













## Նիկոլ Փաշինեանը Պարգևատրուեց «Արուեստի Խաղաղութեան» Պատուոյ Ոսկէ Մետալով



2018թ-ի Յունիսի 12-ին ՀՀ կարչապետ Նիկոլ Փաշինեանը ընդունեց «Արուեստի Խաղաղութիւնը» կազմակերպութեան հիմնադիր նախագահ Դանիէլ Վարուժան Հեծինեանին եւ կազմակերպութեան հայաստանեան ներկայցուցիչ Հեղինէ Գէորգեանին; Հանդիպմանը ներկայ էին նաեւ մշակույթի նախարար Լիլիթ Մակունցը եւ վարչապետի մամլոյ քարտուղար Արման Եղոյեանը:

Զրոյցի ընթացքում Հեծինեանը իր խօսքում նշեց, որ պարոն վարչապետը վայելում է համայնքայութեան սէրն ու վստահութիւնը, եւ պատմութեան մէջ սարացածիկ երեւոյթն է, երբ հարաբեկում ժողովուրդն է ընտրում իր վարչապետին:

Հանդիպման վերջում Հեծինեանը հանդէս եկաւ ելոյթով.

«2014 թ-ին համահայկական 5-րդ համաժողովի շրջանակներում ինձ առիթ ընծայուեց ծանօթանալ այնժամ ազգայի ժողովի պատգամաւոր Նիկոլ Փաշինեանի հետո; Պոսթոնից հետեւելով Հայաստանի քաղաքական կեանքին եւ ծանօթ լինելով նրա գործունէութեանը՝ ծանօթանալուց եւ այցեքարտեր փոխանակելուց յետոյն նրան հարցրի՝ պարոն Փաշինեան Ձեզ այդքան դուխ որտեղի՞ց:

Իմ հարցի պատասխանը ստացայ 4 տարի անց: Պարզուեց, որ պատմութիւնն է ծնում յեղափոխութիւնը, ժողովուրդն է իրականացնում, իսկ առաջնորդը նշանակում է ի վերուսա: Նրա գուխը պայմանաւորուած է ժողովրդի սի-

րով, համերաշխութեամբ, փոխադարձ վստահութեամբ եւ միասնականութեամբ, որտեղ չկայ ամերիկահայ, չկամ սիրիահայ, այլ կայ մէկ միասնական հայ ժողովուրդ, որոնք մէկ մարդու նման կատարում են իրեց առաջնորդի՝ հրահանգները՝ որդեգրելով ձեռքերը վեր, խաղաղ, առանց բանութեան պայքարի ձեւը:

«Արուեստի խաղաղութիւնը» կազմակերպութիւնը հիմնուած է 2003 թ-ին, Պոսթոնում, որը կրթական, մարդասիրական, անշահոյթ կազմակերպութիւն է, չունի ոչ մի կուսակցական կամ կրօնական ուղղուածութիւն, որն օգտագործում է արուեստի համընդհանուր լեզուն մարդկանց բարօրութեան, հակամարտութիւնների խաղաղ լուծման, հայոց յեղասպանութեան միջազգային ճանաչման եւ արտերկրում Հայաստանի հեղինակութեան բարձրացման համար:

«Արուեստի խաղաղութիւնը» կազմակերպութիւնը ձօնուած է աշխարհում խաղաղութեան պահպաններին, խաղաղութիւն իրականացնողներին եւ բոլոր նրանց, ովքեր իրենց կեանքը վասնուում են մարդկանց բարօրութեան համար:

Ուստի, «Արուեստի խաղաղութիւնը» կազմակերպութիւնը պարզեւարում է ՀՀ վարչապետ Նիկոլ Փաշինեանին «Արուեստի խաղաղութիւնը» կազմակերպութեան պատույ ոսկէ մետալով խաղաղ թաւշեայ յեղափոխութեան համար:

Ստորագրուած Մայիսի 8-ին, 2018 թ.»:

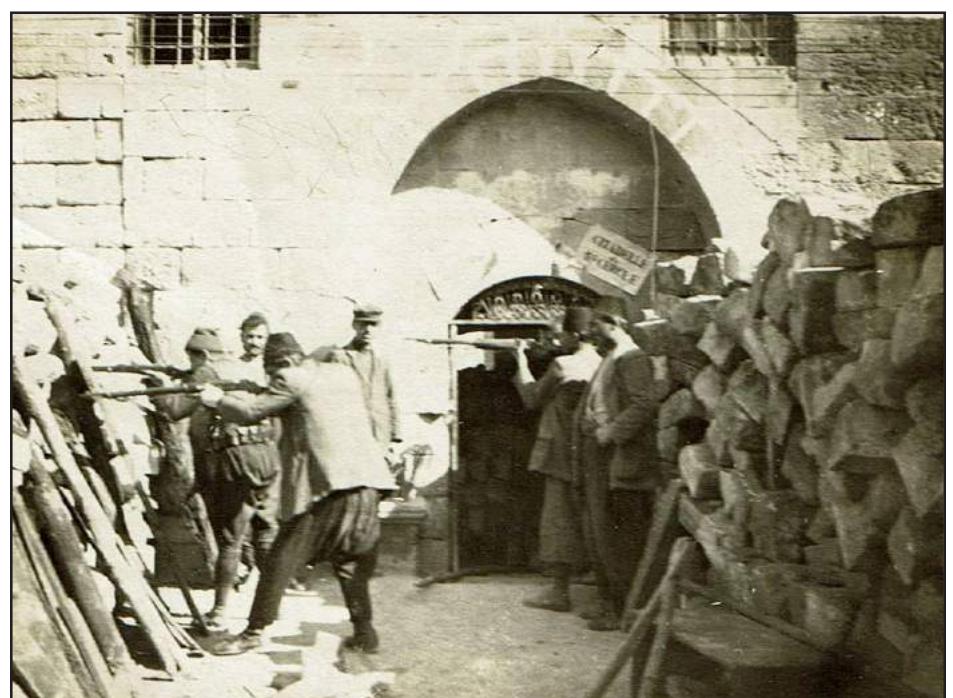
### Հայկական Երգ ու Պար Ուաշինկթոնի Կեդրոնում

Յունիսի 28ից Յուլիսի 1ը, իսկ այնուհետեւ Յուլիսի 4ից 8ը ամերիկեան Սմիթսոնեան հաստատութեան ամենամեայ մշակութացին փառատօնի շրջանակներում Ռազմակիթոնում հնչելու են հայ երաժիշտաների կատարումներ: Ամերիկեան մայրաքաղաքի Ազգային Զբոսաշարում, որը կոնդրէսի եւ Սպիտակ տան միջնեւ ընկած տարածքում է, Յունիսի 28-ին հանդէս կը գայ



Արթօ Թունչբոյաջեանի Armenian Navy Band-ը: Յաջորդ օրը

## Յարութեաղաղեան Յեղասպանութեան Թանգարանին կը Նուիրէ Այնթապի Քերոսամարտէն Բացառիկ Լուսանկարներ



Հայոց յեղասպանութեան թանգարան-հիմնարկի (ՀՅԹԻ) հաւաքածուն համարուեցաւ կուրջ քասան հազուագիւտ փաստաթուղթերով եւ աւելի քան 130 բացառիկ բնօրինակ լուսանկարներով, որոնք կ'առնչուին 1920 թ. Անթապի Հայութեան հերոսական դիմադրութեան:

Ինչպէս «Հայերն այսօր»-ին կը յայտնեն Հայոց յեղասպանութեան թանգարան-հիմնարկն, լուսանկարները կը ներկայացնեն ինքնապաշտպանական մարտերուդրուափներ, պաշտպանական ամրութիւններու կառուցման տեսարաններ, ինչպէս նաեւ հերոսամարտի մասնակիցներ:

Այս բացառիկ նուիրատութիւնը կատարած է Հոս Անճելը:

Բնակող մեր հայրենակից Յարութեաղաղեանը:

Ցիշեցնենք, որ ամերիկեան կեղրուական Սմիթսոնեան գիտակրթական կեղրուական հաստատութիւնը Զարգացման ամերիկեան գործակալութեան (USAID), ՀՀ կառավարութեան եւ ԱՄՆ համամիջն աշակեցութեամբ ամերիկեան մայրաքաղաքի սրտում անց է կացնելու «Հայաստան. ստեղծելով տուն» փառատօնը: Փառատօնի բացմանը ներկայ է լինելու նաեւ ՀՀ նախագահ Արմէն Սարգսեանը:



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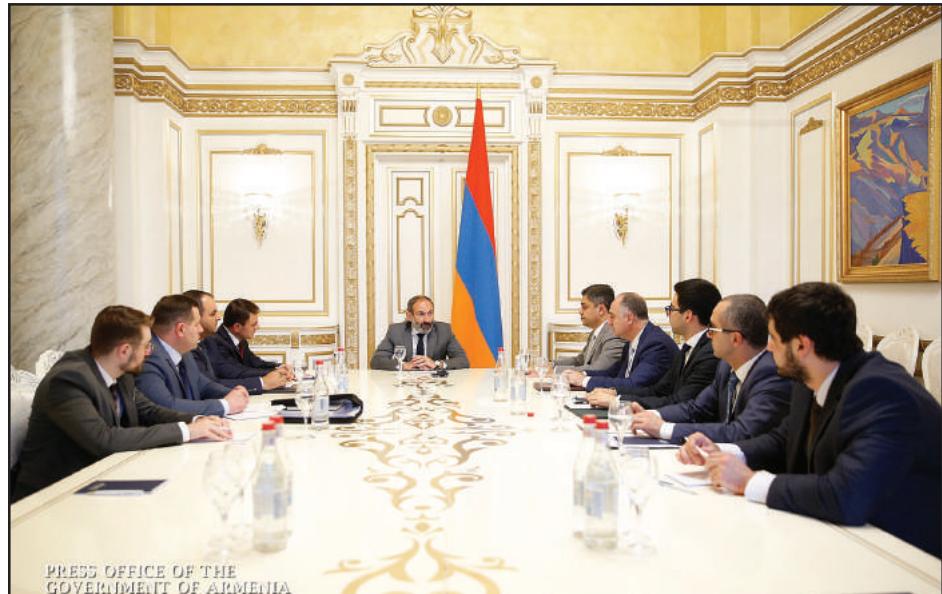
# massis Weekly

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PM Pashinian:

## Rule of Law and Human Rights Will be Strictly Respected in Fight Against Corruption



YEREVAN -- Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian held a consultation with representatives of law enforcement authorities to discuss the fight against corruption.

"Today, the fight against corruption is the most discussed issue in Armenia, and the law enforcement authorities are taking serious measures in this direction. It is natural because the

fight against corruption has been one of my government's priorities. We must strictly adhere to lawfulness and the respect for human rights to prevent any misinterpretation of law enforcers' activities. As we ushered in the anti-corruption campaign, we simultaneously turned the page of political persecutions and political prisoners in Armenia," the Prime Minister said.

## Armenia and the Post Velvet Revolution Presented by Dr. Hampig Sarafian



FRESNO – The Armenian Cultural Conservancy (ACC) and the Armenian Council of America (ACA) organized an evening lecture by Dr. Hampig Sarafian, Chairman of the Social Democrat Hunchakian Party's Central Committee titled "Armenia and the Post Velvet Revolution Movement" at Fresno's Woodward Park Regional Library on June 18.

Addressing the large audience was Deacon Allan Y. Jendian, Publicity Chair of ACC, who delivered the opening remarks and gave a brief introduction on the traditional Armenian political parties and the cultural, educational and political action organizations that function under their auspices.

Sevak Khatchadorian, Chairman of ACA, discussed the mission of ACA, that includes bridging the gap between elected US officials and the Armenian American communities in the United States, strengthening U.S. – Armenia and U.S. – Artsakh ties and promoting good governance in Armenia. Mr. Khatchadorian then introduced Dr. Sarafian.

Dr. Sarafian delivered an intellectual and thought provoking presentation about Armenia by highlighting the major events since the independence in 1991 that resulted in subversion of the rule of law and erosion of checks and balances between the three

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It is important to ensure that the law enforcement agencies' operations do not give rise to misinterpretations. It is crucial for us to agree upon a common format of action. Firstly, we need to make sure that the anticorruption fight will be continued, and that the process will be more efficacious, proceeding from the respect for human rights, legality and public interest," Nikol Pashinian emphasized.

The representatives of law enforcement agencies reported back the ongoing activities and the steps to be taken in the fight against corruption. Reference was made to the need for enhancing the effectiveness of cooperation between different law enforcement agencies.

## Rep. Schiff Attacked by Erdogan Spokesman After Calling Out Turkey's Descent into Authoritarianism

WASHINGTON D.C. – Today, after speaking out about the recent Turkish elections, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) was attacked by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman, Ibrahim Kalin. Schiff has consistently called out President Erdogan and the erosion of democratic checks and balances in Turkey under his increasingly autocratic rule.

On Monday, Schiff tweeted a message directed at the Trump Administration, which has a tendency to disregard the advice of advisors by

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## Garo Paylan and Markar Esayan Re-Elected to Turkey's Parliament



ISTANBUL — Two Turkish-Armenian MPs have been re-elected to Turkey's parliament in the June 24 general elections.

Garo Paylan from Diyarbakir (HDP) and Markar Esayan from Istanbul (AKP) have been re-elected to the 600-seat parliament of Turkey. The number of seats has been increased from 550 to 600 following the constitutional referendum.

Garo Paylan is known for his struggle for achieving the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Turkey itself. He even introduced a motion in the parliament to acknowledge the 1915 killings as genocide, but understandably it was denied as the country's leadership is vehemently denying the historical fact. Paylan is also known for his active engagement in the affairs of the local Armenian community of Istanbul, most notably in the Armenian Patriarchate matters.

He was even sanctioned for speaking about the Armenian Genocide from the parliament floor.

In addition, he is currently under investigation under the infamous Article 301 – an article of the criminal

code seeking imprisonment for "insulting Turkey".

But unlike Paylan, the other Turkish-Armenian parliamentarian, Markar Esayan, is a staunch supporter of the country's President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and of the AKP.

Two other ethnic Armenian candidates for parliament – Ludmila Buyum from the HDP and Elmas Giragos from the İYİ party – have failed to be elected according to preliminary results.

According to preliminary results, Turkey's ruling party, the AKP, will have 293 seats, CHP will have 146 seats, HDP will have 67 seats, the Nationalist Movement Party MHP will have 50 seats and the İYİ party will have 44 seats.

Incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been re-elected. Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency reported that Erdogan, leader of the AKP party, has garnered 52,5% of votes.

Erdogan's main rival Muhammet Ince from CHP received 30,6%.

Selahattin Demirtas from HDP, who ran for presidency from prison, received 8,3%.

## Senate Appropriations Committee Ensures Continued Aid to Armenia and Humanitarian Assistance to Artsakh

WASHINGTON, D.C.- The US Senate Appropriations Committee adopted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) Appropriations Bill, which ensures continued funding to Armenia and supports humanitarian programs in Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh), reported the Armenian Assembly of America.

According to the bill's report language, which Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) advanced: "The Committee remains concerned with the protracted conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, endorses the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Process, and supports humanitarian and health programs funded by the act for victims of that conflict, including for regional rehabilitation centers to care for infants, children, and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities." The overall bill also provides \$3.4 billion for Migration and Refugee Assistance.

The Committee included language that puts Turkey on notice for purchasing military systems from Russia. The Russian-made military equipment exposes the United States to potential risk in the region. Spearheaded by Senator Van Hollen and with the support of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-SC), the Committee adopted an amendment which would expressly prohibit spending funds from FY 2019 – as well as prior fiscal years – to transfer, or facilitate the transfer, of F-35 Joint Strike Fighters to Turkey until the Secretary of State certifies that Turkey is not purchasing and will not accept deliveries of the Russian S-400 missile defense system.

Chairman Lindsey Graham stated during the mark-up: "I find it very odd that we live in a time where a NATO



ally is buying a missile defense systems from Russia. This is not exactly what I had in mind for NATO..."

According to Senator Van Hollen's press release, "senior defense officials have said that if Turkey operates both the F-35 and the S-400, it could compromise the F-35's security, including the aircraft's stealth capabilities, and represent a strategic threat to the United States. It would also compromise the security of our allies and stand in clear violation of the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act."

The bill restates the traditional exceptions to Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, while the report language maintains military parity between Armenia and Azerbaijan, recommending \$600,000 for International Military Education and Training and \$1 million for the Foreign Military Financing Program for each country. The Senate report language also recommends the same funding for Armenia consistent with last year's level: \$17.633 million through the Assistance to Europe Eurasia and Central Asia (AEECA) account and \$1.5 million for International Narcotics Controls and Law Enforcement.

## EU Backs New Armenian Government's Reform Agenda

BRUSSELS (RFE/RL) — The European Union on Thursday voiced "full support" for sweeping reforms promised by Armenia's new government and praised anti-corruption measures that have already been taken by it.

The EU's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, also said the 28-nation bloc is ready to help the government implement the "very ambitious" reform agenda and hold fresh parliamentary elections sought by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian.

"We agreed on the importance of combatting corruption ... and the concrete action that is already taken by the government in this field," Mogherini said after holding what she called "extremely productive" talks with Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanian in Brussels.

"I was glad to hear about the government's determination and very ambitious agenda, with a focus on public administration and on the judiciary, which is an agenda that has our

full support," she told a joint news conference. "I reassured the minister on the EU intention and readiness to accompany this process every single step of the journey."

"Upcoming visits of our European Union teams to Armenia will discuss now how the European Union can support the reforms in the country," she added.

Mogherini and Mnatsakanian spoke to reporters after chairing the first session of the EU-Armenia Partnership Council, a body tasked with overseeing the implementation of a landmark agreement signed by the two sides last November.

The Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) offers the South Caucasus state the prospect of a closer relationship with the EU in return for major political and economic reforms. It also commits Yerevan to gradually "approximating" Armenian economic laws and regulations to the EU's legal framework.

## Azerbaijan Displays Turkish Cruise Missile in Baku Military Parade



BAKU-- Azerbaijan has displayed a Turkish-made cruise missile in a military parade to mark the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Azeri Armed Forces, Hurriet Daily News reports.

Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency on June 26 described the event as "a first in history" for the inclusion of SOM-B1, Turkey's first indigenous long-range, autonomous, high-precision air-to-surface cruise missile designed and produced by Roketsan.

Azeri President Ilham Aliyev saluted the armed forces during the parade in Baku before focusing in his speech on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

"Karabakh is Azeri land. Azerbaijan will never accept the occupation. Our army has been equipped with the most modern arms and technologies. Only a fraction of our arms

are on display here. Armenia can never compete with us," Aliyev said in the ceremony.

"We are for the peaceful resolution of the [Nagorno-Karabakh] conflict but [Armenia] has to understand that there is no military or strategic object that the Azerbaijani Army is unable to destroy," Aliyev said.

"The war is not over. Only its first phase has ended," he said.

Aliyev stressed that Baku will continue to buy weapons abroad to strengthen its armed forces, saying that "the factor of military potential currently dominates in the world affairs."

"International law does not work, because if it did, we [would have] liberated our occupied territories long ago," he said. "The war is not over. Only its first phase has ended."

## Millions Confiscated from Serzh Sarkisian's Top Bodyguard

YEREVAN -- Law-enforcement authorities confiscated a further \$1 million worth of cash from a man who has long been former President Serzh Sarkisian's chief bodyguard when they arrested him on Monday.



Vachagan Ghazarian was detained by the National Security Service (NSS) five days after other law-enforcement bodies raided his apartment in Yerevan and found \$1.1 million and 230,000 euros (\$267,000) in cash there. The money was at least deposited with the Central Bank of Armenia pending investigation into its origin.

Investigators said on Friday that Ghazarian and his wife failed to disclose it in their income and asset declarations submitted to an anti-corruption state commission. Such declarations are mandatory for Armenia's high-ranking state officials and their close relatives. Ghazarian was among them until Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian dismissed him last month as first deputy head of a security agency providing bodyguards to the country's leaders.

An NSS video released late on Monday showed masked officers arresting the formerly powerful general outside a commercial bank in Yerevan. He was then shown emptying his bag,

filled with stacks of banknotes, in an interrogation room.

An NSS statement said the bag contained \$120,000 and 436 million drams (\$900,000) in cash he withdrew from one of his bank accounts. It said Ghazarian claimed that he was going to give the money to its "real owner" but refused to identify that person.

The NSS said Ghazarian was also planning to withdraw another 1.5 billion drams (\$3.1 million) kept by him and his wife at another Armenian bank. According to it, he claimed that he "forgot" to add these large sums to his official income declarations.

Ghazarian is the first person in Armenia who could be prosecuted on charges of "illegal enrichment" and/or false asset disclosure carrying up to six years in prison. He headed Sarkisian's security detail for more than two decades.

## Dr. Helen Evans Presents Metropolitan Museum Exhibition on Armenia at Zohrab Center

By Florence Avakian

Armenian art is not something isolated. It is woven into a global network, and needs to be understood for what makes it specifically Armenian," declared Dr. Helen Evans, to an enthusiastic crowd of close to a one hundred on Thursday evening, June 7, at the Armenian Diocesan Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center.

"It is also part of the world's art of global significance."

The ARMENIA exhibition will open on September 22, the 27th anniversary of Armenia's independence, and run through January 13, 2019, at the world famous Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. It has been organized by Dr. Helen C. Evans, the distinguished Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator for Byzantine Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and acclaimed scholar of Armenian art.



The Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, newly elected Primate of the Armenian Diocese (eastern), and longtime Director of the Zohrab Information Center, introduced Dr. Evans, and pointed out that the scholar had previously co-curated the Morgan Library and Museum's 1994 exhibition, Treasures in Heaven: Armenian Illuminated Manuscripts. As the Nikit and Eleanora Ordjanian Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies, he said, Dr. Evans has taught art courses at Columbia University, and has published numerous articles on Armenian subjects.

She has been especially instrumental in displaying major works of Armenian art at the Metropolitan, including treasures on permanent view in the medieval galleries. She was also responsible for bringing to the Metropolitan the huge 1000 pound twelfth century khachkar (cross stone) from the Lori province for which she traveled to Armenia with Metropolitan Museum Conservator Jack Soultanian, on one of her many trips there. It remains on renewed loan at the Metropolitan.

Using color slides to accompany her remarks, she said that this must-see exhibition at the Metropolitan is "an opportunity to show Armenian art as an identifier of a significant people, and an important element of the world's art."

Included in this exhibition, the first of this monumental scale at the

Metropolitan Museum of Art, are 140 opulent gilded reliquaries, richly illuminated manuscripts, rare textiles, liturgical furnishings made of precious materials, khachkars (cross stones), church models, and printed books which show Armenia's distinctive imagery in their homeland, and from other major Armenian locations from the Kingdom of Cilicia on the Mediterranean to New Julfa in Safavid Persia.

"The way we are presenting art is showing how Armenians with their conversion to Christianity, created a visual identity that is incredibly compelling and goes through a variety of styles in the millennium we are covering. At the same time, it always has the element that ties Armenians together."

The time period includes opening with the conversion of Armenia to Christianity – the beginning of the 4th century, and will conclude with the end of the Middle Ages, when Arme-

nian books become readily available in the Middle East. "We wanted a narrative," she said.

The show will focus on four artists, showing several works by each of them "so people will think of them as we think of Michelangelo in Italy." They include T'oros Roslin, Sargis Pidzak, Toros Taronatsi, and Hakob of Julfa working in the Armenian homeland, the Kingdom of Cilicia, and New Julfa.

The locations show Armenians as they moved around the globe on the trade routes which happened before the Christian era, and after the time frame we will be showing, she revealed. It starts in Greater Armenia (the conversion site) which is the Republic of Armenia today, and out to the West (kingdom of Cilicia), then to Crimea and Italy, and back to Greater Armenia in the Middle Ages where Armenians were devastated in many ways by different invaders.

"Armenians controlled vast amounts of Mongol trade routes which are seen in the reliquaries donated by people with vast wealth," Dr. Evans related. "There were Armenian merchants all over Europe. They controlled the internal and external textile trade of India. Most spectacular are the sculpture reliquaries, and manuscripts, protected in New Julfa in the 17th century, with their elaborate bindings."

Armenians were not converted

## New Minister of Culture Lilit Makunts to Speak at Glendale Library

GLENDALE – In her first official visit to Los Angeles, new Minister of Culture for the Republic of Armenia, Lilit Makunts will visit Glendale and discuss Armenia's Cultural Revolution in a public talk to be held at the Downtown Central Library Auditorium at 222 E. Harvard Street in Glendale on Friday, June 29 at 7 pm. The presentation will begin at 7pm and will focus on recent cultural developments and her vision for the future. This will be followed by a public question and answer session, facilitated by Alec Mouhibian, Vice President of Productions & Programs for Creative Armenia.

Lilit Makunts was appointed Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia on May 12, 2018, as part of the newly-established government of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian. Armenian President Armen Sarkissian signed a decree to appoint Lilit Makunts based on the request of the Prime Minister.

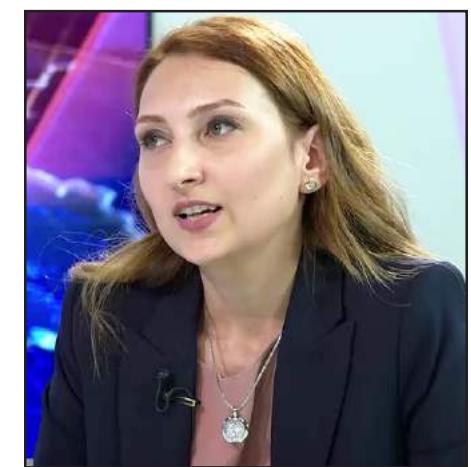
"Glendale is honored to be hosting this event for Minister Makunts. I am proud that she has chosen to announce her vision for Armenia to the

diaspora in our City," said Mayor Zareh Sinanyan.

Previously, Makunts was a professor at the Russian Armenian University in Yerevan, and the head of Russian Armenian university department of International Cooperation. She holds a PhD in Philological Sciences. She has also worked as a contract specialist for the American Peace Corps and, since her student days, has been actively engaged in civic and political initiatives to promote democratic changes in Armenia.

to Christianity from the religions of the classical world. "What made Armenians respond to Christianity when it was not yet a done deal, she asked. For them, Christ is Christ, the Virgin is the Virgin. In the early church, apostolic lines were incredibly important. Armenians had their own direct connection to an apostle. It was a complex weaving together."

The other early church to con-



answer period, animated discussion with Dr. Evans, and between attendees continued for a considerable amount of time during the reception.

More than half of the works in the ARMENIA exhibition to be displayed are on loan from Armenia, including Etchmiadzin, the Matenadaran Institute, and the History Museum. Treasures have been sent from the See of Cilicia, the Armenian Patriarchate



vert was Ethiopia, she stated. "Armenia controlled the trade routes coming out of China and Central Asia which came through Armenia to reach Constantinople and the West. Both nations converted very early, before the Roman Empire became officially Christian."

"I want at the end of the show for non-Armenians to be very impressed by Armenian art, and for Armenians to be proud of the show," Dr. Evans declared with her usual enthusiasm and passion. "This has been an idea in progress for me ever since I did my PH.D. dissertation on the manuscripts of Cilicia at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts", she revealed with an ear-to-ear smile.

Following a brief question and

of Jerusalem, and the Armenian Mekhitarist Congregation in Venice. Selected works from the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum in Portugal, as well as the Armenian Diocese (eastern), the Armenian Museum in Boston, and the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum in Southfield, Michigan have also been lent.

The exhibition has been made possible by The Hagop Kevorkian Fund, with additional support provided by the Armenian General Benevolent Union, The Giorgi Family Foundation, the Karagheusian Foundation, The Nazar and Artemis Nazarian Family, the Rudock Foundation for the Arts, The Strauch Kulhanjian Family and The Paros Foundation, Aso O. Tavitian, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## Nikol Pashinian Awarded “Peace of Art” Gold Medal of Honor



By Heghine Gevorgyan

On June 12, 2018, RA Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian received Daniel Varoujan Hejinian, the founder president of the “Peace of Art” organization and the organization’s representative in Armenia Heghine Gevorgyan.

The meeting was also attended by the Minister of Culture Lilit Makunts and the press secretary Arman Yeghoyan. During the conversation Hejinian mentioned, that the Prime Minister enjoys the love and trust of all Armenians, and this is an exceptional phenomenon in the history, when the Prime Minister was elected by the people in the public square.

At the end of the meeting, Hejinian delivered a speech.

“In 2014 within the framework of the 5th Pan-Armenian Forum, I was given an opportunity to meet with then Deputy of the National Assembly Nikol Pashinian. Having followed the political life in Armenia and being familiar with his activities, after getting acquainted and exchanging business cards I asked him, ‘Mr. Pashinian, where did you get such a “dugh” inspiration?’

I received the answer to my question four years later. It has once again been proved that revolutions throughout history have been carried out by people and leaders are assigned from

above.

His “Dugh” inspiration is conditioned by the people’s love, solidarity, mutual trust and unity, where there is no American-Armenian, no Persian-Armenian or Syrian-Armenian, but there is one united Armenian nation, who like one person performs the instructions of the leader, peacefully, demonstrating non-violent way of struggle.

Founded in 2003 in Boston, Massachusetts, Peace of Art, Inc. is a non-profit organization, which uses art as an educational tool to bring awareness to the universal human condition and promote peaceful solutions to conflicts.

Peace of Art, Inc. is not associated with political or religious organizations and it focuses on the global human condition, international recognition of the Armenian Genocide and raising Armenia’s reputation abroad.

Peace of Art is dedicated to the peace keepers and peace achievers around the world, and those who have devoted themselves to the betterment of mankind. [www.peaceofart.org](http://www.peaceofart.org).

Therefore, the “Peace of Art” organization awarded RA Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian with the gold Medal of Honor for the peaceful “Velvet Revolution” headed by him.

## Rep. Schiff Attacked by Erdogan Spokesman

Continued from page 1

congratulating authoritarian leaders upon their “reelection” and ignoring their blatant attacks on democracy:

Erdogan “won” reelection in Turkey this weekend only by decimating the opposition through arrests, violence and squashing freedom of the press.

Turkey’s descent into autocracy is another reminder that democracy is under assault worldwide.

**DO NOT CONGRATULATE.**

President Erdogan’s spokesman, Ibrahim Kalin, tweeted in response:

President Erdogan certainly does not need YOUR @RepAdamSchiff congratulations. Turkish people have spoken up. You need to shut up.

In response to Mr. Kalin’s tweet, Schiff said, “A fitting response from Erdogan’s spokesman to criticism that the Turkish Leader is trying to silence his critics. Thanks, Mr. Kalin, for such swift proof of my point.”

Schiff has consistently spoken out against the rise of authoritarianism around the world and has specifically condemned Turkey’s swift descent in recent years, including before its most recent election this year.

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## How an Ultra Runner Was Born



NORTHRIDGE, CA—How does a demure little girl blossom into a world class ultra-marathon runner and competitor?

Telma Ghazarian Altoon moved to the United States from Iran when she was twelve years old and already running and racing. Soon after, she ran varsity track and cross country for Glendale High School starting in her first year there.

Telma’s aptitude for running earned her a scholarship to the University of Southern California where she continued to shine as one of the school’s Division I athletes in track and cross country.

All of that is still a far cry from the elite, and fairly new, sport of ultrarunning. In 2007, Telma just leapt in when she participated in a 50 kilometer (31.25 mi) race in Simi Valley, never even having run a marathon (26 mi/ 41.2 km) before. She has not stopped since then, participating in dozens of ultra races, some longer than 170 miles (272km), worldwide. She has run in the Alps of Europe, the mountains and deserts of California, and even Artzakh’s Janabahar Trail.

Telma’s favorite race was the Grand-to-Grand Ultra. At 176 mi (275 km), this race extends from the Grand Canyon to the Grand Staircase-

Escalante in Utah. It is self-supported, meaning runners must carry their food and sleeping gear as they run through all kinds of terrain surrounded by amazing scenery over the course of five or six days.

But she found the 100km (62.5 mi) race in Joshua Tree National park to be the most difficult, even though she placed first among the women and second overall. At one point during this race, she was close to being pulled out by the organizers because she started to hallucinate in the desert’s harsh heat. But she persisted and completed the run.

Telma usually places at or near the top of the field in these events. She always displays the Armenian flag proudly and is an excellent “ambassador” for the nation in this rarified circle of ultra competitors. She is even an Ambassador for three companies – XoSkin, IRUN4ULTRA, and Health Warrior Superfoods – which are involved in supplying and supporting the sport.

Looking forward to the future Telma says, “I hope to bring ultra racing to the Armenian highlands and participate in the Ultra Milano Sanremo”. That’s a 175 mi race that is run in only two days between those Italian cities, with only 50 participants accepted each year.

## Armenia and the Post Velvet Revolution

Continued from page 1

branches of government, which in turn led to institutionalized corruption that pilfered the state coffers, regime sponsored monopolies, class of untouchables who were above the law and the establishment of perpetual fraudulent elections that enabled the leading Republican Party to further strengthen its grip on all aspects of life in Armenia getting very close to establishing a single party rule, much like the communist party in Soviet times.

Speaking about the major achievements of the “Velvet Revolution” thus far, the speaker singled out the relentless war against corruption by Nikol Pashinian’s government that has so far ensnared prominent figures of the previous Republican Party-led regime with more revelations to come, re-establishment of judicial independence and a concerted effort toward more transparent and just governance.

He later drew a contrast to neighboring Georgia, which prior to the

Saakashvili-led “Rose Revolution,” was considered to be one of the most corrupt countries in the region and now has become a thriving democracy. Dr. Sarafian felt confident that the new leadership under Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian will spearhead the same type of change in Armenia. He ended his speech by stating that he was optimistic about the future because Armenia’s youth, the driving force behind this movement, is fully engaged in the process, is fully aware of its rights; and in the age of advanced technology and the internet, they have a good grasp of how a modern democracy is supposed to function.

The lecture was followed by a lively question and answer session where members of the audience asked and received answers to wide ranging and in-depth questions about the topic at hand.

Ending the question and answer session Midge Barrett, ACC Co-Chair and Deacon Jendian presented Dr. Sarafian and Mr. Khatchadorian with gifts of appreciation.

















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**103-րդ ԱՄԵԱԿԻ ՈԳԵԿՈՉՈՒՄ**

**«Մեր Յատակ Տեսլականը՝ Ժողովրդավարական և Անկախ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆ»**

Կազմակերպութեամբ՝

**Ա.Դ.Հ.Կ. Փասատինայի Փարամագ Մասնաճիւղի**

Հովանաւորութեամբ՝

**Ա.Դ.Հ.Կ. Արեւմտեան Ամերիկայի Վարիչ Մարմնի**

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Ա.Դ.Հ.Կ. Կեղրոնական Վարչութեան Անդամ Գանատայէն

## ՀԱՅ. Կիրակոս Թիւթիւնձեան

Կիրակի Յուլիս 15 2018, Երեկոյան ժամը 5:00-ին

Փասատինակի Ա. Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչ Եկեղեցւոյ

**Կիրակոս Մրան**

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