

ՄԱՍԻՍ

ՀԱՅԱԹԱՅԹ

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Պաշտօնաթերթ՝
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ՄԵՐ ԱՆԿԻՒՆԵՆ

ՖՐԱՆՍԱՆ ՍԱՅԼԻ ՈՒ ՍՈՒՐՃԻ ՄԻԶԵՒ

ՏՕԹ. Ա. ԳԱԶԱՆՁԵԱՆ

Սյա օրերուն, ֆրանսա բարոյապէս եւ հաղաքականապէս, անգամ մը ես փորձաքարի կը զարնուի թուրքիոյ կողմէ հայոց դէմկատարուած 8եղասպանութիւնը ուրացող ներու հարցի կապակցութեամբ: Ան, սպանալիքներու եւ ձնշումներու ներքոյ տեղի տալու կամ, իր ազգային արժանապատութեան կառչած մնալով վեհանձնութիւն իր ընդունած սկզբունքին հաւատարիմ մնալու ազգային եւ հաղաքական դժուարին կացութեան մէջ կը գտնուի: Սայլի եւ մուրճի միջնու մնալու պէս բան մը:

22 Դեկտեմբեր 2011-ին տեղի պիտի ունենայ Ֆրանսայի նրես-փոխանական ժողովը, ուր պիտի մնարկուի եւ բուհակուի թուրքիոյ կողմէ հայոց դէմ գործադրուած 8եղասպանութեան ժխտումի կապակցութեամբ պատրաստուած ու ժողովին ներկայացուած օրինագիծ մը: Համաձայն այդ օրինագիծի՝ բուհական յանձնական ամսայինքն դէմ: «Կը փափաքիմ բացայաց կերպով յայտարարել, որ նման քայլերը շատ ծանր հետեւանքներ պիտի ունենան թուրք-ֆրանսական քաղաքական, տնտեսական եւ մշակութային յարաբերութիւններու համար, իսկ անոր պատասխանատութիւնը ամբողջութեամբ այդ քայլը նախաձեռնողներուն վրայ է»,- Ֆրանսայի նախագահ Նիքոլա Սարքոզիին ուղղուած նամակին մէջ զրած է էրտողան:

ՑԵՂԱՍՊԱՆՈՒԹԵԱՆ ԲԱՆԱՉԵՒԻ ՔՈՒԵՐԿՈՒԹԵԱՆ ՆԱԽՈՐԵԱԿԻՆ ԷՐՏՈՂԱՎ ՍՊԱՌՆԱՑԱԾ Է ՍԱՐՔՈՉԻՒՆ

Ֆրանսայի Ազգային ժողովին կողմէ Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան ժխտումը քրէականացնող օրինագիծի քուէարկութեան նախօրեակին, թուրքիա կը շարունակէ ապառնալ ֆրանսական շահերուն:

Պաշտօնական Անգարամն յալտարարած է թէ, այդ օրինագիծի ընդունումը «անդառնալի հետեւանքներ պիտի ունենայ» թուրք-ֆրանսական յարաբերութիւններուն համար:

Թուրքիոյ վարչապետ Ռենչէփ Թայիփ Էրտողան յայտարարած է որ, Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան ժխտումը քրէականացնող օրինագիծը ուղղուած է թուրքիոյ պետութեան, թուրք ժողովուրդի եւ Ֆրանսայի մէջ ապառն թրքական համար կամ համար իսկ անոր քաշատասխանատութիւնը ամբողջութեամբ այդ քայլը նախաձեռնողներուն վրայ է»,- Ֆրանսայի նախագահ Նիքոլա Սարքոզիին ուղղուած նամակին մէջ զրած է էրտողան:

Ֆրանսայի Ազգային ժողովը

ԺՈՂՈՎՐԴԱՎԱՐՈՒԹԵԱՆ ԱՌՈՒՄՈՎ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆ ԴԱՍՈՒԱԾ Է 111-ՐԴ ԱՇԽԱՐՀԻ ՄԷԶ

Բրիտանական «Էքոնոմիստ» հեղինակաւոր հանդէսի հետազոտական ընկերութիւնը (The Economist Intelligence Unit) հրապարակած է «Ժողովրդավարական Աղիւսակ-2011» զեկոյցը: Զեկոյցին մէջ ներառուած 167 երկիրներու շարքին Հայաստան այս տարի կը գրաւէ 111-րդ դիրքը:

Աղիւսակը կազմելու համար նկատի առնուած են ժողովրդավարութեան հիմնական հինգ ցուցանիշերը՝ ընտրական գործընթաց եւ բազմակարծութիւն, կառավարութեան գործունէութիւն, քաղաքացիական ազատութիւնները, քաղաքական մասնակցութիւնները, քաղաքական մշակոյթը, «վիճակը» այս կամ այն երկրին մէջ:

Զեկոյցը կը կազմուի փորձագէտներու գնահատականներու եւ համապատասխան երկիրներուն մէջ կատարուած հասարակական կարծիքի Պոչելու համար անհրաժեշտ էր անոր հաստատումը Մերակոյտին կողմէ: Ֆրանսայի Ազգային ժողովը հաւատական ամսայինքն դէմ Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան ժխտումը քրէականացնող այլ օրինագիծի մը: Սակայն այդ օրէնքը կեանքի կոչելու համար անհրաժեշտ էր անոր հաստատումը Մերակոյտին կողմէ: Ֆրանսայի Մերակոյտը, սակայն, 2011 Մայիսին կայացած նիստին՝ մայներու 196 դէմ եւ 74 կողմէ յարաբերակցութեամբ՝ մէրժեց Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան ժխտումը քրէականացնող այդ օրինագիծը:

167 երկիրները դասակարգուած են ըստ չորս խումբի՝ լիարժեք ժողովրդավարութեան երկիրները, ոչ լիարժեք կամ փիլուն ժողովրդավարութիւն ունեցող եր-

Շար. Բ էջ 5

ՖԱՍԻԵ. «ՂԱՐԱԲԱՂԵԱՆ ԽՆԴԻՐԸ ՉԻ ԿՐՍԱՐ ԼՈՒԾՈՒԵԼ ՄԱԿ-Ի ԲԱՆԱՉԵՒԵՐՈՒ ՄԻԶՈՑՈՎ»

Մինսկի խումբի արդէն իսկ նախկին համանախազահ, ֆրանսայի Պեռնար Ֆասիէ, Դեկտեմբերի 19-ին Պաքուի մէջ իր ունեցած մածլոյ ասուլիսի ընթացքին յացտարարած է թէ, Հարաբաղի հարցը չի կրնար լուծուիլ ՄԱԿ-ի բանաձեւուն միջոցաւ:

«Մինսկի խումբի գլխաւոր ձեռքբերումը լայնածաւալ ուազմական գործողութիւններու վերակառումէն խուսափելն էր», - ըսած է Ֆասիէ, աւելցնելով, որ թէեւ բանակցային գործընթացը լուծումի չէ հասած, սակայն որոշ յառաջընթաց կարելի եղած է ձեռք ձգել:

Փրանսացի դիւանագէտ ատլուտէցանցի լրագրողներուն յայտնած է որ, Մինսկի խումբի ամենամեծ նուածումը Մատրիտեան սկզբունքների մշակումն էր:

«Մինչեւ 2007 թուականի Դեկ-

Շար. Բ էջ 5



Արք. Միքայէլ Եպս. Մուրատեան Տօթ. Արշակ Գաղանանեանի եւ Գարբիկ Մոլոյանի հետ

Այս օրօրուն Հարւացին Գալիֆորնիա կը գտնուի Հելսինկիացին Ամերիկայի Հայ Կաթողիկէ առաջնորդ Արհամապատիւ Միքայէլ Եպս.

Դեկտեմբերի 17ին նորանշանական առաջնորդը իր պաշտօնական անդրանիկ այցելութիւնը տուալ կէնսաէլլի Ս. Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչ Հայ Կաթողիկէ եկեղեցին: Այստեղ

Գերպ. Միքայէլ Եպս. Մուրատեանին ողջունելու եկած էին Հայց.

Շար. Բ էջ 18

ԾՆՈՐՅԱԽՈՐ ՍՈՒՐԲ ԾՆՈՒՆԴ

Կաթողիկէ համայնքի Ս. Ծնունդի տօնին առթիւ «Մասիս» կը շնորհաւորէ հայ Կաթողիկէ համայնքը, մաղթելով յաջողութիւն, բարօրութիւն եւ բարգաւաճ տարի մը

ԵՐԿՈՒ ՉԱՓԱՆԻՇ ԿԱՅ (DOUBLE STANDARD)

ՄԵԹՐՊԱՐԳԵՒ ԴԱՒԻԹԵԱՆ

1974 թուականի Դեկտեմբերին, Պէյրութի Հայէ Ակումբի սրահին մէջ, տեղի ունեցաւ Լիբանանի մէջ Ապրիլեան Եղեռնի Վաթսունամեակի (1975) Տօնակատարութիւնը հովանաւորող Համազգային Կեդրոնական Վարչութեան անդրանիկ ժողովը, որուն ներկայ էին մէր ազգային երեք կուսակցութեանց ներկայացուցիչները և Պէյրութահայ երեւելի անձնաւորութիւններ:

Ինծի ալ տրուած էր ճաճուքն ու պատիւը մասնակցելու այդ ժողովին: Ժողովի համարումը կը կատարէր Մեթր Հրաչեայ Սեղրակեան, որ պարզէլ ետք ժողովին նպատակը, եւ համազգային մակարդակով կատարուելիք աշխատանքներուն ընդհանուր պատկերը, հրաւիրեց ներկաները որ իրենց կարծիքներն ու առաջարկները տան այդ առթիւ:

Կը լիշեմ որ խօսք առին այն ատեն, Տոքդ. Երուանդ Ճիշճեանն ու Տոքդ. Եղիկ Գոնեալեանը, եւ մի քանի ուրիշներ: Վերջին խօսք առնողը եղայ ես, տակաւին նորահաս երիտասարդ փաստաբան որ աշխարհի դատելը պաշտպանելու խարկանքը կ'ապրէր, երբ իրենց ուշադրութեան յանձնեցի, զարմանքը շարժելով ներկաներուն, ժողովի աննկատողութիւնը Պաղեստինեան Դատի զօրակից կանգնելու հարցին առընջութեամբ: Ըսի թէ ինչպէս կարելի էր աշխարհին ներկայանալ եւ արդարութիւն պահանջել անկէ մէր Հայ Դատին համար, երբ մենք նստած Արաբական ամենէն ազատամիտ մայրաքաղաք Պէյրութի մէջ, կը մոռնանք կամ կ'անգիտանանք նշում ընել Արաբական ամենէն Սրբազն Դատին՝ Պաղեստինեան Դատին նկատմամբ:

Երկու չափանիշ (Double Standard) պէտք չէ ունենանք ըսի, որպէսզի թուրքի հետ բարեկամութիւն դաւանող երկիրներուն կամ ազգերուն նման չդառնանք, որոնք իրենց շահերէն մեկնած, կ'անտեսէն կամ պաշտօնապէս չեն ընդունիր Հայկական Յեղասպանութիւնը:

Ճիշդ ես ըսին ինծի, այն ատեն, ներկաներէն շատեր, եւ ԲԱՅՑ ըսելով երկար պատճառաբանութիւններ տուին: Կարելի իրենք բան մը գիտէին, յաջորդ տարւոյն (1975) Ապրիլ ամսուն ըունկած Լիբանանի քաղաքացիական կոիւներուն մասին որ ես, որպէս անփորձառու իտէալապաշտ, չէի դիտեր:

Այսօր ալ, երբ կը զրուցեմ կարգ մը բարեկամներու հետ, քաղաքական կամ ոչ-քաղաքական տարբեր նիւթերու մասին, միշտ ԲԱՅՑ-ը եւ ԱԱԿԱՅՆ-ը կը լսեմ անոնցմէ, երբ դիրքորոշուելու յատակ պատճառաբանութիւններ կը տրուի իրենց:

Գիտեմ որ շատ բան կեանքի մէջ յարաբերական (Relative) է եւ չկայ որեւէ բան որ բացարձակ (Absolute) կարելի է նկատել:

Բայց երբ որեւէ հարցի մը նկատմամբ դիրքորոշուելու կարիքը կայ, եւ չէզոք կենալը արդարութիւն չբերեր անձի մը գիտակցութեան մակարդակին, մարդ պէտք է ուղղուի կարելիութիւններու նժառով (Balance of Probabilities) հասնելու համար առողջ եւ անկողմնակալ (Unbiased) կարծիքի, եւ ըստ այնձ իր ճիշդ ուղղութիւնը կամ որոշումը առնէ կամ տայ:

Ներու խախտումը աշխարհի մէջ:
Բարեկամ երկրի մը բռնապետութիւնը կ'անտեսուի եւ ոչ-բարեկամ երկրի յար եւ նման ընթացքը կը ֆնաղատուի:

Պաղեստինցի անիրաւուած ժողովուրդին իրաւունքները անվերջ եւ անարդար պատճառապընութիւններով շարունակաբար կ'ոտնակոխուի, մինչ թիվէթի Տալա Լաման եւ յաջորդները որպէս ազատագրական պաշտպարի հերոսներ պետական մակարդակով կ'ընդունուին եւ կը պատվրուին:

Հրէական Ռոջակիզումի (Holocaust) յարգանքի եւ նշումի կեղրոն իսրայէլ, կը շարունակէ պաշտօնապէս չճանչնալ Հայկական Յեղասպանութիւնը:

Լիբանանի ազատ գրչի եւ խօսքի եւ անկաշկանդ քաղաքական ապրելակերպի մթնոլորտին մէջ ապրող բախտաւոր հայեր եւ ոչ-հայեր, որոնց ապրելաձեւը եւրոպական եւ արեւմտեան չափանիշներով կարելի է նկարագրել, զարմանալի ընթացքով զինակցած են այսօր այդ աննման ազատութիւնը, անկախութիւնն ու ազատ գրչի եւ

խօսքի արտայացութիւնը կաշկանդող ուժերու հետ:
Երկու նժար եւ երկու չափանիշ ունեցող մարդիկ տակաւին ջիղը ունին որ ուրիշը միամիտ նկատեն եւ անոր խելք տալու ելլեն:

Ինչպէս կարելի է գործէ արձակուած պաշտօնեալի մը իրատելու ան իր ձայնը տայ կամ քուէարկէ թեկնածուի մը որ իր իսկ գործատէրին ընթացքը կը քաջալերէ կամ կ'ընդունի:

Ինչպէս կարելի է չայու բարեկամ նկատուող քաղաքական գործիչի հետ ըլլալ, որովհետեւ ան Հայկական Յեղասպանութիւնը ի նպաստ կը քուէարկէ, երբ նոյն այդ գործիչը իր քաղաքական ընթացքով եւ գործունէութեամբ, քու մարդկացին ամէնօրեաց ապրուստին եւ ընկերացին ապահովութիւն ընծանական իրաւունքներուդ վնաս հասցնելու կ'շխատի, իր իտէալապաշտ պահանողական կեցուած քով:

Երկու չափանիշ կամ Double Standard կիրարկող մարդիկ պատ-

հար.թ էջ 18



Կազմակերպութեամբ
ԱՐՍԵՆ ԿԻՏՈՒՐ ՄԱՍՆԱՇԻՒՂԻ

Ծարաթ, Դեկտեմբեր 31, 2011

Երեկոյեան ժամը 8:00-էն սկսեալ

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Turkey Heightens Pressure On France Over Armenian Genocide Bill

French Foreign Ministry Warns Turkish Government Against Resorting to Economic Reprisals

ANKARA, PARIS -- Turkey ratcheted up pressure on France on Tuesday in a last-ditch attempt to scuttle the passage by the French parliament of a bill criminalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide.

"It is not possible for us to accept this bill, which denies us the freedom to reject unfair and groundless accusations targeting our country and our nation," Turkish President Abdullah Gul said in a statement cited by the AFP news agency.

"I want to hope that France will not sacrifice centuries-old Turkish-French friendship, common interests and bonds of alliance for small political calculations," Gul said in reference to next year's presidential and parliamentary elections in France.

France has an estimated 500,000 citizens of Armenian descent.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan likewise warned late last week of "grave consequences" for bilateral relations if the bill is approved by the National Assembly, the lower house of the French parliament.

Under the proposed legislation, which is due to be debated on Thurs-

day, anyone in France publicly denying that the 1915 mass killings of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire constituted genocide could face a year in jail and a fine of 45,000 euros (\$58,000). French President Nicolas Sarkozy signaled support for its passage when he visited Yerevan in October.

Gul issued the warning as a delegation of Turkish lawmakers and businessmen met with officials in Paris and urged France to drop the bill. "If this law is adopted, there will be a lot of damage and consequences for the two countries," said Rifat Hisarciklioglu, head of the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges.

A Turkish government source told AFP on Tuesday that Ankara will impose diplomatic and trade sanctions on Paris if French lawmakers adopt the law. "Turkey will not remain silent. That will obviously have consequences," the source said. "We have already discussed our plans if the bill is adopted at the French National Assembly on Thursday."

In particular, added the source,

Continued on page 4

U.S. Congress Allocates \$40 Million Economic Assistance to Armenia

WASHINGTON, DC -- The U.S. Congress has kept the volume of U.S. economic assistance to Armenia next year unchanged at \$40 million and urged the administration of President Barack Obama to continue financing humanitarian projects in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The sum is set in an "omnibus appropriations bill" approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate over the weekend. The Obama administration requested earlier this year the same aid allocation for Armenia in the fiscal year 2012.

The funding, though unchanged from the 2011 level, falls short of at least \$60 million demanded by about 30 pro-Armenian members of the House last May.

The U.S. Congress has allocated a total of more than \$1.7 billion to Armenia since 1992. The money has been spent on humanitarian aid, infrastructure upgrades, equipment supplies, counseling and other projects administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The Armenian government also received \$177 million in separate assistance from the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to refurbish the country's rural irrigation networks. The four-year project was completed in



September.

The congressional bill also commits the Obama administration to maintaining parity in providing military aid to Armenia and Azerbaijan. But it does not specify any aid figures. The Armenian military is to receive about \$4 million in U.S. funding this year.

U.S. lawmakers further recommended continued American "assistance for victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict at levels consistent with prior years, and for ongoing needs related to the conflict."

Previous appropriation bills specified the amount of such direct aid to Karabakh, resented by Azerbaijan, and made its provision mandatory. The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (Artsakh) is due to receive \$8 million in the current fiscal year. It is not clear if the Obama administration plans to continue financing reconstruction and development projects there.

Military Solution To Karabakh Conflict 'Impossible'

YEREVAN -- The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict cannot be resolved by military force, France's outgoing chief Karabakh negotiator said on Wednesday in a warning that seemed primarily addressed to Azerbaijan.

"This conflict cannot have a military solution. That's impossible," Bernard Fassier said during a farewell trip to Armenia.

"Although France fortunately managed to win back our territories that were under German occupation [during World War One], it is now evident that the price which we paid for that victory was too high. We lost so many people," Fassier told a news conference in Yerevan.

"I said this in Paris recently in order to demonstrate that even for Azerbaijan war would not be a reasonable solution," he said. "I don't know who can win a new war but for everyone, not just winners but also losers, it would a nightmare: new bloodshed, new hatred, new refugees."

Azerbaijan regularly threatens to forcibly win back Karabakh and other Arme-



Bernard Fassier bidding farewell

nian-controlled territories surrounding the liberated enclave. The Armenian side condemns and at the same time dismisses these threats, saying that Baku would suffer another defeat in case of attempting a military solution to the dispute.

The Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also stands for a peaceful settlement. Fassier has served its French co-chair for the past seven years. He will be replaced by another French diplomat next month.

Panel of Eleven Federal Appeals Judges Hears Oral Argument on Armenian Genocide Era Insurance Recovery Suit



GLENDALE, CA -- On Wednesday, December 14, four and a half years after a federal district court judge in Los Angeles first held that a California law extending the statute of limitations on Armenian genocide era insurance claims (California Code of Civil Procedure Section 354.4) was constitutional and not preempted by federal policy pursuant to the foreign affairs doctrine, an en banc panel of eleven Ninth Circuit appellate judges in San Francisco heard oral arguments from the parties on the same issue before taking the matter under submission. Plaintiffs-Appellees were represented by K. Lee Boyd of Los Angeles law firm Schwarcz, Rimberg, Boyd & Rader LLP, Vartkes Yeghiyan of the Yeghiyan Law Firm, and Mark Geragos of Geragos & Geragos. A video recording of the full oral argument can be accessed here:

www.centerarnews.com

The case is Movsesian v. Victoria Versicherung, originally filed by descendants of Armenian Genocide victims in 2003, and names as defendants German insurance companies Victoria Versicherung AG, Ergo Versicherungsgruppe AG and parent company Munich Re. The action accuses defendants of selling insurance policies to Armenians prior to 1915, when the government of the Ottoman Turkish Empire initiated a genocidal campaign against Armenians living in Turkey. In the aftermath of the massacres and deportations which resulted in the death of over 1.5 million Armenians, survivors were scattered far and wide around the world. Defendants failed to provide information about the insurance policies issued to

Continued on page 4

Syunik Region Governor Embroiled In Another Scandal



Video screenshot of Syunik Governor Surik Khachatrian (L) arguing with Mariam Sukhudian (R) and other environmental activists in Kajaran village

KAJARAN -- Syunik region governor Surik Khachatrian notorious for violent behavior has triggered yet another scandal after apparently bullying and insulting young environmental activists protesting against open-pit mining in Armenia's southeastern province.

Amateur video circulated through the Internet shows Khachatrian telling the activists to "shut up" and calling one of them a "shrimp" as they confronted him in the village of Kajaran over the weekend.

Khachatrian also warned the most famous and outspoken of the protesters, Mariam Sukhudian, "Behave yourself so that nothing happens to you." He said nothing when another protester asked him to elaborate.

Sukhudian and other activists denounced the "threat" at a news conference held in Yerevan on Wednesday.

The incident occurred just one week after Khachatrian controversially avoided prosecution for assaulting a businesswoman in Yerevan last month. Law-enforcement authorities said they will not press charges against him because he hit the woman, Silva Hambardzumian, only once and did not injure her.

The Armenian government and the ruling Republican Party, of which the governor is a member, have also pointedly declined to censure the governor.

The young environmentalists travelled to Kajaran to show solidarity with villagers angered by a government decision to give large swaths of communal land to a German-owned company mining copper and molybdenum in the mountainous area.

In accordance with that decision made last April, the Zangezur Copper-Molybdenum Combine (ZCMC) is to receive 181 hectares of land in Kajaran and several nearby villages. The company's majority shareholder, the German metals group Cronimet, says the transfer stems from its agreements

with the government and will benefit Armenia economically.

Many Kajaran residents led by Rafik Atayan, believe, however, that mining operations in the area would spell an ecological disaster for their community and lead to a mass exodus of its population. Atayan resigned as mayor and ended his membership in the HHK in protest last week.

The Yerevan-based environmentalists echoed these concerns and voiced strong opposition to the mining project as they crossed paths with Khachatrian and other Syunik officials in Kajaran. One of them videotaped the tense conversation and posted it on the Internet.

Khachatrian was visibly annoyed by the activists' pledges to resist the land transfer together with local residents. The YouTube footage shows him telling Sukhudian to "calm down" before issuing her with a more stern warning.

"So what could happen to her?" asked one young man. Khachatrian did not reply.

Khachatrian, better known to most Armenians with his "Liska" nickname, went on to tell Sukhudian to stop "scolding the state." "Thank you for coming here but we stand by these people," he said. "Nobody is going to kick these people out of this place. Their homes won't be destroyed for nothing. I want you to understand that."

The governor again lost his temper moments later when another young woman from Yerevan tried to join in the conversation. "You shrimp, shut up," he said.

"Go to your country and preach there," Khachatrian told another protester, a Diaspora Armenian who has lived in Armenia for more than a decade. "But this is my country," hit back the young man.

"Nor is this your country," Khachatrian continued, turning to Sukhudian. "If it was your country you wouldn't talk like that."

Greco-Roman Wrestler Roman Amoyan Voted Armenia's Athlete of the Year

YEREVAN -- European Greco-Roman wrestling champion Roman Amoyan was selected as Armenia's 2011 athlete of the year. Armenia's chess team was selected as the best Armenian team of 2011.

Amoyan, 28, won a gold medal in his 55-kg weight category at European championships in Germany in April. He is considered to be one of Armenia's medal hopefuls at next summer's Olympics in London. (he won a bronze medal at the Olympic Games in Beijing, China, in 2008).

"The trainers told me this [Tuesday] morning that I was recognized athlete of the year. I was very happy because I am receiving such an honor for the first time. I was among the top ten athletes for the past ten years, but you feel altogether differently when you are recognized as the best. I thank the sports journalists, who have selected me this year as Armenia's top athlete. I also want to thank all of my coaches and trainers. Being the top athlete is a very huge responsibility. [And] In 2012, I will endeavor to repeat this year's accomplishment, to again capture the European champion's title, and also to qualify for the Olympics," Roman Amoyan stated.



The year's top ten athletes were selected as a result of a survey conducted by the Armenian National Federation of Sports Journalists, with 42 sports writers taking part in the polls.

Among the top ten athletes of Armenia are also three other wrestlers (Arsen Julfalakyan, Artur Aleksanyan and Musa Murtazaliev), two footballers (Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Yura Movsisyan), one chess grandmaster (Levon Aronian), one weightlifter (Aghasi Aghasyan), one gymnast (Harutyun Merdinyan) and one boxer (Vladimir Sarukhanyan).

Armenia's chess team (including GMs Levon Aronian, Sergei Movsesian, Vladimir Akopian, Gabriel Sargissian and Robert Hovhannisyan) became world champions at the competition of ten nations in China in July.

House of Armenian Book to be Opened in Moscow

'Happy New Year, Happy New Home' is the motto of the opening of the House of Armenian book in Moscow.

The opening ceremony is scheduled for Jan. 13, 2012.

Andranik Nikoghosyan, Chairman of the Governing Body, CIS Youth Union, reported that the house of Armenian book will be located at 19 Basmanaya Str, Moscow.

The House of Armenian book was to be opened this December, but the opening ceremony was put off for

technical reasons. The House of Armenian book in Moscow will be a replica of its counterpart, House of Russian book in Yerevan, which was opened Oct. 7, 2011.

The Armenia press center at the House of Armenian book will cooperate with its counterpart in Yerevan.

The House of Armenian book in Moscow will be publishing the Armenian world in Russia magazine. Armenian language courses for all age groups, an Armenian Book shop and a club will operate as well.

Assemblyman Mike Gatto Recognizes Outstanding Student Leaders at Armenian Sisters Academy in Glendale

GLENDALE--Assemblyman Mike Gatto (D-Los Angeles) recognized excellence in student leadership and achievement on Friday, December 16 at the Armenian Sisters Academy in Montrose, by presenting the First Annual Greg & Sylva Martayan Scholarship for Service and Education.

Eighth-grader Peter Demerdjian was selected to receive the \$1,000 tuition scholarship based on a written essay, extracurricular activities, and scholastic achievement. "Leader of Tomorrow" awards were also presented to outstanding students Christa Kurkjian, Christianna Bethel, Meghri Markarian, and Amelie Teltscher. "I was very impressed by the caliber of leadership skills and community involvement that each of these students represent," says Gatto. "These are the leaders of tomorrow."

Sylva Martayan, an alumna of Armenian Sisters Academy, and her

husband Greg, invited the Assemblyman to make the presentation based on his demonstrated leadership within the Armenian community and the state Legislature. Gatto, along with Glendale Police Officer Joe Allen, also presented certificates to Sister Lucia Al-Haik, Principal of the Academy, and Advisory Councilmember Naris Khalatian Bethel, in recognition of their longstanding service to the community.

"These students are successful because of the guidance and support they receive from the dedicated faculty and staff," says Gatto. "In recognizing our students' achievements, we must also celebrate the dedication of people like Kooyer Lucia and Mrs. Bethel."

As a surprise to Gatto, the Academy awarded him with a silver platter engraved with the Hayrmer prayer. "I certainly wasn't expecting anything like this," says Gatto. "It really meant a lot to me."

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Dr. Anahid Ekmekdjian
Chiropractor

Մետաբոլիզմը և մանուկները Բայրախտաբարիք բանավաճառք Գիտական, վայս, մեջք, բօնակին և միավային ցանք:

Միթեաշարժի վրարի հետաքարտը պատճենահանություն գործադրությունը:

2րդ առողջությանը մեր մտահոգությունն է:

Charity Auction of Contemporary Armenian Art at Christie's Great Success Money Raised for Yerevan Charity Project



(R to L) Rodania Leong, Christie's Russian Department; Alice van Cutsem, Christie's Events; Hratch Tchilingirian, Trustee of 'Yerevan My Love' Charitable Foundation; Matthew Stephenson, Managing Director of Christie's Russia; Armen Sarkissian (in auctioneer's podium), initiator and host of the charity auction; Viscount Linley, President of Christie's; Hugh Edmeades, International Director of Auctioneering; Emily James, Christie's Events

This first ever auction of Contemporary Armenian art at Christie's was held on 9th December, bringing together the works of some of the most brilliant Armenian artists. The proceeds of the auction will benefit heritage-led regeneration and social impact projects in Armenia.

Viscount Linley, President of Christie's, warmly welcomed the guests during the reception before the auction. "The generous support you can give at this evening's auction of spectacular art," he said, "will help to preserve Armenia's vast architectural heritage, an integral part of the soul of the country, and will ensure the continuation of traditional architecture and craftsmanship for future generations."

The charity auction was organised for the benefit of the creation of a sanctuary and clinic for single mothers and disadvantaged children in the heart of Yerevan, which is part of the "Yerevan My Love" project. The centre will have well-equipped modern facilities and will provide professional

social and health services to destitute mothers and children.

The auction was hosted by Dr. Armenia Armen Sarkissian, former Prime Minister of Armenia and president of "Yerevan My Love" Foundation, who highlighted the charitable nature of the auction and noted that for the first time in Christie's nearly 250 year history, Armenian Art has finally arrived at one of the world's finest auction houses. "This auction at Christie's nearly 40 years after the opening of the first Modern Art Museum in Yerevan is yet another milestone and historic event as it exposes Armenian artists to an international audience," remarked Sarkissian.

Her Excellency Karine Kazinyan, Armenia's ambassador to the United Kingdom, in her address highlighted the significance of the charity auction on the 20th anniversary of Armenia's independence and encouraged everyone present to be generous.

Hugh Edmeades, International Director of Auctioneering at Christie's,

led the auction in an exciting atmosphere. A number of paintings saw fierce competition of bids, especially works by Hagop Hagopian, Narek Avetissyan, Ararat Sargsyan and Hamlet Hovsepyan. In addition to the benefactors and supporters of Yerevan My Love, the international audience included participants from Europe, the United States, Russia and Armenia, as well as bids placed over the phone. The vast majority of the works were sold on the night.

Following the auction, Armen Sarkissian hosted a private dinner for the benefactors of Yerevan My Love, VIPs and executives of Christie's at the Cut restaurant in Mayfair. He thanked everyone who had taken part in the auction and especially the benefactors who have supported Yerevan My Love over the years.

"Yerevan My Love" is dedicated to preserving architecturally significant buildings in Yerevan and putting them to use to improve the life experience of disabled children, young people

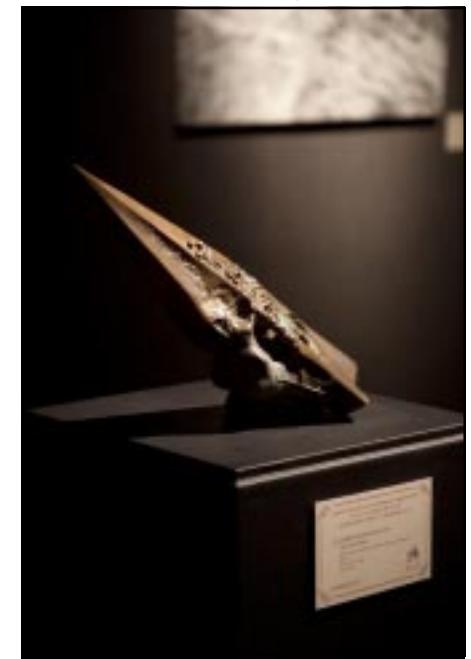


Christie's world headquarters in London

of St. Hovhannes Church in the Kond neighbourhood of Yerevan are being built and reconstructed. Three additional buildings will be reconstructed in the Old Yerevan neighbourhood as



"The Family" by Hagop Hagopian



"Totem with jewellery" sculpture by Albert Vardanyan

part of the second phase of 'Yerevan My Love project'.

(Photos by Tigran Tovmansyan)

Mary a Papazian Appointed President Of Southern Connecticut State University

CONNECTICUT -- Dr. Mary A. Papazian has been appointed president of Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) by the Board of Regents, she was recommended to this position by the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees

"Dr. Papazian is a fantastic choice to lead the campus of Southern Connecticut State University into the future," said Robert Kennedy, Board of Regents President. "Her strong academic and administrative experience, and importantly, her work strengthening and supporting research and development at Lehman College will be of great benefit to Southern's campus. She received strong support from both students and faculty during the selection process, and I'm eager to get to work with her."

"Southern Connecticut State University students, faculty and staff will get to know Dr. Papazian as a



hardworking, strong and visionary president — just the type of person we want to see as the leader of one of our campuses," said Board of Regents Chairman Lewis Robinson. "She is well-published and well-respected, and understands what needs to be done to move SCSU forward."

"I am honored by this appoint-

ment and humbled by the support both the Boards of Trustees and Regents have placed in me," said Dr. Papazian. "Southern Connecticut State University is a great campus with enormous potential, and I am looking forward to meeting the students, faculty and staff who call Southern home. There is a lot of work to do and I'm eager to get started."

On Thursday, Papazian said she is fortunate to join the Southern community on the heels of so much good work that has been done at the university. She said she will strive to help the university build upon those accomplishments. She said she will fight so that Southern students are afforded the best education possible. "I want students to have the opportunity to participate in the American Dream." She said she is excited to embark on an exciting journey with the students, faculty and staff at Southern. "I promise you a journey of respect and commitment — one that is dedicated to excellence and human dignity. Our students — at the end of the day — are the reason why we're

here."

Dr. Papazian, wife of Dr. Dennis R. Papazian, Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan, received her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, in English literature. She began her career at Oakland University in Michigan as an assistant professor of English and ultimately became the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences there. Following her time at Oakland University, Dr. Papazian was the dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Montclair State University, a comprehensive public university with 17,000 students and 500 full-time faculty members. There, she recruited more than 30 diverse faculty members, managed the college's nearly \$23 million budget and set spending priorities that supported the students even while budget dollars tightened. At Montclair State, Dr. Papazian also created a strong partnership between liberal arts and education, helping to strengthen the teacher education pro-

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Ararat Charter School's Environmental Education Program, in Partnership with Armenia Tree Project



On Saturday, December 10, 2011 Ararat Charter School (ACS) students and families, The Tree People and Armenia Tree Project (ATP) joined forces to put some "green" on the ACS campus. This event is the beginning of Ararat Charter School's environmental education program, in partnership with the Armenia Tree Project.

Armenia Tree Project is a non-profit organization based in Watertown, Mass. and Yerevan, Armenia. It conducts vitally important environmental projects in Armenia's impoverished and deforested zones and seeks support in advancing its reforestation mission.

Friends, families, students, and staff assembled at 9am to assist with the planting of 23 trees on the ACS2-Erwin campus. After a brief training conducted by The Tree People and a gathering of all individuals hand in hand, everyone chorally recited "People need trees, trees need people". Families then quickly scurried to get their gloves, shovels, and water buckets. Though the ground was quite hard, their determination was stronger and boys, girls, moms, dads, grandmas, and grandpas used their might to break through the soil in order to plant a tree. "It was the best feeling planting a tree" stated one student. "I loved playing with the dirt!" a first grader exclaimed. Well the first grader wasn't the only one who loved handling the dirt. It was evident that the adults were gaining much satisfaction from this activity, knowing that planting trees not only benefits the environment and beautifies their campus, but more importantly stresses to their children the

importance of taking care of the environment so that it can take care of them!

All 2nd through 4th graders will receive instruction from ATP representative, Anahit Gharibyan on the value of forests and what we can do to assist with reforestation efforts. When asked why Ararat Charter is teaming up with ATP, Principal Aida Tatiossian responded:

"We see great value in teaming up with The Armenia Tree Project because we want our students to not only do well academically and socially, but to feel compelled to assist their neighborhoods and communities in meaningful ways and one avenue can be through environmental efforts. We have an opportunity here to teach students about making the right choices and more importantly to empower them to have a voice, take action, and stand up for what they believe in. Making connections to the motherland is also a very important factor in teaming up with ATP. It's critical that our students know who they are, where they come from, and feel proud about their culture and heritage. The Armenia Tree Project gives us the opportunity to teach our students about Armenian History, the current economic state of our country, and provides our students ways to lend a hand. It's important that people understand that we don't have a cookie-cutter approach to educating our children. We are constantly exploring new and innovative ways to teach our students about the world around them. The Armenia Tree Project fits into this schema well, hence our partnership."

Turkey Heightens Pressure On France

Continued from page 1

close to 1,000 French companies in Turkey, as well as those in partnership with Turkish companies, will be excluded from public contracts, especially in the field of transport.

The French Foreign Ministry warned the Turkish government against resorting to economic repris-

als. According to the DPA news agency, ministry spokesman Bernard Valero reminded Ankara of its international commitments.

Turkey's membership of the World Trade Organization and customs union with the European Union "imply a non-discriminatory treatment with regard to companies from the European Union," Valero said.

Federal Appeals Judges Hears Oral Argument on Armenian Genocide

Continued from page 1

Armenians and refused to honor claims. As a result, thousands of policies remain unpaid, divesting beneficiaries, heirs, and rightful successors of the benefits due to them. Defendants' continued election not to pay claims on these policies thwarts even the smallest ! opportunity for genocide victims to pass some legacy on to their survivors.

The League of Nations, in the 1920's, asked insurance companies doing business in the Ottoman Empire to provide the names of Armenian policy holders. The League of Nations stated that Armenian orphans were in desperate condition and could benefit from the policies that their parents had obtained, and therefore requested companies to issue a list of names. Victoria was the only insurance company to identify almost 300 Armenian policy holders. This lawsuit is brought on behalf of surviving heirs of those policies.

The case mirrors other successful actions against insurance firms filed in the Los Angeles federal court: Kyurkjian et al. v. AXA et al., Case No. 2:02-cv-01750; Ouzounian et al. v. AXA et al., Case No. 2:05-cv-02596; and Marootian v. N.Y. Life Ins. Co., Case No. 2:99-cv-12073. The consolidated actions against AXA and N.Y. Life both resulted in multi-million-dollar settlements benefiting the families and beneficiaries of genocide victims.

The district court's 2007 decision upholding the California statute has been the subject of two previous three-judge panel decisions at the Ninth Circuit. In 2010, the most recent panel decision concluded "that there is no

express federal policy forbidding the state to use the term Armenian Genocide," and therefore affirmed the decision of the district court that the statute is not preempted.

For a full hour on Wednesday morning in a San Francisco courtroom, the eleven appellate judges fired questions at counsel for both parties, seeking clarity on a variety of issues from conflict and field preemption and their effect on the California statute to possible war-time exemption clauses in insurance policies. Ms. Boyd vociferously argued that the court should uphold the "constitutional equilibrium between federal and state power" and allow the statute to stand because California was acting within its traditional responsibility in providing for payment of "garden-variety" insurance claims. She argued that the statute simply extends the statute of limitations for a group of people with special needs in establishing the elements of contract claims. Mr. Geragos further noted that the statute should simply be characterized as extending the limitations period for a particular class of plaintiffs.

California federal and state legislators, as well as the states of California, Hawai'i, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Rhode Island, filed amicus briefs supporting Plaintiffs-Appellees and the state statute.

Given the success of the similar cases of AXA and N.Y. Life and the increasing awareness of the historical plight of Armenians, proponents of justice for victims of human rights violations and their heirs would welcome an en banc affirmation of the 2010 panel decision and the district court's original 2007 decision.

Mary a Papazian Appointed President of Southern Connecticut State University

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gram at the school.

In 2007, Dr. Papazian became the provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs at Lehman College, part of the City University of New York (CUNY) system. At Lehman, Dr. Papazian is responsible for a \$60 million budget, more than 750 full- and part-time faculty members and 200 staff, as well as the management, planning, development and quality control of all academic programs at the college. Dr. Papazian helped articulate a strategic vision and long-term goals for the college and has played a leading role in their implementation. She also supported efforts to build strong community relationships with the college and was a key member of Lehman's leadership team as it launched Lehman's first capital campaign with a \$40 million target by 2014- \$34 million of which has been raised or pledged to

date, including nearly \$1 million for scholarships.

Focusing on Lehman's position as a comprehensive college within a research university, Dr. Papazian strengthened Lehman's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs to leverage support in that community for Lehman. She has hired dozens of research active faculty to join a group that has already been awarded \$20 million annually in external funding.

Dr. Papazian has published a number of books, articles and reviews, including her most recent book, *The Sacred and Profane in English Renaissance Literature*. In 2009, Dr. Papazian presented to the "University Education for the 21st Century" conference in Armenia, focusing on the future of teaching and learning in the new millennium.

She is a graduate of Holy Martyrs Armenian high school and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hagop and Marilyn Arshagouni of Northridge California.

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