

# ՄԱՍԻՍ

ՀԱՅԱԹԱԹԵՐԹ

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Պաշտօնաթերթ  
Ա. Դ. Հնչակեան Կուսակցութեան  
Արևմտեան Ամերիկայի

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## ՄԵՐ ԱՆԿԻՒՆԵՆ

«ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ ՀԱՅ  
ԳՐՈՂՆԵՐՈՒ  
ՄԻՈՒԹԵԱՆ»  
ՀԱՂՈՐԴԱԳՐՈՒԹԵԱՆ  
ԱՌԻԹՈՎ  
**ՏՕԹ. Ա. ԳԱԶԱՆՃԵԱՆ**

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ազօր դեսպան դոկտ. Վահան Տէր  
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բար Պէյրութ գտնուող Ս. Դ. Հ. Կ.  
կեղրոնական Վարչութեան ատե-  
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ստանի զաղութեացումը, ֆորպո-  
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Ս. Դ. Հ. Կ. աստենապէտ  
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## New Public Movement "Legitimate President 2008" Launched

YEREVAN -- Members of a new organization entitled Legitimate President-2008, established to support former President Levon Ter-Petrossian's candidacy in the presidential election scheduled for February 19, 2008, argued on December 4 that Prime Minister Serzh Sarksian, the current leadership's presidential candidate, should step down in order to create "a level playing field" for the election campaign.

Garnik Markarian, one of the organization's leaders, said it will stage rallies aimed at coercing Sarksian to resign; he said it will also take unspecified actions to prevent the vote-rigging which Ter-Petrossian has publicly predicted.

"If the candidates holding one or another [government] post want to participate in a free and fair election and are concerned with the country's future, they must resign their posts," said Markarian. "This primarily applies to Serzh Sarksian."

In the words of SD Hunchakian Party chairlady Lyudmila Sargsian, another Legitimate President-2008 leader,

the movement will also launch a public relations campaign aimed at persuading people not to sell their votes to pro-government candidates. She said other opposition candidates should also join the new grouping if they are interested in a clean vote.

"If they want to get elected, they have to join us because the other camp shows no desire to hold a free and fair election," Sargsian told a news conference.

Sargsian stated that the new movement includes all the political parties and NGOs which support Levon Ter-Petrosyan. The purpose of Legitimate President 2008 is to shape a democratic and legitimate government to stop Armenia from turning a colony, a fort, and become truly independent. "Therefore, we urge the political parties and citizens of the Republic of Armenia to act consciously, resist minor temptations and realize that by selling their vote for five thousand drams they sell their future and the future of their children," Sargsian said.

## Minsk Group Diplomats Call For The Peaceful Settlement Of The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

WASHINGTON, DC -- Diplomats from the United States, Russia and France last week urged Armenia and Azerbaijan to agree to a set of principles for a settlement of Karabakh conflict, the U.S. State Department said in a statement.

At a meeting in Madrid, U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and French Foreign Minister

the State Department said in a statement.

In Thursday's meeting, the three diplomats urged the two sides to accept the document as a starting point for talks on a final settlement.

### OSCE Minsk Group Issues A Statement

The OSCE Minsk Group issued the following statement after the con-



Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group: Bernard Fassier of France, Yury Merzlyakov of Russia, and Matthew Bryza of the United States

Bernard Kouchner presented a document of conditions for future negotiations on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh to the two countries' foreign ministers.

U.S. officials have said talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basic principles for negotiating a settlement have stalled on a few remaining points.

"The joint proposal that was transmitted today to the parties offered just and constructive solutions to these last remaining differences,"

clusion of the meetings:

"Prior to the opening of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Madrid on November 29, 2007, US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner met with the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, Vartan Oskanian and Elmar Mammadyarov, to demonstrate political-level support for the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair

Continued on page 2

## Council Of Europe Presses For Clean Armenian Vote

YEREVAN -- A visiting senior official from the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) urged Armenia's leadership Wednesday to ensure that the upcoming presidential elections mark an improvement over last May's parliamentary polls.

Georges Colombier, a rapporteur for a PACE body monitoring Armenia's compliance with its membership commitments to the Strasbourg-based organization, said the February 19 elections should be markedly different from the weekend election to Russia's State Duma strongly criticized by the West. "I hope that they will not take place the way they did in Russia," he said.

Preparations for the vote were high on the agenda of Colombier's talks with government officials and representatives of the country's main political parties.

"I told the prime minister and my other interlocutors this morning that the

presidential elections must be conducted better than the parliamentary elections of May 2007 were," the PACE official told reporters before his meeting with Kocharian. "Those elections were not handled badly. But everything must be done to make the February 19 elections more democratic."

The upcoming vote was also a key theme of Sarksian's lunch meeting on Wednesday with the Yerevan-based ambassadors of leading European Union member states. The Armenian premier also discussed preparations for the presidential election at a separate meeting with the U.S. charge d'affaires in Yerevan, Joseph Pennington, on Tuesday. A government statement cited Pennington as saying that the U.S. government is ready to fund a first-ever exit poll in Armenia's history that would be overseen by the U.S. non-governmental International Republican Institute (IRI).

## Ragip Zarakolu Faces Jail For Publishing A book About The Armenian Genocide

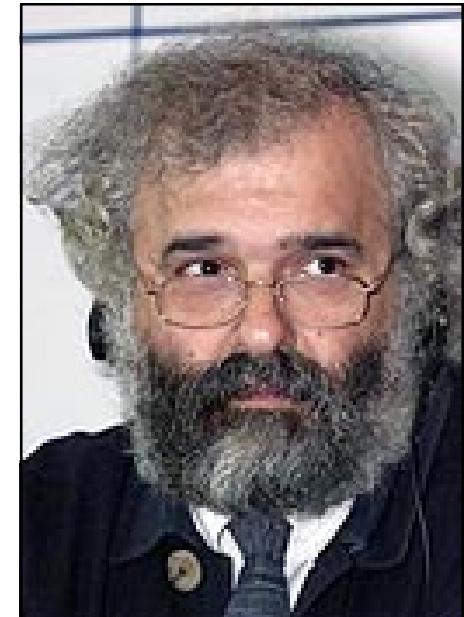
ISTANBUL -- Famous Turkish publisher Ragip Zarakolu could receive a jail sentence this week of up to three years for insulting national identity under a law the European Union says unfairly restricts freedom of speech and wants scrapped.

"Tomorrow's hearing may bring a final verdict in my trial, which began in 2005. The prosecutor wants the maximum penalty," Zarakolu told Reuters on Tuesday.

Prosecutors accuse Zarakolu of insulting "Turkishness" under article 301 of Turkey's penal code for publishing a Turkish language translation of a book by London-based author George Jerjian called "The Truth Will Set Us Free". The book urges reconciliation between Turks and Armenians and covers the genocide of Armenians by Ottoman Turks during World War One.

"I am against all forms of restriction on free expression... I did not even write this book, but Turkish people have a right to know what Armenians think," said Zarakolu, head of the Belge International Publishers.

Zarakolu said he would appeal



Ragip Zarakolu

against any conviction. He has often been a target of Turkish prosecutors over the decades for his stance on freedom of expression and for publishing books the authorities have disapproved of.

Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's

Continued on page 2

## Sacred Armenian Site Found In Iran

TEHRAN -- Archeologists have discovered an Armenian graveyard dating back to the 13th century at Iran's World Heritage site of Soltaniyeh Dome, PressTV reported.

The discovery of an ancient tombstone and inscriptions on it led the archeologists to the whereabouts of this graveyard. The inscription read, "Jesus, the only born to Father, when the time arrives and you return the sleeping soul of the decedent ..." The rest of the inscription which dates back to the Mongolian age (1206-1405) was not legible.

Historical evidence suggests that Sorghaghtani Beki, wife of Tolui Khan and mother of Hulagu Khan, the Mogul ruler, was a Christian woman. The inscription on the tombstone strengthened the case for the existence of such hallowed site for Armenian residents of the time.

Soltaniyeh was the capital of the Ilkhanid rulers of Persia in the 14th century.

## NCI Public Hearing Focuses On Armenia's Mining Sector



YEREVAN -- The National Citizens' Initiative (NCI) has convened a public hearing to examine the advantages -in terms of economic growth - and the drawbacks -with respect to environmental catastrophe - of a project toward the operation of a copper-molybdenum mine in the area surrounding the Teghut village in northern Armenia. The meeting brought together social and political activists, NGO officials, analysts, and media representatives.

NCI associate Davit Sanasarian welcomed the audience with opening remarks. "The exploitation of the Teghut mine is an actual matter and it calls for serious discussions and proper suggestions prior to the undertaking of this project," he said.

In his intervention, Hovhannes Nikoghosian from the Armenian Institute of Mountain Metallurgy spoke in detail about the Teghut mining project. He informed that a comprehensive study was conducted before the decision to operate the mine and the results of this study were summarized in a 12-volume work plan. "The issue that relates to the neighboring communities is the socioeconomic development, which creates jobs and reduces work migration, against the ecological damage, which is a normal phenomenon in any mining industry," Nikoghosian maintained. In his view, all other ensuing matters, including the environmental issues, usually are resolved only after registering economic growth.

In his turn, Hakob Sanasarian of

the Greens' Union of Armenia explored the ecological consequences of activating the Teghut mine. He brought attention to the inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the aforesaid work plan and expressed a deep conviction that this proposal lacked legal and scientific evidence. What is more, in Sanasarian's firm belief, this plan has not been actually tested and therefore needs a reevaluation. "If carried out, this project will cause a huge environmental damage to the wildlife, rivers, and roads, the nearby communities will become desolate, and a vast forest-covered area will be destroyed as 357 hectares, or approximately 127 thousand trees, will be cut down," he argued.

The remainder of the session was dedicated to an exchange of views and recommendations among the public figures and policy specialists in attendance. Noteworthy were interventions by Sahak Karapetian and Taguhi Karapetian from the Vallex Group; chairwoman Karine Danielian of the "Sustainable Human Development" NGO; economist Dr. Tatoul Manassarian; chairwoman Srbuhi Harutiunian of the Social-Ecological Association; and several others.

What is the correlation between the benefits and shortcomings of the Teghut project? Is the Armenian government, which has declared the mining industry as paramount, prepared to shoulder the responsibility for the adverse outcome of such projects? These were the main civic concerns expressed by the discussants during the exchange of opinions and recommendations.

## Minsk Group Diplomats Call For The Peaceful Settlement Of The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

**Continued from page 1**

countries' effort to forge a just and lasting settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

In the meeting, the representatives of the United States, France and Russia formally presented a set of Basic Principles for the Peaceful Settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict to the Armenian and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers for transmission to the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

It was noted that over the last three years of talks the two sides had

significantly narrowed their differences through the mediation of the Co-Chair countries and that only a few differences remained to be settled. As noted by the representatives of the three Co-Chair countries, the joint proposal that was transmitted today to the parties offered just and constructive solutions to these last remaining differences.

The parties to the conflict were strongly urged to bring to a close the current stage of negotiations by endorsing the proposed Basic Principles and commencing as soon as possible to draft a comprehensive," the statement reads.

## Khachatur Sukiasian Vows To Stick With Ter-Petrosian

YEREVAN -- Khachatur Sukiasian, a rare wealthy businessman openly supporting Levon Ter-Petrosian, said on Wednesday that he will remain loyal to Armenia's former president "to the end" despite a widening government crackdown on his businesses.

Armenian tax authorities launched a financial investigation into companies making up the Sukiasian family's SIL Group in October shortly after he indicated his unwavering support for Ter-Petrosian and the latter's return to power. Three of those companies were promptly charged with evading millions of dollars in taxes. Two of them, a pizza restaurant chain and a printing house, saw their chief executives arrested as part of a criminal investigation conducted by prosecutors.

In an interview with RFE/RL, Sukiasian reiterated his claims that the accusations were trumped up by the Armenian authorities in retaliation for his strong backing of Prime Minister Serzh Sarkisian's most bitter presidential election challenger. "The reason for this state terror is that I stand alongside Levon Ter-Petrosian," he said.

Sukiasian, who had become one of Armenia's wealthiest men during Ter-Petrosian's rule, made it clear that "nothing" will force him to defect from the ex-president's camp. "I am prepared for everything," he said. "I will be by Levon Ter-Petrosian's side until the end, until our victory."

A member of parliament, Sukiasian is the only Armenian millionaire businessman who has publicly pledged allegiance to Ter-Petrosian. The vast majority of other "oligarchs" are officially or unofficially affiliated with the governing Republican Party of Armenia (HKK). Sukiasian claimed that many of them privately welcome the ex-president's political comeback but are not expressing their sympathy in public for fear of losing their businesses.

Signaling the government's intention to widen the crackdown on SIL, Armenian state television implicated on Tuesday one of Armenia's largest commercial banks owned by Sukiasian in



Sukiasian, left, pictured during Ter-Petrosian's November 16 rally in Yerevan

what it presented as a fraud scam involving tax and customs officials as well as top executives of another Sukiasian-owned firm. The government-controlled H1 TV channel revealed that four employees of the State Tax Service and the State Customs Committee have been arrested on relevant charges. It said more such arrests are imminent.

Sukiasian strongly denied any wrongdoing on the part of Armeconombank, 25 percent of which is owned by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). "Armeconombank is always happy to process any transaction between physical or legal entities involving a cash transfer or other operations," he said. "But the bank doesn't care about the nature of the relationships [between those entities]."

The tycoon added that SIL Group is preparing to file a libel suit against H1 and to demand as much as 400 million drams (\$1.3 million) in compensatory damages. "That slanderous report can have a long-term impact on our image," he said.

The EBRD declined to comment on the government allegations, saying only that it continues to trust Armeconombank. "As things stand now, we work with and support the bank," a regional spokesman for the London-based lending institution told RFE/RL.

Armeconombank remains the sole Armenian commercial bank in which the EBRD holds a significant minority share. Announcing the \$1 million share acquisition in August 2004, EBRD officials said they chose Armeconombank from among the two dozen local banks because of its Western-style management and financial transparency.

## Ragip Zarakolu Faces Jail For Publishing A book About The Armenian Genocide

**Continued from page 1**

conservative government, under heavy EU pressure, is mulling ways of amending article 301, though analysts say the real problem lies not in the text but in the conservative mindset of many judges and prosecutors.

"The government could have changed the law already. It is a very dangerous article. If accusations depict writers and journalists as traitors or enemies of Turkey, it is not so simple to be in front of Turkish public opinion," said Zarakolu. "It opens the door to our being lynched or killed by ultra-nationalist gangs," he said, citing the example of

prominent Turkish Armenian editor Hrant Dink who was shot dead in Istanbul in January by an ultra-nationalist youth.

Members of the European Parliament visiting Turkey this week said article 301 was harming Turkey's bid to join the EU. "This latest case underlines that the Turkish government's promise to reform article 301 cannot come too soon," Richard Howitt, a British Labor MEP, said in a statement.

"Authors expressing peaceful views should never lead to imprisonment. The Turkish government has understood this and it is now for the Turkish parliament to pass, and for the Turkish courts to respect," he said.

**Op-Ed****Executive Branch Appeasement Of Turkey Continues**

By Gene Rossides

The latest example of the Executive Branch appeasement of Turkey to the detriment of U.S. interests concerns the Armenian Genocide resolutions in the House of Representatives, H. Res. 106 and the Senate, S. Res. 106.

The vote on H. Res. 106 in the House Foreign Affairs Committee took place on October 10, 2007. The resolution passed 27 to 21 on October 10, 2007, despite a massive lobbying campaign by the White House, the State and Defense Departments and the Turkish government.

The government of Turkey is spending over \$3.6 million annually for lobbyists including former Congressmen Bob Livingston and Dick Gephardt, DLA Piper and Fleishman-Hillard, public relations specialists.

As a presidential candidate in 2000, Bush pledged that he would make sure that "our nation properly recognizes" that: "The Armenians were subjected to a genocidal campaign that defies comprehension and commands all decent people to remember and acknowledge the facts." Bush however failed to use the term genocide in the annual April 24 presidential statement on the subject. President Clinton also refused to use the term genocide in his April 24 statements. April 24 is the date generally considered the start of the killings of Armenians in 1915 by the "Young Turks" under the Pashas which lasted into 1923 under Ataturk.

Bush urged the Congress and the members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee not to vote for H. Res. 106. The State and Defense Departments went all out to defeat it.

The State Department obtained the signatures of all eight living former secretaries of state on a joint letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-California) which contained a warning that H. Res. 106, a non-binding resolution "would endanger our national security interests in the region, including the safety of our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan."

I concur with those 27 Representatives who voted for H. Res. 106 and who, in effect, question the thesis of the joint letter and its accuracy.

I concur with Congressman Brad Sherman (D-California) a principal sponsor of H. Res. 106 who said in his opening statement in the Committee on October 10, 2007 prior to the vote:

**"What happened in 1915 to 1923"**

In the area now encompassed by Turkey, the Armenian population was two million. Eight years later it was virtually zero. Our own ambassador to the Ottoman Empire stated what happened: "When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact."

Or turn to Mustaffa Arriff, the last minister of the Interior of the Ottoman Empire, who said, "Our war-

time leaders...decided to exterminated the Armenians, and they did exterminate them."

It is right for this Congress to recognize a genocide particularly when it is denied. Genocide denial is not only the last step of a genocide, it is the first step in the next genocide. When Hitler had to convince his cohorts that the world would let them get away with it, he turned to them and said, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

Opponents say that Turkey will be angry....This Committee has condemned particular actions of such great allies such as England and Canada. We cannot provide genocide denial as one of the perks of friendship with the United States.

••••

We are told that if we pass this resolution Turkey will react against us. Beyond the moral bankruptcy of such threats lies Turkey's long-standing practice of trying to win through intimidation, and then when a resolution is passed, doing little or nothing. Despite threats of harsh retribution, Turkey has taken either no steps at all, or token diplomatic steps, against Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Argentina, and more than 10 other countries that have recognized the Armenian Genocide.

Forty of the United States have recognized the Armenian Genocide, and their trade with Turkey has gone up. My own state of California formally recognized the Armenian Genocide in 1997 and our exports to Turkey have been doing just fine, thank you.

The best example, and the biggest battle, was France, which in 2001 was threatened by Turkey with a trade boycott if it recognized the Armenian Genocide. The French went ahead and recognized that genocide. The chart shows you what happened—a near tripling of French exports to Turkey.

••••

This resolution is supported by virtually every scholar of genocide, and by both the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) and the Arab-American Institute.

Finally, we are asked, "Why act now?" Turkey will be a better ally if we speak the truth. Turkey will be an even better ally if Turkey speaks the truth.

But we also have very personal reasons to act now. Today, at this Committee meeting, we have with us four people who survived the Armenian Genocide. They are in their 90s and 100s. We cannot tell them, "Wait. Come back in a few years." Let these survivors see the country that gave them refuge also give them justice—while they are still here to see it."

Clearly there are several alternatives to Incirlik air base in Turkey for logistical support of our troops in Iraq. And Turkey's troops are not welcome in Iraq.

Because of the Turkish threats to stop the use of Incirlik air base and overflight rights by the U.S. if the House of Representatives passes H. Res. 106, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the principal sponsors of the bill have

postponed bringing the bill to the House floor for a vote at this time.

Congressman Sherman put it well when he wrote "Americans must ask Turkey, when has it become fashionable for friends to threaten friends?"

**Turkey's negotiating tactics**

It is important to remember Turkey's negotiating tactics. Martin Gilbert, the world renowned historian and biographer of Churchill, in a conference at the Library of Congress on the Armenian Genocide summarized Turkey's negotiating tactics as follows:

- (1)Admit nothing and deny everything;
- (2)lie; and
- (3)attack, attack, attack.

Turkey's threats against the U.S. if the House passes H. Res. 106 is an example of "attack." The Executive Branch (White House, State and Defense Departments) response is shameful and exposes a deep weakness in our diplomatic policy. The State and Defense Departments of successive administration have practiced a policy of appeasement of Turkey and a policy of double standards on the rule of law for Turkey.

**U.S.-Turkey policy based on false premises**

The added disgrace of the Executive Branch policies regarding Turkey is that they are based on false premises.

Ted Galen Carpenter, the Vice President for Defense and Foreign Policy Studies of the respected CATO Institute in Washington, D.C. is one of our nation's leading defense and foreign policy analysts. His recent remarks on U.S.-Turkey relations on November 13 at an American Hellenic Institute (AHI) Noon Forum are important. Dr. Carpenter set forth clearly and cogently the reason why the "conventional wisdom in American foreign

policy circles regarding Turkey" is in error.

He lists four assumptions of the "conventional wisdom" and then demonstrates that each of them is "partially false or totally false."

His remarks should be required reading in the State and Defense Departments, the National Security Council and the Congress. The AHI will distribute these remarks to each Representative, Senator, the President and Executive Branch officials.

Dr. Carpenter stated that the conventional wisdom in American foreign policy circles regarding Turkey asserts the following four propositions:

First , that Turkey has been a loyal ally of the United States since the earliest days of the Cold War and remains a loyal ally.

Second, that Turkey is a force for stability in the Middle East and Central Asia in addition to its role within NATO and European affairs.

Third, that Turkey is basically a Western secular country.

Fourth, Turkey is a good candidate that should be admitted to the European Union in the near future.

Dr. Carpenter in his remarks demonstrated "that every one of those assumptions is either partially false or totally false."

What is needed in the interests of the U.S. is a critical review of U.S.-Turkey relations by the Congress, the Executive Branch and the academic and think tank communities.

Get active- call and write the President and your representative and two senators and tell them it is not in the interests of the U.S. to continue appeasing Turkey and applying a double standard on the rule of law for Turkey.

**Gene Rossides is President of the American Hellenic Institute and former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury**

**Verdict Or Revenge?: Royal Armenia Executives Ordered To Prison**

**By Arpi Harutyunyan  
ArmeniaNow reporter**

A Yerevan court has handed down prison terms for officials of coffee importing company Royal Armenia in a controversial case in which the company accused the State Customs Service of bribery.

Co-owner Gagik Hakobyan and deputy director Aram Ghazaryan were sentenced to six and two years respectively on charges of smuggling, tax avoidance and fraud.

(Hakobyan has already served two years in prison, while Ghazaryan was released from the hall of court based on the National Assembly decision on amnesty on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the declaration of Armenia's independence in 2006.)

"The reason for this verdict was that these people have dared to fight against the corrupt forces," says National Assembly member, former ombudswoman of the Republic of Armenia Larisa Alaverdyan.

Company attorney Gevork Minasyan called the verdict illegal and charged that it is on the order of government authorities.

"The court session resembled a marionette theater and the participants were like buffoons," Minasyan said.

The businessmen were detained in October 2005. The State Customs Service accused Royal Armenia of failure to pay about 1 billion drams (\$3.3 million) in taxes and duties. The Royal Armenia management says, though, the developments were conditioned by the company's refusal to give bribes to the State Customs Committee.

The verdict also demands that the company pay 455 million drams (about \$1.4 million) to the state and about \$555,000 to the Federal Investment Group headed by Vache Petrosyan whom Royal Armenia had collaborated with until 2003.

Sergei Gevorgyan, head of Royal Armenia marketing and advertisement said the court's decision was hastily reached.

Gevorgyan claims that judges could not have had time to "read even the first volume of the case."

Minasyan says difficulty for the company started in 2005 when "the Customs Service suggest to Gagik to

**Continued on page 4**

## AMAA's 88th Annual Meeting And Related Activities Takes Place in Chicago

CHICAGO -- The Armenian Evangelical Church located at 905 West Golf Road, Mount Prospect, IL hosted the 88th annual meeting and related activities of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) held from October 12-15, 2007.

On the morning of October 12, the Armenian Evangelical World Coun-

AMAA committees, and Armenian Evangelical Churches and organizations worldwide. All who were present were very proud to hear that the AMAA raises funds to help the needy around the world, especially our homeland Armenia.

It was a special treat to attend the AMAA's 89th Anniversary dinner at a



**AMAA Board of Directors Meeting**

cil (AEWC) met at the church which was followed by a seminar presented by Mr. Ted Haro, a friend and student of Dr. Gilbert Bilezikian, challenging everyone to be active in the church and community. After a delicious dinner organized by the ladies of the church, the AMAA Board of Directors met under the leadership of Dr. H. Steven Aharonian, President and Mr. Andrew Torigian, Executive Director.

The 88th Annual Meeting took place on October 13. It was very rewarding to hear the reports of all the

local banquet hall. The evening's activities were organized in cooperation with the AMAA and the host church. Mr. Torigian welcomed those in attendance and the invocation was offered by Rev. Sam Agulian, the pastor of the host church. Dr. George Aynilian, Master of Ceremonies, thanked God for the host church and mentioned about the church's strong affiliation with the AMAA. After dinner, the keynote speaker, Honorable Judge Samuel Der-Yeghiayan, stated that he is very proud of the AMAA, which helps thou-



**Sunday morning Worship Service in Chicago Church**

sands of people worldwide. "Life is a choice," he said, "we all can make good or bad choices. The will is ours." It was an inspiring message given by a Federal Judge. The evening's entertainment was provided by Mr. Artin Kendimian, a renowned Baritone from the Chicago area, singing Armenian and other folk songs. The closing prayer and benediction was given by Rev. Gilbert Leonian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Europe.

The activities came to a spiritual conclusion when everyone gathered at the new church edifice of the host church for Sunday morning worship. Mr. Torigian presented the list of AMAA members who passed away during the year and offered a memorial prayer for their families. There were two dynamic preachers that morning. The Rev. Ronald Tovmassian, the Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) gave the English sermon challenging

the Church to make Christ the head. Rev. Berj Djambazian gave the Armenian sermon challenging the church to be compassionate as Christ. He thanked God for the mighty work of the AMAA, showing real compassion where there is need. At the end of the service, Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian installed the new AMAA Board members. The closing remarks and benediction was given by Rev. Joseph Matossian, Minister to the Union.

The AEUNA Board meetings were also held at the church on Sunday evening and Monday morning. Once again, thanks be to God for this great opportunity to come together with diverse Evangelical organizations. Special thanks to all who worked hard in making this event a success. Lastly, thanks to the AMAA for bringing the Armenian Evangelical world together.

The 89th Annual Meeting of the AMAA celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the organization is scheduled for October 2008 in Paramus, NJ.

## Verdict Or Revenge?

**Continued from page 3**

submit documents with lowered prices of imported goods to fix lower customs values than the real ones. In exchange, the company had to pay 7 cents of bribe per each kilogram of imported goods to the committee. Hakobyan refused, because of both economically unprofitable consequences and because it was a matter of principle."

In July, Judge Pargev Ohanyan dismissed the case against Royal Armenia on bases that the charges groundless.

But Ohanyan himself was then disciplined by the Council of Justice and removed from the bench in an action that judicial observers say was precise punishment because he had dared to rule against the state.

The Customs Service appealed Ohanyan's decision.

By the time Ohanyan had been dismissed (October 12), Hakobyan had been arrested again at Zvartnots Airport.

According to his attorney, Hakobyan had been in ill health and had gone to Spain for treatment. The court denied his request to postpone the appeals trial for a month, and demanded he return to Yerevan.

Republic of Armenia Ombudsman Armen Harutyunyan, asked the Cassation Court not to detain Hakobyan, but

the request was denied.

"Gagik proved by his steps he does not avoid court: and that was confirmed also by the human rights defender. But because a decision was made in unknown conditions to persecute the innocent overriding the prescriptions of law, Hakobyan was once again detained," says Minasyan.

The Appeals (Cassation) Court returned the verdict on Thursday (November 29).

"Maybe all this is an expression of personal hostility or a classic case of settling scores with those who avoid giving bribes? Or maybe it's a possibility to take away one's property? I don't know," says the Royal Armenia attorney. "One thing I can tell for sure – the initiator of all this is the customs committee with possible other interested parties surrounding it: people say when an ox falls, the number of stabbers grows."

The Royal Armenia Armenian-Cuban Company began operations in 1997. A Cuban, Leyda Alujas-Gonzalez (Hakobyan's wife), owns 92 percent of shares in the company. The company imports about 1,000 tons of green coffee annually, mostly from Indonesia, Vietnam and Columbia, accounting for 10 per cent of coffee brought into Armenia. It exports processed coffee to Russia, Georgia, Bulgaria and other countries.

## Haig and Isabel Berberian Endowed Chair of Armenian Studies

FRESNO -- The College of Arts and Humanities and Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, invite applications for the Haig and Isabel Berberian Endowed Chair of Armenian Studies. This position, central to the Armenian Studies Program, will be tenure-track at the rank of assistant or associate professor, to begin in the fall of 2008. Rank and salary are commensurate with qualifications and experience. Ph.D. required by the time of appointment.

Candidates must demonstrate excellence in teaching and research. A record of distinguished publication and research in any aspect of Armenian studies in arts, humanities, or social sciences is expected, as well as strong commitment to undergraduate teaching and active participation in the life of the Center for Armenian Studies. Fluency in Armenian is required.

The successful candidate will be expected to lead the Armenian Studies Program, teach undergraduate courses in the Armenian Studies curriculum, supervise and assist student research, serve on college and university committees, engage in community service, interact with faculty and students in related fields, conduct independent research, present public lectures, and may be called upon to coordinate the Armenian Studies Program.

The successful candidate may be called upon to teach in a distance education mode and will be expected to work cooperatively with faculty and staff in the program and college.

Please send letter of application which outlines your interests in teaching and research as well as your vision for the future of Armenian Studies, C.V., three current letters of reference, and a representative publication to: Professor Magdalena Gilewicz

Chair of the Armenian Studies Search Committee College of Arts and Humanities

Office of the Dean California State University, Fresno  
2380 E. Keats M/S MB 99, Fresno, CA 93740-8024  
magdag@csufresno.edu. Phone: 559-278-4926 278-3056; Fax: 559-278-6758

The committee welcomes applications from members of diverse populations and those who are interested in and experienced with community engagement.

To ensure full consideration, applicants should submit all required materials by January 15, 2008. Position is open until filled.













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Տարութակուածէջ 7-էն

առաջընթացի ջատագով: Այսօր էլ նրա թողած ժառանգութիւնը, նրա կեանքի օրինակը խօսում են մեր զաւակների հոգիների հետ Հայրենի երկրի յիշատակներով, մեր պատմութեան անմոռանալի

դար յոյսերը՝ խաղաղ աշխարհի մէջ տեսնել ազատ Հայրենիքով միասնական, ապահով ու բարօր եւ հոգեւոր լոյտով ու գիտութեամբ պայծառ հայոց կեանքը: Թող Տէրը զօրացնի մեզ բոլորիս մեր առաքելութեան մէջ եւ արդասաւորի մեր ջանքերը ի սէր



Դրուագներով, խօսում են առ Աստուած սիրով եւ ապաւինութեամբ եւ շարունակելու են հոգուց հոգի զրոյցը սերնդե-սերունդ»: Այնուհետեւ վեհափառ Հայրապետը կոչ արեց աղօթելու եւ ձգտելու, որպէսզի».... Աստծոյ օրհնութեամբ մարմնաւորուեն իրիմեան Հայրիկի եւ ազգի հոգսերը իրենց ուսերին կրած մեր ժողովրդի մեջ զաւակների ար-

Հայրենիքի եւ համայն հայ կեանքի»:

Հանդիսութեան ընթացքում Գէորգեան Հոգեւոր Ճեմարանի սաներն ասմունքեցին ու ընթերցեցին Խրիմեան Հայրիկի ստեղծագործութիւններից, գեղարուեստական կատարումներով հանդէս եկաւ Գէորգեան Հոգեւոր Ճեմարանի երգչախումբը՝ ղեկավարութեամբ Շոթա Վարդանեանի:

## ՅԻՇԵՆՔ ԱՆՑԵԱԼԸ, ԱՊՐԻՆՔ ԱՅՍՈՐԸ

Շարունակուածէջ 14-էն

ազգային ու բարոյական իմաստով, իր նշանակալից խորհրդով եւ իր պերճախոս լուռթեամբ:

Մի՞՛ վախնար ու կասկածիր իր անակնականերէն, որ քան ալ վշտալի ըլլան անոնք: Դուն ունիս քեզ գոտեպնդող, քեզ դիւցազնաց-

նող եւ մեծ պայքարներու ճամբուն վրայ քեզ փառաւորող ՀԱՅՈՒ ԱՆՊԱՐՏԵԼԻ ՈԳԻՆ:

Նոր Տարին քուկդ է: Դուն քեզ ազատ զգայ 365 օրերու լուսեղին ուղեւորութեան ընթացքին եւ հաւատա, որ յոյսերու նոր արեւածագդ իր բոլոր բարդութիւններովը պետի ժամու քեզի:

## ՅԱԻԿՑԱԿԱՆ

ԵՓՐԵՄ ԶԱԻՏԱՐԵԱՆի մահուան տիխուր առիթով Վարուժան Գրածեան եւ ընտանիք իրենց ցաւակցութիւնները կը յայտնեն ողբացեալի բոլոր պարագաներուն, ի մասնաւորի զաւակներուն Մէրի, Զաքարիա եւ Ռաֆֆի Զաւտարեաններուն եւ Քէօշկերեան ընտանիքին: Առ այդ \$40 տոլար կը նուիրէ «Մասիս»ին:

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Monday, Dec. 31, 2007

Pasadena Center

8:00pm

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