Meeting to Take Place Between Aliyev, Pashinyan

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — New details of an announced meeting between the Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders in Brussels next month have been revealed to RFE/RL.

A senior European Union official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan of Armenia and President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan had agreed to meet on December 15.

“The goal is to bring Pashinyan and Aliyev to the same table for confidence-building measures,” said the EU official.

On November 19, the EU announced that Charles Michel, the president of the EU, had telephone conversations with the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia about the situation in the region. As a result, it said, the two leaders agreed to meet on the sidelines of the EU’s Eastern Partnership summit.

“It is not clear yet how their Brussels meetings will look like, who of the EU leaders will sit, whether the defense ministers or foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan will be present,” the EU official said.

Michel’s office said Pashinyan and Aliyev would meet “to discuss the regional situation and ways of overcoming tensions for a prosperous and stable South Caucasus, overcoming tensions for a prosperous and stable South Caucasus, overcoming tensions for overcoming tensions for a prosperous and stable South Caucasus.”

The EU leaders will sit, whether the defense ministers or foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan will be present, the EU official said.

The two leaders agreed to meet on the sidelines of the EU’s Eastern Partnership summit.

“The goal is to bring Pashinyan and Aliyev to the same table for confidence-building measures,” said the EU official.

Atmosphere Remains Tense in Armenia

YEREVAN — The aggressive steps taken by Azerbaijan on November 15 and 16 have had a great effect on Armenia. It is as if everything has been turned upside down. People finally understand that a hostile Azerbaijan, even after all the concessions made by Armenia, speaks the language of coercion with the latter. This in turn leads to new understandings of imperatives for action.

For example, the mayor of Bardzravan Village, part of the enlarged municipality of Goris, declared that despite official denials, the situation is very bad. “It is the 21st century, but we do not have grocery stores or medical centers. We need to rent cars for everything in order to go to the district center. As if this is all not enough, now the enemy has become active and has begun to disturb our peace. I don’t know what our end will be,” said Mayor Oskh Avagyan.

see TENSION, page 2

Kozyrigs Send Aid to Refugees from Artsakh Facing Precarious Conditions in Syunik

By Brandon Balayan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

YEREVAN — On November 17, fighting that started on the previous day along the eastern border of the Syunik region in Armenia became relatively stable, according to a statement by the Armenian Ministry of Defense (MOD). The Armenian side had six soldiers killed, 13 captured and 24 missing, according to the Armenian MOD. The Azerbaijani side had seven soldiers killed and 10 wounded yesterday, according to the Azerbaijani MOD. One aspect of yesterday’s attacks that goes unnoticed is the situation of displaced Armenians from Artsakh who live in Sisian, Ishkhanasar and Goris.

Marguerita Doudaklian, the social worker and community manager for Kooyrigs NGO, led aid deliveries to the Syunik region for their Project Mayreeg initiative. She has been going on deliveries through-out Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh since last November. On November 16, she and her driver Hagsap loaded boxes onto a large truck and delivered them to mothers in Syunik.

see REFUGEES, page 4

HALO Trust Saving Lives in Artsakh

By Harry Kezelian

Mirror-Spectator Staff

WASHINGTON — One year after the 2020 Karabakh (Artsakh) War, there is only one international NGO with a presence in what is left of the historic territory of Artsakh: the landmine clearance organization HALO (Hazardous Area Life-support Organization) Trust, which is at work removing cluster munitions in the region.

HALO Trust is a registered British charity with an American affiliate nonprofit. Founded in 1988, originally to remove land mines in Afghanistan, the organization was propelled to international prominence in the 1990s by Princess Diana’s visit to a minefield in Angola and her espousal of the humanitarian issue. In fact, for its work, the group won the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

On November 4, HALO held a webinar to discuss their latest efforts in the Karabakh region, update their supporters, and issue a call to action. HALO’s US Executive Director, Chris Whatley, moderated the call from Washington DC.

Dr. Christina Maranci of Tufts University gave a brief presentation on Artsakh history, and Miles Hawthorn, HALO’s see HALO, page 10

An example of a cluster bomb in Artsakh

see REFUGEES, page 4

Armenian Soldier Killed Along Border With Azerbaijan

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — An Armenian soldier has been killed along the border with Azerbaijan in what military authorities in Yerevan said was shooting from the Azerbaijani side on Monday, November 22.

Armenia’s Defense Ministry said that at about 6:10 pm Azerbaijan’s armed forces opened fire from fire-arms of different calibers at the Armenian positions near the village of Norabak in the eastern Gehrarkan province.

It said that a 19-year-old Armenian soldier was fatally wounded by the fire.

According to the report, the shooting continued until 7:30. Azerbaijan has denied reports from Yerevan. “Our units did not open fire in that direction, the situation is stable,” the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry said in a statement.

see BORDER, page 3
Remains of Two More Armenian Soldiers Found In Jrakan
STEPANAKERT (Panorama.am) — Artsakh rescuers found the remains of two more Armenian soldiers as a result of their search operations for the 2020 Artsakh war casualties on November 23. The remains were retrieved from the Jrakan (Jabrayil) region occupied by Azerbaijan, the State Service of Emergency Situations of Artsakh’s Interior Ministry reported. Their identities will be established after a forensic medical examination, it said. Since the end of hostilities, the bodies of 1,700 servicemen and civilians have been found during the search operations or handed over to the Armenian side.

40 Armenian POWs, Civilian Captives Are Convicted of Baseless Charges in Azerbaijan
STEPANAKERT (Panorama.am) — The Artsakh Human Rights Ombudsman’s staff on November 23 published an interim report on “Malicious Prosecution by Azerbaijan of Captured Armenian Servicemen and Civilians.” The report provides information on fabricated and illegal prosecutions against the Armenian prisoners of war (POWs) and civilian captives which is a gross violation of the Geneva Conventions Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, the Ombudsman’s Office reported. As a result of 45 organized sham trials, 3 persons (one a civilian) were sentenced to 20 years, 2 persons (civilians) to 15 years, 23 persons to 6 years, 2 persons to 4 years, 15 persons to 6 years imprisonment. Materials of fake criminal cases of 2 Armenian prisoners of war are in the Ganja court of grave crimes. Five of the Armenian POWs and civilians subjected to illegal trials were repatriated on October 19. At the moment, 40 Armenian POWs and civilians are convicted of baseless charges in Azerbaijan.

Infant and Child Mortality Rates in Armenia Decreasing
YEREVAN (ARKA) — The Infant and child mortality rates in Armenia are decreasing due to the selfless work of medical workers, the rector of the Yerevan State Medical University Armen Muradyan, who served earlier as health minister, said in a Facebook post on November 23. According to statistics he cited, there were 183 deaths of babies under the age of one year in January-September 2021, which is 18 percent less than in the first nine months of 2020 and the average figure for 2017-2020. “The same pattern is true for under-4-year-olds. So, in the same period in 2021, there were 211 cases, which is 8 percent less than in the first nine months of 2020 and 14 percent less than the average of the last 4 years,” he said.

Armenian Ex-President Sargsyan Investigated in New Graft Case
YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Former Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan is being prosecuted in a new corruption case, officials and his lawyer confirmed on November 23. Marina Ohanjanian, a spokesperson for the National Anti-Corruption Committee, confirmed on November 22 that Sargsyan’s status as an accused party in the criminal case launched last year has become clear. She said that the case had been initiated for political reasons. “It is to eliminate Armenia completely, and if anyone thinks that it is possible to live peacefully with these aggressors, then he is sorely mistaken because they desire our deaths. They today are creating a platform in order to surround us and get rid of us,” he stressed.

In truth, the situation in Armenia is very troubling because aside from domestic political developments, it is already clear that hostile Azerbaijan has concentrated forces not only at the border of Syunik, but also at Gaghar, Balkh and Tavush. In addition, by monitoring Azerbaijani social networks, it has become known that several columns of Turkish military vehicles entered Nahchefyan yesterday. At the same time, it has become clear that Kazakhstan, which is a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organization together with Armenia, has sent military aid to Azerbaijan by plane. In other words, we are being betrayed on all sides, but most of all, we are injured by not learning lessons from history.

The situation became more tense among the public when the US embassy in Armenia called on its citizens to avoid travel on the Goris-Kapan autoroute. This created great aneuse because the US similarly issued a warning to its citizens prior to the 44-day war last year, to avoid visiting Artsakh, and earlier, in July 2020, to avoid visiting Tavush province. Military activity ensured after the two prior warnings. Finally, it is worth mentioning an important effort at self-defense which has emerged from the new wave of Azerbaijani aggression. A group of intellectuals in Goris, near the border, have declared the formation of a security council for Goris. They say that the main task of this council will be to contribute to the strengthening of a patrol service for residences and strengthen the surveillance and assure the security of water reservoirs and other important points. In the future, work will be carried out to arm the local population too.

Armed conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, which began on September 27, 2020, continues to this day. The conflict has so far claimed hundreds of lives and caused extensive damage to infrastructure and property. Despite international efforts to find a peaceful resolution, the conflict continues to escalate.

The situation remains tense in Armenia. According to the reports, the military tension continues to rise, with both sides, Azerbaijan and Armenia, increasing their military activities and deploying additional forces to the border area.

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MEETING, from page 1
The statement did not specify when such a line could become operational.

"The aim of the forthcoming talks is to establish some sort of trust between the two leaders via confidence building measures, especially in the field of con-

nectivity," the EU official said.

"We are talking here about transport corridors in Nagorno-Karabakh, trans-

port projects involving both Armenia and Azerbaijan," the source added.

The Russia-brokered ceasefire agree-

ment that Armenia and Azerbaijan signed to put an end to six weeks of fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh last No-

vember also referred to a new route for a connection between Armenians inside Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia that was understood to be approved within the next three years, with the agreement of the parties, after which Russian peace

keepers would be redeployed to protect that route. It has been a year since the signing of that trilateral statement, but so far nothing has been reported about any agreement reached between the parties.

The passing week has seen a further escalatio

n that Armenia and Azerbaijan that on November 16 had their worst fighting along their de-

militarized zone for over 26 years. It was during that escalation that the president of the European Council had phone talks with Pashinyan and Aliyev, calling for "urgent de-escalation and full respect of the ceasefire."

According to the EU source, "Michel, Pashinyan and Aliyev have built up quite a good rapport in the last couple of months, and Michel has spoken to them 4-6 times in the last couple of months."

Besides, Michel also speaks regularly with the presidents of Turkey and Rus-

sia, the source added.

In early November Kremlin spokes-

man Dmitry Peskov said that a trilateral meeting of the leaders of Russia, Arme-

nia and Azerbaijan was being prepared in Moscow. Shortly after that announce-

ment Michel, who chairs the group, said that there was no agreement about any such meeting yet. It is still unclear whether Aliyev and Pashinyan will have a tripar-

tite meeting together with Russian Pres-

ident Vladimir Putin any time soon, or if they do, whether this meeting will be before or after their announced meeting in Brussels.

Confirming the news of the upcom-

ing meeting in Brussels, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that Baku has repeatedly stated its position on the post-conflict situation in the re-

gion, including in the international arena.

"In this regard, we believe that the summit of the Eastern Partnership, and in particular the next meeting on the sidelines of this event will create addi-

tional opportunities," Azerbaijan's For-

eign Ministry spokesman Leyla Ab-

dallayeva said.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry has also confirmed the news of the upcom-

ing meeting, but has not provided any further comments on that yet.

Turkey Mediation

Armenia has asked Russia to mediate in the normalization of its relations with Turkey, an Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman said on November 22.

Vahan Hunanyan said a number of Ar-

menia's partners, including Russia, have expressed readiness to mediate in Turk-

ish-Armenian normalization and the Ar-

menian side has asked Moscow to be a go-between.

A number of international partners, including Russia, have stated that they are ready to support the Armenian-Turk-

ish settlement process. And we have in-

formed Russia that we are ready to start the Armenian-Turkish settlement pro-

cess without preconditions. When and if such a process starts, naturally, we will provide information on that," Hunanyan said.

In August, the leaders of Armenia and Turkey spoke about "positive signals" coming from the other side of the bor-

der. In September, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan even revealed that through Georgia's prime minister, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashin-

yan had offered him to meet. He added, however, that for such a meeting to take place, Yerevan had to take "clear steps" towards "opening the Zangezur corri-

dor [for Azerbaijan]."

Shortly afterwards Pashinyan reiterated-

ed through a spokesperson that Armenia does not accept what he called "corridor logic" in unblocking transport links in the region, but added that Yerevan was ready for contacts with Ankara.

According to the Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman, no direct talks have taken place between Yerevan and Ankara yet.

In a recent interview with Le Figaro, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mir-

zoyan said that Ankara was setting new conditions for starting a dialogue with Yerevan, including the provision of an extraterritorial corridor that would connect Armenia and its exclav

e of Nakhiche-

van.

Mirzoyan told the French daily that the demand for such a corridor was out of the question.

"States must allow transit while main-

taining sovereignty over their territory," he said. "All transport links in the region must be reopened."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hu-

nanyan said Mirzoyan's remarks were based on "public statements made by Turkey about the so-called Zangezur corridor."

"They [Turks] have constantly raised this subject at the level of both the presi-

dent and the foreign minister. And we say that such a thing cannot happen. Howev-

er, as I mentioned, there have been no negotiations, "the official added.

Opposition Groups Stage Protests Over Border Demarcation Risks

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — A number of smaller opposition groups in Armenia staged protests in Yerevan on Monday, expressing their concern about what they described as a potentially risky border de-

marcation with Azerbaijan and demanding that the government reveal details of the process expected to begin soon.

After deadly clashes along the Arme-

nian-Azerbaijan border last week Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said that Arme-

nia received proposals from Russia and the so-called "preparatory stage" for the process of de-

limiting and demarcating its Soviet-era border with Azerbaijan. He said that the proposals were acceptable to Yerevan.

Azerbaijan did not respond immediately to what appeared to be a Russian offer also made to Baku.

Armenia’s hardline opposition groups began today’s protests in Yerevan in the morning by temporarily blocking traffic in several central streets. Some protesters were briefly detained by police.

Among active participants of the protests were the "5165" opposition movement, the capital.

"Our Constitution gives us the right to be happy, to love the country and the capital. And the issue of the capital is not decided by the president or the prime minister. The name of Advocates Ara Zohrabyan as well as other individuals.

The protesters said they believe that the document on the demarcation of the bor-

der with Azerbaijan may harm Armenia's interests. In particular, they expressed their concern that by signing such a document Armenia may recognize Nagorno-Kara-

bak in part of Azerbaijan, which, in their view, will harm the aspiration of local eth-

nic Armenians for self-determination.

"Is there another country in the world, another democracy where only one per-

son decides the fate of the whole nation? "Our Constitution gives us the right to be informed on what is being decided about our country," Tonoyan said.

He urged people to join their demon-

strations. The protesters said that it was the right of every citizen to take to the streets, stand up and demand your right to be informed. We do not want anything else at this moment," he added.

The protesters submitted an application to the government and then moved to the presidential office and the National Assem-

bly building.

In the evening, protesters gathered for a rally in Yerevan’s central Republic Square, then marched through the central streets of the capital.

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Armenian Soldier Killed Along Border With Azerbaijan

BORDER, from page 1
The Armenian Service this week talked to Gagharuni govern-

nor Karen Sargsyan who also con-

firmed that Armenian forces fired in the direction of Norak in the region.

However, adding that the latest border inci-

dent comes less than a week after at least 13 troops were killed in fighting along the Armenian-Azerbaijani bor-

der that involved artillery, mortars, armored vehicles and other heavy weaponry.

Assistant House Speaker Slams Armenia’s ‘Unprovoked Attack’ on Armenia

WASHINGTON — Assistant Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Katherine Clark slammed Armenia for its latest “unprovoked attack” on Armenia. “I stand with the people of Armenia who have suffered another unprovoked attack,” Clark said on Thursday, November 18.

"Azerbaijan must acknowledge and re-

spect Armenian sovereignty. I condemn this latest act of aggression and urge the govern-

ment to adhere to last year’s peace deal."

In clashes launched by Azerbaijan on November 16, the Armenian side has con-

firmed 6 deaths, while 13 soldiers have been captured by Azerbaijan. Two combat positions have fallen under the control of the Azerbaijani forces and 24 Armenian troops have gone missing.

In a Facebook post she wrote: “The people who have gathered demand the publication of some imaginary content of a document, spreading panic and instability in the pro-

cess. This is tantamount to demanding in mid-year an estimate of the amount of snow expected in the coming winter."

There was no immediate response from the government to the protesters’ demand.

The prime minister’s office, however, an-

nounced that Pashinyan will answer ques-

tions of media and public organizations live on Facebook on Tuesday evening.

Karin Tonoyan (C), leader of the “5165” opposition movement, addresses a rally in front of the central government office in Yerevan, Armenia, November 22, 2021.

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would go fight with him,” he said.

self if anything were to happen this year I

that he had made a promise to himself if

that his son fought in last year’s war and

ing with the driver Hagop, who revealed

be, and mentioned that it’s more dangerous

sured in what condition the country would

properly insulate the house.

When asked about the situation at the

border, they conveyed that they were not

sure in what condition the country would be,

and mentioned that it’s more dangerous at

the nearby village of Ishkhanasar, which

Doudaklian’s first stop was Shaki village

in Sissian, near where Azerbaijan launched

its offensive. The first house she came to

sheltered three families and a total of 12

people. A few months back the house had

no windows or doors and had curtains in

their place — causing their children to be-

come sick. With winter approaching, they

built new doors and windows that would

Ishkhanasar, who has a total of eight chil-

dren. They all live closest to the site of the

attack at the Armenian border.

The villagers of Ishkhanasar, Noravan

and Aghtsu could all hear the gunfire from

their homes, said Human Rights Defender

of Armenia Arman Tatoian. These people

escaped their homes in Karabakh, some

leaving family memorabilia behind, to find

refuge in Armenia — only to be met with

further aggression and fear of displace-

ment. Even escaping to Armenia proper

cannot protect them from Azerbaijani gun-

fire, evidently. Doudaklian spoke intimate-

ly with the mothers about how they were

feeling, and described their state as fol-

lows: “Terrified, helpless and powerless…

having their bags ready — any minute they

might hear the news that they

have to leave Syunik.”

The next leg of the trip was
to Gori and the neighboring

village of Akner. On the way
to Gori, fog began to drop and

the road became significantly

more dangerous. Visibility was

low but Hagop was not hesitant

in his driving.

Akner is home to two benefi-
ciaries. Liana is native to Goris,

and Mariam is from Kashatagh.

Every family we visited that
day set its table. The tradi-

tion of hyurasirutyun, literally

meaning loving guests, is not

forgotten even amidst attacks

by Azerbaijan.

Liana’s husband and father-

in-law serve at nearby posts and she in-

formed us that she heard bad news from

the latter shortly before we came. “He said

not too long ago they started firing at the

border,” Liana declared.

As she was describing how they were

living day by day in uncertainty, a truck full

of soldiers with their Kalashnikovs raced

up the mountain towards the gunfire and

waved to them goodbye. It was only then

that we checked reports and saw that Azer-

baijan had launched an offensive about an

hour ago.

Doudaklian’s next destination was Tegh,

and father-in-law came back home, quickly

grabbed some warm clothes and left.” They

had gone off to defend the border.

After hanging up, Doudaklian began to

break down. “The hardest part was leaving

our [mothers] behind, knowing their hus-

bands are fighting on the borders and them

not feeling safe,” Doudaklian said. In total,

Doudaklian along with the driver Hagop
delivered 32 boxes filled with food and hy-

gienic products for mothers and their babies.

-A

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RMENIAN

arguerita Doudaklian unloading

boxes of aid in Ishkhanasar (photo

Brandon Balayan)

Marguerita Doudaklian with Emil in Akner (photo Brandon Balayan)

These stories of the border, and its vol-

atile situation, are due to Azerbaijan’s at-
tacks and encroachment since May of this

year, and obviously because of last year’s

war. Artsakh’s inhabitants left to seek ref-

uge in Armenia, and now the attempt of

Aliyev to create a Zangezur corridor by

force is leaving these displaced families in

a constant state of uncertainty and fear for

their lives.

A displaced family in Sissian (photo Brandon Balayan)
Levon Aronian Wins Tata Steel Blitz in India

By Haykam Nahapetyan
Mirror-Spectator Video Correspondent

KOLKATA, India — “My dear friends and supporters, I am thrilled that I performed well in India’s Calcutta and won the blitz tournament,” wrote chess grandmaster (GM) Levon Aronian on his Facebook page. Armenia’s top chess player participated in a top blitz tournament in India on November 17-21, finishing with a score of 11.5 out of 18. As GM Arjun Erigaisi, the rising star of Indian chess, attained an equal score, the competitors had to engage in playoff games.

Aronian and Ergaisi first tied in two additional tiebreaker matches, but the Armenian GM won the final match known as Armageddon. Despite tough competition, Armenian GM Levon Aronian emerged victorious in the Tata Steel Blitz India Tournament. He noted on Facebook that he dedicated his victory to Armenia, to all compatriots who fell in the battlefield for Artsakh and Armenia and to all who live and struggle for the Armenian battlefield for Artsakh and Armenia and to all who live and struggle for the Armenian battlefield.

“Levon Aronian likes being in Kolkata. He might be liking it just a bit more now,” wrote India’s Sportstar, reporting on his victory.

Due to his participation in this prestigious tournament, Aronian was not allowed to play in the European Team Championship held in Slovenia on November 11-21. There, Armenia’s national squad consisted of GMs Gabriel Sargissian, Haik Martirosyan, Robert Haroutyunyan, Samvel Ter-Petrosyan, and Tatevik Hovhannisyan. After eight rounds, Armenia remained undefeated and equaled the equal number of four victories (against Belgium, Israel, France, and Serbia) and draws (Germany, Norway, Azerbaijan, and Spain). Before the final match, Armenia even appeared at the top of the chart. A draw with Ukraine in the last game could suffice to win the European tournament. Unfortunately, two Armenian GMs (Sargissian and Martirosyan) lost their games, and the other two (Hovhannisyan and Ter-Sahakyan) tied. Armenia ended up being seventh in the final chart. The women’s team was 17th with four victories, two draws, and three defeats. The future road that Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev calls the Zangezur corridor. Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has rejected what he calls “corridor logic” for unblocking transport routes in the region.

“States must allow transit while maintaining sovereignty over their territory. All transport links in the region must be re-established,” Mirzoyan added.

Turkey has long been a key regional ally of Azerbaijan and has kept its border with Armenia closed for nearly three decades, due to what it said was Armenia’s occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding districts, an issue that was resolved by a ceasefire deal.

“While we talk about peace, Azerbaijan multiplies xenophobic statements. This is evidenced by the speeches of the president of Azerbaijan, "the Armenian foreign minister said.

Trade among EEU Member Countries Grows by 30% in 9 Months

YEREVAN (ARKA) — In the first 9 months of 2021, trade among the countries which are members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) grew by more than 30%, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said at an expanded meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Yerevan on November 23.

"Exports to third-party countries increased by almost 40 percent, while imports by a quarter," he added. Mishustin noted that the trade in agricultural products shows good dynamics.

"We fully satisfy our needs for grain, sugar, vegetable oils and some other products through our own production," he said.

Also called the loop jump, the quadruple flip – a triple toe loop – a triple Salchow and a triple Lutz. As a result, Petrosyan collected 147.15 points and took first place.

Leaders of Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan to Meet in Sochi

On November 26

MOSCOW (Public Radio of Armenia) — Trilateral talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan will take place in Sochi, timed to coincide with the anniversary of the signing of the November 9th statement on ceasefire and cessation of all hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh, Kremlin reported.

The meeting will take place on November 26 at the initiative of the Russian President.

Particular attention will be paid to the restoration and development of trade, economic and transport links.

Putin is expected to hold separate talks with Nikol Pashinyan and Ilham Aliyev.
Talaat, Tehlirian And the Pursuit of Justice

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BERLIN — A hundred years ago Berlin was the scene of a criminal trial which was to go down in history. The Armenian Soghomon Tehlirian stood trial for the murder of Talaat Pasha, whom he shot on March 15, 1921 in broad daylight. Talaat was the former Interior Minister of the Young Turk regime who had masterminded and directed the genocide against 1.5 million Armenians and countless other Christian minorities.

In the last week of October 2021, a group of human rights activists, historians, actors, musicians and jurists joined to commemorate these historic events, retrace the steps and actions of the protagonists, to reflect on their significance in the development of fundamental concepts of international law.

The World Group Recognition – Against Genocide, for Understanding among Peoples (AGA) organized the commemoration in three events on October 24, 26 and 29: the first was a guided tour by genocide scholar and AGA Chairwoman Tessa Hofmann, down the Hardenbergstrasse, the street in Berlin where Tehlirian had shot and killed Talaat; the second featured a lecture by Hofmann on the importance of the subsequent trial in legal history, accompanied by readings from the trial testimony and from literary works dealing with the Armenian Genocide. The final event was a condensed re-enactment of the trial, held in the very same courthouse where the legal proceedings had unfolded.

Dr. Garey Kouchian, AGA founding member, explained why Armenians commemorate the Hardenbergstrasse. In the genocide that began under Sultan Abdul Hamid II in the late 19th century and reached its climax in 1915-1923, Kouchian said, an estimated three million Christians were killed and more than 2 million more expelled and deprived of their citizenship.

“The motivation? To establish a ‘Great Taran’ of Turkic-speaking peoples stretching from the Adriatic to China, a vision, according to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, that is still being pursued in the unlawful aggression in Artsakh. Hundreds of thousands of Genocide survivors, Keocht-20, when he had assassinated Harutyun Mrchkanian, who had drawn up the list of Armenian notables to be arrested on April 24, 1915 in Constantinople. Tehlirian was invited to Boston and deployed by Nemesis to deal with Talaat, who headed their list of targets. During Tehlirian’s later trial in Berlin, no mention was made of Nemesis. In evaluating the legal and historical significance of the trial, which ended in a not-guilty verdict for Tehlirian, Hofmann focused on the work of Raphael Lemkin, who was to coin the term genocide and lay the basis for the 1948 UN Genocide Convention. The Tehlirian trial posed questions of moral and legal rights to the young jurist, who was motivated by the need to define the crime of mass murder. It was the first time a foreign court had dealt with the Young Turk genocide.

Hofmann summarized the trial proceedings, stressing the German government’s desire to conclude quickly and to avoid a political trial, by focusing on the decision of the German authorities to request a trial in Berlin. The impact of those events was to be felt not only in Germany and on the Armenian community, but worldwide, and forever after, as Hofmann detailed in a speech, “From Assassination to UN Convention: The Berlin Criminal Trial against Soghomon Tehlirian and Raphael Lemkin’s Consequences for International Law.”

Hofmann reviewed the political background of the dramatic events in Berlin, beginning with reference to the “Armenian Question,” the reforms that the European Great Powers listed in the 1878 Berlin Treaty and demanded the Ottoman Empire introduce. After 25 years of inaction, Turkey under the Young Turk regime, agreed in 1913, but took no action. As the German theologian Dr. Johannes Lepsius would note in his trial testimony, the Young Turks in 1913 threatened that, unless the Europeans desisted from demanding reforms, something would happen that would make the Hamidian massacres look like child’s play.

After the massacres began in spring 1915, the Great Powers issued a warning that they would hold the regime responsible for crimes against humanity — introducing for the first time this concept. It was only after the war and the war that the Ottoman authorities, under pressure of occupying Allied forces, pursued suspects and opened war crimes tribunals. Among the Young Turk leaders who were tried, convicted and sentenced to death, most had fled and would be brought to justice only later by Armenian avengers. Following Mustafa Kemal’s establishment of the Turkish republic, a general amnesty was declared on March 31, 1923, war criminal suspects were freed, and the trials were later declared national martyrdoms.

In 1919 the Armenian Revolutionary Party deliberated measures which led to the founding of the secret network, Nemesis, tasked with executing the Young Turk mass murderers who had been sentenced in absentia. Hofmann described the Nemesis organization and its leading members, and listed the perpetrators it succeeded in assassinat- ing, among them Talaat.

Hofmann provided a biographical sketch of Mehmet Talaat, detailing his direct responsibility for the deporta- tion and massacres, as documented by contemporary as well as later sources. After the armistice and his escape, he lived under an assumed name in Berlin, protected by the German authorities until Tehlirian assassinated him. Under Hitler, Talaat’s mortal remains were transferred in 1943 to Turkey, where he was honored as a martyr, with mosques, plazas, streets, schools etc. named after him.

Hofmann followed with a biographical sketch of Tehl- irian, who attracted the attention of Nemesis in March...
Community News

Armenian Bar Turns 32nd in New York

NEW YORK — New York City seldom disappointed and often dazzles, just as it did when it played host to the Armenian Bar Association’s 32nd Annual Meeting November 5-6. The weekend was marked by a deep sense of camaraderie, commitment and collegiality among the many lawyers, law students and judges in attendance who assembled in-person for the first time in two years because of the worldwide pandemic. The Annual Meeting Weekend began with a marvelous welcome reception, followed by captivating panel discussions, meaningful reports on the Association’s activities, and the election of new board members and executive officers.

The site for the Friday evening welcome reception was a roof-top oasis perched high above the Manhattan side of the East River, overlooking the shimmering lights of the outer boroughs. The stunning horizon was made possible by long-time Armenian Bar devotee and strategist, Emma Arakelian, and her husband, Tiran Nahabandian, who are stakeholders in that magical residential tower. Approximately 150 members and guests were on hand for an evening holding both somber remembrances and joyful delights, all the while chock-full of sumptuous Armenian food and fine Armenian wines.

The Friday evening program featured a moving video tribute and personal reflections in honor of recent community-building efforts, and Bita Minassian - Lucy Varpetian, Dr. Antranig Kasparian (Edvin’s former law partner) and Adham (Edvin’s former law partner), offered compassionate and thought-provoking words of reflection. The evening’s focus on the Armenian community was underscored by the presence of Armenia’s Consul General, Hayk Kedeshian, who was pitch-perfect as she ushered in the most fitting mood for Edwin’s memorial presentation during which Armenian Bar Chairwoman Lucy Varpetian, Dr. Antranig Kasparian (Edvin’s former colleague in community-building efforts), and Bita Adham (Edvin’s former law partner) offered compassionate and thoughtful words of reflection. The evening’s musical interlude, provided by Joel A. Martin, aka Jazzical Komitas, was simply spectacular, moving many to tears, with several breathtaking renditions of the sacred music of Komitas Vartabed.

Prof. Armen T. Marsoobian

Prof. Armen T. Marsoobian has been appointed the Nikit and Elea- nora Ordjanian Visiting Professor in the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies at Columbia University for the Spring of 2022, where he will be teaching a course entitled The Resilience of Memory: the Armenian Genocide. This course will explore the forms of memory resilience, such as words (in the form of poetry, memoir, drama, fiction) and images (in the form of photography, film, painting) used to combat the forgetting and the denial of genocidal crimes.

Armenians began a process of reflective resistance against their cultural loss in the decades after 1915. Yet it took another generation for artists and writers to foreground this resistance in their creative output. In parallel to the Jewish response to the Holocaust, the 1960’s and 70’s saw the awakening of an Armenian public response to the genocide. Along with memorialization and demands for justice, a heightened critical reflection on the meaning of loss took place. Historical studies of the genocide multiplied adding to an understanding of the nature of the violence. Alongside such scholarship, the broader discipline of memory studies immeasurably added to our understanding. The study of Holocaust memory will help us understand the Armenian resilience of memory. The art and literature explored will be supplemented by dialogue (in-person or virtually) with writers and artists whose works of resistance continue to be created today.

This seminar style course (MDES GU4328, Call # 16818) will be taught on Mondays from 12:10-2 p.m. and is open to auditors as well as matriculating students. Registration for auditors begins January 10-14 and classes begin January 24. The tuition for Auditors is $2,400 and for Lifelong Learners (those aged 65 and over) is $750. Registration for Auditors and Lifelong Learners may be done online at: sps.columbia.edu/admissions/course-auditors/application-requirements, where the Online Application Form and Lifelong Learners Proof of Age requirements are available.

Classes will be held in-person and the building and room location will be announced in January.

Marsoobian is professor of philosophy at Southern Connecticut State University and an affiliated faculty of the Human Rights Institute at the University of Connecticut, as well as a previous Ordjanian Visiting Professor at Columbia. He is the editor-in-chief of Metaphilosophy and has co-edited seven books, including Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Genocide and Memory (2018), Criticism and Compassion: The Ethics and Politics of Claudia Card (2018), and Genocide’s Aftermath: Responsibility and Repair (2017). He serves as First Vice President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars.

SAS Awards Travel, Research Grants to Graduate Students For Fall 2021

FRESNO — The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) has selected its awardees for its Graduate Research and Conference Grants Program for MA and PhD Students for Fall 2021. Established in 2019, the aim of the Grants Program is to provide resources for graduate students to conduct research and present papers at conferences. Grants of up to $1000 are awarded semi-annually to eligible graduate students. The Fall 2021 group of applicants was chosen by a selection committee composed of members of the SAS Executive Council.

Haley Zovickian, is an MA student in the Department of Sociology at Columbia University, working on Armenian-American identity as seen through critical race theory.

“I am so grateful to the Society for Armenian Studies for their support of my research on critical race theory and Armenian racialization. Thanks to the Society, I will be able to bring the experiences of the Armenian community into academic discourse on race in the United States. I am truly humbled and honored to receive this generous opportunity.”

Daniel Ohanian, is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) working on dis-

see ANNIVERSARY, page 8

see APPOINTMENT, page 11
The next application cycle will have a deadline of April 15, 2022. The SAS Graduate and Research Grant was made possible through the institutional support of the Armenian Studies Program, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; the Meghrihoun Family Presidential Chair in Armenian Studies, University of California, Los Angeles; and the Hovsepian Chair of Modern Armenian History, University of California, Los Angeles; the Arthur H. Dadian and Ana Omerchien Chair of Armenian Art & Architecture, Tufts University; the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR); the Armenian Communities Department, Gulbenkian Foundation; the Armenian Studies Program, California State University, Fresno; the Institute of Armenian Studies, University of Southern California; the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center, and the AGBU Nubar Library, Paris. The Nina G. Garsoïan Graduate Research Grant for Ancient and Early Medieval Armenian History is supported by Dr. Levon Avdoyan.

For membership information or more information on the Society for Armenian Studies, visit the SAS website, at societyforarmenianstudies.com.
St. Vladimir’s Theological Seminary, Important for St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, to Relocate

YONKERS, N.Y. — To address the growing need for priests and other vocations to the Anglican Orthodox Church, the Board of Trustees of St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary (SVOTS) has voted to relocate SVOTS from its current location in Yonkers, N.Y. The new location and the timing of the move have yet to be determined, but the Board recognizes that the Seminary will not be able to expand and adapt to the needs of the twenty-first century Church if the campus remains in Yonkers.

Following eighteen months of extensive research and deliberation at five Board meetings, the Board reached the relocation decision on November 5. Board members and Seminary administration worked with three professional consulting groups during this process and concluded that SVOTS’ current location is untenable for numerous reasons, including the following:

- The New York City area’s high and rising cost of living impacts seminarians, their families, and employees of what she deems difficult for SVOTS to recruit faculty, staff, and students.
- The Yonkers campus is landlocked, leaving no room for expansion. Expansion is needed due to rising enrollment, increasing operational and staffing needs, ongoing needed due to rising enrollment, increasing
- The Board will consider the location and time-frame for relocation in order to expand and meet the demands of the twenty-first century.

“Much prayer and a long process of due diligence and discussion led to the Board’s unanimous decision to relocate the campus of St. Vladimir’s Seminary,” said Dn. Michael Hyatt, trustee and executive chair of SVOTS. “We considered doing nothing; we explored investing into the campus in Yonkers; but we believe without doubt the legacy and long-term future of SVOTS lies with relocation in order to expand and meet the demands of the twenty-first century.”

Fr. Chad Hatfield, president of SVOTS, said: “The time has come to make a bold move, not just to survive but to thrive and expand for the sake of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” A relocation task force will evaluate various cities throughout the country, and Seminary administration will complete a comprehensive project plan, a detailed fundraising administration will complete a comprehensive project plan, a detailed fundraising

Dr. Arman Tatoyan, second from left, with Ambassador Armen Baibourtian

Consul General Baibourtian Meets with Armenia Human Rights Defender Tatoyan

GLENDALE — On November 17, Consul General of Armenia in Los Angeles Ambassador Armen Baibourtian met with the Human Rights Defender of Armenia Dr. Arman Tatoyan, who is on a visit to Los Angeles upon the invitation of the Armenian National Committee of America -Western Region (ANCA-WR). The meeting was attended by Nora Hovsepian, Esq., Chair of the Board of Directors of the ANCA-Western Region, Guro Ghazarian, Esq., Board member of the Armenian Bar Association, staff members of the Consulate General - Minister-Counselor Nely Saroyan, and Counselors Varazdat Pahlavani and Edgar Gregoryan.

During the meeting, Baibourtian talked about the recent incursions of the Azerbaijani armed forces into the sovereign territory of Armenia and the situation developed as a result of this aggression were discussed. During the meeting, Ombudsman Arman Tatoyan presented the activities of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia throughout the recent period. The interlocutors emphasized the importance of the work of documenting and disseminating information about human rights violations conducted by Azerbaijan. The participants of the meeting also discussed the ways of enhancing cooperation between the Foreign Ministry structure and the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia. As it is known, the Consulate General of Armenia in Los Angeles jointly with the Armenian Bar Association organized a reception in honor of Human Rights Defenders of Armenia and Artsakh Arman Tatoyan and Artak Beglayan in July 2019.

Dr. Arman Tatoyan

OBITUARY

Mary Ann Mozian

Dedicated to Family, Armenia

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, N.J. — Mary Ann Mozian, a longtime resident of Washington Township, passed away suddenly on November 17, 2021.

Born in Jersey City, she was baptized at the Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Church in Union City, where she attended Sunday School. She grew up in North Bergen and attended the Preparatory and High School.

Mary Ann lived a life full of love and happiness and over the years touched the lives of many. Her presence always left a lasting impression. For close to 30 years Mary Ann worked tirelessly for the Church and the Armenian community. Her long hours and dedication to St. Leon’s and the parishioners was unmatched. Her countless hours preparing for St. Leon’s annual food festival, organizing events, answering the phones... just a short list of what she did for the church. Without hesitation, she always went out of her way to help anyone in need. She was the long-term administrator of St. Leon’s Saturday Armenian language school.

Mary Ann was not only a pillar of the church community, but she was also a devoted volunteer to the Fuller Center for Housing. Over the years, along with close friends, she visited Armenia 8 times and helped Armenian families in need of housing.

Upon returning home, she always recounted that her most memorable times from the trip were working side by side with the families, plastering walls, and sharing meals during their breaks. She will always be remembered for her kindness and selflessness.

For those that knew her, her family was the epicenter of her life. She was always the one to bring family together and keep alive memorable traditions. Whether it was Lamajeun Sundays, cousin dinners, and multiple first course meals at holiday dinners, her love for her family was paramount.

Over the years, her house was home to many. She welcomed family, friends, and friends of friends into her home and backyard. Whether it was for a day of swimming, a game of cards or extended stays, her door was always open.

It goes without saying her most cherished time was spent with her five loving grandchildren. Her greatest gift was being able to be a part of their lives and sharing a special relationship with each of them.

Mary Ann was predeceased by her parents Peter and Juliette and her sister Jeanette Epstein. She is survived by her children, Jeannine Mosco and her husband Jeffrey and Craig Mozian and their wife Tara, sister Rose Ann Arzoumanian and her husband Antranig; brother Peter Baljian and his wife Renee; grandchildren Andrew, Brielle, Olivia Mosco and Carson and Amelia Mozian.

Her funeral was held on Monday, November 22, at St. Leon Armenian Church, in Fair Lawn, N.J. Interment followed at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Flowering, N.Y.

Donation

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator would like to thank Christine Rinck of Independence, MO, for her donation of $50.

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ARmenian Mirror-Spectator

COMMUNITY NEWS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2021

9
HALO Trust Saving Lives in Artsakh

HALO, from page 1 program manager for Nagorno Karabakh stationed in Yerevan, gave an overview and update of the work that has been done in clearing Artsakh of hazardous explosives.

A Broader Picture

The webinar began with Dr. Maranci’s presentation on several beautiful and architecturally/historically important sites in the region. Maranci pointed out the buildings and monuments at Amaras, Gandzasa, Tsitsernavoran, Dadivank, and elsewhere. Amaras, which houses the 4th-century tomb of St. Grigoruis (grandson of Gregory the Illuminator), is unique from an art historical perspective as one of the few early Christian churches built with the door to the East, a feature it shares with the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. Tsitsernavoran, a remarkable survival of a beautiful 4th-5th century basilica, has the odd addition of a second floor gallery directly above the apse (altar area). The lengthy Armenian inscriptions on the outside walls of Dadivank, and the sheer beauty of Gandzasa also drew attention. Maranci stressed time and again that proper study of these sites is impossible without going to them in person, and the layperson can easily see why.

Whatley, in turn, in an effort to put the Karabakh issue in context for his largely American audience, stressed the historical and cultural value of the region that these monuments attest to.

Tekeyan Greater NY Chapter Meets with UN Amb. Margaryan, Artsakh State Minister Beglaryan

NEW YORK – The Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Greater New York Chapter visited Ambassador Mher Margaryan, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia, with a delegation, cosponsored a meeting with Artsakh State Minister Artak Beglaryan, and participated in a second meeting with the latter in mid-November.

On November 11, a group of TCA Greater NY committee members met with Amb. Margaryan in his offices. The meeting was an opportunity to introduce the latter to new committee members and discuss how TCA can work with the UN Armenian Mission to strengthen the Armenian community in the tristate area.

On November 13, TCA Greater NY chair Hilda Hartounian participated on behalf of her chapter in a private luncheon and meeting with Beglaryan in New York City, along with representatives of other organizations, to discuss current events in Artsakh. The next day, the TCA chapter was a cosponsor with other organizations of a presentation by Beglaryan in the DoubleTree Hotel of Fort Lee, New Jersey.

Beglaryan spoke in detail about the current situation in Artsakh, border safety, the status of Armenian POWs, and permanent refugees. Hartounian in turn spoke with him about the TCA Sponsor a Teacher program that has been aiding teachers and school staff in Artsakh and Armenia for over 20 years, along with the fundraiser for the TCA Sustainable Assistance program, which helps displaced families from the Berdзор Tekeyan School in Artsakh by providing bee colonies or cattle to serve as a means of revenue.

Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Greater New York Chapter STAFF DIRECTOR: TASO MARACNI

HALO Reaches New Milestone in Artsakh

HALO, the international de-mining organization, has completed clearing over 30,000 square meters of land in Artsakh since the launch of its clears in the region. Two of the most important locations are Taleen Babayan and Sylvia Buzantian.

Since the Armenian side didn’t gain any territory in which the Azerbaijanis could have left behind landmines, the cluster munitions that failed to explode upon impact becoming de facto landmines.”

Since the last war, HALO has been involved in clearing unexploded and submunitions from the de facto territories. Hawthorn says, “Cluster munitions pose an immediate threat to civilians during conflict by randomly scattering submunitions or bomblets over a wide area. They continue to pose a threat post-conflict by leaving remnants, including submunitions that fail to explode upon impact becoming de facto landmines.”

Since the last war, HALO has again been at work removing explosives in Nagorno-Karabakh. These are predominantly cluster munitions, rather than landmines, which were a problem in the 1990s. According to Human Rights Watch: “Cluster munitions pose an immediate threat to civilians during conflict by randomly scattering submunitions or bomblets over a wide area. They continue to pose a threat post-conflict by leaving remnants, including submunitions that fail to explode upon impact becoming de facto landmines.”

Since the Armenian side didn’t gain any territory in which the Azerbaijanis could have left behind landmines, the cluster munitions that failed to explode upon impact becoming de facto landmines.”

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Humanitarian Commitment

The main component of the webinar was a presentation by Hawthorn on the situation on the ground in Karabakh, followed by a question-and-answer period. Hawthorn, a British native, is the program director for HALO Trust’s operations in Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. Currently residing in Yerevan, he along with the other four members of the international team, two of whom are in Stepanakert, oversee teams predominantly made up of locals whom HALO has recruited and trained. Hawthorn noted during the question and answer phase, that HALO has been working in Karabakh since the first war and that they have developed a deep level of trust with locals. When residents see the HALO logo, Hawthorn says, they know they can trust the work that the organization does.

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San Francisco Bay Area Artsakh Task Force Raises $100,000 for Artsakh

SAN FRANCISCO — On Friday, November 12, the San Francisco Bay Area Artsakh Task Force Humanitarian Aid Committee (SFBAATF-HAC) donated $100,000 to the Insurance Foundation for Servicemen in Armenia (IFS) at Krouzian-Zekarian-Vashouragan Armenian School in San Francisco, CA.

Earlier this year, SFBAATF-HAC hosted a virtual fundraising event which raised $100,000 for wounded Artsakh soldiers and families of fallen soldiers. The first-ever “For Our Soldiers” virtual gala and auction attracted over a few hundred attendees. Participants enjoyed touching musical performances, listened to encouraging messages from Archbishop Hovnan Derderian and Bishop Torkom Donoyan and watched moving personal messages from Artsakh soldiers.

The donations went through the nonprofit foundation, Friends of the Armenian Soldier and Family (FASF), and then sent to the Insurance Foundation for Servicemen in Armenia (IFS). IFS is a non-governmental organization that provides monetary compensation to the families of deceased and wounded soldiers in Armenia and Artsakh. For more information, see https://www.1000plus.am/en.

IFS leadership receives $100,000 donation from the San Francisco Bay Area Artsakh Task Force Humanitarian Aid Committee.

To Our Readers

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator is the first English-language Armenian weekly published in the US, and for nearly 90 years, it has served the community. Readers can learn of the most important developments in Armenia, as well as international politics, art and culture throughout the world in a convenient and concise format.

Once again, it has been a challenging year. The Mirror-Spectator has covered the crises in Artsakh, Armenia and Lebanon, supported efforts at humanitarian fundraising, and secured new young correspondents in Armenia, Artsakh and the US. We continue to provide periodic video reports online. Send us your email if you wish to regularly receive links to articles and videos.

We continue with our annual tradition of publishing your Christmas and New Year’s wishes, and greetings to relatives and friends in the final issue of the year. In case you wish to give gift subscriptions of the Mirror-Spectator for Christmas, for your convenience, we are placing a gift subscription form in the newspaper as well as one below.

Sincerely,

Alin K. Gregorian
Editor

Aram Arkun
Managing Editor

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Sincerely,
Armenia.

how many times you have been to
again. Surely you no longer know
with illustrations by a Dutch artist
Hovhannes Tumanyan’s fairy tales
menian poet Vahe Arsen and recently
ration of poems by contemporary Ar-
activity started. After that, a collec-
-
- its Armenia every year. My conver-

Maria, we have a tireless devotee to
Armenian literature and culture in
the Netherlands.

Armenian books. The first one was
translated from Armenian so far?

Anna Maria Mattaar
Translating from Armenian
Into Dutch and Vice Versa

BY ARTSVI BAKCHINYAN
SPECIAL TO THE MIRROR-SPECTATOR

YERIVAN — Dutch translator
Anna Maria Mattaar speaks Arme-
nian without any effort and without
a foreign accent. She is one of those
rare Armenian-speaking non Arme-
nians, who translates not only from
Armenian into their native languag-
es, but also from other languages (in
this case, from Dutch and English)
into Armenian. In the person of Anna
Maria, we have a tireless devotee to
Armenian literature and culture in
the Netherlands.

Mattaar lives in Hellevoetsluis vis-
its Armenia every year. My conver-
sation with her took place during her
last visit to Armenia last October.

Anna, welcome to Armenia
again. Surely you no longer know
how many times you have been to
Armenia.

I really do not know, Artsvi Jan.
I first came to Armenia in 1999 with
my Armenian husband and three
children. At that time, I only knew a
few words in Armenian. Gradually I
learned on my own and then started
translating into Armenian. Before
that I was translating from Spanish
to Dutch.

How many books have you
translated from Armenian so far?
I have only three Dutch translated
Armenian books. The first one was
Naïr Zaryan’s David of Sassoun,
which was republished five years
after its publication. This is how my
activity started. After that, a collec-
tion of poems by contemporary Ar-
menian poet Vahe Arsen and recently
Hovhannes Tumanyan’s fairy tales
with illustrations by a Dutch artist
see TRANSLATING, page 13

Composer Hayg Boyadjian
Meets (So to Speak) with
Bach, Beethoven

LEXINGTON, Mass. — Grammy Nominee composer Hayg Boyadjian was recently in Bonn, Germany where his “unusual” solo piano composition Variations on a Theme by Bach (20 variations) was recorded for CD release beginning of next year. The re-
cording was done in a concert hall with superior acoustics, on a brand new Steinway
Concert Grand piano, with one of the top recording engineers in Europe, Peter Hert-
man, and also supervising the recording the teacher-mentor of the recording virtuoso
pianist Armen Manaseryan, Heerbert Koch, who is also a concert pianist and a com-
poser.

Armen Manaseryan will be performing in Frankfurt, Germany on December 2 at the
prestigious Steinway Hall a lengthy solo concert pairing Boyadjian’s recently recorded
Bach variations with the 32 Variations by Beethoven. Manaseryan will close the con-
cert with Tchaikovsky’s The Seasons. The concert is sponsored by the Harvard Club of
Germany. Many Harvard University luminaries will be present and Armen Manaseryan
will introduce me to the audience in my absence.

The Boyadjian Bach variations take their inspiration from a 30-set variations by
Bach. Bach utilizes extensively the bass line of the theme that opens the variations. It
is called a chaconne or passacaglia and follows Bach’s variations in a very similar way
by using often the bass line.

“My first variation acts more as a prelude of things to come rather than a variation in
see BEETHOVEN, page 13

Francis Kurkdjian,
Talent Behind
Baccarat Rouge
540, Is New Dior
Master Perfumer

PARIS (Grazia) — Perfume Chris-
tian Dior in October announced the
appointment of Francis Kurkdjian as
Perfume Creation Director. Kurkdji-
ian is stepping into the role previously
held by industry veteran François
Demachy.

The news comes as Grasse-born
Demachy retires from his full time
position, closing off what has been
one of the most impressive ten-
ures in the history of fine fragrance.

Demachy is the nose behind a slew
of iconic male and female perfumes,
including Miss Dior Eau de Parfum,
Dior Homme, Midnight Poison, Hyp-
notic Poison and the international
best-seller Sauvage.

Kurkdjian, 52, is 20 years young-
er but still comes with an impressive
transcript. After composing his first
scent at just 25 (Jean-Paul Gaultier’s
Le Male) the perfumer went on to co-
found Francis Kurkdjian — including
the brand’s incredibly famous Bacca-
rat Rouge 540, a fragrance inspired
by the ruby crystal used by French
crystal house Baccarat on its signa-
ture chandeliers.

Perfumery is a rarified craft, so it’s
always interesting to witness new tal-
ent ascend the ranks at major fashion
houses such as Dior. But with a knack

Francis Kurkdjian
for creating awe-inspiring fragrance,
Kurkdjian is definitely the man for
the job. And to those sweating at the
thought of Baccarat Rouge 540 dis-
appearing, don’t worry — Kurkdjian
will still work as the Creative Direc-
tor on his eponymous brand.

“It is a tremendous honor for me to
join Parfums Christian Dior, a maison
with a richly inspiring history and a
resolutely future-facing creative
spirit. I am delighted to share my vi-
sion through my fragrance creations.
Working at Maison Dior while con-
tinuing to create for my own maison
is a great privilege. I want to sincere-
ly thank Bernard Arnault for renew-
ing his confidence in me as part of
LVMH, and I extend my warm thanks
to Claude Martinez, Stephanie Medi-
oni, Laurent Kleitman and Marc Cha-
ya for their support,” Kurkdjian said
in a press release.

Hayg Boyadjian in Bonn

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PERFUMES:
ARMS LEVON MANASEYAN — CONCERT AT STEINWAY & SONS FRANKFURT

HARVARD CLUB OF GERMANY
FILMS BY: LARRY ROBINSON

ANNOUNCEMENT:
FOR THE CONCERT AT THE HARVARD CLUB OF GERMANY

FRANCIS KURKDJIAN, TALENT BEHIND BACCARAT ROUGE 540, IS NEW DIOR MASTER PERFUMER
Translating from Armenian into Dutch and Vice Versa

While in Bonn the composer had the opportunity to visit the Beethoven House where the great composer was born and which is now the Beethoven Museum. One room has his original piano. He continued, “It was with great trepidation that I contemplated to write a set of variations for piano on a theme by Bach. The part that came easy was the choice of a theme in my set of variations. The composition comes only at the end of the composition. I planned to follow in the footsteps of Bach as to the structure of the variations and also in keeping the harmonic language to a great degree in the realm of traditional harmonies with modern harmonies used very sparsely so that the composition makes an almost direction towards the music of Bach. It is in my musical output a piece that stands completely outside of my normal harmonic language.

There is a very close resemblance to the music of Bach but infused with elements of modern musical language. Even those infusions are kept at a minimum so as to keep the general tendency of the work connected to the music of Bach. Like the 25 variations which presented this present 20 variations follow the same compositional patterns that Bach uses in his variations. Each one is a variation out of the previous one. Each has a specific harmonic language such as: in counterpoint, in fugues, basso ostinato, canons, alla sonata, etc. If the listener really already knows one can hear the music of Bach and the Bach’s theme of the variations.

Musicologist and critic Robin McNeil told me about a 21st century piece …. relying on the use of a Baroque period counterpoint. Boyadjian makes use of retrograde, inversion, variants.

There is a very big issue. Another catastrophe happened a year ago; in those days you were in Armenia again.

Yes, I came to Armenia to work on The Diary of Anne Frank. I came to Armenia on September 26 and the next morning the war started. Then, when I returned to Nether-lands. The Dutch government was very sorry that they either did not know about the war at all, or they were saying: well, Armenians and Azeris always fight. I tried to explain that the Armenians are not full of hate, the Azeris attacked Armenia with the help of the Turks and others. But they do not understand or do not want to understand, which is very painful.

What do Armenians have to learn from the Dutch and vice versa?

The Dutch can learn patriotism towards their own nation from the Armenians, because it seems that there is no concept of nationality for the Dutch. The Dutch do not like their nation, their history, what other nations have written about them. And Armenians may learn from the Dutch to accept people as they are. In Netherlands you go to a country where there are many expatriates and no one looks at you, they do not say anything, they accept you as you are. I think that is a good thing.

You used to come to Armenia with your family, and for several years now you have been coming without your children.

Yes, I come twice a year, on business, for my cooperation with the embassies and for my studies. It is true that I was divorced from my Yerevan-born husband, but after that my connection with Armenia has become even stronger. When I came to Armenia with my ex-husband, I paid more family visits, but after the divorce I am more free to do my own job. That’s why my workload has increased here. I am constantly trying to establish contacts between Armenian and Dutch institutions. Once we went to Amherst, where I incidentally met the staff of the Aragos Cosmic Ray Research Station. I connected them with their colleagues in the Netherlands, and I am glad that they cooperate now. My children still understand Armenian (although they say they do not). They even speak a little. And my daughter, who did not want to hear about Armenia for several years for obvious reasons, recently said that one day my children and I will definitely go to Armenia again to rediscover the country together.

Composer Hayg Boyadjian Meets (So to Speak) with Bach, Beethoven
The Marrow of Longing: a strange but fitting title for an idiosyncratic and ultimately satisfying book of poetry. Dancer, poet, professor, spiritualist: Celeste Nazeli Snowber is a polymath and interdisciplinary artist who has created her own unique creative identity.

When her poems hit, as in “Beneath the Skin of Plum Black” they are lovely, heartfelt pieces that penetrate the reader’s consciousness deeper perhaps than those of more established wordsmiths. This poem encapsulates much of what Snowber expresses elsewhere about food, tradition and familial love:

“Aromas took second place to hues of dark purple it was your colours my mother was in love with.

Eggplant. Jeweled in sautéed onions adorned with red pepper, a hint of green parsley a slice of lamb.

Plum black you are love marinated in drips of oil tenderized in the h/earth in a New England kitchen.”

Later on in the poem, Snowber’s mother offers a culinary lesson that the poet passes down to the reader:

Never leave the pan without a hint of green, she said, Look how stunning the red Pepper accents blackened violet

Here the poet paraphrases her mother, whose speech is itself poetic, so she doesn’t heighten or embellish it with fancy turn-of-phrase or rhyme.

Snowber’s relationship with her Armenian mother who was also an artist and her evident love for her are reflected in her longing for history to have somehow been thwarted and her mother’s talent celebrated. This longing informs the crux of poems such as “In praise of the Kitchen-Studio” or in “Vowels of the Body” where “Seasons enter my flesh/ internal tides, external rhythms/rain, mist, flames, ice/hormones.” And then there is “Diaiespora Dreams” which is a fine poem even if it repeats tropes that we’ve seen before in Armenian American literature, revolting around a sense of shame and the loss of language: “I was never taught/the vowels, syllables of her native tongue/my mother held the shame/of being an immi-

Snowber’s poems are accompanied by some fascinating artwork by Marsha Nouritza Odabashian who uses an ancient Armenian onion skin dying technique to create her work. The many hues of brown and shades of grey and orange have an earthy appeal and the designs manage to be simultaneously abstract and representative.

Interestingly enough though, my favorite of Odabashian’s pieces is a pink watercolor or at the beginning of the book titled “Kitchen Studio” which doesn’t seem to use this technique: it has a rare lightness to it as a cook joyfully dances around her kitchen.

From the one example of Grace Terzian’s work in the book, a photo of a large arresting flower sculpture titled “Tercen-
tennial, 1976 (Interpret-
ing Light Year 2676),” it seems clear that Grace Terzian had a unique tal-
ent. Snowber links her mother to other female artists such as Anne Sexton (and why not Sylvia Plath and Virginia Wolf) — who suffered for being women and/or moth-

er. In the 1940’s Terzian was apparently friends with some of the luminaries of the time such as Hyman Bloom, Ravi Shankar and Alan Hovhannes. But lack of opportu-
nity, of time to create, and of psychic space to mend, as well as her responsibilities as a wife and mother meant that she had could not follow her dreams, as her male counterparts did. In one poem Snowber tells her mother’s many screaming fits and one imagines the effect that they had on her as a child who probably could not fully comprehend their root or context. I for one would be interested in know-
ing if more of Terzian’s sculptures exist still and how they might be ex-
hibited, even if in photo-
graphs.

In her introduction to the book, Snowber notes that the poems that fol-
low were danced/sung as well as read, and it would be interesting to see how they are all rendered in such performances.

Snowber is to be credited for her remark-
able bonhomie in reaching out and working with other artists — The Marrow of Longing feels and reads like a true collaboration. There are some lovely poems and thoughts expressed in this volume, and much history too that make it well worth reading.
Jon Koobation’s Roasted Pork Loin
Stuffed with Spinach, Jalapenos And Blue Cheese

FRESNO — “Pork is a versatile cut of meat and easy to prepare,” says Fresno’s award-winning chef Jon Koobation, a retired restaurateur and author. Jon grew up in the farming town of Dinuba, California, the eldest of four children to Ed and Mary Koobation. His parents gave each of their children abiding love and instilled in them at an early age a sense of responsibility and a solid work ethic. Jon is the former chef/proprietor, owner and head chef at the acclaimed Jon’s Bear Club in Reedley, Calif. for several decades until his retirement in 2013.*

Jon’s Roasted Pork Loin Stuffed with Spinach, Jalapenos and Blue Cheese is featured in Cooking with Jon, his engaging cookbook published in 2017. “My cookbook is the child I never had; that is, it is warm, cold, sweet, spicy and savory, but most importantly, shared with love,” he says. Cooking with Jon is a tribute to his extraordinary culinary history, and includes many of his signature recipes along with family photos, memories and recollections about his life, career, and growing up with devoted Armenian parents and grandparents. He shares family traditions and his love for great food for readers to enjoy.

One interviewer of Jon’s cookbook says, “I fondly remember eating traditional Armenian cuisine at Jon’s parent’s home in Dinuba. Jon inherited the love of cooking from his mother and grandmother. I was thrilled when I learned that Jon had published a cookbook. My husband and I recently hosted an Armenian dinner party which featured Jon’s shish kebab and rice pilaf. The lamb was moist and very flavorful and the rice pilaf had a rich flavor due to the Swanson’s chicken broth and butter. If you make these recipes, follow Jon’s directions and do not substitute with other ingredients. I had always used a robust red wine to marinate the lamb, but Jon’s recommendation to use cream sherry gave the meat a much smoother and richer flavor. The layout of the cookbook is beautiful, and a delight to work from, and I look forward to trying many more of his recipes.”

The Bear Club has been around since 1935, when it began as a small bar, serving mostly farmers and farm laborers behind a grocery store. As a young man, Jon first worked as a prep cook and sous chef at major Lake Tahoe-area restaurants before returning to Reedley. He worked at the famous Valls’ Restaurant in Kingsburg, the Redwood Inn of Sultana, Dinuba Ranch, and at the Swedish Mill in Kingsburg. In 1973, he applied to The Culinary Institute of America, but he was unsuccessful and returned to Reedley. He worked at the famous Vallis’ Restaurant in Kingsburg, the Redwood Inn of Sultana, Dinuba Ranch, and at the Swedish Mill in Kingsburg. In 1973, he applied to The Culinary Institute of America, but he

References:
https://www.facebook.com/jon.koobation
For more recipes, go to: https://mirrorspectator.com/2021/01/07/recipe-corner-heroine-hatoon-bazarians-shish-kebab-recipe/
BELMONT, Mass. — The headline above may be a simplification of the new book, Everyday Cosmopolitanisms: Living the Silk Road in Medieval Armenia, by Dr. Kate Franklin. However, the idea that everyday life can be cosmopolitan or, to hew closer to Franklin’s perspective, the idea that everyday life is an integral part of what are often thought of as overarching worldwide systems, was one of the takeaways from her October 31 talk, sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) and London’s Armenian Institute.

Franklin is an archaeologist and professor in the Department of History, Classics, and Archaeology at Birbeck, University of London, where she is the director of the Master’s Program in Medieval History, as well as the director of studies in the Department of History, Classics and Archeology, and lecturer. The Zoom lecture, coordinated by Marc Mamigonian of NAASR and with Dr. Nik Matheou of the Armenian Institute as discussant, focused on the themes in her new book.

Franklin, she explained, has been interested in the stories of the fabled Silk Road since she was young. A network of trade routes that link China with Europe in the Medieval era, the Silk Road has been the subject of romanticized accounts since the time of Marco Polo, and gained popularity as an academic subject in the 19th century as Western Europeans travelled the world in the era of Imperialism. The traditional narratives often depict intrepid travelers (European or otherwise) trekking to exotic lands; generally males from an elite class. Franklin’s goal seems to be to show that women and lower socio-economic classes were part of the Silk Road story as well, even if they weren’t making trips from Venice to Inner Mongolia, and aspects of everyday life like meals were just as important to the international silk trade as the silk itself.

Franklin opened her talk with a story that will resonate even with Armenians that have never set foot in Armenia; while on a journey to a small village inspecting medieval ruins, she came across a middle-aged Armenian woman who insisted she come into the house and eat, even to the point of unwrapping small chocolates and putting them on her plate. The story exemplified Franklin’s realization of the importance that food, hospitality, and the lives of people who lived along trade routes could be just as cosmopolitan as that of the merchants and travelers, due to the cultural interchange that was constantly taking place.

Both Franklin and Matheou touched upon the prevalence of “World Systems Theory,” an overarching paradigm for world history which emphasizes the “world system,” particularly in an economic role, rather than nation-states. Franklin expressed her wish to provide a counter to that kind of analysis, not to refocus on the nation-state, but to emphasize the local and particular.

Much of Franklin’s attention has been directed to the role of caravanserais (roadside inns) which served as accommodations for trade caravans. The best-preserved

continued on next page
Achievement Award at Amsterdam Festival

AMSTERDAM (Armenpress) — Legendary Armenian director of documentaries, Artavazd Peleshyan, received the “Lifetime Achievement Award” in the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), on November 22.

His film, “Nature,” had its European premiere on November 19 on the sidelines of the IDFA.

Peleshyan didn’t pick up the award personally because of health problems. However, general director of the Cartier Foundation for Contemporary Art of Paris Hervé Chandès and director Andrei Ujika accepted it on his behalf.

“The story of the Vachutians, as Franklin tells it, shows the changing identifications and cultural influences of medieval Armenia, as well as shedding light on the realities of the Silk Road. At one point, the churches built by dynasty founder Vache Vachutian were rebuilt by his son Kurd, who mentions in an inscription that this rebuilding takes place after the invasion and destruction wrought by the “Nation of the Archers” — the Mongols, who invaded the Near East, including Armenia, throughout the middle of the thirteenth century. (Notably, Vache’s wife Mamakhatun and Kurd’s wife Khorishah are mentioned along with their husbands in the inscriptions.) The Mongol invasion was seen in near-apocalyptic terms by medieval Armenians, said Franklin, and the Vachutians saw themselves as survivors of this catastrophe, rebuilding for their descendants. Yet, only a few decades later, the Armenians had begun to view the Mongols with respect and admiration; numerous Armenian leaders noted the honor they were shown by the Great Khan in positive terms, while others even depicted themselves in artwork with stereotypical “Mongol” facial features. The understanding of what was native and what was foreign was thus “cosmopolitan” and much more complex than many today believe, who are fixated on a homogenous picture of ethnic history described in nationalist terms, she said.

Franklin’s presentation provoked questions about cultural exchange and influence, which as she has shown, has been a part of daily life in Armenia going back at least to the Middle Ages. The issues she raises should serve as a bit of a corrective to those fixated on “pure” ethnic artistic and cultural expression. Historically, her work sheds light not only on Armenia’s role in the international community of medieval times, but also the importance of average people in a society that is increasingly viewed in terms of overarching economic, political, and social frameworks. Economically, the work questions what she calls the neo-liberal narrative that free trade leads to peace. Franklin also delivered a lecture at the University of Michigan on Thursday, November 18, that evidently touched on the same themes from her recent book, which is available in e-version from the OAPEN Open Access library (https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/50279).

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Veteran Filmmaker Peleshyan Receives Lifetime Achievement Award at Amsterdam Festival
A tripartite meeting with Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan had been anticipated on the first anniversary of the ceasefire declaration, on November 9, 2021. That meeting was supposed to mark the culmination of the respective countries’ deputy prime ministers’ work over the last year. Presidents Vladimir Putin and Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan were to sign an agreement about the unblocking of roads and lines of communication in the Caucasus.

However, that meeting was postponed indefinitely because of Azerbaijan’s renewed aggression against Armenia. Russia’s Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ryazanov had announced that all roads and communication lines that would be unblocked would operate under the sovereignty of their respective countries. This declaration was supposed to be the culmination of the deputy prime ministers’ negotiations, which implied also the consent of the Azerbaijani side.

However, Azerbaijan’s aggression and Aliyev’s and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s repeated insistence on the Zero Tolerance Corridor are changing the agenda of the Organization of Turkic States meeting in Istanbul earlier this month. These hopes and fears made it abundantly clear that Moscow and Yerevan were operating only under the illusion that they had an agreement at hand.

After dashing all hopes for a timely settlement in the region, the situation has become unexpectedly volatile. This preciosity led to an announcement by the office of Charles Michel, the president of the European Union, that Pashinyan and Aliyev had agreed to meet on December 15, on the sidelines of the EU’s Eastern Partnership Summit in Brussels. A spokesman for Mr. Michel stated, “The goal is to bring Pashinyan and Aliyev to the same table for confidence-building measures.”

The news about Pashinyan’s trip to Brussels, compounded by an earlier commitment by Armenia’s premier to participate in President Joe Biden’s conference on democracy December 9-10, triggered the pre-Kremlin media in Yerevan and Moscow to accuse Armenia’s foreign policy of shifting toward the West.

That was followed by news that the Putin-Aliyev-Pashinyan summit had been finalized to take place in Sochi on November 26 to preempt any unforeseen developments in Brussels.

Every move that the minor players decide to make spurs the major powers to vigilance in order not to let their relationships slip through their fingers. Moscow is particularly concerned that the political agenda in the Caucasus may come under the control of the West.

One level of the Russia-West competition is the contrast between the 3+3 format promoted by the Baku-Ankara tandem, which purports to solve the problems in the Caucasus through the political agenda in the Caucasus may come under the control of the West. Moscow.

The thrust of this format is to keep the West away from any specific development in Brussels. A recent reactivation of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group at least will entertain the issue of Karabakh’s status, which Moscow would like to postpone indefinitely. While Baku and Ankara have already anticipated that the issue was settled by the 44-day war.

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Moscow’s possessiveness on Armenian issues is manifested in a statement by Stanislav Tarasov, an editor of the Russian Regnum News Agency, who asks what the agenda of the Brussels meeting might be. If the issue of demarcation and delineation is to be discussed, he says, that cannot happen without Moscow’s participation.

Russia has demonstrated that it has a perplexing concept of its role as Armenia’s strategic partner; when Azerbaijan has occupied 41 square kilometers of Armenia’s sovereign territory and continues toward the border crossings in Syunik and Geharkunik and Armenia appeals to this ally for help, the obscene answer is that Armenia has not formulated its appeal in writing! Russian peacekeeping forces are supposed to be stationed between the opposing parties in Armenia to prevent bloodshed. Instead, the Russian peacekeepers are nowhere to be found during Azerbaijani incursions, but they arrive after the shooting stops to count the number of the dead and expect gratitude from Armenia for the service, suggesting that the worst was averted because of the presence of Russia’s peacekeeping mission.

In reality, help should have already been on its way thanks to the stipulations of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), headed by Russia, and of which Armenia is a member, and by the immediate mobilization of the 102nd Russian base in Gyumri.

This aversion by Russia to get its hands dirty in Armenia is seriously debated and defended by Kremlin advocates, like Sergei Markedonov, the leading researcher at the Euro-Atlantic Security Center of the MGIMO Institute for International Studies in Moscow.

There is Markedonov’s invented logic for the strategic partnership--"Turkey is a consistent supporter of Azerbaijan, while Russia is a moderator in the conflict, whose moderation is accepted by Baku, Yerevan and the OSCE Minsk Group. "In this light, the positions of Moscow and Ankara should be compared, without going beyond the framework of correctness, in my opinion, only in the full understanding of these fundamental differences between Turkey and Russia. . . . And it was Russia that contributed to the suspension of the hostilities on November 16."

Herein lies the basic fallacy of the Russian logic: Russia had to prevent the hostilities in the first place rather than contributing to their suspension, after so many casualties were incurred.

Russia itself is in a precarious position vis-à-vis Baku, because its lack of a mandate to introduce its peacekeeping forces in Azerbaijan is its Achilles’ heel. At Erdogan’s instruction, Aliyev thus far has refused to sign that mandate, keeping the legality of the peacekeeping forces in the region in limbo. That is why Moscow feels that it has to cater to Baku, to Armenia’s detriment, whereas when Russian bases were ousted from Georgia and Azerbaijan, Armenia was the only country that gave a military foothold to Russia in the Caucasus, allowing Moscow to project is power all the way to the Middle East. If that foothold is not maintained for its own sake and Moscow’s sake, it may spell disaster for both parties.

Recently, Turkish Nationalist Party leader Devlet Bahceli offered a map of "Great Turan" to Erdogan, who proudly tout-ed it to his public. That map included some territories of the Russian Federation in the future Turanic Empire, which Mr. Erdogan is dreaming of and planning to build. In view of that scenario, President Putin’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov offered a mild historic rebuke. What Peskov and his master need to do is to draw some lessons from history. Today’s Russia is akin to the Byzantine Empire, whose leaders constantly weakened medieval Armenia, which served as a bulwark on the border properties of the Byzantine empire. Eventually, the Byzantines brought down the Armenian Bagratid kingdom and took over the capital city of Ani in 1046, continued on next page
US Invites Armenia to Democracy Summit; But Not Azerbaijan and Turkey

The White House announced recently that it has invited over 100 countries to a virtual “Summit for Democracy” on Dec. 9-10. On the guest list are Armenia and Georgia, but not Azerbaijan and Turkey which are dictatorships. Interestingly, the latter two countries did not complain about their absence from the Summit until they found out that Armenia was invited.

In a statement, the White House announced that “the challenge of our time is to demonstrate that democracies can deliver by improving the lives of their own people and by addressing the greatest problems facing the wider world.” The President “has rebuilt our alliances with our democratic partners and allies, rallying the world to stand up against human rights abuses, to address the climate crisis, and to fight the global pandemic, including by donating hundreds of millions of doses around the globe.”

The White House announcement also stated that this Summit is “to be followed in roughly a year’s time by a second, in-person Summit. The virtual Summit, to take place on December 9 and 10, [2021], will galvanize commitments and initiatives across three principal themes: defending against authoritarianism, fighting corruption, and promoting respect for human rights. Following a year of consultation, coordination, and action, President Biden will then invite world leaders to gather once more to showcase progress made against their common commitments. For a long time, Summits will bring together heads of state, civil society, philanthropy, and the private sector, serving as an opportunity for world leaders to listen to one another and to their citizens, share successes, drive interna- tional collaboration, and speak honestly about the challenges facing democracy so as to collectively strengthen the foundation for democratic renewal.”

After the White House made this announcement, a heated discussion broke out as to why certain countries were invited to the Summit, while others were not. Obviously, this Summit is intended to form a coalition led by the US against its old nemesis, Russia. China and Russia. Do some of the invited leaders have any concerns about being viewed as “pro-western” and “anti-China and Russia”?

This is a particularly sensitive issue for Armenia which has strong military and economic ties with Russia and is in the process of establishing closer relations with China. How will China and Russia view Armenia’s participation in such an adversarial Summit? Nikol Pashinyan, who has accepted the US’ invitation, has given serious thought to the negative Russian reaction for his participation in such a summit. However, the refusal to participate would also have consequences with the United States.

While Armenia welcomes its invitation to the Summit for Democracy, Pash- inyan has regrettably regressed from his initially-declared democratic values by harassing or jailing protesters, muzzling the media and taking unilateral decisions without any input from the public or even those in his ruling circle. Erdogan’s regime, by espousing to power the military, has with great belligerence bargained during the June elections while holding a hammer in his hand and threatening to bash the heads of his political opponents.

By inviting Armenia to the summit, the United States is probably enticing the Armenian government to come closer to the west. A US official “involved in the planning of the summit told Reuters that invites were sent to countries with different experiences of democracy from all regions of the world. ‘This was not about endorsing, ‘You’re a democracy, you are not a democracy.’ That is not the process we went through.’ Biden administration officials say they had ‘to make choices’ to ensure regional diversity and broad participation. Reuters reported.

Naturally, Azerbaijan and Turkey were not too pleased that Armenia was invited to the summit, while they were excluded. In an article published by Azernews newspaper titled, “Democracy summit or clear example of double standards,” Ayta Lmahmad quoted Vugar Iskandar, a member of Azer- baijan’s Parliament, who complained, “it is ridiculous that countries such as Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Hungary are not invited to the summit, where the level of democracy is much higher than that in the majority of invited coun- tries.” Iskandar must be completely blind to the grave human rights abuses and absence of democracy realities in his own country.  

The Azeri newspaper day.az went even further by claiming that Armenia was invited due to the influence of Armenian-Americans in the US: “No need to go deep into the previous years, it is enough to see what has been happening before that time in Washington–Baku relations over the past year. The curtsies of American diplomacy towards Yerevan, the endless anti-Azerbaijani discussions and decisions made at the insistence of the Arme- nian lobby speak for themselves.”

While this Azeri website made a completely exaggerated assessment of the power of Armenian-Americans in Washington, nevertheless, it is a welcome compliment. Azerbaijan and Turkey may not fear Armenia, but they seem ter- rified of the political clout of the Armenian lobby in the US.

Armenia’s Options in the Face of Coercive Azerbaijani Tactic is Limited

By Beniamin Poghosyan

Since the end of the 2020 Karabakh war, Armenia has faced a new, harsh reality along its borders with Azerbaijan. Some in Armenia had hoped that after capturing territories from Baku, Aliyev would be satisfied and lost during the first Karabakh war of 1992-1994, an era of regional peace would start in the South Cau- casus, while Azerbaijan would agree to negotiate on the future status of Nagorno Karabakh within its 1988 borders. Baku was quite quick to dampen such perceptions. Azerbaijan established an economic region of Karabakh in July 2021 and started to aggressively move forward to establish a corridor that had war ended not only the conflict, but Na- gorno Karabakh itself, and thus it was senseless to negotiate over the status of a non-existing entity.

On the issue of the normalization of relations with Armenia, Azerbaijan put forward two main conditions: that Armenia recognizes the territori- al integrity of Azerbaijan within the 1991 borders of Soviet Azerbaijan, thus publicly and officially accepting Nagorno Karabakh as part of Azerbaidzhan; and that Armenia provides unrestricted transit access (no border, passport or customs control) for Azerbaijan via its Syunik province to reach its ex- clave the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic and onwards to Turkey. Azerbaijani officials use the term “Zangezur corridor” to describe these routes, but for them, the main issue is not the term but the substance. Azerbaijan may therefore agree to Russia controlled these routes, replace them with the Syunik the arrangements already in place in the Lachin corridor as established by the November 10 trilateral statement.  

These demands caught the Armenian leadership by surprise. The ruling Civic Contract party partic- ipated in the June 2021 early parliamentary elec- tions with a peace-oriented platform, discussing the normalization of relations with Azerbaijan and Turkey. After a landslide victory in elections, the new government used very cautious language in its five-year program, dropping the term Nagorno Karabakh Republic and being vague on the future status and territories of Nagorno Karabakh. Prime Minister Pashinyan talked about positive signals from the Azerbaijani and Turkish governments, and probably established a back channel with President Erdogan to exchange views.

Meanwhile, the new Armenian government was not ready to compromise on the two primary demands of Azerbaijan — to recog- nize Nagorno Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan and have zero control on those roads and highways via the Syunik province, which would connect Azerbaijan with the Nakhichevan Autonomous Repub- lic.  

The other political forces in Armenia took a tougher line on relations with Azerbaijan. They spoke about the necessity to declare at least some of the territories taken by Azerbaijan in 2020 as occupied territories of the unrecognized Nagorno Karabakh Republic. They worried about Turkey’s future economic domination of Armenia if the normali- zation of relations would entail the opening up of the Armenian economy for Turkish invest- ments. In this context, Civic Contract hoped that Baku and Ankara should be interested to see them as interlocutors, and not take steps to weaken their positions.  

Unfortunately for the ruling party, these calcu- lations were far from reality. Azerbaijan not only rejected the implementation of its two demands but very quickly deployed the tools of coercive diplomacy and military black- mail to reach them. In April 2021, President Aliyev publicly stated that if Armenia did not provide the “Zangezur corridor” by good will, Azerbaijan would either force Armenia to do that or open the border by force. Only weeks after that statement, Azerbaijan troops encroached into Armenian
ed heavy casualties. The accusation of Azerbaijani troops, while both sides report an advancing their positions in the Syunik province, meeting no Armenians. On November 14, Azerbaijani troops advanced their positions in the Syunik province, in practice closing them off from Armenia. This column originally appeared on November 20 on the website commonspace.eu.)

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Juan P. Gutierrez considered an unofficial national hymn, especially since that the Texans sang before the Civil War. The text is attributed to Angelina "Cili- cia." The text is attributed to Nahupet Ruspin (1819-1876). Beat Ehrler-Kerbel took the role of Tehrilirian, Ture Bibe and Sargis Hovsepian. Bjierte Flint and Anja Haverland read the remaining parts.

The trial opens on June 2, 1921. It is a sunny day, huge crowds have gathered and the international press is on hand. The suspect, a thin, intelligent young man, enters, sweatin proceedings follow, a harmonious sound.

The accused takes the stand and answers questions, his name and family background. He lived in Pakrachin, then moved to Berlin. He left on June 1915 the deportations order came. The inhabitants had to leave in caravans and columns, the gendarmes robbed and plundered, and when one of them tried to take his sister, his mother protested; his parents were among the first to be killed. "I don't want to remember that day any longer. I would rather die now, than describe that black day any further..."

Lepsius provides facts and figures: that there were 1,850,000 Armenians before the war, and where they lived; how 1,400,000 were deported, leaving fewer than half a million, 200,000 of them from Constantinople, Smyrna and Aleppo.

The accused answers more questions, recites how he fled to a village in the hills, where Kuros offered refuge to him. There he stayed two years and met his Russian, from there to Constantinople after the war, then to Salonika. There, too, he had seized, fell unconscious.

'That was the murder!'

The court clerk reads the accusation of Tahirian, accused of killing Grand Vizier Talat Pasha on March 15, 1921 in Berlin. Asked for his plea, whether he answers yes or no to the charges, Tahirian responds, "No." De- fendants have the right to explain themselves. He is himself innocent, why he has a clear conscience, and he answers, "I killed a man, but I am not a murderer." Did he not want to kill him? Yes, he did kill him. Yes, he had a plan, he says. He had a vision: the dead mother had appeared to him and asked how he could be indifferent, knowing Talat was there. "You are no longer my son," Tahirian said. "Your father managed to escape, but her father succumbed to suffering."

Tahirian says he has reported is much less than the "reality. It was much worse."

Lepsius provides the political context to the massacres, reaching back to the 19th century, and presenting the Ar- menian question as "a creation of European diplomacy." Despite the promises of the Great Powers to protect the Christians and to force through reforms, "not one of them did not want "to open old wounds." Apelian had no idea that assessments according to which by taking some 8500

Azerbaijan has a clear strategy — any start of border de- limitation and demarcation processes is possible only if Ar- menia agrees on the main principle — recognizing Nagorno Karabakh as a part of Azerbaijan. If Armenia rejects this demand, no delimitation process will start. The absence of the delimitation process means the absence of fixed bor- ders, which implies that Armenia cannot blame Azerbaijan for border encroachment into its sovereign territory. That in turn means Armenia will not be able to trigger its mutual defense arrangements with Russia, nor the mutual defense clauses envisaged by the CSTO military alliance. Azerbai- jani leaders seek to create an impression of Armenian defen- siveness, simultaneously rejecting the accusations of violating Armenian borders. As for uncontrolled (or as the worst- case scenario for Azerbaijan only Russia controlled) access to Syria, the issue of who will control the Azerbai- jan's position is clear — if Armenia rejects this option, Azerbaijan will demand to establish its checkpoints in the Lachin corridor to implement joint control over the border. The documents prepared for the postponed or canceled Moscow virtual summit were not published, so assessing their content and implications is challenging. However, its Armenians probably asked to postpone the meeting, we may assume that the government had concerns that their signature may trigger another domestic political crisis in Armenia. Interestingly after the mini-war of November 16, Prime Minister Pashinyan stated that Armenia re- ceived new offers on delimitation and demarcation from the Russian Ministry of Defense, which were acceptable for Armenia. The government has however stated they would not publicize them as this may hinder the negotia- tion process. Azerbaijan is very clear in its intentions — to continue to put military pressure on Armenia by making more ad- vances into Armenian territories to force Yerevan to accept its two primary demands. In the current situation, Armenia has four options available; to accept Azerbaijani demands, which will be equal to capitulation, to stop the Azerbaijani army's further advance in Syunik through military means to deprive Azerbaijan of its tool of military blackmail — that is if Yerevan has such military capabilities, to involve in the process external powers, which will force Azerbaijan to stop its military pressure without Ar- menia accepting Baku's demands, and continue to lose ter- ritories and bear casualties with no light at the end of the tunnel. Possible acceptable choices for Armenia are the second and third options or some combination of them. Meanwhile, the developments of the last year proved that assessments according to which by taking some 8500 square km of territories in the 2020 Karabakh war, Azer- baiyan will be satisfied, will forget about the remaining part of Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia, and an era of peaceful development will be launched for Armenians, were highly exaggerated, and had little semblance to reality.

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Talat, Tehrilirian and the Pursuit of Justice

OTTO REINICKE, Chairman of the Jury, delivers the ver-dict: Not guilty.

Friends and supporters of the accused applauded and con- gratulated Tahrilirian.

The reenactment of the trial was filmed and can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PX-SL8eINX5U

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territory in Syunik and Gegharkunik regions. During the summer, Azerbaijan added Ararat province in its military pressure campaign, coming closer to Yerevan.

In parallel with the Azerbaijani military campaign, negotia- tions were underway between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia to come to agreements on borders delimitation and demarcation processes and restoration of communications. The talks appeared to reach a conclusion at the beginning of November, and the Russian President’s Press Secretary announced an online trilateral leaders meeting for November 8-12. Simultaneously, there was a leak in the Armenian media that during the meeting, scheduled for either November 9 or 10, Aliyev, Russian, and Pashinyan, with sign would not take place. Apparently, the Armenian side asked for Armenia to postpone the meeting, we may assume that the government had concerns that their signature may trigger another domestic political crisis in Armenia. Interestingly after the mini-war of November 16, Prime Minister Pashinyan stated that Armenia re- ceived new offers on delimitation and demarcation from the Russian Ministry of Defense, which were acceptable for Armenia. The government has however stated they would not publicize them as this may hinder the negotia- tion process. Azerbaijan is very clear in its intentions — to continue to put military pressure on Armenia by making more ad- vances into Armenian territories to force Yerevan to accept its two primary demands. In the current situation, Armenia has four options available; to accept Azerbaijani demands, which will be equal to capitulation, to stop the Azerbaijani army’s further advance in Syunik through military means to deprive Azerbaijan of its tool of military blackmail — that is if Yerevan has such military capabilities, to involve in the process external powers, which will force Azerbaijan to stop its military pressure without Ar- menia accepting Baku’s demands, and continue to lose ter- ritories and bear casualties with no light at the end of the tunnel. Possible acceptable choices for Armenia are the second and third options or some combination of them. Meanwhile, the developments of the last year proved that assessments according to which by taking some 8500 square km of territories in the 2020 Karabakh war, Azer- baiyan will be satisfied, will forget about the remaining part of Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia, and an era of peaceful development will be launched for Armenians, were highly exaggerated, and had little semblance to reality.

Benyamin Poghosyan is the founder and chairman of "Armenian Mirror-Spectator."