenian people, the struggle or preservation of the Armenian identity, as well as the struggle for Artsakh and the successes that the modern-day, independent Armenia has achieved. Ambassador Mkrtychyan voiced hope that such events would become ongoing. He also touched upon the role of the Armenian community of Lebanon, its contributions to the country's politics, society and culture, as well as the actions being taken to preserve the national identity.

At the end, the Ambassador toured the pavilions set up within the premises of the University and was introduced to the samples of traditional embroidery.

Bratislava

Event Dedicated to The 25th Anniversary Of Independence Of The Republic Of Armenia Held In Bratislava

On May 18, the hall of the Slovak Philharmonic of Bratislava, the capital of the Republic of Slovakia, hosted a classical music concert that was dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Armenia and featured performances by the singers of the National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after Alexander Spendaryan.

As reported the press service of the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the event was organized through the combined efforts of the Ministries of Culture of Armenia and Slovakia, the Embassies of the Republic of Armenia in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the Slovak Philharmonic and Slovak-Armenian Bagrat Hakobyan. Among the attendees were Slovakia's Minister of Education, Culture and Sport, the Deputy Ministers of Culture, Deputies of the National Council of Slovakia, high-ranking government officials and officials of the President's apparatus, circles of Slovak musicians, as well as several representatives of the diplomatic corps and the local Armenian community. In his opening remarks, RA Ambassador to the Czech Republic and Slovakia Tigran Seyranyan greeted the attendees, briefly presented the past 25 years of Armenia's independence and touched upon the aggression that Azerbaijan recently unleashed against Nagorno-Karabakh and the barbaric acts that it perpetrated. In his speech, Ambassador Seyranyan praised the expanding bilateral relations between Armenia and Slovakia. The Ambassador also greeted and expressed gratitude to former Prime Minister of Slovakia Jan Charnagorsky, former chairmen of



the National Council Frantisek Mikolsko and Pavel Hrusovsky, whose efforts helped the Parliament of the Republic of Slovakia adopted the resolution on recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide in 2004.

The concert featured performances of the operas of Verdi, Wagner, Tchaikovsky, Harutyunyan, Chukhajyan and Leonkavallo, as well as the works of Komitas, Sayat Nova and Rachmaninoff by singers Georgy Arakelov, Greta Bagiyanyan, winner of international vocal competitions Lilit Hakobyan and accompanier, soloist of the National Philharmonic Orchestra and recipient of awards at international competitions Levon Javadyan.

Armenian Genocide 100 + 1

German Resolution on Armenian Genocide Expected to Sour Turkey Relationships



Turkey has long opposed the international recognition of the Armenian genocide and the German parliament's plans to finally grant it could spell trouble for Berlin's relations with Ankara. EurActiv's partner Der Tagesspiegel reports.

In addition to the other factors testing Berlin-Ankara relations, namely visa liberalisation and the refugee agreement, the issue of the Armenian genocide is exacerbating the situation.

Turkish observers predict a strong reaction from Ankara if the Bundestag votes as expected and decides to formally recognise the expulsion and murder of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire as genocide.

Turkish former Minister of EU Affairs Beril Dedeoğlu told EurActiv's partner Der Tagesspiegel that she expects Chancellor Angela Merkel to be weakened politically when it comes to dealing with Turkey as a result.

Turkey has long used diplomatic pressure to hold back the calls for the Armenian genocide, which took place during the First World War, to be internationally recognised.

Ankara has instead argued that the death of several hundred thousand members of the Armenian and other non-Muslim minorities between 1915 and 1917 was a tragedy, but did not constitute genocide. Armenian and the majority of international researchers call the event genocide and more than 20 countries formally recognise it as such.

Armenian Genocide 100 + 1

Cetinoglu Lists Territories Of Armenians' Properties In Turkey That Need To Be Returned To The Rightful Inheritors

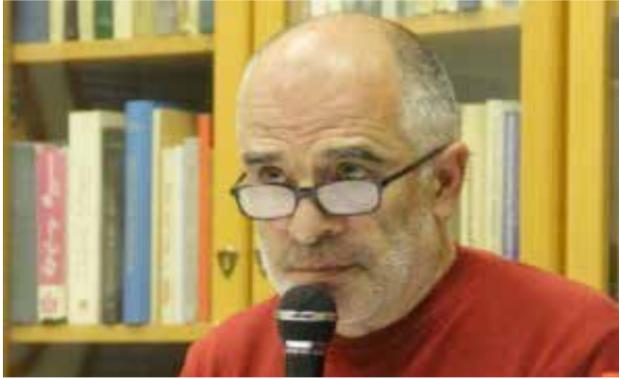
By Araks Kasyan

It is hard to expect confrontation from Turkey, or from a society that has created its entire world by stealing from a neighbor's wife, daughter, jobs and fields. It is very hard to overcome the moral and psychological situation that was created in 1915. This is what well-known Turkish intellectual Sait Cetinoglu said as he viewed the possibility of Turkey's recognition of the Armenian Genocide during an interview with "Armenpress".

He emphasized the fact that the Armenian Genocide was perpetrated through the cooperation between a political party, the army and the people and that is why we are dealing with the issue of collective responsibility. "Besides the fact that the Turks gained material profit from the Genocide, they also recognized the culprits of the crime as leaders, and this is another matter of responsibility. From this perspective, recognition of the Armenian Genocide will imply elimination of the paradigm for the establishment of the country," Cetinoglu stated.

He also touched upon the fact that, in our days, Turkey is perpetrating genocide outside of its borders. "The help and support that Turkey is providing to ISIS can be viewed as an action of perpetrating genocide outside of its borders since people who were somehow saved from genocide are now being killed as a result of that action. We can also view the attack on Nagorno-Karabakh from this perspective. Kessab, Malula, Khabur, Ninova, Sinjar...All the events that happened in these sites and the schism of Syria are the other side of the genocide that continues to this day. Turkey is providing the opportunity to move the genocide to the other side of the border. Shutting an eye on and supporting the actions of ISIS poses a danger to the future of Christians, Yazidis and those with ancient Muslim beliefs in the Near East. The actions being taken against them fully correspond to the provisions stated in the United Nations Genocide Convention," the intellectual stated.

Talking about Turkey's recognition of the Armenian Genocide, Cetinoglu said he didn't envision that in the near future. "As long as the image of murderer Gabash Ali (Gabash Ali axed the Armenians and Pontiac Greeks of Amasia) still appears in the former Armenian district of Amasia that is currently the Square of Sultan Selim, it is impossible to see Turkey's recognition of the Armenian Genocide in the near future. However, from the point where mankind has reached, it is also impossible to continue to deny. Sooner or later, the genocide will be recognized and the issue of reparations will be discussed," Cetinoglu emphasized, attaching importance to the support of the international



community in this regard. Cetinoglu stated specific steps that can help make reparations. "There is a lot of work to do before reparations. Apology, acknowledge of the crime of genocide, relief from shame and acknowledgement of collective responsibility for genocide are the major steps that will lead to restoration. From this perspective, it is extremely important for members of families to try to understand what happened in 1915. As a part of the collective responsibility, each person should ask himself what his ancestor was doing in 1915. As collective responsibility for genocide, everyone must consider it his duty to apologize. Under the leadership of the state, each person must apologize and place a statute called "Never Again" in memory of the victims. The names of people associated with the genocide must be wiped from schools, streets, avenues and other public places. Symbolic buildings, the office of the modern-day Prime Minister (pertaining to the Kasabyans), the palace of Ataturk in Trabzon (considered the property of the Kabayaniss), the Museum of Ataturk of Shishli (considered the property of the Spartalyans), the building of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (the building pertained to the Hanchyans) and other structures need to be returned to the rightful inheritors...Political parties can express the desire to clarify under which conditions the officials having taken control over others' properties through genocide will return the properties to the rightful owners. The liberal and socialist political parties should primarily express such a desire.

As for individuals, it is important for intellectuals to take the lead. Forcefully Islamized women and children need to be identified and announced. The states having reached agreements on exchange of people without taking into consideration people's desires need to apologize. Archives and documents need to be available for researchers. The right to citizenship and residency must be granted to the victims of the Armenian Genocide and the representatives of the third generation of the expelled who express such desire. Only after this will it be possible to start working on creating conditions for reparations," he concluded.

Erdogan's Spokesman: "Neither Armenia Nor Any Other Country Responded To The Call To Create A Joint Historical Commission"



During a press conference, Ibrahim Kalin, press speaker of Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, talked about several major items on the agenda and touched upon the draft resolution on Armenian Genocide recognition included in the agenda of the German Bundestag.

According to Turkey's pro-government Sabah newspaper, Erdogan's spokesman said the German Bundestag would be holding a vote on the draft resolution on the Armenian Genocide on 2 June and that Turkey would be able to examine it in detail when the text of the resolution was available.

"We thought we had solved the April 24 issue, but the claims about the Armenian Genocide are being introduced in the agenda once again. Genocide is a very serious claim. To state claims without evidence means to speculate the issue," Kalin said, emphasizing the fact that Turkey has taken steps that no other country would take.

According to the presidential spokesman, one of those steps was the call to create a joint historical commission, to which neither Armenia nor any other country responded.

"Well, what are they afraid of? Are they afraid of history or the facts? We are still making this call," Kalin declared, noting that a comprehensive historical examination would shed light on that era and would be a major achievement for both the Turks and the Armenians.

Two Italian City Councils Recognize Armenian Genocide

Italian Canosa City Council has unanimously recognized the Armenian Genocide, MFA Armenia informed. The press release of the Ministry reads as follows, "Earlier, on April 30, Civita Castellana City Council

had unanimously recognized the Armenian Genocide. Overall, 107 Councils of Italian local authorities have recognized and expressed solidarity with the Armenian people on provincial and city level".



Arts & Society

Cafesjian Center for the Arts Announces Opening of the Relief 'Sasuntsi Davit'

The Cafesjian Center for the Arts (CCA) announces the opening of the relief "Sasuntsi Davit" by sculptor Artashes Hovsepian, an integral part of the architectural heritage of the Cascade complex, reports ArmRadio.



In the 1980s, when the Cascade was being constructed, architect Jim Torosyan (1926-

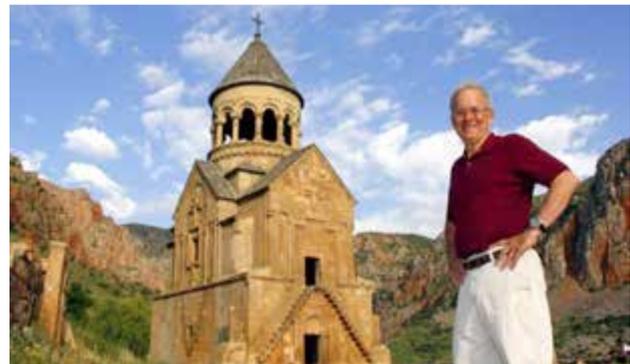
2014) invited the sculptor Artashes Hovsepian to design one of the galleries in the complex. The artist worked for four years in the hall which is now called the Sasuntsi Davit Gallery. The multi-figure composition, depicting more than thirty episodes from the Armenian epos, is the sculptural version of the famous graphic work (Sasuntsi Davit, 1922) by the renowned Armenian artist Hakob Kojoyan (1883-1959). Following the destructive earthquake of 1988 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, this tufa relief remains unfinished, yet it conveys in stone a monumental resonance inherent in Kojoyan's original work as interpreted by the sculptor Hovsepian.

The Cafesjian Center for the Arts, in keeping with its mission, works not only to present the best of Armenian and international fine art, but also to preserve and celebrate the artistic and architectural heritage of the Cascade complex.

"By presenting the Sasuntsi Davit relief, the Center celebrates a major work in the extraordinary career of Hovsepian while noting his 85th birthday. This important work, related to Armenia's story as a nation, will remain available for public viewing without an admission charge. This year is marked by the 25th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia and the character of Sasuntsi Davit has always been and remains a source of inspiration and strength for the Armenian people. In this context, the presentation of the Sasuntsi Davit relief reminds us of Armenia's endurance as a civilization," stated Vahagn Marabian, the Acting Executive Director of the Cafesjian Center for the Arts.

The private preview of the relief Sasuntsi Davit will take place on May 18. The public opening of the relief will take place on May 21, 2016 as part of the Museum Night annual event.

AGBU-Sponsored Television Special on Armenia Nominated for Emmy Award



On March 24, the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS) announced that Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope's one-hour special "Digging into the Future-Armenia" received an Emmy nomination for outstanding special class directing. The television special was sponsored by AGBU and the Kazanjian Foundation.

"We are very proud to have been able to contribute to this project and grateful to the Travelscope team for having raised more awareness about the cultural history of the Armenian people," said Lara Messerlian, AGBU communications consultant, who represented the organization at the 43rd Annual Daytime Entertainment Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on May 1.

Digging into the Future, a new archeology series from the Emmy-award winning producers of Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope merges archeology's science and humanity into an hour-long educational and cultural adventure that spans the globe from the Americas to Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Rosendo uses a people's cultural artifacts as clues, joining archeologists from UCLA's Cotsen Institute on worldwide explorations.

In his Armenia special, first premiered in 2015, Joseph criss-crosses Armenia to ancient sites where some of the world's oldest artifacts have been discovered. Every site offers the viewers insights into how the Armenians of the distant and near past lived. From roadside fruit stands to riverside wine stalls and bustling markets, Joseph is welcomed into local homes to witness traditional artisans at work and join in religious and communal celebrations that inspire, enlighten and reveal the Armenian

heart and soul. "I am thrilled that our productions have once again received recognition from the Television Academy," said Joseph Rosendo. "Our Travelscope team works long and hard to create the best television possible for our viewers. We are thankful for the opportunity provided for us by American Public Television (APT) and PBS. It is particularly gratifying that Digging into the Future, our archaeology-themed special on Armenia, was recognized. The Emmy nomination for "Digging," as well as Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope, reinforces our belief that when you are dedicated to quality, it is evident in whatever you attempt." The production team is interested in filming more episodes in Armenia and is looking for sponsors and plan to develop the show into a series. For more information on "Digging Into the Future," please visit <http://www.travelscope.net/schedule/digging-into-the-future>

Getty Museum to Present on Armenian Manuscript Illumination at Brand Library

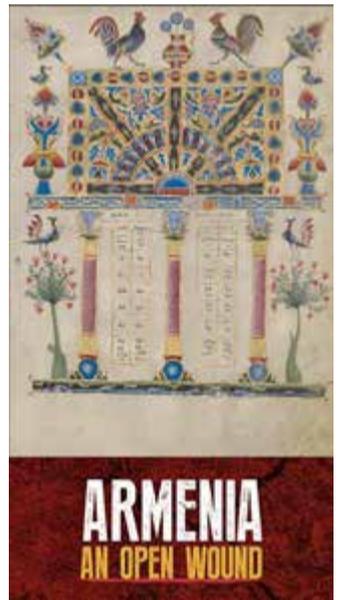
The Armenian American Museum and Ararat-Eskijian Museum will co-host "Curator in the Spotlight: Illuminating the Armenian Middle Ages" at the Brand Library & Art Center at 7pm on Thursday, May 26. The event will present a lecture by Dr. Elizabeth Morrison, Senior Curator of Manuscripts at the J. Paul Getty Museum.

Dr. Elizabeth Morrison will discuss the fascinating world of medieval Armenian manuscript illumination, which is admired across the world for its delicacy, vibrancy and sheer beauty. The luminous colors and complex figures of these precious relics made entirely by hand delight the eye and engage the senses. In addition to giving an overview of the illumination tradition, Dr. Morrison will focus on the work of T'oros Roslin, the most celebrated Armenian artist of the Middle Ages, whose innovations were integral to the conception of the painted page for centuries to come.

Dr. Elizabeth Morrison received her Ph.D. in the History of Art from Cornell University and began work at the Getty in 1996. She has curated numerous exhibitions and published articles on both Flemish and French illumination. She has served on the Board of Directors of the International Center of Medieval Art and is currently a counselor for the Medieval Academy of America.

This program is one in a series taking place in conjunction with "Armenia: An Open Wound" an exhibition presented by The City of Glendale and the Library, Arts & Culture Department in partnership with the Armenian American Museum and curated by the Museo Memoria y Tolerancia [Museum of Memory & Tolerance] in Mexico City. The exhibit will be on view at the Brand Library Art Galleries through June 11, 2016 during the library's regular hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12-8pm, Wednesday 12-6pm, and Friday and Saturday, 10am-5pm. Docent-led tours are available every Tuesday, 6:30 PM and Saturday, 10:30 AM on a walk-in basis. All events are free and open to the public.

For more information about the "Armenia: An Open Wound" exhibition and featured programs, please visit www.ArmenianAmericanMuseum.org or contact the Brand Library: (818) 548-2051



First Armenian Woman Reaches Top Of Everest



On Friday, May 20, at 8:00 am Nepal time, Irena Kharazova became the first Armenian woman to conquer Mount Everest, Mountain Tourism and Rock-Climbing Federation of Armenia reports.

Kharazova climbed to the highest point on the Earth as a member of a Russian team headed by Alexandra Abramova, who summited Mount Everest for the seventh time.

According to Kharazova, the expedition to Everest can't be compared with any of her previous trips either in terms of the duration or the psychological and physical difficulty.

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