

















# massis Weekly

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## Yerevan Mayor Suspends Transport Fare Hikes Youth Activists Call for Resignation of Senior Transport Officials



Youth activists' sit-in protest outside the Yerevan Mayor's Office

YEREVAN -- After six days of protests over the rise in public transport fares in Yerevan Mayor Taron Margarian has suspended his decision to raise the fares until mechanisms are developed to ensure that it does not hit the poor.

The Yerevan Municipality released a statement, which reads: "It is obvious that we cannot lay the burden of fare rise on socially vulnerable sections of the population. Complete formation of the system will take about a year, but this burden has been placed on pensioners, students and other socially vulnerable sections. I have ordered a commission to be formed of professionals and interested people to work out mechanisms that would allow us to review the fare rates..."

Hundreds of mostly young activists were continuing social protests against the rise in public transport fares in Yerevan. They had urged com-

muters to continue to pay 50 and 100 drams per ride. Leaders of the movement pledged to carry on with their campaign backed by opposition parties and a growing number of Armenian celebrities that have not been involved in civic activism until now.

Many of the celebrities have taken to the streets offering ordinary Armenians rides in their cars. The tactic, billed Free Car, is meant to dissuade people from using public transportation and keep the pressure up on the authorities.

Meanwhile, dozens of youth activists held a non-stop sit-in just outside the Mayor's Office for a sixth consecutive day, demanding the resignation of two senior transport officials. They say the municipal administration must also compensate those Yerevan commuters who paid higher

Continued on page 4

## "The Twenty Hunchakian Martyrs" Commemorated



PASADENA, CA -- As part of Social Democrat Hunchakian Party's events worldwide, commemorating the 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Twenty Gallows", the Paramaz and Arsen Gidour Chapters of SDHP's western region, in their turn, organized an event on July 25 to honor the memory of the twenty Armenian activists who were hung in Istanbul's Sultan Bayazid Square on June 15, 1915.

This year's event was significant and different in its format from past years because its purpose was to analyze the unprecedented commemorative events that took place in Turkey on June 13 and 15 of this year.

The evening's Master of Ceremonies Vahe Atchabahian emphasized that the activities commemorating the "Twenty" in Istanbul were historical, stating that the efforts of the Turkish progressive youth who worked tirelessly to coordinate the activities should be commended. "Today's progressive youth, by acquainting themselves with Paramaz and his friends, have come to realize the goals that they are pursuing within present day Turkey, were pursued decades ago by the martyred Armenians."

SDHP Gaidz Youth Organization member Jano Khodanian presented in details the activities and program objectives pursued by the "Twenty." Khodanian said, "Although their plans did not come to fruition, the 'Twenty' have been a source of inspiration for thousands of young Armenians throughout the world, but most notably, to those who joined the Social Democrat Hunchakian Party."

Sundukyan State Academic Theatre's famous actor Harut Fodoulyan, eloquently narrated Paramaz's legendary speech during trials in the Turkish court.

Delivering the keynote address of the evening, S. D. Hunchakian Party Central Committee member, Krikor Khodanian, stated that the observance of the anniversary by the Turkish Progressive Movements of the martyrdom of the "Twenty," is considered a positive step towards recognition of the Armenian Genocide. At the same time, he cautioned of being overly optimistic taking into consideration the ulterior motives of the Turkish government tolerating such activities.

Mr. Khodanian presented a historical overview on Genocide recognition, from the 1965 worldwide demonstration in Soviet Armenia and the Diaspora, to the 2007 assassination of Hrant Dink. Events that both reawakened the Armenian people to pursue justice and brought the Armenian case to the forefront of the international court breaking the wall of silence in Turkey.

Significant events occurring along the 1965 protest included Gourgen Yanikian's assassination of two Turkish consular officials, the formation and activities of the Armenian Secret Army, Turkish Foreign Minister Caglayangil meeting with the traditional three Armenian political parties, the Justice and Development Party coming to power in Turkey, the assassination of Hrant Dink and the subsequent reaction by Turkish society and lastly, the commemorations of the Armenian Genocide on April 24 in major Turkish cities in the last four years initiated by Turkish intellectuals in an effort to engage Turkish society with the historical realities of Turkey and apologize to Armenians.

"Consequently, many Turkish intellectuals are convinced the country is ready and within the next ten years the Turkish government will acknowledge the Armenian Genocide," Mr. Khodanian addeed. "These intellectuals do not base their assessment on hopes and desires, but rather on study and analysis. Recently, a Turkish lecturer wrote 'the hands of the clock are moving, and we are approaching the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Hence the world examines Turkey and expects it to face its recent history.'"

"Armenians are waiting as well and are ready to open a new page with our neighbor and its people if Turkey recognizes the historical truth of the Armenian people and arranges appropriate compensation," added Khodanian. "Until that day comes to fruition, let the souls of our martyrs be venerated on April 24 and June 15 throughout Turkey."

Mr. Khodanian's remarks were followed by a video presentation documenting the historical events that took

## AXA Litigation Settlement Lawyers Announce Amicably Resolve of Differences



and charitable awards that the parties have made incident to the AXA settlement. The parties have also agreed to

Continued on page 4

### Annual Vacation

Massis Weekly will not be published for two weeks  
due to annual vacation

Our next issue will be dated August 24, 2013

Continued on page 3

## Karabakh Aid Affirmed by US House and Senate Appropriations Committees

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The US Senate Appropriations Committee approved its Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill, which included specific report language regarding Nagorno-Karabakh, reported the Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly).

The Senate report language recommended “assistance for victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in amounts consistent with prior years, and for ongoing needs related to the conflict.” In addition, the Committee urged “a peaceful resolution to the conflict.”

“Continued assistance for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh remains an important priority,” Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL), who serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, told the Assembly. .

The Senate action follows the House, which approved its version yesterday. For its part, the House-approved language states, “within the funds provided under this heading, the Secretary of State should provide assistance for victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict at levels consistent with prior years, and for ongoing needs related to the conflict.” The House Appropriations Bill also restated the six customary exemptions for humanitarian and other assistance to Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act. Section



907 was enacted in 1992 and requires the Government of Azerbaijan to take “demonstrable steps to cease all blockades and other offensive uses of force” against Armenia and Artsakh.

Overall, the Senate Bill represents a 5 percent cut whereas the House Bill represents a 19 percent reduction below the FY 2013 enacted levels.

“Given the ongoing needs in Artsakh, I was pleased that in working with the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, we were able to craft language to ensure continued funding to Karabakh,” House Appropriations Committee Member Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA) told the Assembly.

## Karabakh Army Continues Military Buildup



STEPANAKERT -- Nagorno-Karabakh's armed forces on Friday claimed to have acquired large quantities of heavy weapons and ammunition in the last two years.

“We have never had a situation which we have now in terms of obtaining concrete weapons and military hardware,” the Karabakh army chief, General Movses Hakobian, told a news conference in Stepanakert.

Hakobian said the arms acquisitions have been so extensive that the Karabakh Armenian military has difficulty storing them and plans to build a new arms depot for that purpose. He declined to specify the types of new weaponry delivered to it.

Hakobian already reported a major military buildup in late 2011. He spoke of new tanks, anti-tank rockets and artillery systems at the time. Some defense analysts in Yerevan believe that Karabakh's Defense Army was

supplied with around 100 tanks through Armenia in 2011-2012.

Azerbaijan reportedly began receiving last month a similar number of tanks as well as many other Russian-made offensive weapons worth an estimated \$1 billion in accordance defense contracts signed with Russia.

Hakobian expressed concern about the Russian arms sales to Baku that have been widely criticized in Armenia and Karabakh. He insisted at the same time that the Azerbaijani army is still not strong enough to start and win a new war with the Armenians.

The Karabakh army chief also said that his forces have built new defense fortifications and placed more anti-personnel land mines this year along the Armenian-Azerbaijani “line of contact” east and north of the disputed territory. He said this is aimed at preventing sabotage attacks by Azerbaijani troops.

## Interview with ACA Louisiana Chairman Vasken Kaltakdjian



On May 30, 2013, the Louisiana State Senate, passed a Resolution recognizing the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and expressing support for its development as a free and independent nation in order to guarantee its citizens those rights inherent in a free and independent society.

The Resolution also urges the President of the United States and Congress to support the self-determination and democratic independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and its constructive involvement with the international community’s efforts to reach a just and lasting solution to security issues in that strategically important region. The Louisiana State Legislature became the fourth state legislative body to recognize the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, previous States to do so are Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maine.

The Resolution was spearheaded by Louisiana State Senator Edwin R. Murray (D-New Orleans), who worked closely with Mr. Vasken Kaltakdjian, Chairman of the Armenian Council of America (ACA) Louisiana chapter.

The following is an interview with Mr. Kaltakdjian regarding the passage of the historic Resolution:

### Massis: How did the Resolution regarding NKR come about?

In early April, I had a long conversation with the Permanent Representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic to the United States, Mr. Robert Avetisyan, contemplating how our Louisiana community could be of help towards the NKR Republic. One has to remember that the Azeri government is actively engaged in propagandizing and falsifying the region’s history, specifically the actions of Armenians and the historical Armenian homeland. It was within that conversation that we envisioned the

passage of a resolution regarding NKR within the Louisiana State legislature. Over time we worked together on what type of resolution would be best and what were the possibilities of the resolution passing. We concluded, given the circumstances, this specific resolution would be the best option.

The Resolution was introduced in the Senate by Louisiana State Senator Edwin Murray on May 29th. As we anticipated, numerous Senators, including Mr. Murray were personally contacted by representatives of not only the Azeri government but also the Turkish government in an effort to persuade the Senators to not pass the Resolution.

### Massis: Throughout the process was there any doubt that the passage might fail or be pulled from a vote?

When the representatives and Consular Generals of Turkish and Azeri governments started to personally contact the State Senators, we remained strong in the belief that what we were trying to accomplish is the right thing to do. When they tried to intimidate these same Senators, we knew that they were scared and the Resolution was on the threshold of passing. The Resolution passed unanimously, and its passage is a testament to the integrity of our State Legislators.

### Massis: How was the passage of the Resolution perceived?

It was a bit of a surprise to many, compared with other States the Armenian American community in Louisiana is quite small, thus the unanimous passage of the Resolution within the State Senate was a tremendous success. The ACA of Louisiana proved that as long as Armenian Americans stand strong behind the truth we can achieve such moral victories.

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Անձնագույներու և մասնակիրության թայլիքաբարյարժ բանալու:  
Գլխացու, վզի, մեջքի, թօղային և միջնային շատեր:  
Միքանչառման վարդի հետապնդող պատահած  
վետապնդելությունը բանալու:  
Հեր առողջությունը մեր մտահոգության է:

**Commentary:****Can a Bus Boycott Lead to Shift in the Political Dynamic in Armenia?**

By Marianna Grigoryan

It was a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, back in 1955 that catalyzed the civil rights movement in the United States. These days in Armenia, some observers believe a recent bus boycott in Yerevan may reinvigorate the country's democratization process.

The Yerevan public transport boycott started July 20, after the city government decided to raise transportation fares in Armenia's capital city by at least 50 percent – a move that many saw as benefiting private companies with perceived ties to pro-government politicians. Hundreds of protesters, mostly young people, took to the streets to express their anger, boycotting public transportation and standing at bus stops with posters that demanded the city government reinstate the former 100-dram (about 25 cents) fare. To support the campaign, some celebrities also started a carpooling campaign that offered free rides to people all over the city.

The strategy worked. After five days, Yerevan Mayor Taron Margarian, a leader of the governing Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), reversed the price hike, while hinting that an increase was still possible in the future.

"No doubt, this is a victory," stressed Stepan Safarian, a senior member of the opposition Heritage Party. "Society made authorities understand that [people] will no longer . . . put up with robbery and the violation of its rights."

Sociologist Isabella Sarksian, a former prominent civil-rights activist, added that the boycott may motivate young Armenians to get more civically active. "Civil society is developing thanks to constant large and small initiatives, through the media, Internet penetration, and so on," Sarksian said. "The most important thing is that young people have realized their power."

Boycotters celebrated their victory by drinking champagne and waving Armenian flags in the streets. Yet, given the country's recent history of mass

protests leading nowhere, the question remains about whether the boycott has permanently altered the political dynamic in Yerevan.

Past protests generated large crowds complaining about everything from oligarchs' alleged immunity from prosecution for wrongdoing to alleged rigging of national elections. But such mass actions didn't push political leaders to make lasting policy changes. The most recent example of this phenomenon was Raffi Hovhannesian's short-lived "Barevolution" over the 2013 presidential election results.

Independent political analyst Yervand Bozoian believes the bus boycott could be different. "Authorities were simply terrified by this situation, and we can name this a triumph," Bozoian said. "The movement put forward a very specific problem and solved it, which means this can be continued in the future."

Although pushed off balance by the boycott, RPA leaders continue to exude confidence in their authority. Some party leaders stressed that they still control the country's political agenda. "If the government wants, it can stop the movement in a night," declared the Republican Party's fiery deputy chairperson, Galust Sahakian, at a July 25 news conference. The government, however, "has no such wish," he added.

"I do not want these protest actions to fade away," Sahakian continued, calling them, in a rare show of RPA support for demonstrations, "very positive." He urged the public, though, "to show restraint and not act as heroes."

Some observers expect the government to study the lessons of the boycott and try to take action to prevent similar popular protests in the future. But Tsovinar Nazarian, an activist with The Army in Reality, a group that promotes awareness of alleged abuses in the Armenian army, contends this boycott movement is more resistant to government pressure than previous mass protests.

Nazarian suggested that the boy-

cott had enjoyed more initial success than earlier anti-government outburst, but stopped short of labeling it a "victory." The boycott's most significant aspect is it showed that Armenian young people could come up with creative ways to address problems, she said. "Authorities, indeed, are trying and will try to govern the movement through their people and methods, but they will hardly succeed in this," Nazarian asserted. "Neither will they manage to stop this wave of young people when they face new issues and problems."

Not all analysts subscribed to the idea that the boycott marks a civil-society turning point. One of the skeptics, independent political analyst Armen Badalian, contended that the boycott was not so much a spontaneous expression of public frustration, but more of an orchestrated initiative designed to erode Mayor Margarian's political standing.

Magarian has been rumored to be a possible Republican Party presidential candidate to succeed the incumbent, Serzh Sargsyan.

"It is impossible for people to go out into the streets spontaneously and be organized like this, and have the right slogan," argued Badalian. "This was mere PR that served its purpose — it harmed Taron Margarian."

Safarian, the opposition Heritage party politician, sees hope for lasting change in the country's political culture in the not-so-distant future. "Even if we don't say that a civil society has been formed in Armenia, we can definitely state that society has become smarter" about how it goes about securing change, he said.

**Marianna Grigoryan** is a freelance reporter based in Yerevan and editor of MediaLab.am.

## **Los Angeles Premiere of The New Heist Film "Abstraction" Arrives**



LOS ANGELES -- The official release of the new heist film is here. PIB Productions is proud to announce the Los Angeles theatrical premiere of "Abstraction", taking place on September 7, 2013.

"Abstraction" is a thrilling new dramatic action film revolving around the heist of a half a million dollar painting. It is written and directed by Prince Bagdasarian and stars Academy Award® nominee Eric Roberts (Dark Knight, Expendables), Ken Davitian (Borat, The Artist), Hunter Ives, Korrina Rico (School Dance, In Time), Natalie Victoria (Deadheads), Richard Manriquez, and James Lewis (Gacy House).

Production was completed for "Abstraction" last year and the filmmakers are now at the tail end of post-production. "It's been a really long journey creating this film, and an amazing experience" says director Prince Bagdasarian. "The attention and following we've received over the last year has been immense. I cannot wait to show audiences what we've been creating".

Considering how expensive feature films are to produce, market, and distribute, the filmmakers

are reaching out to their fans and followers for additional support this month. "We've already undertook the challenge of making an extraordinarily film, but now we need to market it and release it to worldwide audiences", says co-producer Richard Manriquez.

Instead of having an old fashioned private screening of the finished film, the filmmakers are pulling out all the stops by giving the general public their very first opportunity to see "Abstraction" theatrically on the big screen during their September 7th premiere.

Support independent film and the thriving filmmakers of "Abstraction" by ordering tickets to the red carpet premiere in Los Angeles at: <http://igg.me/at/abstractionfilm> Audiences may also preorder the Blu-ray/DVD of the film as well as purchase autographed posters, original music, paintings from the film and much more.

"Abstraction" is also scheduled to premiere at the "Action On Film International Film Festival" in August, Toronto's "Pomegranate Film Festival" in November, and several other film festivals.

For additional information and content, please visit: <http://www.abstractionfilm.com>

## **"The Twenty Hunchakian Martyrs" Commemorated**

Continued from page 1

place on June 13 and June 15 in commemoration of the "Twenty" in Istanbul, Turkey this year. The twenty-minute coverage included the panel discussion, along with the commemoration which took place at Sultan Bayazid Square (Bayazit Meydani) on June 15, organized by various Turkish human rights activists, Turkish intellectuals and Turkish political figures and included the Chairman of the S.D. Hunchak party Executive Committee of Lebanon, Mr. Alexander Keushkerian.

The evening's program included a recitation of Barouyr Sevak's "Hayastan" by Nareg Klejian, a student of Arshak Dikranian Armenian school. Renowned Los Angeles-based Armenian American singer Done invigorated the audience with his powerful performance of patriotic songs.

SDHP Western Region Executive Committee Chairman Mr. Gabriel Moloyan, delivered a message on behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church. The message expressed the importance of the "Twenty" martyrs reiterating the significance of commemorating their legacy not only in the Diaspora, but within Turkey as well. His Eminence Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, former Primate of the Western Diocese expressed his astonishment for not only the progression of the Turkish society's willingness to confront their government's denialist agenda, but also for the steps taken to commemorate the "Twenty" on the very same soil where they were martyred. Archbishop Hovsepian commended the activities of the Hunchakian Party and wished them continued success.

## Prof. Richard Hovannisian Participates in a Seminar on the First Georgian Republic



**Prof. Richard Hovannisian and Bishop Vazgen Mirzakhanyan with participants of Georgian Armenian Youth Leadership Training Program**

TBILISI -- Professor Richard Hovannisian was invited to Tbilisi (Tiflis) by the Georgian National Archives to participate in a week-long seminar, July 17-23, on the First Georgian Democratic Republic. As a pioneering historian of the First Armenian Republic, Hovannisian was seen as a model for the young Georgian, Armenian, Azeri, Russian, Lithuanian, Polish, Italian, French, British, and American scholars in attendance.

During the presentations by Georgian lecturers on the historical, constitutional and legislative, political, social, economic, cultural, educational, religious, military, and interethnic aspects of the Georgian Republic, Professor Hovannisian regularly offered constructive comments and comparative insights. The seminar included excursions to the old city of Tiflis, its former Armenian upper class Solalaki quarter, Freedom (formerly Yerevan) Square, Rustaveli (formerly Golovinsky) Prospect, with its government buildings and grand former Armenian mansions, the Georgian National Library and Manuscript Center, the Opera and State Museum, and the historic capital city of Mtskheta. In addition, a day was spent on the heights of Kojori, where the final battles took place before the Red Army advanced into Tiflis in March, 1921 to end the Georgian Democratic Republic and begin the period of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic.

### Georgian Armenian Youth Leadership Training Program

While in Georgia, Richard Hovannisian was invited by the Armenian Prelate of the Georgian Diocese, Bishop Vazgen Mirzakhanyan and head of the Legal Division, Mr. Levon

Isakulyan, to address Armenian youth leaders at a summer training program at nearby Tserovani. Representatives from throughout Georgia—Tbilisi, Batum, Tsalka, Marnaul, Bolnis, Akhalkalak, and Akhaltsikh—heard Hovannisian speak about the First Armenian Democratic Republic and issues relating to the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, in which the Georgian Armenian youth showed great interest.

Hovannisian joined His Eminence and the youth group on a pilgrimage to the Armenian Pantheon, a small part of the former vast Armenian Khojavank cemetery in the Halvabar quarter of Tbilisi to plant a tree near the monuments of Raffi, Sundukian, and other noted Armenian writers and intellectuals. Much of Khojavank and its Church of Holy Mother of God (Astvatsatzin) were demolished at the command of Stalin's henchman, Lavrenty Beria, in the 1930. Recently, the enormous Georgian Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity has been built on the site of the cemetery, exposing numerous tombs, about which various protests proved to be of no avail. Down the hill from the cathedral is the Armenian "Etchmiadzin" Church and just across the Kura River, the Armenian Cathedral of Saint Gevorg.

The week of conferences, talks, and excursions proved both interesting and instructive for the seminar participants. It was apparent that until recently the Georgian scholars and public had far less knowledge and awareness of the First Georgian Republic than Armenians had about their First Republic, perhaps because of the existence of a large Armenian Diaspora during the Soviet years.

## Yerevan Mayor Suspends Transport Fare Hikes

**Continued from page 1**

bus fares for almost a week.

Speaking to Tert.am, one of the activists, Vahagn Minasian, said no employees of the municipality paid attention to them early in the morning except Anahit Bakhshian of the opposition Barev Yerevan (Hello Yerevan) bloc.

"We issued a statement today, expressing our demands in detail," he said. The protesters are calling for the resignation of the Transport Depart-

ment head, Henrik Navasardian, and the director of the Yerevantrans company, Vahagn Minasian.

Markarian on Tuesday ruled out through a spokesman the dismissal of two senior municipal officials. "Any sacking of a local official must be substantiated," Armen Gevorgian, the Yerevan municipality spokesman, told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "Just because some people have come up with some demands doesn't mean that they must be fired."

## Syrian Armenian Relief Fund: A Call for Your Continued Support



GLENDALE -- The Syrian Armenian Relief Fund (SARF), Executive Committee sincerely thanks the generous public for closely following the ongoing calls for humanitarian assistance in Syria. All of us are cognizant of our moral obligation to sustain the Armenian communities in Syria.

We are thankful that you provided your financial support and joined thousands by attending the dance concert, HyeAID2, held on June 9, 2013, which was a showcase of high artistry and provided much delight to the audience.

The Executive Committee successfully worked with countless volunteers backstage, numerous entities in the print and TV media, as well as sponsors who pulled in small and large donations, to bring HyeAID and HyeAID2 concerts to the stage. Your assistance in all aspects of our efforts to continue the momentum for assistance was invaluable.

Unfortunately, a just solution and peace has not returned to Syria yet, and fear and horror, together with the lack of essential foods and supplies continue to plague the population. Every penny counts. With our continued awareness and assistance, each of us can do our part for the survival of our sisters and brothers in Syria. They need our help to keep the faith and continue to hope to persist as individuals, as families and as communities.

## AXA Litigation Settlement Lawyers Announce Amicably Resolve of Differences

**Continued from page 1**

request that the Federal District Court keep and maintain jurisdiction over the finalization of both the claims process as well as the fulfillment of the terms of this settlement agreement among the law firms.

The AXA Insurance Claims Action was a milestone case. It was originally filed by Vartkes Yeghiyan and Brian Kabateck in February 2002 in Federal District Court in Los Angeles. Its intent was threefold: to honor the victims and martyrs of the Armenian Genocide; to foster public awareness and recognition of the Armenian Genocide; and to compensate descendants of those policyholders who were killed in the Armenian Genocide with the rightful monetary benefit that insurance companies had denied them in the decades following the horrendous deaths of their parents and grandparents.

The lawyers who filed the case are aware that the AXA case is meager compensation for the fathomless injustice committed upon the Armenian people. They know that while they cannot undo the dark pages of Armenian history, they must continue to fight for justice. The day in which Armenians cease to fight to correct even the smallest of injustices they

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We are proud to rely on your sense of duty and generosity.

We hope that peace will soon reach the Armenian community in Syria.

Executive Committee  
Syrian Armenian Relief Fund  
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The following churches, charities and organizations came together to form the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund in August 2012: Armenian Catholic Eparchy in North America; Armenian Evangelical Union of North America; Western Diocese of the Armenian Church; Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America; Armenian General Benevolent Union; Armenian Missionary Association of America; Armenian Relief Society of Western U.S.A.; Armenian Democratic Liberal Party; Armenian Revolutionary Federation-Western U.S.A.; and Social Democrat Hunchakian Party-Western U.S.A.

The web site address follows:  
[www.SyrianArmenianReliefFund.org](http://www.SyrianArmenianReliefFund.org)

## AXA Litigation Settlement Lawyers Announce

### Amicably Resolve of Differences

have suffered, such as the failure of insurance companies to honor contracts signed by Armenians in their homeland, is the day in which the genocide which was begun in 1915 will be completely accomplished.

It is for this reason that the lawyers involved have all renewed their deep commitment to justice for their community and their forefathers. They have applied that commitment to the AXA case through their zealous advocacy.

In the words of Mr. Yeghiyan: "We must not lose sight of our main objective, which is a measure of justice for the heirs of the victims. The Armenian community expects an orderly and transparent conclusion of this case."

Mark Geragos, commenting on the settlement, said: "Brian Kabateck and I are pleased with this resolution because it will allow all of us to finalize the settlement agreement, resolve all claims accounting issues and conclude any remaining issues between the lawyers. The resolution of this case is as important as continuing the fight to bring justice for all Genocide victims."

The parties expect a final accounting and Court order in connection with the AXA settlement to be issued within 90 days.















