

PG
03

► Article
 The (Sham) Case Against Sevan Nisanyan

PG
05

► Centenary of the Armenian Genocide
 Official Opening of 'Genocide after the Genocide' Exhibition Held in the European Parliament

PG
07

► Arts & Society
 "Ararat Through the Eyes of an Armenian" Photo Exhibition

News from Armenia

Hayastan All-Armenian Fund turns 24



The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund celebrated the 24th anniversary of its establishment last week.

Ever since 1992, the organization has mobilized the worldwide Armenian community. By functioning as a catalyst for the Armenian people's inexhaustible dedication to the strengthening of its homeland, it has built roads, water networks, schools, and hospitals, thereby reasserting our nation's inalienable right to thrive and create on its own land. Today the magnificent achievements of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund continue to be a testament to national unity. The breathtaking tapestry of revitalized villages and cities throughout Armenia and Artsakh is our shared accomplishment, one which we will pass on to our children.

"With the goal of consolidating the resources and capabilities of the worldwide Armenian community for the development and strengthening of Armenian statehood, I have resolved to establish the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund."

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC of ARMENIA
 Yerevan, March 3, 1992**

Page 02 ►►

Turkish National Intelligence Service Considers Being Armenian a Disuniting Ethnic Activity

dönem içinde ivme kazanması beklenmekle birlikte yaklaşık 250 aday aday içerisinde ROJ TV'nin adaylık hakkını elde edemeyeceği düşünülmektedir.

2. DİĞER ETNİK BÖLÜCÜ FAALİYETLER

2.1. ERMENİLİK

Yurtiçi Önemli Gelişmeler

Agos Gazetesi önünde 19/01/2007'de uğradığı silahlı saldırıda hayatını kaybeden Agos Gazetesi Genel Yayın Yönetmeni Hrant DİNK'in, cinayet davasının, on yedinci duruşması, 28/03/2011'de, İstanbul 14. Ağır Ceza Mahkemesi'nde görülmüştür. Söz konusu duruşmada; "tutuklu sanıklar Erhan TUNCEL ve Yasin HAYAL'in tahliye olması halinde koruma tedbirlerinin yetersiz kalacağından hareketle tutukluluk hallerinin devamına ve sonraki duruşmanın 30/05/2011'e ertelenmesine" karar verilmiştir.

Bu arada, Avrupa İnsan Hakları Mahkemesi (AİHM)'nin, 14/09/2010'da, Hrant DİNK'in yaşam hakkını ve ifade özgürlüğünü ihlal ettiği ve cinayetin ardından etkin soruşturma yürütmediği gerekçesiyle, Türkiye'yi mahkum

In the new accusatory report on the murder of Hrant Dink, an attached document has been found, stating that Turkey's National Intelligence Service is following the Armenian community of Turkey under the sub-title "disuniting ethnic activity", writes News.am.

As reports Istanbul's Armenian Agos Weekly, from March 1-30, 2011, Turkey's National Intelligence Service (MIT) has sent "employment record booklets" connected with the Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians and several organizations to all police divisions and intelligence departments of the country. The "Being Armenian" section is under the "Disuniting Ethnic Activity" sub-title in the mentioned booklet.

The mentioned booklet/document has been attached to the new accusatory report on the case of the murder of Hrant Dink.

News from the World

International Community Should Financially Support Armenia Receiving Asylum Seekers-The Huffington Post

The Syrian refugee crisis has been the subject of widespread debate around the world and in particular in Europe. While European countries agree on promoting European principles and values, the level of solidarity action diverges drastically from country to country, and

the subject is often transformed into cold questions of refugee quotas and political bargains. In the meantime, unbeknownst to many, Armenia, a country of the size of the state of Maryland, with its 3 million inhabitants, has been welcoming refugees flying from war and

persecution. In fact, according to the Economist, Armenia has welcomed the third largest number of Syrian refugees as a proportion of total population.

Page 02 ►►

News from Armenia

Page 01 ▶▶

Armenia to Introduce New Budget Airline in April



A new Armenian airline, Armenia, will conduct regular flights to Europe, CIS countries and some parts of Asia, at prices starting from \$49, one of the company's shareholders, told panarmenian.net citing Sputnik Armenia.

According to Tamaz Gaiashvili, the company will operate flights at affordable and reasonable prices.

Gaiashvili further refuted rumors suggesting that Armenia's Prime Minister Hovig Arahamian is among the shareholders of the new company. According to him, no government official is involved with the company.

As Gaiashvili noted, the Armenian authorities are interested in supporting the development of the country's aviation.

General Manager of the company Robert Hovhannisian said, in turn, that the first flight will be carried out on a Boeing 737-700 in mid-April.

The 350-member airline staff is set to include several employees of the Georgian air company Airzena, while the remaining personnel will be comprised of local experts. The newly created company will exploit the aircraft, currently in service by the Georgian carrier.

Fragile States Index: Armenia More Stable Than All of its Neighbour

The Fund for Peace eleventh annual Fragile States Index (FSI) focuses on the indicators of risk and is based on thousands of articles and reports that are processed from electronically available sources.

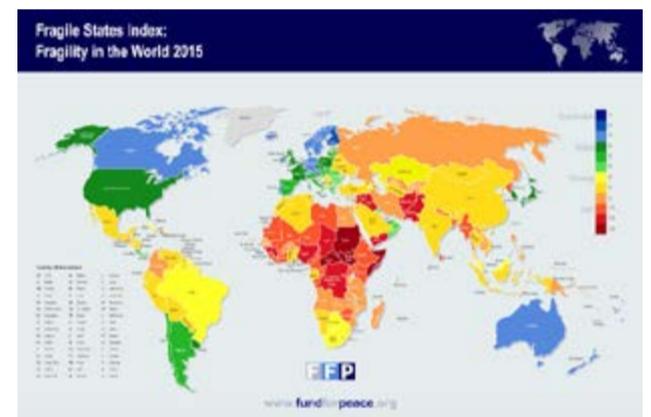
In the 2015 index, Armenia fell into the Low Warning category and is ranked 108 out of 178 countries with Finland in the last place and standing alone in the Very Sustainable category. Armenia's neighbors Georgia, Azerbaijan and Turkey were deemed more of a threat to world peace and were respectively numbered 70, 80 and 90, all in the Warning category. Iran, at 44th place is considered a High Warning, "Asbarez" reports.

The index maps the countries, which are the greatest

threat to global stability based on several categories, including the state's legitimacy, security apparatus, uneven development, economic decline and the number of refugees fleeing the country.

However, the authors added: "Between 2014 and 2015, 108 countries improved by more than 0.2 points, while only half as many (52) worsened by greater than 0.2 points.

"In the past decade, there has been an overall improvement worldwide, where roughly the same ratio of countries are better off today than they were ten years ago." Armenia is one of the 108 countries, which improved their ratings. In 2014, Armenia was at the 104th place and was given a High Warning.



17 Earthquakes Hit Armenia within a few Hours

The Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) of Armenia received information from the MES "Survey for Seismic Protection" Agency, on Friday at 2:09pm.

Accordingly, the Agency seismological network

registered, on the same day between 11:03am and 1:24pm Armenia Standard Time, seventeen minor earthquakes, with magnitudes ranging from 0.5 to 1.4, 16 km southwest of Gavar town in Gegharkunik Province

of the country.

The hypocenter of these tremors was 10km beneath the surface.

They measured a magnitude of 1 to 2 at the epicenter.

News from the World

Page 01 ▶▶

International Community Should Financially Support Armenia Receiving Asylum Seekers-The Huffington Post



"Armenpress" reports, Luna Atamian and Haygaram Nahabedian touched upon this issue The Huffington Post's blog.

Since the start of the conflict, 17,000 Syrians have migrated to

Armenia, according to UNHCR. "The Syrian refugee exodus has reminded Armenians of their own tragic history which explains the moral and historic duty of the country to open its doors and offer a safe place to those fleeing war and persecution.

The majority of these are descendants of Armenians who escaped the Genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Turks in 1915, and were given refuge in Syria. Other minorities such as the Yazidis and the Assyrians have also found refuge in Armenia", the authors mention. The Armenian Government is working to address the urgent humanitarian needs by offering a wide range of emergency assistance and integration projects. To name a few, the government offers free health insurance as well as scholarships, has put into place a

simplified naturalization and accelerated asylum procedure and has facilitated residence permits. Moreover, through the "adopt-a-family" project, refugees are matched with Armenian host families who help them integrate into the social, legal and cultural life of Armenia. To further integrate migrants, the Armenian government established a micro-credit scheme in collaboration with UNHCR to help refugees create startups. The authors of the article document that unlike Lebanon, Turkey or Jordan, Armenia has not received any financial assistance needed to pursue its humanitarian efforts. They state that the international community must provide Armenia with financial assistance in order to be able to receive and integrate refugees.

Karabakh's Stepanakert and Brazil's Franco da Rocha Become Twin Cities

The City Council of the Brazilian city of Franco da Rocha unanimously adopted a decision on declaring Stepanakert and Franco da Rocha twin cities, with the aim of establishing friendly relations between them.

The decision says this will serve as a basis for the implementation of various programs and agreements, which will promote the establishment of cooperation between the cities in social, economic, and cultural spheres.

The decision also provides for an exchange of information

between the cities in the spheres of culture, tourism and sports.

The draft decision was introduced by member of the City Council Antonio Lopes da Silva and endorsed by Mayor Francisco Daniel Celeguim de Moraes.

Municipality of Franco da Rocha is situated in the State of Sao Paulo and has a population of about 145.000.



Page 05 ▶▶

The (Sham) Case Against Sevan Nisanyan

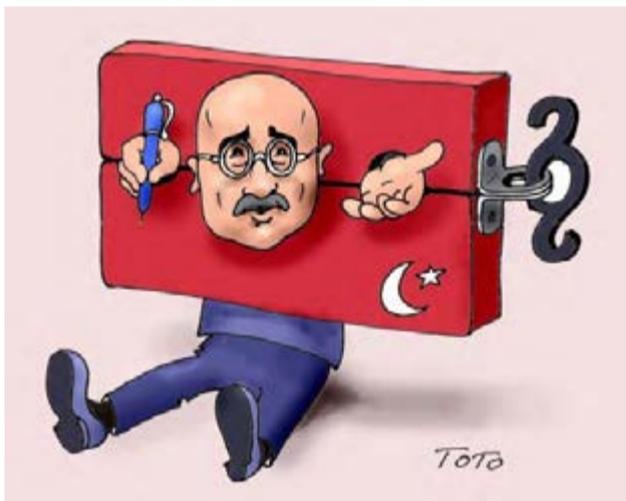
By Edmond Y. Azadian

Jurisprudence in Turkey has not progressed much since the days of the Ottoman Sultans. Armenian literature has a lesser known satirist, called Arantzar who ridiculed the Turkish laws of his day. In one of his stories an Armenian is convicted by a Turkish court for having insulted the beard of a mullah (very much like Sevan Nisanyan's insult of the Prophet). But upon appeal, the merciful judge acquits the offender on the basis of the fact that the very number of hairs on the mullah's beard, which were subject of the offense, had already fallen during the morning after a vigorous combing.

We wish that Nisanyan's case could have a similar outcome.

Turkey currently is a candidate for membership in the European Union, upon whose preconditions the Erdogan government has been introducing some improvements in his country's laws, especially in the area of human rights and freedom of speech, never mind the continuing carnage of Kurds and attack on the free press with the incarceration of increasing numbers of journalists.

Turkish national Dogu Perinçek insults the Armenian Genocide in Switzerland and it is absolved by the European Court of Human Rights, supposedly in defense of the offender's right to free speech, yet the same country, clamoring for the rights of Mr. Perinçek, sentences an Armenian intellectual, Sevan Nisanyan, to 25 years of incarceration under trumped-up charges for speaking the truth about Turkish history. People could accept warped legal logic from a country like Turkey, but it is unexpected for a European court to emulate Turkish thinking.



Incidentally, there was a worldwide outcry when Turkish journalists, including the editor of Cumhuriyet, were jailed, while no similar movement has taken place in the two years since the unjust arrest of Nisanyan.

People of extraordinary talents are often colorful and they tend to challenge the social, moral and political norms of the day. In the process, they carve out new ways of thinking which later, in their turn, become norms in society, meanwhile sacrificing their lives. Nisanyan fits the mold of those social rebels and pioneers (such as Jesus Christ, Joan of Arc, Giordano Bruno, Paradjanov, etc.); unfortunately, he lives in the wrong country for this.

He is an erudite person and has contributed to his society tremendously. Yet, he has been sent to prison under false charges. There is an online petition at change.org demanding his release, but the petition has not yet attained international traction, presenting a challenge to the global Armenian community.

But his case deserves attention far beyond that of the Armenians, since he has become a universal symbol of justice (or injustice). He has been in jail for two years and he faces another 11.5 years and if pending charges against him are upheld, his punishment may be extended to 25 more years.

Orhan Kemal Gengiz has written in an article in Al Monitor, "Sevan Nisanyan is being punished for doing illegal construction on his land in Turkey, which is a haven for illegal construction, and is now incarcerated at Izmir-Torbali prison. Moreover, instead of being awarded a Nobel Prize for architecture for what he has created in Shirince, he faces about 50 years in prison terms for 17 cases brought against him. In fact, everybody knows that the case against Nisanyan has nothing to do with construction infractions. He is being punished for his history and literary work challenging the official ideology."

Thanks to Nisanyan's initiative, Shirince has become a tourist paradise attracting 600,000 to 800,000 visitors every year. He and his wife moved to that former Greek village, which had become dilapidated, and bought many pieces of property and restored them to the original condition, plus all the modern updates a tourist may like. In fact, what he has done is much like what the Tufenkians have done in Armenia with restoring old properties with all the modern facilities. Instead of being celebrated for his efforts in increasing Turkish tourism, he is being punished for having a mind.

Istanbul may be considered the world capital of gecekondu (fly-by-night) construction, yet no one has been convicted and received jail time for building those illegal constructions.

It is obvious that Nisanyan's sentence has more to do with his outspoken nature than his construction activities. Nisanyan himself believes that his identity and opinions are the main cause of his persecution. He is a graduate of Columbia and Yale. He has written an unusual book on the etymology of the Turkish language,

reminding readers of the linguistic achievements of Hagop Martayan, whom Ataturk himself called Dilaçar, for his contribution to the development of the modern Latin-alphabet based Turkish language.

But Nisanyan's troubles began when he published his book titled *The Wrong Republic*, questioning the foundation of the current Republic of Turkey and the legitimacy of the Ataturk rule. His conclusions have already been affirmed by Turkish historian Taner Akçam, who has traced all Ittihadist war criminals who later joined the Ataturk movement to build modern Turkey on the blood of the Armenians and Christians in general.

Ataturk literally means the father of Turks or Turkey. The Turkish writer Aziz Nesin has even gone one step further by posing the following question: "Why should a bastard be called the father of my nation or my own father?"

In later years, another Turkish historian based in Holland, Ugur Ungor, published his book titled *Making of Modern Turkey*, where he demonstrated that the affluent class in modern Turkey sits on the confiscated properties and the wealth of the Armenians. Yet Nisanyan is in jail for the same statements. On top of that, he has been vocal on the issue of the Armenian Genocide. He has received also many death threats for his opinions on religious repression and perhaps his being in jail has proven to be a blessing in disguise, as otherwise he could have shared the fate of Hrant Dink, whose death could not only have been stopped by the authorities, but was indeed sought.

As far as the actual case against him is concerned, the law that landed Nisanyan in jail had already been repealed. Opposition HDP Party Member of Parliament, Pervin Boudan, has questioned the validity of the law in parliament to no avail. Law 2863 Section 65 was deleted from the Constitution in 2012 yet the judge on the case has insisted on using it. The conviction also contravenes the 6th and 7th articles of the European Human Rights Court. In today's xenophobic atmosphere generated by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's religious zeal, the niceties of actual laws do not cut any ice.

But the case at hand is a challenge for all Armenians around the world as well as for human rights organizations. The world public opinion has to be sensitized to unmask modern Turkey's human rights abuses, which otherwise will render into a mockery its bid to join the European Union.

It is time to release Sevan Nisanyan from prison. He is garrulous, contrary and not ready to appease or hide his colors in order to live a safe life. And that is precisely the sort of person that Turkey needs in order to grow into a democracy

www.MirrorSpectator.com

A Granddaughter's Journey

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

Dawn Anahid MacKeen grew up in Los Angeles, the granddaughter of survivors of the Armenian Genocide. She is also an investigative journalist. Combining her vocation with her passion seemed like a natural thing. That is how the idea for her new book, *The Hundred Year Walk, An Armenian Odyssey*, was born.

"I wanted to look at [the Genocide] from a reporter's perspective," she said during a recent interview from her home in Los Angeles.

MacKeen was thrilled to find out that her grandfather,

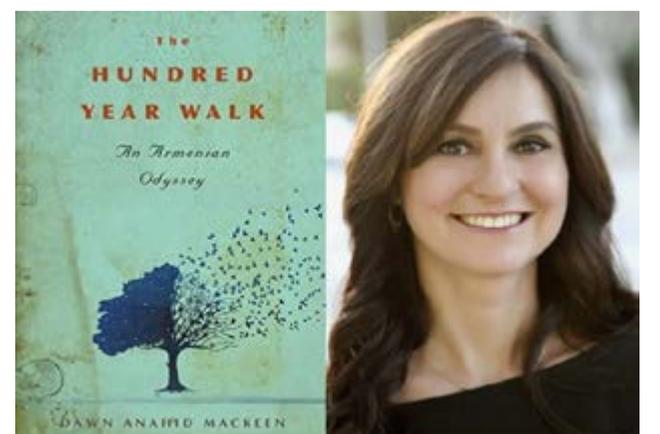
Stepan Miskjian had kept meticulous journals.

"I grew up with the story of my grandfather. But I only knew part of it," she said.

The family believes, MacKeen said, that he did not write his journals during the Genocide, as he was barely surviving from one day to the next. Instead, they think he started in 1930.

Some of his journals, he said, were published in the 1960s in Armenian.

In the past decade, MacKeen began the effort to collect all of them and have them all put into order



A Granddaughter's Journey

Page 03 ►►

and then translated.

MacKeen, who is Scottish on her father's side, grew up in the Los Angeles suburb of Los Feliz. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley and her master's from Northwestern.

She worked at several prestigious news outlets, including Salon, Newsday and SmartMoney.

"I knew I had to do something. I had been investigating assisted living facilities for eight or nine months," she said. "We ended up changing the state law. There were parallels to my grandfather's story. Its focus was on elderly with dementia and making promises that they were not keeping," she noted, "parallel to the Armenians," who had suffered after false promises by the Ottoman authorities. The title of the book comes from the fateful decision she made to actually walk the path that her grandfather did, from his town of Adabazar to his march through Deir Zor, all the way through Syria, where he was ultimately saved by an Arab sheik. She was ready for a change at that time, in 2007, as she had already moved back to the West Coast from New York and was searching for something to sink her teeth into.

Little did MacKeen know that her book would not only bring to life this journey from 100 years ago for her, but would capture ordinary life in Syria before the country's devolution into chaos.

As any good reporter knows — and MacKeen is one — gathering information about your subject is the first step. She quizzed all her relatives in the US and France about him.

The next step is to "be there" for the story to get closer to one's subject.

"That was my goal, to see the environment that he was in. The desert was their prison.

The highs and lows in her book are thrilling, as they compare and contrast the life of a man in the Ottoman Empire struggling from one moment to another in order

to survive, as well as his American granddaughter who makes this journey, albeit with as many modern comforts as possible. The linking of the two is the centerpiece of the book as MacKeen is able to viscerally experience the memories imparted from her grandfather.

Her grandfather, Stepan Miskjian, had died in 1974 but his words were still there.

"He lived very close to us. We would go to their house and I was always at his knee," she recalled.

Stepan's journey started in the town of Adabazar, in Western Armenia. He was yanked away from his family and survived — against unbelievable odds — imprisonment, starvation, forced labor and a lengthy march through the desert — which ended up in Syria, and ended up in the US. While the story she traces is one of survival, she insists that to regard Stepan as solely a survivor would be to short-change him.

"My grandfather was very funny and very health conscious," she recalled, with a knack for playing tricks on friends and family.

It is amazing to consider that Stepan Miskjian lived on the verge of death for years, from about 1914 to 1919. The backbreaking labor, the depravation, the thirst and the murderous heat of the desert all took their toll on him, both physically and mentally. Though he was jovial later in life, he had his struggles. "He would tell her [his daughter, Dawn's mother, Anahid] every year that he was going to die next year. My mom thinks that it was like PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder]."

As MacKeen found out, Stepan had a "very strong constitution and will to live."

Stepan, before the hellish time of the Genocide, had had to test his mettle in order to survive. His family went through a change of fortune and he had to leave school and take to the streets eventually as an "emanetji," a sort of courier service for delivering goods for merchants.

Because of this job, in which he was very successful, "he was dealing with a lot of people and adapting, which helped him later on."

"He survived the Deir Zor massacres. It was really important for him to bear witness. So many people asked him that if he survived it, to tell our story. He was a very good storyteller," MacKeen said. "He would just get up and tell stories."

Part of Stepan's story is being rescued by a pious Muslim family in what is now Syria. "This Arab sheik saved my grandfather despite the rhetoric that the Armenians were dangerous people," she said. "I really feel it is important to speak to that."

Sheikh Hammud al-Aekleh, a relatively prosperous landowner with many heads of cattle, took him in after he crossed into Syria and nursed him back to health.

The sheikh himself died in the 1930s at age 70 or so. Now, she said, "his descents are suffering under war and they need refuge."

The story of how she finds and meets them is charmingly put in the book. She arrives, with her driver and guide, and assumes that there is a big religious holiday going on, as so many cars and people have gathered. Little did she know that they had all arrived to meet her. She receives a hero's welcome and is treated to a lavish banquet.

"It is their custom. It kind of shows what kind of people there are. It is absolutely heartbreaking" to think the fate that has befallen them.

And they are not the only ones to be displaced. The Armenians who ended up putting down roots in Syria after the Genocide are all displaced yet again. She recalls going to Raqqa, where the Genocide survivors had built a church. "What happened to these people [again] sickens me," MacKeen said.

"I believe my grandfather's story needed to be told. I am so heartened that people are reading and commenting on what he endured," she said. "especially non-Armenians. I always wanted to educate people through my story.

"I got to know him. It has been such a gift," she said. Aram Arkun, the assistant editor at the Mirror-Spectator, served as a consultant for the book.

www.MirrorSpectator.com

4,500 Guests Attend Special Armenian Genocide Program in Kremlin Hall

By Harut Sassounian

The 10th annual Armenian Music Awards (AMA) program was held on February 27, at the Kremlin's Kevorkiev Hall in Moscow, with 4,500 guests in attendance. Many of Armenia's top stars entertained the large crowd with patriotic songs and musical performances for more than four hours.

This year's program, organized by Valeriy Saharyan, recognized the important contributions made by 12 individuals and organizations on the occasion of the Armenian Genocide Centennial, including:

- Vladimir Zhirinovskiy (member of the Russian Parliament),
- Harut Sassounian (Publisher of The California Courier and President of Armenia Artsakh Fund),
- Armenia Futura,
- Sergey Smpatian (conductor).

Other honorees, some of whom could not be present, appeared by video or through a representative:

- Valerie Boyer (member of the French Parliament),
- Vigen Sargsyan (Armenian President's Chief of Staff and Coordinator of Programs organized by the State Centennial Committee of the Armenian Genocide),
- Armenia's Minister of Culture,
- Archbishop Ezras Necessian (Primate of Moscow and Nor Nakhichevan),
- Serj Tankian (System of a Down),
- Rouben Vartanian (benefactor and businessman),
- Artur Janipekyan (Gazprom Media Holding),
- Ara Vartanyan (Hayastan All-Armenian Fund).

In receiving his award, Zhirinovskiy had strong words for Turkey. Here are excerpts from his remarks:

"The day will come when Armenians will celebrate their festivals in the territory of liberated Western Armenia. That could be a festival bearing the name of your holy mountain — Mount Ararat — and could take place in Kars, Ardahan, Sassoun or Trabizon.... After the downing of the Russian jet, I would have ordered a powerful attack on Turkey. Today, very little would have remained of Turkey.... I wish the dream of Armenians worldwide would become a reality; that those who committed that horrible genocide on April 1915, during World War I, would be punished."

Zhirinovskiy continued his aggressive words stating that Turkey attacked the Armenians who "were living in their homeland, in their land. But the Turks were nomads; their homeland is in Central Asia, in Tashkent. They should go there and leave Anatolia to Armenians, Kurds, and Greeks. And Constantinople should be a free city. Times are changing. It is possible that shortly this would become a reality. Armenians, no one will bother you. Therefore, the descendants of Western Armenia should prepare their documents to get back their lost lands and properties. I am not talking a lot of 'hot air.' I am convinced that Armenians will shortly commemorate not the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, but celebrate the liberation of Western Armenia. And the Armenian flag will fly in Kars, Ardahan, on Ararat, Sassoun, and Trabizon."

I had a hard act to follow after Zhirinovskiy's powerful words. In accepting my award, I made the following brief remarks: "Genocide is a monstrous crime which has no statutes

of limitations. The Turkish government should well know that the Armenian nation will never give up its just rights. Although 100 years have passed, even if 1,000 years should pass, we will continue to demand, and struggle to regain everything that we lost. Turkey must return all our personal and communal properties — and more importantly — our historic lands of Western Armenia. In other words, we demand our confiscated possessions, and compensation for the murder of our 1.5 million holy martyrs."

I then urged the audience not to despair: "One hundred years ago, the powerful and vast Ottoman Empire collapsed and broke apart, turning into the Republic of Turkey within much smaller borders. With God's help and our persistent efforts, I am convinced that the day will come when today's Turkey would also collapse due to internal and external pressures. We must be prepared to take advantage of such an opportunity to liberate our historic lands. Until then, Armenia, Artsakh and the Diaspora should be united into one fist, so that our homeland would become a strong economic, political, and military power. Only such a powerful Armenia can take ownership of its just rights rather than begging for them."

This uplifting four-hour program was broadcast live by Armenia's public television to Armenian communities throughout the world. I am confident that the 4,500 guests at the Kremlin Hall and millions of TV viewers felt a renewed sense of determination to pursue their national goals until their eventual realization.

www.TheCaliforniaCourier.com

Centenary of the Armenian Genocide

Official Opening of 'Genocide after the Genocide' Exhibition Held in the European Parliament

The exhibition "Genocide After the Genocide" taking place in the European Parliament, in Brussels, was officially opened on March 1, in the presence of over a hundred guests. Present were members of the European Parliament, staff members, assistants and representatives of the Armenian community of Belgium. The exhibition was hosted by MEP Nikolaos Androulakis (S&D, Greece), co-organized by the Research on Armenian Architecture and the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy (EAFJD).

The exhibition "Genocide after the Genocide" consists of 32 photos, of Armenian churches and religious monuments, before and after the Armenian Genocide of 1915, perpetrated by Turkey. The photos depict the systematic destruction of Armenian monuments, culture and heritage, in Western Armenia, what is now Eastern Turkey. Turkey to this day, denies the reality of the Armenian Genocide, despite international condemnation and resolutions.

It is the first time that the exhibition has been held outside the Republic of Armenia.

Heghine Evinyan, EU Affairs of the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy, in her opening remarks, said "an honest and open process of dealing with its past is crucial for any democratic, healthy and forward-looking society. In fact, this is the only way to go. Therefore the Turkish society needs the recognition of the Armenian Genocide at least as much as the Armenian society needs it. Many Turkish intellectuals certainly realize this and openly speak about it, among them historian Taner Akçam and writer, Nobel Prize winner for literature Orhan Pamuk. The exhibition "Genocide after the Genocide" is another step towards raising awareness about the state of material testimonies of Armenian civilization in today's Turkey."



Member of the European Parliament and host of the exhibition Nikolaos Androulakis, thanking all those who attended the opening, saying, "I am very pleased to host this exhibition today in the European Parliament. Last year we commemorated the 100th anniversary from the Armenian Genocide. I had the privilege to attend the events organized by the Armenian Government in Yerevan. As the Ottoman Empire was falling apart, other Christian population, especially the Pontius followed the fate of Armenians. At the exhibition you can see photos from religious and other buildings of Armenian culture as they were before the genocide and in their current situation. As these photos show, the millions of dead, deported and forced to exile Armenians were not the only victims. The purpose of the Genocide was the physical and cultural extinction of Armenia. Turkey must face historic truth and recognize the atrocities that took place at the beginning of last century. It is our duty to preserve the memory. It is essential if we want to have a better future and avoid repeating the mistakes of the past."

Eleni Theocharous, MEP from Cyprus, President of the EU



- Armenia Friendship Group in the European Parliament, stated her long-term fight for the rights of the Armenian people, and drew a parallel between the destruction of the Armenian monuments and the Greek heritage in the Turkish occupied North Cyprus. Arman Israelian, Counselor in the Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the European Union, said in his remark, "Today's exhibition is an essential endeavor to draw attention to the issue of Armenian religious heritage in Turkey, and it supplements the efforts of the European Parliament in this regard. These silent witnesses of Armenian nation for so many centuries have immense cultural, religious and historical value not only for us, Armenians, and the Christian world, but also for the entire humanity."



On behalf of co-organizer of the exhibition, Research on Armenian Architecture, Movses Hrair Der Kevorkian mentioned that this exhibition summarizes decades of research, and hundreds of expeditions, during which the RAA Foundation has witnessed the extinction of an entire heritage. He brought attention to the fact that while Turkey was perpetrating the deliberate annihilation of Armenian heritage, it was signing several international treaties regarding the Preservation of Cultural Monuments during times of War, including clear provisions for the care and preservation of cultural monuments pertaining to minorities as well as recognizing minority cultural rights. He also emphasized that the Armenian Genocide did not end when the killings stopped. This exhibition is proof of this statement.

The exhibition "Genocide after the Genocide" has been prepared within the grant program of the Youth Foundation of Armenia, a partner organization of the President of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the 'Duty of Soul' NGO. The exhibition in the European Parliament will run through to March 4th. Later in the year, it will be held in various European countries.

The clip of the official opening can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBcqDKdfjCA&feature=youtu.be>

News from the World

Page 02 ►►

NKR Permanent Representative to the USA Delivers Lecture Devoted to NK Conflict at Thomas Jefferson School of Law



On March 2, Permanent Representative of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic to the USA Robert Avetisian delivered a lecture at Thomas Jefferson School of Law of the State of California.

The NKR Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the NKR Permanent Representative touched upon the establishment and development of Artsakh's statehood, the past and current stages of the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict and the process of negotiations. The NKR Permanent Representative particularly touched upon the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict from the perspective of international law.

After the lecture, Robert Avetisian answered the attendees' questions related to the current developments in Artsakh, the political and economic state of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and several other problems.

Representatives of the Armenian Student Association of Thomas Jefferson School of Law, other student unions and associations, law students and professors participated in the lecture hosted by Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Press Release

Blueprint Beirut winner of Curator Award at International Fashion Showcase 2016

The Arab British Centre and Starch Foundation are proud to announce that 'Blueprint Beirut' won the Curator Award at Fashion Utopias, the British Council and British Fashion Council's International Fashion Showcase 2016 in association with London Fashion Week.

Blueprint Beirut, organised by the Arab British Centre and Starch Foundation, and supported by the British Council, showcased the best of Lebanese design with 8 Starch Designers presented inside Starch Architect Elie Metni's exhibition installation - an interpretation of a traditional Lebanese home.

The prestigious panel of judges, which was chaired by Sarah Mower MBE, BFC Ambassador for Emerging Talent and Chief Critic at Voguerunway.com, included Anna Orsini from the British Fashion Council and Anders Christian Madsen from ID Magazine among many.

Sponsored by Bonaveri, the award was presented to Tala Hajjar by Bonaveri CEO Andrea Bonaveri himself. Also, Lebanon's Starch Designer Timi Hayek came highly commended for Best Designer.

Reflecting on the events, the Arab British Centre's Executive Director Nadia ElSebai said: "The IFS is a prestigious annual event with participation from across the globe, but the Middle East has been underrepresented in previous years. We initiated the partnership with Starch Foundation because we wanted to show audiences in the UK the strength and diversity of the creative and cultural industries in the Arab World. IFS 2016 showcased the work of 80 designers from 24 countries. There were three awards and two of them went to the Middle East. This is very promising for the region and we couldn't be happier". Tala Hajjar, Starch Foundation co-founder added: "We are so proud of Starch Foundation and the Curator Award. The exhibition is a dream and has a huge significance for Lebanon's designers. This is only the beginning. Great things will come!"



Sevag Dilsizian



Arts & Society

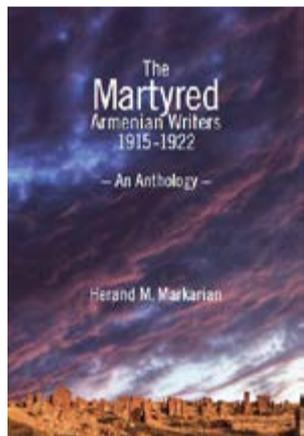
Moscow to Host Exhibition Called “Armenia: The Legend of Goy”

The Moscow State Historical Museum, located at Red Square, will open an exhibition called “Armenia: The Legend of Goy”, which will showcase over 160 samples of items of the Museum of History of Armenia, the Museum of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts (Matenadaran), as posted on the website of the Moscow State Historical Museum, reports Armradio.am.



The Museum of History of Armenia will present the samples that have been found in the territory of Armenia and encompass the history of Armenia starting from ancient times and leading up to the 19th century. The administration of the Museum states that the exhibition will also showcase quite interesting samples from the Hellenic era in the history of Armenia, one of which is also a marble statue of Aphrodite. The samples of artistic and historical value kept at the Museum of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin will present Armenia as the first country to declare Christianity as a state religion. In this sense, the State Historical Museum of Russia is especially setting aside the Cross that sums up the relics of Saint George. The State Historical Museum will also showcase the samples of the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts (Matenadaran). The exhibition will be opened on March 10. The Presidents of Armenia and Russia are likely to attend the opening ceremony.

AMAA to Present Herand Markarian’s ‘Martyred Armenian Writers’



On March 18, as part of the Armenian Genocide Centennial commemorations, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) will present Dr. Herand M. Markarian’s book, The Martyred Armenian Writers 1915-1922: An Anthology, at the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, reports Armenianweekly.com.

Markarian’s book surveys the lives and writings of 13 authors who perished during the Armenian Genocide—several on the night of April 24, 1915, when, along with many other community leaders, intellectuals, and clergy in Constantinople, they were gathered and deported, never to be seen again.

The book, organized into three parts, includes general introductions to 19th-century Western Armenian literature and to the Armenian Genocide. The third part of the book contains short biographies of some of the most beloved Armenian writers of the era, along with a bibliography of their writings. Markarian also provides a sample of excerpts from each author, translated into English.

“The development of Armenian literature is a unique phenomenon in the history of world literature,” writes Markarian. “In contrast to others, it developed in countries where the official language was not Armenian.”



Herand Markarian is a scientist, professor, playwright, poet, director, actor, literary and theater critic, and translator. He was born in Basrah, Iraq. He has authored 26 plays and 13 books. He has directed 53 plays and acted in 50 others. AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian will make the opening remarks, followed by Markarian’s PowerPoint presentation. Nick Aynilian Jr., Raffi Aynilian, Vatche Demirjian, Richard Hekemian, Anoush Kalachian, Niree Kaprielian, and Melani Salibian will participate in the program by reading some of the writings of the martyred writers.

The event begins at 7:30 p.m., and is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the presentation, during which books will be available for sale.

“Ararat Through the Eyes of an Armenian” Photo Exhibition



Tekeyan Center Foundation has organized a photo exhibition called “Ararat Through the Eyes of an Armenian”, which will bring together Armenians around the world and will showcase the symbol of our nation, Mount Ararat from different angles.

MOU Signed with UCLA for Mapping of Armenian Genome



As 2015 marked the 100th commemoration of the Armenian Genocide and global attention was focused on Armenia, a group of Armenian investigators set out to launch a research program that would map the Armenian genome. This initiative was made possible with a monetary gift generously donated by Sara Chitjian, a UCLA alumna whose father had witnessed and survived the Armenian genocide.

On Friday, February 19, Dr. Thomas Coates, director of the UCLA Center for World Health; Dr. Wayne Grody, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, pediatrics, and human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; and Drs. Sevak Avagyan and Evgeni Sokurenko, co-founders of the ArmGenia Research Charitable Trust, Yerevan, Armenia, signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) sealing the research partnership between the two organizations.

The main objective of this research project is to better understand the genetic roots of Armenian people. The timing of this project is also fortuitous as Armenia still has a large number of centenarians that could participate in this genetic mapping while they are alive. At the signing ceremony, Chitjian stated that her hope is that the findings from this genome project would be useful in historical studies of the Armenian population. This MOU fits well with UCLA’s legacy of working towards the advancement of global health, education, and collaborative medical research. Not only will this genetic mapping have a great impact on the life sciences and offer enormous benefits in terms of better general health care for the Armenians worldwide, but the study could also lead to important findings on Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF), a genetic disorder that is more prevalent among Armenians than any other nation.

The project builds on UCLA’s 60-year-old FMF program — one of the largest of its kind in the Western Hemisphere — and provides comprehensive interdisciplinary expertise. Dr. Wayne Grody will be one of the principal investigators, performing the molecular work. Salpy Akaragian, RN-BC, MN, director of the UCLA International Nursing Program, who was instrumental in connecting UCLA to the co-founders of ArmGenia Research Charitable Trust, Drs. Avakian and Sokurenko, coordinated the all-day celebration. A number of VIPs, such as the Honorable Ara Najarian, esq. the Mayor of Glendale; the Honorable Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian, esq.; and Consul Armela Shakarian from the Consulate of Armenia in Los Angeles, were also present to witness this historical moment.



Arts & Society



Tribute to Kirk Kerkorian at the 88th Academy Awards

A tribute to founder of Metro Goldwyn-Mayer and Armenian benefactor Kirk Kerkorian was paid during the 88th Academy Awards. As reports Hayern Aysor, during the award ceremony, Oscar winner Louis Gossett



Junior presented a video paying tribute to the outstanding individuals who passed away in 2015 and who had made weighty contributions to the advancement of cinema. The music in the background was the famous song "Blackbird" by The Beatles.

Dsaghgatzor will Become World's Intellectual Capital for 3 Days



This year's world championship of the most popular intellectual game "What, Where, When" will be held in Armenia. Former Minister of Education and Science Armen Ashodian wrote on his Facebook page. "Dsaghgatzor will become the world's intellectual capital for three days. Needless to say, what a great resonance and the positive impact it will have in the international media and on the future development of intellectual movement in

Armenia. As co-chair of the organizing committee I will regularly inform you about our work," Ashodian said.

The upcoming 14th world championship of the popular intellectual game "What, Where, When" will be held in Tsakhkadzor, Armenia on November 12-13, 2016.

Four Armenian Businessman Included in World's Billionaires List

Four Armenian businessmen have been included in the 30th List of World's Billionaires released by Forbes magazine, writes 168.am.

The Armenian billionaire with the highest ranking in the list of the world's billionaires is owner of Krasnodar football club Sergei Galitsky (Harutyunian), who is in 219th place with \$5.7 billion dollars. Owner of Tashir Group Samuel Garabedian is in 549th place with \$3.1 billion dollars, Argentine-Armenian businessman Eduardo Eurnekian is in 810th place with \$2.2 billion dollars, and director of Rosgosstrakh insurance company Danil Khachaturov is in 1,275th place with \$1.4 billion dollars.

Former owner of Microsoft Bill Gates has been recognized as the world's richest person in the Forbes List with \$75 billion dollars, followed by founder of Zara Company Amancio Ortega with \$67 billion, Warren Buffet with \$60.8 billion, Mexican businessman Carlos Slim Helu with \$50 billion, owner of Amazon Jeff Bezos with \$45.2 billion, founder of Facebook Mark Zuckerberg with \$44.6 billion, Larry Ellison with \$43.6 billion, Michael Bloomberg with \$40 billion, Charles Koch with \$39.6 billion and David Koch with \$39.6 billion.

According to Forbes, there are 1,810 billionaires, which is 16 less than last year.

Venice Biennale Award Winner Armenian Sculptor Opens Exhibition In Milan



Armenian sculptor Mikayel Ohanjanyan, who is a Golden Lion award winner at the Venice Biennale, has opened a personal exhibition at the University of Milan (UNIMI), according to Treccani cultural newspaper of Italy.

Ohanjanyan is a young sculptor from Armenia, and he lives and works in Italy for the past several years.

His two sculptures, which are displayed at the UNIMI yard, already have received positive feedback from visitors and critics alike.

"Ohanjanyan's art touches upon the contemporary trends of art, but, at the same time, it does not interrupt the conversation with roots," the article reads. "A painter who, as [Russian poet and essayist Osip] Mandelstam had written, is 'from the country of screaming stones, Armenia,' by birth."

The exhibition will run until March 19.

"Eurovision 2016": Iveta Mukuchyan premieres "Love Wave"



Armenia's representative Iveta Mukuchyan has just revealed her song and music video for Eurovision Song Contest 2016. "Love Wave" is the reflection of Iveta's inner world, her emotions and feelings. The lyrics of the song were written by Iveta Mukuchyan and Stephanie Crutchfield.

In the music video Iveta is accompanied by Swedish top model Ben Dahlhaus, who is most famous for his work with world leading fashion brands.

Iveta will perform in the first semifinal which will take place on the 10th of May.

ZARTONK receives material from around the world and in many languages. Our Liberal principles advocate «Freedom of speech» as a mainstay of our beliefs; consequently the subjects and ideas presented will not necessarily reflect our point of view.

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.