











## Օտարերկրեայ Լրագրողներու խումբ մը Այցելած է Արցախ



«Արցախսակերտում» ՀԿ-ի կազմակերպմամբ, 10-13 ֆետրուարին Արցախս այցելած է օտարերկրեայ լրագրողներու եւ պլոկըրներու խումբ մը, որուն մէջ ներգրաւուած եղած են ներկայացուցիչներ Ռուսաստանէն, Լաթվիայէն, Հունարիայէն, Ֆրանսայէն, Ալժերիայէն եւ համարակալիքն՝ հայ պլոկըրներու ուղեկցութեամբ։ Այցին պատասխան էր մասնակցութեամբ, 10-13 ֆետրուարին Արցախս այցելած է օտարերկրեայ լրագրողներու եւ պլոկըրներու խումբ մը, որուն մէջ ներգրաւուած եղած են ներկայացուցիչներ Ռուսաստանէն, Լաթվիայէն, Հունարիայէն, Ֆրանսայէն, Ալժերիայէն եւ համարակալիքն՝ հայ պլոկըրներու ուղեկցութեամբ։ Այցին պատասխան էր մասնակցիլ դարձաբանական շարժման 30-ամեակին նուիրուած տօնական միջոցառումներուն, ինչպէս նաեւ՝ ծանօթանալ երկրի պատմութեան, մշակոյթին եւ զարգացման ներուժին։

Այցի շրջածիրէն ներս խումբի անդամները բովանդակալից հանդիպումներ ունեցած են Հայ Առաքելական Եկեղեցոյ Արցախի թեմի առաջ-նորդ Պարգևել արքեպիսկոպոս

Մարտիրոսեանի, Աժ նախագահ Աշոտ Ղուլեանի, ԱԳ նախարար Մասիս Մայիլեանի, Մարդու իրաւունքներու պաշտպան Ռուբէն Մելիքեանի հետ, որու ընթացքին արցախսեան ներկայացուցիչները պատասխանած են մասնակիցներու կողմէ բարձրաձայնուած բազմաթիւ հարցերու։

Կազմակերպուած են նաեւ խումբի ճանաչողական այցեր առաջնագիծ, արտադրական որոշ ձեռնարկութիւններ, Ստեփանակերտի Թումօ ստեղծարար թեխնոլոգիաներու կեդրոն, ինչպէս նաեւ՝ որոշ տեսարժան վայրեր։

Փետրուար 13-ին օտարերկրեայ լրագրողները եւ պլոկըրները մասնակցած են նաեւ դարձաբանական շարժման 30-ամեակին նուիրուած միջոցառումներուն։

## Պոլսոյ ՎՃՌԱԲԵԿ ԴԱՏԱՐԱՆԸ «Սանասարեան Խան»-ը հայ համայնքին վերադարձնելու վճիռ կայացուցած է



**Գումարբուի աղբիւրները** արձագանգ հանդիսացած են պոլսահայ համայնքին համար շատ դրական իրադարձութեան մը։ Այսպէս, Պոլսոյ ՎՃՌԱԲԵԿ ատեմինին կողմէ արձակուած դատավճիռի մը հիման վրաց, Սիրքենիի պատմական Սանասարեան Խանի սեփականութեան իրաւունքը վերադարձուած է Պոլսոյ Պատրիարքական Աթոռին։ Ասիկա կրնայ ճակատագրական նշանակութիւն ունենալ պատրիարքութեան յառաջիկաց գործունէութեան տեսակէտէն։ Այս մասին կը հաղորդէ Պոլսոյ «Ժամանակը» օրաթերթը։

Այս ձեռքբերումը ապահոված է պատրիարքական ընդհանուր փոխանորդ Արքամ արք. Աթեշեանի կողմէ Յուլիս 2014-ին կատարուած դատական դիմումին հիման վրայ։ Անոր կողմէ բացուած դատը շուրջ երեքուկէս տարուան իրաւական պայքարէ ետք՝ տուած է դրական արդիւնք։ Իրականութեան մէջ, այդ պայքարը ունի շատ աւելի վաղեմութիւն։ Արդարեւ, Պատրիարքական Աթոռը այս պատմական խանի սեփականութեան իրաւունքը վերատանալու համար դատարան դիմած էր նախապէս, որպէսզի Վագրֆներու ընդհանուր տնօրինութիւնը ընէ անհամար հարգեցած կարգադրութ-

իւնները։ Սակայն Պոլսոյ 13-րդ հիմնական ատեմանը առաջին փուլին արձակած էր ժխտական վճիռ, եւ այդ վճիռի բեկանման պահանջով՝ պատրիարքութիւնը դիմած էր վճռաբեկ ատեմին։ Իրաւաբան Ալի էլպէցոլուի կողմէ կը ներկայացուէր պատրիարքութիւնը այս դատավարութիւններուն ընթացքին։ Երկարատեւ ու հետեւողական աշխատանքէ ետք ապահովուած է այս մէծ յաղթանակը։ Այժմ, պիտի կատարուին կալուածաթուղթի եւ համապատասխան արձանագրութիւններու կարդաբութիւնները։

Հարկ է նշել, որ Սանասարեան Խանը պատմականօրէն կտակուած է՝ իրգորումի երեքմնի համանուն վարժարաննին մատակարարման նպատակով։ Հանրապետական շրջանի սկզբը, այդ վարժարանի չգոյութեան պատճառով, այդ կալուածը կը տնօրինուէր Պոլսոյ պատրիարքութեան կողմէ, եւ օրուան գահակալը կամ առաջին դէմքը կը համարուէր միակ խնամակալը։ Կը նախատեսուի, որ յառաջիկացին եւս վերահստատուի նման դրութիւն մը։ Այսինքն՝ այս կալուածին պարագային, պաշտօնապէս առանձին վարչական խորհուրդին միացած էր կարգադրութիւնը։

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որ Թուրքիոյ Սիրելիներն են»**



Պոլսոյ հայոց պատրիարքութեան կրօնական ժողովի առենապետ Սահակ Եպիսկոպոս Մաշալեանը ֆեյսպութի էջին անդրադարձ է պատրիարքարքարանի շուրջ ծաւալուող վերջին իրադարձութիւններուն:

Այժմ Պատրիարքի ընտրութիւններու իրականացման անհնարինութիւնը եպիսկոպոսը բացատրած է անով, որ 1863 թուականի պազային սահամանդրութեան եւ պետութեան կողմէ 1961 թուականին սահմանուած պատրիարքի ընտրութեան կանոնակարգին մէջ ներառուած են կէտեր, որոնք կ'ենթադրեն եկեղեցու պետութեան համաժամանակեայ գործակցութիւն:

Մաշալեան նշած է, որ քան եկեղեցին ունի այդ օրէնքները մէկնաբանելու իրաւունք, նոյնքան ալ պետութիւնը ունի: Այս պարագային պետութիւնը կիրառելով իր իրաւունքը որոշած է, որ պատրիարքի աթոռը թափուր համարելու համար գործող պատրիարքի հիւանդութիւնը բաւարար պատճառ չէ: Այնուամենանիւ, եպիսկոպոսը նշած է, որ պատրիարք Մեսրոպ Մութափեանին հանգստեան կոչելու պատճառը ոչ թէ առողջական խնդիրները եղած են, այլ գիտակցութեան բացարձակ կորուստը, եւ յոյս յայտնած է, որ այդ հարցը մօտ ապագային պիտի կարենան քննարկել պետական պաշտօնեաներուն հետ:

«Այս պահուն պետութեան ցանկութիւնը հնարաւոր չէ անսեմել, քանի որ պատրիարքութիւնը 450 տարի շարունակ գործած է որպէս օամանեան հաստատութիւն եւ դեռ կը շարունակէ առաջնորդութիւն անդրադարձումներով», յայտնած է կրօնական ժողովի ատենապետը՝ ընդգծելով, որ ժողովուրդի մէծամասնութիւնն ալ համայնքի կառավարման հարցի վերաբերեալ բաւական գիտելիքներ:

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Պաշտօնական Մոսկուան «անկեղծօրէն յոյս ունի», որ Լեռնային Հարաբեղոյի հակամարտութիւնը կը զտնէ իր լուծումը: Այս մասին յայտարարած է Ռուսաստանի արտաքին գործոց նախարարութեան խօսնակ Մարիա Զախարովան:

Երէկ երեկոյեան ճեպագրուցի ժամանակ պատասխանելով հարցին, թէ Ռուսաստանի արտաքին գործոց նախարարութիւնը ունի՞ ակնկալիքներ, որ գարնան Ռուսաստանի, Հայաստանի եւ Ասրպէճանի մէջ իրականացնելիք նախագահական ընտրութիւններէն ետք զարաբաղեան հակամարտութիւնը կը լուծուի կամ գոնէ որեւէ լուրջ տեղաշարժ կ'արձանագրուի կարգաւորման գործընթացին մէջ, Ո՞Դ արտաքին քաղաքական գերատեսչութեան պաշտօնական ներկայացնեցիչը նաեւ ասած է - «Ինչպէս գիտէք, մենք անոր սեւեռուն ուշադրութիւն կը յատկացնենք, իսկ ամենապղիաւորը՝ աշխուժօրէն կը մամնակցինք այն ամէնուն իրականացմանն ուղղուած աշխատանքին, որ նախանշած են կողմէրը»:

Մէկ այլ հարցի, թէ Ռուսաստանը, որպէս ԵԱՀԿ Մինսկի խումբի համախաղահական գիտէ՞ս կը գնահատէ Ասրպէճանի նախագահ իշած Ալիեւի յայտարարութիւնը, թէ Երեւանը, եւ ոչ միայն, «բուն ատրպէճանական տարածք է, եւ պատմական հողերը վերադարձնելը Ասրպէճանի ուզմավարական նպատակն է», Զախարովան, Ո՞Դ ԱԳՆ պաշտօնական կայքէջի փոխանցմամբ, արձագանքած է. - «Մոսկուայի մէջ, անշուշտ, տեսած են իշխող կուսակցութեան համագումարին Ասրպէճանի նախագահ



իշած Ալիեւի ելույթի մասին հաղորդագրութիւնները: Հիանալի գետենք, որ հարեւան Հայաստանի հետ Ասրպէճանի յարաբերութիւնները ծայրաստիճան լարուած են: Յիշատակուած յայտարարութիւնը ակնյացտօրէն չի նպաստեր լարուածութեան նուագեցման»:

Պաքուի մէջ տարակուսանք յայտնած են Ալիեւի յայտարարութեան Ռուսաստանի արտաքին քաղաքական գերատեսչութեան ներկայացնեցիչը նաեւ ասած է կ - «Ինչպէս գիտէք, մենք անոր սեւեռուն ուշադրութիւն կը յատկացնենք, իսկ ամենապղիաւորը՝ աշխուժօրէն կը մամնակցինք այնուն իրականացմանն ուղղուած աշխատանքին, որ նախանշած են կողմէրը»:

«Հաշուի առնելով Ասրպէճանի եւ Ռուսաստանի միջեւ ռազմավարական գործընկերացին կապերը, ինչպէս նաեւ բարձր մակարդակի երկխօսութիւնը, մենք սիսալ կը համարենք նման վերաբերմունքը պետութեան դեկալիքի արձագանքի խոսքերուն նկատմամբ», - ԱՊԱ լրատուական գործակալութեան փոխանցմամբ՝ երէկ ըսած է Ասրպէճանի արտաքին գործոց նախարարութեան մամլոյ ծառայութեան ղեկավար Հիքմեթ Համիլետը, պնդելով, թէ իշած Ալիեւի քաղաքականութիւնը «կը ծառայէ տարածաշրջանային խաղաղութեան եւ անվտանգութեան ապահովման, տարածաշրջանային համագործակցութեան ամրապնդման»:



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# massis Weekly

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## Armen Sarkissian Accepts Nomination for Armenia's President Urges 'National Dialogue'

YEREVAN—Armen Sarkissian officially accepted on Friday the outgoing President Serzh Sarkisian's offer to serve as Armenia's next president under a new, parliamentary system of government.

Ambassador Sarkissian communicated his widely anticipated decision to President Sarkisian after a series of meetings held with Armenian political parties, non-governmental organizations, prominent intellectuals and business circles.

The next president of the republic will be elected by the Armenian parliament, controlled by the ruling Republican Party (HVK), one month before the current head of state completes his final term on April 9. Armenia will then be transformed into a parliamentary republic, meaning that the most of the presently sweeping presidential powers will be given to the prime minister.

The outgoing president offered to nominate Armen Sarkissian as the HKV's presidential candidate on January 19. Sarkissian, who has served as Armenia's ambassador to Britain since 2013, said he needs time to decide whether to accept the proposal.

"With my entire essence and vigor, I am ready to get involved in that very important endeavor if the



National Assembly elects me president," Sarkissian told the president on Friday.

The 64-year-old former scholar said his month-long meetings reinforced his belief that "a lot needs to be done in various areas." He said that as president he will strive to "make my contributions" to Armenia's foreign policy, international economic relations and, in particular, government efforts to attract more foreign investment. He said he will also try to improve the quality of public education and strengthen the Armenian civil society.

Sarkissian has insisted during his frequent contacts with journalists in

Continued on page 3

## Emmanuel Macron and Justin Trudeau Confirm Participation at Francophonie Summit in Yerevan



YEREVAN -- French President Emmanuel Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau have confirmed their participation in the Francophonie summit in Armenia, Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan told reporters today.

"The final number of the heads of state going to attend the summit is not yet known, but the leaders of two important Francophone countries have confirmed their participation."

In a January 24 interview to

L'Express, Armenia's President Serzh Sarkisian said that as a result of the summit "we will be able to present Armenia to the whole world". "We will do our best for it to have great success. Take into consideration that almost half of the world's states will be in Yerevan, mainly at the level of heads of state and heads of government," the president said when asked what significance the summit will have for Armenia.

Armenia will host the Francophonie summit in October 2018.

## President Sarkisian:

### "Azerbaijan Needs to Sober up and Give up on Unrealistic Expectations"



MUNICH, Germany -- President Serzh Sarkisian participated in Munich Security Conference event on February 17 focusing on nations "in-between Russia and Europe" that featured alongside Sarkisian, Moldovan Prime Minister Pavel Filip, EU enlargement commissioner Johannes Hahn, and Russian lawmaker Konstantin Kosachyov.

Speaking about Karabakh conflict, Sarkisian said that Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijani president, recently called Yerevan and Zangezur historic Azerbaijani territories adding that return of these territories is Azerbaijan's strategic and political goal.

"Azerbaijan's position regarding the Nagorno Karabakh issue is a flagrant violation of the Helsinki spirit. It is particularly evident in the recently-launched election campaign," he said.

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## U.S. Intelligence Chief Warns Of 'Large-Scale' Fighting in Karabakh

WASHINGTON, DC The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict could escalate into "large-scale" fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces, the U.S. director of national intelligence, Dan Coats, warned late on Tuesday.

"Tension in Nagorno-Karabakh could devolve into a large-scale military conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which could draw in Russia to support its regional ally," Coats said at the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee's annual hearing on "Worldwide Threats."

"Both sides' reluctance to compromise, mounting domestic pressures, Azerbaijan's steady military modernization, and Armenia's acquisition of new Russian equipment sustain the risk of large-scale hostilities in 2018," he added.

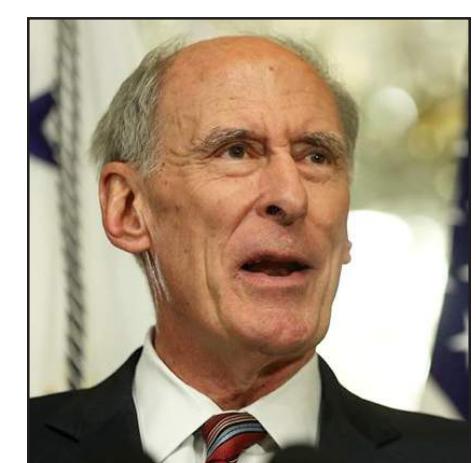
Russian military assistance to Armenia stems from a defense alliance between the two countries. At the same Russia has been Azerbaijan's

"President Aliyev uttered territorial claims reaching as far as Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, calling it a historically Azerbaijani territory - nothing but delirium - which can have serious consequences if Europe turns a blind eye to it.

The Nagorno Karabakh issue must be resolved as soon as possible, and by peaceful means. This mission of ours is led by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, namely the Russian Federation, France, and the United States of America."

Sarkisian pointed out three principles of international law – non-use of force or threat to use force, peoples' equality and right to self-determination, and territorial integrity – that have been proposed by them as the corner-

Continued on page 3



leading supplier of weapons. Moscow and Baku signed arms deals worth at least \$4 billion in 2009-2011.

Armenian officials say those deals contributed to four-day hostilities around Karabakh that broke out in April 2016 and left at least 180 soldiers from both sides dead. It was the worst fighting in the conflict zone since a

Continued on page 2

## Israeli Knesset Votes Down Bill Recognizing Armenian Genocide

JERUSALEM - Israel's parliament voted down on Wednesday an opposition motion to officially recognize the 1915 Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey.

The Knesset rejected the bill introduced by Yair Lapid, the leader of the Yesh Atid party, by 41 votes to 28 after a first-ever debate on the sensitive issue held on the Israeli parliament floor. "There is no reason that the Knesset, which represents a nation that went through the Holocaust, shouldn't recognize the Armenian Genocide and have a remembrance day for it," Lapid said.

Lapid made a case for the passage of the measure in a 3-minute speech that preceded the vote. He said an official Israeli recognition of the genocide is "a matter of conscience for Jews and non-Jews." Also, he said, the mass killings and deportations of Armenians inspired Adolf Hitler to mastermind the Jewish Holocaust.

However, Deputy Foreign Min-

ister Tzipi Hotovely voiced the Israeli government's opposition to the measure during the heated discussion. She said a parliamentary delegation was sent to Yerevan to participate in the 100th anniversary event, but will not take an official stance on the matter, "in light of its complexity and diplomatic repercussions, and because it has a clear political connection."

Successive Israeli governments have opposed Armenian genocide recognition lest it antagonize Turkey, a former security partner of Israel. Some Israeli politicians have openly challenged this policy in recent years. The Knesset speaker, Yuli Edelstein, called the Armenian massacres a genocide and urged the Jewish state to recognize it in 2015.

The Knesset debate on the genocide issue coincided with a visit to Israel by a delegation of Armenian parliamentarians. The five lawmakers representing various Armenian political groups were offered to attend the debate but declined to do that.

## Dutch Parliament Recognizes Armenian Genocide

AMSTERDAM -- The lower house of the Dutch parliament, Tweede Kamer, approved a motion on Friday to recognize the mass killings of Armenians during World War One as Genocide, nltimes reports.

The bill was presented by Christian Union MP Joel Voordewind and was supported by all four parties of the governing coalition.

The parliament also approved a second bill which said that the Netherlands will be presented by a government minister at the ceremony to commemorate the victims of the Armenian Genocide, in April 2019 in Yerevan, Armenia.

"We can not deny history out of

fear of sanctions. Our country houses the capital of international law after all, so we must not be afraid to do the right thing here too," the site quoted Joel Voordewind, a member of one of the governing coalition parties, as saying.

This decision is expected to further sour the relationship between Turkey and the Netherlands, ANP reports.

The Netherlands officially withdrew its ambassador from Turkey last week following the failure of negotiations for his return after the Dutch government refused to allow a Turkish minister to make a speech in favor of a presidential system to locally-based Turkish citizens last year.

## Armenia, Russia Hail Soaring Bilateral Trade

YEREVAN -- Prime Minister Karen Karapetian and a visiting Russian government member praised on Tuesday a further sizable increase in Russian-Armenian trade which reached a new high last year, according to official statistics.

Armenian government data show bilateral trade rising by just over 26 percent to \$1.7 billion in 2017 on the back of an almost 45 percent surge in Armenian exports to Russia. The latter thus remained the South Caucasus state's leading trading partner.

Karapetian cited these figures at the start of a regular session in Yerevan of a Russian-Armenian intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation. He chaired it together with Russian Transport Minister Maxim Sokolov.

Sokolov also noted the record-high amount of Russian-Armenian trade recorded in 2017. "We are happy that the volume of shipments of Armenian products to the Russian is rapidly growing," he said in his opening remarks publicized by Karapetian's press office.

Russian-Armenian trade plum-



meted in 2015 following a sharp depreciation of the Russian ruble which hit Armenian exporters hard. But with the Russian currency subsequently rallying against the U.S. dollar and the euro, Armenian exports to Russia soared by 51.5 percent in 2016.

Sokolov said that Armenia's membership in the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) is a key reason for the sharp gains recorded in 2016 and 2017. Tariff-free access to the markets in Russia and other ex-Soviet states making up the trade bloc is also making Armenia more attractive to foreign investors, he said.

Karapetian stressed in that regard that Armenia also enjoys prefer-

## Yerevan Council Session Marred By Violence



YEREVAN -- A session of Yerevan's municipal council descended into chaos on Tuesday as three of its female opposition members scuffled with pro-government colleagues while trying to stage an unusual protest against Mayor Taron Markarian.

Zaruhi Postanjian, an outspoken opposition politician, and two other council members representing her Yerkir Tsirani party brought to the council auditorium glass containers filled with sewage collected from a damaged sewer pipe in the city's Nubarashen suburb. A group of angry local residents blocked a road there on Monday to demand that municipal authorities quickly fix the problem.

Shortly after the regular session got underway, two Yerkir Tsirani councilors put on gloves, took up the foul-smelling containers and walked towards the assembly podium occupied by Markarian to present him with what they called a "gift from Nubarashen residents." They were confronted by a group of angry councilors representing the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK).

The two sides scuffled and shouted insults at each other in ensuing chaotic scenes. Members of Yerkir, a less radical opposition group also represented in the council, tried in vain to separate them.

One of the Yerkir Tsirani councilors, Marina Khachatrian, slapped a male colleague from the HHK, Edmond Kirakosian, after being jostled by him.

ential trade regimes with the European Union and the United States and that Russian investors should capitalize on that. He also called for Russian investments in a free economic zone which was set up on the Armenian-Iranian border in December.

"We are ready to create comfortable conditions for Russian capital in Armenia," added the prime minister.

Karapetian visited Moscow as recently as on February 16-17. The Armenian government said ahead of his visit said he will meet with "Armenian and Russian business circles" to discuss with them "ongoing and prospective projects." The government

Kirakosian slapped Khachatrian in the face while another HHK member pulled her hair in response. Another government loyalist grabbed her around the waist and forcibly dragged her away moments later.

The two other women were also forced out of the council room before Markarian interrupted the session. The mayor's allies defended the use of force against them. One of them, Naira Nahapetian, claimed that the Yerkir Tsirani action was an "attack on Taron Markarian."

"We too condemn the use of force and nobody can use force here," the mayor said for his part.

Postanjian and her two associates remained defiant when the session resumed after the emergency break in the presence of police officers called in by Markarian. By contrast, journalists were barred from returning to the chamber without any clear explanation.

"That foul smell will accompany you wherever you go," Postanjian told the pro-government majority. "Even your expensive perfume and cognac won't save you. You can't suffocate from foul smell. But you must be poisoned. We are going to poison your lives."

Yerkir Tsirani won 5 seats in Yerevan's 65-member council in municipal elections held in May. The party set up a year ago effectively lost two of those seats as a result of defections. Postanjian and the two other women have frequently clashed with Markarian and his allies during council sessions.

has issued no further statements on the trip.

The Armenian premier has been strongly backed by Russia's wealthiest ethnic Armenian businessman, Samvel Karapetian (no relation), ever since he took office in September 2016. The billionaire tycoon has pledged to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in Armenia's energy sector.

Incidentally, energy was on the agenda of Tuesday's meeting of the Russian-Armenian commission. A government statement said the panel discussed ways of "expanding cooperation" in this and other economic sectors.

## U.S. Intelligence Chief Warns

Continued from page 1

Russian-brokered truce stopped a full-scale Armenian-Azerbaijani war in 1994.

Coats mentioned Karabakh in the context of Russia's efforts to maintain

a strong influence on other ex-Soviet states. "The Kremlin will seek to maintain and, where possible, expand its influence throughout the former Soviet countries that it asserts are in its self-described sphere of influence," said the U.S. intelligence chief.

## Turkish Historian Uses Research of Transliterated Letters to Prove False Historiography on Armenians

ISTANBUL -- As result of studying transliterated (written Turkish in Armenian letters) letters, Turkish historian Sukru Ilicak showed that the official Turkish historiography doesn't whatsoever reflect the true picture about Armenians who lived in the Ottoman Empire, Gazeteduvar reports.

Ilicak carried out scientific research of family letters belonging to the Armenian Kojayan family from Kayseri. The letters were written in Turkish, but in Armenian letters – transliterated.

"The official Turkish historiography depicts Armenians as some kind of monsters with weapons in their hands who gave an oath to kill Turks, who were uprising against the state. The official historiography says that Armenians are guilty for what happened to them. The study of these letters however, shows that this is false and that Armenians are real people of the real life, they also get ill, love, hate, get concerned over collecting food supply for the winter, make efforts for giving their children education and repaying debts", the historian said.

Harutyun Kojayan and his son



Karapet departed to the United States in 1912-1913 to work and later return home again. The Kojayans maintained correspondence with their family members back in their village. In 1915 the correspondence stopped, and it wasn't until 1918 when they received a letter again, notifying that their entire family has been massacred.

The letters were discovered when the US-based descendants of the Kojayan family began to be interested in their roots. The letters were studied scientifically.

## Yerevan Government Becomes Goon Squad: Mayor Must Resign

GLENDALE -- On the heels of the newly-enacted domestic violence laws in Armenia, certain men in the Yerevan City Council chose to open the inaugural session with a display of base thuggery directed against their female counterparts on the Council. The brutishness is patently unbearable at this point.

These men cannot be lawmakers. They are not even law-abiding. Dare we say, they are not even true men. Watching the melee in the City Council chambers unfold, one could only watch in utter astonishment as unabashed brow-beating, actual slapping, violent striking and shameless and unrestrained bullying of Armenian councilwomen by their male counterparts ensued. Surely, something terribly significant is absent from the upbringing and moral fabric of these people. The behavior witnessed is something relegated to animals, not men—and is certainly unbecoming of those elected to serve in a law-making body.

Yet, these are the actual legislative representatives of an entire society of men and women. They represent the beater and the beaten in Armenian society. These men and women reflect the very current in the society they serve. And, as such, we should be alarmingly unhinged: imagine that which these criminals are capable of behind closed doors, in their own homes and with the women in their own families. This is not modern society.

Spare us the platitudes and politics already circulating—that the women instigated the men, that the women were the aggressors, that the men were defending themselves; they are meaningless. The video is clear: criminal Armenian men in suits pushing Armenian women, slapping Armenian women, striking Armenian women, handling Armenian women and dragging Armenian women around like refuse to a dumpster. If this cannot be a country that respects the dignity of our Armenian women, our Armenian mothers, our Armenian sis-



ters and our Armenian daughters—then this cannot be a country that respects the Armenian people.

The perpetrators should not only be removed from office and prosecuted for gender-motivated hate crimes, but they should be openly shamed by an Armenian nation—both in the Republic and in the Diaspora—for exhibiting behavior unbecoming of civilized human beings, let alone mindful law-makers. It disgusts us through and through.

Shame on them for their brutality, shame on their families for having bred the brutality within them and shame on us for knowing that this Hobbesian predicament was unfolding in Armenian legislative bodies, Armenian courts, Armenian businesses, Armenians homes and Armenian families—and doing little or nothing to stop it.

We call on the resignation of Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan who witnessed, hovered over and condoned man's inhumanity to woman. The enemy is not so much beyond the western or eastern frontiers as it is in the pretend democratic republic of a place once worthy of the name Armenia. And if there remains one single ounce of manliness in Margarian the mayor, he will resign. And if there remains one single ounce of manliness in Margaryan the mayor, he will resign.

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## Armen Sarkissian Accepts Nomination

**Continued from page 1**

recent weeks that he will be more than a figurehead if he runs for president and gets elected. He has also called for a "national dialogue" among Armenia's political and other organizations, saying that it is necessary for healing serious divisions existing in the society.

The presidential frontrunner said on Friday that he intends to launch such a dialogue. Serzh Sarkisian praised his "readiness for dialogue" in his opening remarks at the meeting.

A physicist and mathematician by education, Armen Sarkissian worked at the Cambridge University

the question before saying that Azerbaijani's leadership needed to "sober up" and "give up on their unrealistic expectations" concerning Nagorno-Karabakh.

"You want to live freely. I assure you, the people of Karabakh want to live freely, too," Sarkisian said. "They

when he was appointed as newly independent Armenia's first ambassador to the United Kingdom in 1991. He served as prime minister for four months in 1996-1997 before being again named ambassador in London.

His second ambassadorial stint was cut short in 1999 by then President Robert Kocharian. Sarkisian stayed in Britain where he made a big fortune in the following decade, mainly working as an advisor and consultant for Western corporations doing business in the former Soviet Union. He was appointed as Armenian ambassador to Britain for a third time in 2013.

want to live in their historical land." He defended a 1991 referendum in Nagorno-Karabakh to secede from Azerbaijan as a "civilized" and legitimate expression of popular will, adding that no one can "break the will of the Armenian people."

## Azerbaijan Needs to Sober up

**Continued from page 1**

stones of the peace process.

"The efforts to resolve the Nagorno Karabakh issue can serve as an example of how Russia, the EU, and the US can positively coordinate their positions for the benefit of international peace and security," Sarkisian said.

"We desire to see more frequent manifestations of such common positions. It is especially important, since conflicts in all corners of the world are increasing and expanding. We are concerned by the sweeping changes taking place in the Middle East and elsewhere, which are accompanied by neverending wars. We are concerned by the state failure and disintegration

of a number of countries. We need to think of cooperative, comprehensive, and indivisible security, so as to effectively respond to those challenges. This is the only possible and realistic way to overcome the current crises." Sarkisian concluded.

When the panel moved to questions from the audience, Sadi Jafarov, a first secretary at the Azerbaijani Embassy in Berlin suggested to Sarkisian that Armenia could have played a role in regional energy and transport projects if not for the stand-off over Nagorno-Karabakh. Jafarov also denounced what he called the "occupation" of Nagorno-Karabakh by Armenia.

Sarkisian thanked Jafarov for

## Armenian American Museum Hosting a Community Meeting

**GLENDALE—**The Armenian American Museum will be hosting a community meeting for the public on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at the Glendale Adult Recreation Center. The community meeting will provide an opportunity to learn more about the historic project and provide feedback to help shape the future of the cultural and educational center developing in Glendale.

The Armenian American Museum and City of Glendale are in the final phase of negotiations for a Ground Lease Agreement that would locate the Museum in downtown Glendale's Central Park near the prominent corner of Colorado Street and Brand Boulevard. The City of Glendale is also finalizing plans for a redesigned Central Park that will expand the open space and transform the park into a vibrant focal center and community gathering place.

Museum and City officials anticipate the final approval of plans by the Glendale City Council in Summer 2018.

### About Armenian American Museum

The Armenian American Museum is a developing project in Glendale, CA with a mission to promote understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Armenian American experience. When completed, it will serve as a cultural campus that enriches the community, educates the public on the Armenian American story, and empowers individuals to embrace cultural diversity and speak out against prejudice.



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The governing board of the Armenian American Museum consists of representatives from the following ten Armenian American institutions and organizations: Armenian Catholic Eparchy, Armenian Cultural Foundation, Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, Armenian General Benevolent Union – Western District, Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenian Relief Society – Western USA, Nor Or Charitable Foundation, Nor Serount Cultural Association, Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, and Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

The community meeting is open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend.

Thursday, March 8, 2018 | 7:00PM

Adult Recreation Center  
201 East Colorado Street  
Glendale, CA 91205

For more information about the Armenian American Museum, visit [www.ArmenianAmericanMuseum.org](http://www.ArmenianAmericanMuseum.org) or call (844) 586-4626.

## Chilingirian-Bagratuni-Hakobyan Trio to Perform at Fresno State



FRESNO -- Violinist Levon Chilingirian will be joined by cellist Suren Bagratuni and pianist Karén Hakobyan in a concert to be held at 8:00PM on Friday, March 2 in the Concert Hall on the Fresno State campus. The Concert, part of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert Series, is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State, the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation, and the Orpheus Chamber Music Ensemble.

This concert brings together three of today's most prominent Armenian musicians: violinist Chilingirian, cellist Bagratuni, and pianist/composer Hakobyan. These three colleagues have received international acclaim for their activities as performers, pedagogues, competition jurors, and recording artists.

Chilingirian is the founder of the Chilingirian Quartet and also a professor and Chamber Music Artist in Residence at the Royal Academy of Music and professor of Violin and Chamber Music at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, both in London.

Bagratuni was the winner of the silver medal at the 1986 International Tchaikovsky Competition while still a student at the Moscow Conservatory. He has gone on to a distinguished international career as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. He is currently Professor of Cello at Michigan State University.

Armenian-American pianist and composer Karén Hakobyan has emerged as a versatile force on the international musical scene. Since his Carnegie Hall debut at the age of sev-

## Hayk Demoyan to Discuss Modern Identity and Memory Politics of the Armenian World At NAASR

BELMONT, MA-- Dr. Hayk Demoyan will give a talk entitled "Between Realism and Mythology: Modern Identity and Memory Politics of the Armenian World" on Thursday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02478. The program is sponsored by the NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues and is open to the public.

In this presentation Dr. Demoyan will analyze and discuss modern aspects of identity and memory politics in Post-Soviet Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora, taking particular note of the manipulation and instrumentalization of history and historical markers—old and new symbols, heroes, historical events, etc.,—as well as their reinterpretation and (mis)representation.

For a long time such questions were considered as taboo within the official rhetoric of both the Armenian state and some diasporan circles, which tended to downplay existing antagonistic and opposing attitudes and to assert a kind of Armenia-Artsakh-Diaspora triple unity. In fact, in different diasporan circles there are contradictory views towards Armenia and its status as 'Homeland.' At the same time, the institutionalization of Artsakh as a separate political entity, contrary to the initial policies of unification and merging, as well as the development of parallel diasporas, create further challenges.



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Dr. Hayk Demoyan is the Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan, Armenia, a position he has held since 2006, and in 2017-18 he is a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University. He is the author of twelve books, including The Armenian Genocide: Front Page Coverage in the World Media (2014, in Armenian, English, Russian, and French), Foreign Policy of Turkey and Karabakh Conflict (2013, in Russian), Armenian Sport and Gymnastics in the Ottoman Empire (2009, in Armenian), and Western Media Coverage of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict in 1988-1990 (2008, in English), as well as some 40 academic articles.

For more information about this program, contact NAASR at 617-489-1610 or [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org).

## Women's World Day of Prayer

PASADENA -- On the first Friday in March, Women from all around the world gather in observance of Women's World Day of Prayer. The theme for 2018 is "God's Creation is Very Good". It was chosen by the women of Suriname.

All Armenian women, Apostolic, Brethren, Brotherhood, Congregational, Catholic, Evangelical and Nazarene of Southern California will gather to pray on March 2 at the Pasadena Church of the Nazarene, 1500 Washington Blvd. Pasadena. A Committee of women from various churches, under the leadership of Mary Agulian, has met and planned the event

which will include participation from numerous women. The service will be in Armenian and English. The speakers for this year are, Dr. Mariet Shanazarian who will speak in English and Sossi Postajian who will speak in Armenian. The morning will start with a reception at 9:30 at the church hall under the leadership of the women's president, Angel Der Yeghiyan. At 10:30, a group of women will start praying and at 11am the official service will start with the entrance of honored clergy. All women are cordially invited to join in this world-wide day of prayer praising God for His creation.

\$5 per person. Ticket reservations for the Concert may be made by calling 559-278-2337 or calling the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.

Tickets may also be purchased online at the following website: <http://www.keyboardconcerts.com/special-events.aspx>.

For more information contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669, [fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies) or visit our Facebook page .



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