

ՄԱՍԻՍ

ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՇՐՋԱԲԱԺԻՌ

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Պաշտօնաթերթ՝
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Միացեալ Նահանգները կը Մերժէ Զրահապատմեր Վաճառել Ասրաբէյջանին



Ամերիկեան զրահապատ մեթեայ մը, որոնցմէ կ'ակնկալէր ստանալ
Ասրաբէյնան քանակը

Միացեալ Նահանգները մերժած է Ասրաբէյնանին զածառել Աֆղանիստանին դուրս բերուող զրահապատ իր մեքենաները: Այս մասին կը տեղեկացնէ ասրաբէյնան կան լրատուական ԱՊԱ գործակալութիւնը:

Գործակալութեան համաձայն, կ'ակնկալուէր որ, «Cougars» եւ «HMMWV» տեսակի զինուորական մեքենաները պիտի յանձնուէրին Աֆղանիստանի մէջ տեղակայուած ասրաբէյնանական խաղաղապահ ուժերուն: Սակայն, Ամերիկան որոշած է Ասրաբէյնանին չվածառել այդ մեքենաները:

Ուաշինգտոնի այս որոշումը

Հիմնուած է հակամարտող երկիրներու զէնք չվածառելու իր քաղաքականութեան վրայ:

Նախագիս, Միացեալ Նահանգները յայտարարած էր որ, Աֆղանիստանին իր զինուորները հեռացնելու գործողութիւններուն առթիւ հոն գտնուող ամերիկեան զէնքերը պիտի վածառուին, նախապատուութիւն տալով այն երկիրներուն, որոնք մասնակցութիւնը բերած էին խաղաղապահ գործողութիւններուն:

Ամերիկեան զէնքերու փոխարէն, Ասրաբէյնան իր խաղաղապահ զօրքերը պիտի զինէ իր եւ թուրքիոյ կողմէ արտադրուած զրահապատ մեքենաների դէմ պայքարի պէտք է այս որոշումը:

«Յովիկ Աբրահամեանի Խոստումը Ամբողջութեամբ Տապալուած է»



Տնտեսական վերլուծարան Հայկ Գէորգեան

պատասխան մարմինները:

Սակայն այս յայտարարութենէն չորս ամիս ետք, վարչապետի յայտարարութիւնը կը համոզուի կոչուած պայքարը, տապալուել է արմատապէս», - ըսած է անստեսական վերլուծաբանը:

Աւելի քան չորս ամիս առաջ՝ վարչապետի պաշտօնը ստանձնելուն պէս, Յովիկ Աբրահամեանը գործարարներուն յատակ ժամկէտ տուած էր, մինչեւ Յովիկի 1-ը ստուերէն դուրս գալու համար, եւ աւելցուցած, թէ հակառակ պարագային իրենցմով կը զբաղին համա-

Մովսէս Յակոբեան. «Ղարաբաղի Համար Խաղաղապահները Երկրի Զինուած Ուժերն Են

Լեռնացին Ղարաբաղի Հանրապետութեան համար յաւագոյն խաղաղապահները ԼՂՀ-ի Զինուած ուժերն են: Այս մասին լրագրողներու հետ զրոյցի ընթացքին յայտարարած է ԼՂ Հ պաշտպանութեան նախարար, պաշտպանութեան բանկի հրամանապար Մովսէս Յակոբեան, պատասխանելով այն հարցին, թէ ինչպէս կը վերաբերի Ղարաբաղի տարածք քիաղաղապահները մտցնելու գաղափարին: «Այս տարածաշրջանում մեզանից յաւ խաղաղապահ չկայ», - ըսած է նախարարը:

Անդրադառնալով Ասրաբէյնանին Ռուսաստանի կողմէ զէնք վաճառուելուն, Յակոբեան ըսած է. «Այն, որ Ասրաբէյնանը զէնք է գնում, շատ վատ է, սակայն դա մեզ չի վախեցնում»:

Հատնախարարին, վերջին գործողութիւններուն ժամանակ ատրպէյնացիները հայկական կողմին նուէր ձգած են մի քանի տեսակ զէնք, որ ԼՂՀ-ի բանակը չուներ: «Լաւ պատազինութիւնը կարեւոր է, սակայն որոշիչ չէ: Բանակում օպերատիւութեան արուեստ գոյութիւն ունի, կարեւոր է կարողանալ



ՀՂՀ պաշտպանութեան նախարար
Մովսէս Յակոբեան

հմտորէն գործածել ունեցած զէնքը»: Մեկնաբանելով Սոչիի հանդիպման արդիւնքները՝ նախարարը նկատեց, որ նախագահներու եռակողմ հանդիպումը չէ հանգեցած սահմանի վրայ հրադադարին. «Ասրաբէյնանը մտադիր չէ Ղարաբաղեան հարցը խաղաղ ճանապարհով լուծել: Ես ակնկալիքներ չունեմ, որ զարաբաղեան հարցը մտակայ մի քանի տարիների ընթացքում կը լուծուի»:

Հայաստան Մտահոգուած Ձեւ Շրջանային Ռազմափորձերով

Նախիջեւանի մէջ տեղի ունեցած է Ասրաբէյնանի, Թուրքիոյ եւ Վրաստանի պաշտպանութեան նախարարներու հերթական հանդիպումը, որու ընթացքին որոշուած է զինուորական համատեղ զինավարժութիւններ կատարել երեք երկիրներու բանակներուն մասնակցութեան մեջ:

Ատրպէյնանի պաշտպանութեան նախարար Զաքիր Հասանովի համաձայն, նախարարները քըննարկած են ուազմական դրութեան ժամանակ հեռահարութիւնը ենթակառուութիւն բի հարցեր, կազմատաներու անվտանգութեան նիւթը եւ այլ թիթածրարները:

«Արմէնիփրես» լրատուական գործակալութեան խնդրանքո, անդրադառնալով Հայաստանի դրաձի երեք երկիրներուն միջնեւ պաշտպանութեան ուրուտէն ներս համագործակցութեան Պաշտպանութեան Նախարարութեան նախարարի առջին տեղակալ Դաւիթ Տոնոյեան ըսած է որ, Հայաստան մտահոգուած չէ այդ համագործակցութեար: «Առանձնապէս» ոչ: Հարե-

ւան Վրաստանի հետ Հայաստանն ունի փոխադարձ անվտանգութեան շահերի լայն շրջանակ, որի մասին վկայում են մի շարք համագործակցային նախաձեռնութիւններ՝ պաշտպանութեան ուրատում ներառել հակադրութիւններ կարծուելով ամսնակցութիւնը կազմակերպութիւնների հանդիպման վայրը նոյնպէս առանձնակի մտահոգութիւնների տեղիք չի տալիս, քանի որ այն պարզապէս հանդիսանում է հնարաւոր աշխարհագրական վայրերի տարբերակներից մէկը:

«Այնուամենայնիւ, այս համագործակցութեան հետեւանքները ամբողջովին ներառուած են Հայաստանի պաշտպանութեան պալանաւորման ուազմավարական նկատառումներում՝ դրանց կանխատեսուղ վնասատու ազդեցութիւնների հաշուառմանը», ըսած է Դաւիթ Տոնոյեան:

Հօռմի Պապը Պատարագ Պիտի Մատուցէ Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան 100-Եակին Առթիւ

Հոռմի Ֆրանցիսկոս Պապը 2015-ի Ապրիլի 12-ին Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան հարիւրեորդ տարելիցիցի առթիւ պատարագ պիտի մտահոգուած չուոմի Սուրբ Պետրոս Տաճարէն ներս:

Այս մասին կը տեղեկացնէ «Փրենսա Արմէնիա» լրատական գործակալութիւնը՝ յղում կատարելով Պուէնոս Այրէսի արքեպիսկոպոս՝ քարտիսալ Մարիօ Պոլիին:

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US Refuses to Sell Military Equipment to Azerbaijan

BAKU — The U.S. side has declined Azerbaijan's recent request on buying Cougar and HMMWV military vehicles withdrawn from Afghanistan, Azerbaijani APA agency reported quoting military sources.

According to the agency, it was expected that the military vehicles would be given as a part of the inventory of peacekeeping brigade of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, but the U.S. has declined to sell these vehicles to Azerbaijan. The US decision was based on Washington's embargo on sale of weapons and military equipment to conflicting countries.

The Pentagon announced earlier this summer that about half of the military vehicles will be sold to friendly nations or disposed of otherwise during the ongoing U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, which is due to be completed by the end of 2016. Both Armenia and Azerbaijan have contributed small military contingents to the NATO-led multinational mission in Afghanistan as part of their cooperation with the U.S. war on terror.



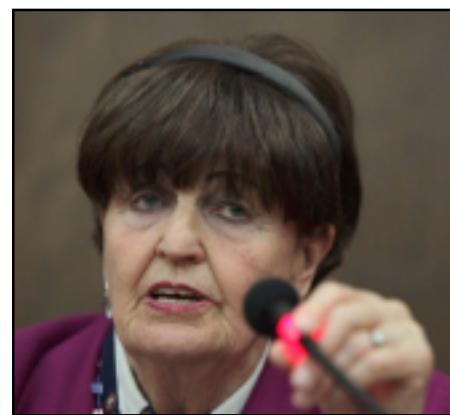
That cooperation explains why the U.S. has provided modest and virtually identical amounts of military assistance to the two South Caucasus states since the September 2011 terrorist attacks in America. None of that aid has involved offensive weapons that could change the military balance in the Karabakh dispute. In particular, the Armenian army has mainly received modern communication and demining equipment.

Azerbaijan will equip the brigade envisaged for peacekeeping operations with local production Matador and Marauder mine-protected vehicles and Turkish-produced Cobra armored vehicles.

Caroline Cox: Karabakh Can Never Accept Azerbaijan's Sovereignty!

YEREVAN (Panorama.am by Nvard Chalikyan) Azerbaijan has recently intensified the ceasefire breaches, mounting attacks not only on the territory of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic but also the Republic of Armenia, claiming that it has the right to establish control over Nagorno Karabakh by military means. As Azerbaijani propaganda continues to distort facts presenting Azerbaijan as a victim and Armenia as an aggressor, there is a need to once again recall the actual realities of the conflict and who is responsible for the current situation. On this issue Panorama.am has spoken to member of the British House of Lords Baroness Cox who personally visited the region for over 60 times during the war and together with an international group of experts thoroughly studied the situation on the ground.

Commenting on Azerbaijani propaganda which presents Azerbaijan as victim to Armenian aggression, Caroline Cox said, "First of all I would never say Armenians are aggressors, that is a lie – it was Azerbaijan that attempted ethnic cleansing of the Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh back in 1991-1992, it was Azerbaijan that unleashed ferocious military offensive against the civilians in Nagorno Karabakh – for instance in the capital of Nagorno Karabakh Stepanakert we observed 400 grad missiles a day fired by the Azeris on the civilians. It was Azerbaijan who committed war crimes and crimes



against humanity by carrying out massacre of civilians in the village of Maraga."

Asked whether she thinks that Nagorno Karabakh, because of continuous genocidal policies of Azerbaijan against Armenians, qualifies as an exceptional case in which international law grants the right to secession and independence (as it was the case with Kosovo) Baroness Cox replied, "Yes, it does qualify as such. I believe that the Armenians of Karabakh can never again accept sovereignty by Azerbaijan because they have been subjected to attempted genocide and ethnic cleansing. There is much evidence on this. President of Azerbaijan Elchibey has explicitly declared, "If there is a single Armenian left in Karabakh, the people of Azerbaijan can hang me in the central square of Baku". This is a very clear and explicit policy of elimination

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Karabakh Ready to Accept Yazidi Refugees



STEPANAKERT — Davit Babayan, the spokesman for Karabakh President Bako Sahakian expressed readiness to grant asylum to Yazidis who have been forced to flee their homes in parts of northern Iraq controlled by the Islamic State.

"The Armenian people cannot be indifferent to what is now being done to the Yazidi people," Babayan told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "The Yazidis are the only people who have become an integral part of the Armenian people." Referring to the Yazidis as "brotherly" people facing genocide at the hands of radical Sunni insurgents

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is therefore willing to take in Yazidi refugees, he said. "Artsakh has many socioeconomic problems," he said. "But if there are such applications we, as a state committed to democratic and humanitarian norms, will try to help those people as much as we can."

Asked whether the Karabakh Armenians are offering to resettle Iraqi

Yazidis in the territories under their control, Babayan said, "If there are such requests we will see to what extent we are able to grant them." He declined to be drawn on economic and other aspects of such relocation.

Officials in Armenia, which is home to a sizable Yazidi community, were more cautious in voicing readiness to accommodate refugees from Iraq. According to the Armenian Foreign Ministry, no Iraqi Yazidis have taken refuge or applied for asylum in the country so far.

Boris Murazi, an Armenian Yazidi activist, confirmed that. He argued that reaching Armenia is not easy for his ethnic kin from Iraq as they cannot receive Armenian visas at the border and need to make a long journey through Turkey and Iran or Georgia. In Murazi's words, Iraqi Yazidis have stayed away from Armenia so far also because of the Armenian government's "overdue" reaction to their suffering.

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Pope Francis to Celebrate Mass for the Armenian Genocide Centennial

BUENOS AIRES (Agencia Prensa Armenia) — Pope Francis will celebrate Mass for the Armenian Genocide centennial in the Basilica of San Peter at the Vatican on April 12, 2015, as announced by the Cardinal Archbishop of Buenos Aires Mario Poli during a mass in the Armenian Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Narek on Sunday 17th August.

"The Pope replied to the invitation from the Armenian Catholic Church a year ago through Patriarch Nerses Bedros XIX to celebrate a mass for the recognition of the Genocide," stated the pastor of Narek, Pablo Hakimian, when asked by Prensa Armenia.

During the meeting with the Patriarch of Cilicia of the Armenians Nerses Bedros XIX Tarmourini in June last year, Pope Francis also received the daughter of a surviving family of the Armenian genocide, he heard her,



took her hand and said: "It was the first genocide of the twentieth century." This gesture drew criticism from Turkey, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement considering that "the expressions of Pope Francis are absolutely unacceptable."

Armenia Initiates “Defense Courses” for Border Villagers



YEREVAN (RFE/RL) -- The Ministry of Emergency Situations said on Tuesday that it will train residents of border villages in northeastern Armenia to better guard against Azerbaijani gunfire and avoid accidentally crossing into Azerbaijan.

Emergency Situations Minister Armen Yeritsian said the ministry initiated the special “defense courses” for 21 rural communities in the Tavush province following the recent upsurge in fighting on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and around Nagorno-Karabakh. He said the Armenian military, whose troops are stationed along the frontier, backed the idea.

“The villagers may have lived under gunfire for a long time, but we have specialists who will visit them and tell what they should do during gunfire,” Yeritsian told RFE/RL’s Armenian service (Azatutyun.am).

He said ministry staff will also publish detailed maps of those villages and surrounding areas to prevent accidental crossings of the Azerbaijani border by local residents. “We need to conduct explanatory work and tell them where they can go and where they can’t,” he said. “We will have detailed maps and share them with the villagers.”

A 33-year-old resident of one of the border villages, Chinari, died on August 8 one day after wandering into Azerbaijan and being arrested by military authorities there. The Armenian

government and many in Chinari believe that Karen Petrosian was murdered or beaten to death.

A 77-year-old resident of another Tavush village, Verin Karmiraghbyur, died in May three months after being detained on the Azerbaijani side of the border in similar circumstances. Doctors in Yerevan said the man, Mamikon Khojoyan, suffered serious injuries during his month-long captivity.

Citing these and other incidents, President Serzh Sarkisian on August 10 urged border villagers to exercise greater caution in their movements. “The residents of our border settlements need to realize that they are dealing with an incensed and savage enemy,” he said.

Border villagers in both Armenia and Azerbaijan regularly come under fire during skirmishes between the two warring armies. Both sides reported serious damage to those communities during the recent escalation of truce violations in the Karabakh conflict zone.

The exchanges of fire from machine guns and automatic rifles not only injure civilians and damage their homes but also hamper farming on large swathes of land located on the line of fire, aggravating hardship endured by many farmers. Tavush residents have long been seeking economic privileges and assistance from the government in Yerevan.

Yerevan Reacts to Azeri-Turkish-Georgian Defense Talks

YEREVAN -- The Armenian government downplayed the significance of growing military ties between neighboring Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey on Wednesday, while saying that it is mindful of their possible “damaging impact” on Armenia.

The defense ministers of the three states reportedly pledged to step up trilateral cooperation when they met in the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhichevan on Tuesday. According to the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, they decided to hold more such talks twice a year and conduct joint military exercises with the aim of protecting regional oil and gas pipelines. Closer contacts will also increase the interoperability of the Azerbaijani, Georgian and Turkish armed forces, said the ministry.

The presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey met in Tbilisi in May. They reportedly focused on joint energy and transportation projects, among them the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway bypassing Armenia.

Commenting on the Nakhichevan talks, First Deputy Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan said Yerevan is “not quite” concerned by Georgia’s deepening defense links with Armenia’s two arch-foes. “With neighboring Georgia Armenia has a wide range of mutual security interests, as evidenced by a number of cooperation initiatives, including in the area of defense,” he said in written comments to the official Armenpress news agency. “I think that Georgia’s participation will restrain a juxtaposition of these trilateral relations with Armenia’s national security interests.”

Azeri Targets ‘Unprotected Against Armenian Missiles’

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Despite its massive military buildup Azerbaijan still lacks the capacity to protect its strategic facilities against Armenian missile strikes in case of another war for Nagorno-Karabakh, a retired Armenian army general claimed on Friday.

Armenia and Azerbaijan threatened each other with devastating long-range attacks during the recent escalation of fighting along the border between the two states and “the line of contact” around Karabakh. Each side claimed to be capable of destroying any target in the other’s territory.

The Armenian military had made clear earlier that it will target Azerbaijan’s vital oil and gas installations if Baku acts on its threats to reconquer Karabakh and the surrounding Armenian-controlled territories.

General Vagharshak Harutiunian, who had served as Armenia’s defense minister in 1999-2000, insisted that the Azerbaijani army lacks the kind of sophisticated weapons that can neutralize such strikes. He said S-300 surface-to-air missile systems purchased by Azerbaijan from Russia in 2010 can only be used for anti-aircraft purposes.

“S-300 is a serious system, but it needs special missiles in order to be used for missile defense,” Harutiunian told RFE/RL’s Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). “Russia doesn’t sell such missiles to any other state.”

Azerbaijan may also possess Israeli missile defense systems. They were reportedly among \$1.6 billion worth of weapons which Israeli defense firms agreed to sell to Baku in



2012.

Speaking about the Armenian missile arsenal, Harutiunian singled out Soviet-manufactured Scud-B systems with a firing range of 300 kilometers. The Armenian army also has more precise Russian Tochka-U ballistic missiles with a firing range of 120 kilometers.

President Serzh Sarkisian promised last December that Armenia will acquire more powerful weapons in the coming years. “One or two more years, and you will be able to proudly say that the Armenian army possesses weapons which other states 20, 30 or 40 times our size do not possess,” he told soldiers at a military base in the northeastern Tavush province.

Some analysts believe that Sarkisian referred to Russian state-of-the-art Iskander-M missiles that can strike targets more than 400 kilometers away. Iskander was designed to overcome any of the existing missile defense shields.

“They don’t aim to start war,” Harutiunian said of Baku. “They realize that if a war breaks out they are not going to win. That is why they provoke incidents and sabotage attacks, rather than use heavy weapons. They don’t reach a point where a war is inevitable.”

Armenia Placed 2nd in International Tank Biathlon Championship

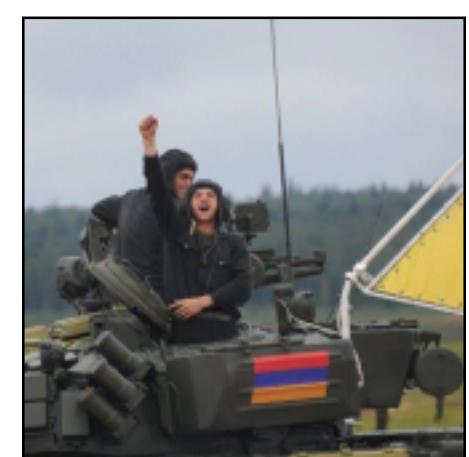
MOSCOW -- Armenian army team received a silver medal in the final round of the Tank Biathlon 2014 international competition, which wrapped up Saturday in Moscow.

The championship of tank-driving skills and precision shooting from machine guns and cannons was held from August 4 to 16 in the Russian capital city. 36 tank teams from 12 countries met for the first time this year in the history of tank battles, and delegations from more than twenty countries attended the international competition as observers.

Teams from Angola, Armenia, Belarus, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Mongolia, Russia, Serbia and Venezuela were participating in the competition.

World Championship “Tank biathlon 2014” was held in Moscow’s Alabino military training site and consisted of 2 tournaments “Sprint” and “Persecution tournament”. Armenia along with Russia, Kazakhstan, and China qualified for the final stages.

Tank biathlon is a mechanized military sport invented in Russia. It is designed to be very similar to the regular biathlon. Competing teams need to overcome several obstacles like a slalom section, a ford, a steep hill, a panel bridge and an escarpment and hit targets simulating tanks and low-fly-



ing helicopters.

The Armenian tankers who competed at the event will return home on Sunday, and an official welcoming ceremony will be held in their honor at Zvartnots International Airport of capital city Yerevan.

President of Armenia Serzh Sarkisian congratulated Armenian tankers for receiving a silver medal in the final round of the Tank Biathlon 2014.

“Your achievement is a good example to further promote professional improvement in all units of the Armenian army,” he said in a message.

“August has shown the Armenian soldiers’ high efficiency both at the posts and in international arena, before the entire world”, Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan stated congratulating the Armenian army personnel.

Armenian Arrested for Shooting at Turkish Embassy In Moscow

MOSCOW—Russian police have arrested a man who they say fired shots at the Turkish Embassy in Moscow.

Russian news agencies report that Artur Mirzoyan, an Armenian businessman, was detained after allegedly opening fire twice with a hunting rifle shortly after 8:00 a.m. local time.

Mirzoyan, 43, fired at the coat of arms of the Turkish republic outside the embassy. The man was detained some time thereafter, but he did not provide details on the motives for his action. Authorities said nobody was hurt in the incident.

Mirzoyan has confirmed his guilt and could be sentenced to 5 years in prison.



He said that he was ready to pay a fine of 500 thousand rubles and was not going to leave the Russian territory until the end of the investigation.

US Deeply Concerned about Armenian Captive's Death

The U.S. State Department Spokesperson issued a statement expressing its deep concern on the death of the Armenian citizen Karen A. Petrosian, who was taken captive and killed in Azerbaijan. "The U.S. offers sincere condolences to Mr. Petrosian's family. We call on the Azerbaijani government to conduct a full and transparent investigation of this incident and publish the results."

We remind the Governments of Azerbaijan and Armenia of their obligations under international humanitarian law, especially their obligation to treat humanely all those taken into custody. We call on both Armenia and Azerbaijan to grant the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access to all detainees and internees held for conflict-related reasons."

The Red Cross (ICRC) said on Thursday that it is trying to arrange the repatriation of the body of 33 year old Petrosian, a resident of an Armenian border village, who had wandered into Azerbaijan for unknown reasons and was arrested by military authorities there. The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry claimed that Petrosian has died of "acute heart failure."

The ICRC office in Yerevan said Red Cross officials are now trying to help the Armenian authorities repatriate Petrosian's body. "A dialogue with the authorities on both sides is continuing but I cannot publicly comment on progress," its spokeswoman, Zara Amatuni, told RFE/RL's Armenian service. "When the parties reach an agreement the Red Cross will be able to assist the authorities in the body's repatriation in accordance with its neutral status."

Amatuni declined to clarify whether the two sides are discussing the possibility of exchanging the corpse with the body of an Azerbaijani man who was killed last month in a reported shootout with military personnel in the Armenian-controlled Kelbajar district west of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armen Kaprielian, the head of an Armenian government commission dealing with prisoners of war and civilian captives, implied earlier this week that the Armenian side is ready to consider such a swap. A member of the commission, Zarine Hakobian, accused Baku on Thursday of delaying the body's repatriation in order to remove traces of violence from it.

New Body to Promote Armenian Food Exports to Russia

YEREVAN-- Agriculture Minister Sergo Karapetian formed on Friday a task force charged with boosting exports of Armenian agricultural products and prepared foodstuffs to Russia following a Russian ban on food imports from Europe and the United States.

Karapetian acknowledged earlier this week that the Armenian government is trying to capitalize on the ban imposed by Moscow in retaliation against Western economic sanctions. He told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am) that he and other senior Agriculture Ministry officials have met Armenian farmers and agribusiness representatives to discuss ways of filling some of the resulting gap in the Russian food market.

A ministry statement said that the "working group" was set up by Karapetian with the aim of "increasing the volume of agricultural and food

exports and organizing the export process in a coordinated manner."

The ministry also released phone numbers of Deputy Agriculture Minister Robert Makarian, Armenia's trade representative to Russia and several other senior officials dealing with the issue. It said exporters can contact them "in case of problems arising in the process."

Russia is already the principal market for fruits, vegetables, dairy and prepared foodstuffs exported from Armenia. Karapetian said on Wednesday that the government hopes to help double their delivery to Russian consumers.

According to the National Statistical Service, Armenian agricultural and food exports amounted to \$415 million last year, equivalent to 28 percent of the country's total export revenue. Overall Armenian exports to Russia stood at \$334.5 million in 2013.

William Saroyan Street Named in Bitlis



Ara Sarafian (Gomidas Institute) and Hüseyin Olan (Bitlis co-Mayor) in Sapkor district of Bitlis

Bitlis town council has approved the renaming of five streets in this historic town in south-eastern Turkey. Among the names is "William Saroyan Street," after the great American-Armenian writer whose ancestors came from Bitlis before 1915. Saroyan was born in Fresno but felt strong ties to his ancestral home. He visited Bitlis in 1964 and 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of that visit.

One of the champions of renaming William Saroyan Street is Barzan Serefhanoglu, whose grandfather, Adil Serefhanoglu, was the mayor of Bitlis when Saroyan visited the city. Adil Serefhanoglu showed great respect to Saroyan and paid a high price for it. After Saroyan's departure, he was harassed by the authorities who wanted to punish him.

William Saroyan Street will now be the main street of the Sapkor district of the city, where the Saroyan family home was located. This district looks over the citadel in the city below. Many of the houses in this district still bear the dates of their construction in Armenian, Ottoman and Western numerals.

The Gomidas Institute congratulated the co-mayors of Bitlis, Nevin Dasdemir Dagkiran and Hüseyin Olan, as well as all members of Bitlis town council who approved the name changes unanimously.

Karabakh Ready to Accept Yazidi Refugees

Continued from page 1

It was not until Monday that President Serzh Sarkisian expressed serious concern about the mass killings and deportations of Iraqi Yazidis. A spokesman for Sarkisian said he has instructed Armenia's Foreign Ministry and diplomatic missions abroad to "re-double their efforts to adequately raise the issue in the international arena."

"Better late than never," Murazi told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "It's good that the authorities have realized that they can't be indifferent to this issue. Not only Yazidi but also ethnic Armenian citizens of Armenia have demanded that

"This was a sensitive decision," said Ara Sarafian of the Gomidas Institute. "The people of Bitlis have expressed their pride in one of their own Armenian sons. Such sentiments could not have been expressed even a few years ago, when all positive sentiments regarding Armenians and Kurds were proscribed by the Turkish state. We have come a long way in Turkey, but there is still a long way to go."

The other names adopted by Bitlis town council celebrate Bediuzzaman Said-i Kürdi, Kemal Fevzi, Serefhan, and Ferhat Tepe.

The renaming of William Saroyan Street is partly the result of a bridge-building operation the Gomidas Institute initiated in 2013 – before the current co-mayors and town council were even elected. The Institute's efforts resulted in increased contacts, a public exhibition dedicated to the Armenians of Bitlis before 1915 – an exhibition which was shown in Bitlis and Fresno, California – as well as other projects still underway.

The Gomidas Institute's work in Bitlis has been possible with the help of the Turkish Human Rights' Association (IHD), the Bitlis Bar Association, the Armenian Studies Program at California State University (Fresno), as well as private individuals.

For more information contact info@gomidas.org

the authorities stop being indifferent."

Indeed, a growing number of Armenian civic activists as well as media outlets are calling on Yerevan to adopt a more proactive stance. Several activists have set up a Facebook group to raise funds for Iraqi Yazidis willing to move to Armenia.

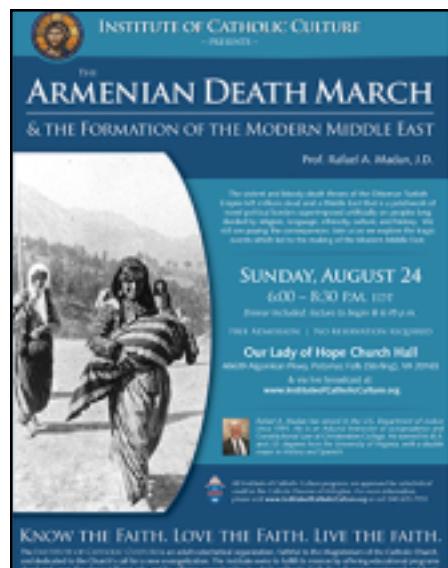
"Armenia must open its borders to Yazidi refugees and accept as many of them as possible," said Bayandur Poghosian, a member of the group called Help Your Yazidi Brother. Poghosian acknowledged that the Armenian government is too cash-strapped to be able to help them financially. This is why, he said, the campaigners are asking for private donations.

"The Armenian Death March & the Formation of the Modern Middle East"

POTOMAC FALLS, VA — The Institute of Catholic Culture in Virginia to present a lecture on the Armenian Genocide titled "The Armenian Death March & the Formation of the Modern Middle East" on Sunday, August 24, 2014 at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of Hope Church Hall (46639 Algonkian Pkwy, Potomac Falls (Sterling), VA 20165)

The lecture will be presented by Prof. Rafael A. Madan, J.D. the subject is pertaining to the events of the Armenian Genocide (1915-1918) and political developments in the Middle East after that period.

The Institute of Catholic Culture was founded in Northern Virginia in 2006 by Rev. Franklyn McAfee, T.D., and Deacon Sabatino Carnazzo, M.A., as an educational outreach project. From its inception, the Institute has offered weekly seminars in Catholic history, philosophy and theology, with a strong emphasis on the study of



Sacred Scripture. The lecturers (historians, philosophers, theologians, literary scholars etc.) both clergy and lay provide different but enriching experiences through their weekly presentations throughout the year.
www.instituteofcatholicculture.org

IT Industry in Armenia and Diaspora's Involvement

GLENDALE -- Three entrepreneurs from Los Angeles who have established various successful Information Technology (IT) related business in Armenia will present their stories, successes, and difficulties. They will address how to be profit-driven and not philanthropy-driven, establish and maintain high standards, how to compete and operate in Armenia, and most importantly how to commit time and resources. This will be a great opportunity for people who are thinking to establish businesses in high tech in Armenia to hear how these three have succeeded.

The lecture organized by Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AES) will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2014, 7:30 pm at Parsons Corporation (100 W Walnut St, Pasadena, CA 91124)

Speakers

Harmik Baghdasarian has a B.S. in Computer Science from London University, England. He has been involved in implementation of large scale ERP systems for various global organizations, such as Epson Inc, Sony Enterprises, and Able Freight in US. Harmik has been an active member of the community and has been actively involved in working with Armenia in pursue of creating IT related jobs. In October of 1997 started outsourcing software development projects to Armenia and has been continuing it since then. His current organization Ogma Inc., has been officially working in Yerevan Armenia as a software development company and has been able to complete a large number of successful projects in areas of Web and mobile development.

Al Eisaian is an entrepreneur, technology investor, and advisor. He has an MBA from Pepperdine University and a BSEE from Oklahoma State University. His most recent company, IconApps, Inc., where he served as

founder and Chairman & CEO, was acquired by Science Inc. Al has served as the Global Head of Product Strategy and Marketing for Opera Solutions, a global Big-Data analytics company from 2010-2011. In 2005 Al co-founded and served as Executive Chairman of Integriens Corporation in Armenia until its acquisition by VMWare in 2010 for \$103 million. Al co-founded and served as CEO of CreationPoint Systems, a systems management software and services company from 2001-2005. Al served as the SVP and General Manager of LowerMyBills, Inc. acquired by Experian Corporation (for \$400 million) from 2000-2001. Al has invested and is an advisor in several technology start-up companies.

Aram Ter-Martirosyan holds a B.S. from UCLA in Computer Science and Engineering and M.S. in Business Administration from Pepperdine University. He started his professional career in 1993 at Lexi International, a telecommunications company, as a software engineer and very rapidly advanced to senior software engineer, project manager, and ultimately, software architect. In 1999, Aram joined Hi-Tech Gateway, Inc. as Cofounder and CIO, which is a software development company in Armenia involved in developing telecommunications related programs that have extensive experience in developing web-based and mobile applications. Since 2005, Aram Ter-Martirosyan cofounded ConnectTo Communications, Inc., which is providing a wide array of telecommunications services for consumers and businesses including telephone, Internet, wireless, security and IPTV services.

Please RSVP by e-mail so your name will be with the guards at the entrance which will expedite your signing in process -

Areg.gharabegian@parsons.com

The lecture is free and open to the public with validated parking.

Rated SR Film Fest New York Kicks Off 2nd Season With Launch Party

NEW YORK -- Following a successful inaugural year with 55 films from 18 countries, Rated SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York is gearing up for its second edition with a gathering at Bettolona restaurant on Wednesday evening, September 3, 2014. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the winning film directors, cast members and their colleagues as well as network with important industry guests. There will be prizes to win and passes to the festival to be given out.

Founded by award-winning actor, filmmaker and curator Nora Armani in order to promote positive social change through films covering a wide range of social issues, this year's Rated SR film festival has two special spotlight sections titled 100 Years of Genocide & Women Filmmakers of MENA respectively.

"I know many Middle Eastern and MENA women filmmakers who are really talented and make films that deal with socially relevant issues not limited to the status of women only," said Armani. "I have always wanted to present their work to U.S. audiences and we thought this would be a good time to do it."

This year's festival will also shed light on the atrocities of genocide that are ruthlessly carried out to the present day. The festival provides a platform to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide during World War I and honors the sacred memory of its victims in a context that is much more universal and international by juxtaposing it to the Holocaust, the Ethnic Cleansing Acts in Eastern Europe, Rwanda, Sudan and others.

"There are many nations that have suffered the fate of the Armenians to various degrees," said Armani. "It is important to put all of that into context and show that impunity encourages further acts of Genocide."

Reflecting on the current situation of Christians in Iraq, Armani likens it to the sufferings of Armenians one hundred years ago.

Rated SR promotes and provides exposure to its films into a wider



viewership by accompanying the winning filmmakers beyond the festival week. This year, Rated SR took seven of the programmed documentaries to Cannes for the Cannes Film Festival Doc Corner. The Grand Prize winning film Small Small Thing had its weeklong release in June as part of the prize at the Quad Cinema and received positive coverage in the New York Times and Village Voice, among other respectable publications. The winning documentary Not Who We Are obtained a DVD-VOD distribution by Cinema Libre Studio and three of the six selected shorts from the festival's slate are already distributed on IndiePix.

At its core, Rated SR films must relay a positive uplifting message even when dealing with social ills.

"I strongly believe that if a film is made well, and it has an interesting social or human angle, it does not need to rely on gratuitous violence, crime, drugs, nor does it need to glamorize violence through exaggerated special effects in order to become commercially viable," said Armani. "By offering a platform to filmmakers who choose to make socially relevant films that are also entertaining, we encourage them to make more films of that kind. Film submissions are now open. We look forward to hearing from filmmakers."

Submission details may be found on <http://www.ratedsr.films.org>

Karabakh Can Never Accept Azerbaijan's Sovereignty!

Continued from page 1

of Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh – that amounts to ethnic cleansing and genocide. This was a war against civilians which was completely unacceptable in which many atrocities were carried out. Me and my colleague made a publication way back in 1990s giving a lot of evidence of Azerbaijan aggression against the Armenians in Karabakh in what we called "Ethnic cleansing in progress: War in Nagorno Karabakh". We were there as eyewitnesses many times in the war and I believe that Armenians in Karabakh have as much right for consideration of independence as the people of Kosovo."

Commenting on the current negotiation process Baroness Cox highlighted the need for the people of Nagorno Karabakh to be involved in

the process, as it is their future which is at stake. She also said that there would need to be very serious security guarantees for the Armenian side if a peace deal is concluded. Regarding the position of the parties Cox said "I think the Armenian position is a very reasonable one while it is Azerbaijan who refuses to cede. I wish Azerbaijan would undertake some confidence building measures instead of going on to escalate the hostile propaganda."

"My heart is always with the Armenian people who has suffered too much and too long. I have respect for the courage of your people and I say 'thank you' for you have become an example of freedom for the rest of the world against the attempted ethnic cleansing," added Baroness Cox in conclusion.

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