

Turkish FM Makes Gray Wolves Gesture During Uruguay Visit

MONTEVIDEO/YEREVAN (JAM News) — During his visit to Uruguay, on April 23, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Çavusoglu showed the local Armenians gathered in front of the Turkish embassy in Montevideo the sign of the fascist Gray Wolves organization. With a gesture of Turkish far-right nationalists, the head of the Turkish Foreign Ministry reacted to the action of protesters against his arrival in Uruguay on the eve of the 107th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Amid the process of normalization of relations between Armenia and Turkey, Cavusoglu’s gesture raised questions in the Armenian society, including to its authorities, who entered into negotiations with Ankara. So far, official Yerevan, represented by the Foreign



Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Çavusoglu making the Gray Wolves gesture in Uruguay on April 23

Ministry, has not reacted to the incident in any way and there is no comment on the ministry’s website yet. Experts do not rule out that this could have been Turkey’s attempt to provoke the Armenian authorities to abandon the process of establishing bilateral relations.

Ankara and Montevideo are discussing the possibility of signing a free trade agreement. Çavusoglu had traveled to Uruguay to hold official meetings, as well as participate in the opening ceremony of the Turkish embassy.

Representatives of the Armenian community of Uruguay gathered near the building of the newly opened embassy to hold a protest against Cavusoglu’s visit and an event in memory of the victims of the genocide.

(Uruguay is the first country in the world to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.)

As Çavusoglu, with a smile on his face, made the gesture, embassy staff, who were next to the car, applauded him.

The first to condemn the gesture of the head of Turkish diplomacy was President Luis Lacal Pou, who called the incident “regrettable.” Çavusoglu see GESTURE, page 4

Throngs Return to Times Square



NEW YORK — For the first time in two years — and since President Joe Biden’s landmark Armenian Genocide affirmation — scores of resilient and spirited Armenian Americans gathered in Times Square, New York, on Sunday, April 24, to

commemorate the 107th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, in a momentous event organized by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan.

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Remembrance in Times of War

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

FRANKFURT — Every year Armenians in Germany gather on April 24 to commemorate the victims of the genocide. Many cities host events, Berlin and Frankfurt in particular. This year, with the war in Ukraine and renewed aggression in Artsakh, they were shrouded in a mood both somber and political. The central official see GERMANY, page 5



BOSTON — On April 23, many members of the greater Boston Armenian community gathered at the Armenian Heritage Park to commemorate the 107th anniversary of the Genocide. Story on page 12.

President Biden Marks Genocide Anniversary



WASHINGTON — The White House released the following statement on April 24, in honor of the commemoration of the 107th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

On April 24, 1915, Ottoman authorities arrested Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople. Thus

began the Armenian genocide—one of the worst mass atrocities of the 20th century. Today, we remember the one and a half million Armenians who were deported, massacred, or marched to their deaths in a campaign of extermination, and mourn the tragic loss of so many lives.

see BIDEN, page 20

YEREVAN
Armenia Marks Genocide Anniversary



DALLAS
St. Sarkis Church in Dallas in Consecrated



LOS ANGELES
Anet Abnous Creates a Legacy of Her Own





ARMENIA

NEWS from ARMENIA

Armenia Defense Minister, NATO Official Discuss Regional Security Issues

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Armenian Defense Minister Suren Papikyan on Tuesday, April 26 met with Javier Colomina, the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia and Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy.

Issues related to regional security were on the table. According to press release from the Defense Ministry, Papikyan presented the security situation in Artsakh after the end of the 44-day war and the current challenges.

The interlocutors also discussed issues related to international security and Armenia-NATO cooperation.

Opposition MP Urges CoE To Condemn Çavusoglu

STRASBOURG (Panorama) — At the PACE spring session in Strasbourg on Monday, April 25, Armenian MP Armen Gevorgyan from the opposition Hayastan bloc urged the Council of Europe to condemn Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Çavusoglu's racist "Gray Wolves" sign flashed at Armenian protesters in Uruguay on April 23.

He said, "On April 24, Armenians all around the world and many other nations were commemorating the Armenian Genocide – a crime against humanity that two members of the Council of Europe – Turkey and Azerbaijan – are denying.

"After the 44-Day War unleashed by Azerbaijan in the fall of 2020, the Armenian people in the Republic of Artsakh, Nagorno-Karabakh, has faced a dilemma: continue pursuing their path of independent development and life in dignity, preserving their national identity, or repeat the dire destiny of our compatriots that once lived in what now is part of Azerbaijani region, by the name of Nakhichevan."

He added that during the past 70 years, the entire Armenian population of Nakhichevan has disappeared and that Azerbaijan has erased all cultural and religious monuments left behind. He expressed worry that Karabakh, if it reverts to Azerbaijani control, would suffer the same fate.

"I call on the Council of Europe to send a clear and strong signal to all parties of the Karabakh conflict, that the international community will continue to support three main principles for the conflict resolution defined by the OSCE Minsk group co-chairmanship," he noted.

He then expressed his anger with Çavusoglu.

"It was shocking to see that the person who was the president of this Assembly for two years, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of a member State, Mr Cavusoglu, communicating with the Armenians with the gestures of a Turkish nationalist terrorist organization. Such behavior should be unacceptable and condemned by the Council of Europe. I call on my colleagues from Turkey with the same efforts to recognize the genocide of Armenians," he concluded.

Armenian Opposition Gears Up For 'Big Rally'

By Gayane Saribekian and Robert Zargarian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Armenia's leading opposition alliances began on Monday, April 25, coordinated small-scale demonstrations in Yerevan in preparation for mass protests aimed at toppling Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

Senior members of the Hayastan alliance again pledged to thwart what they say are sweeping concessions to Azerbaijan planned by Pashinyan as they led several hundred supporters on an "awareness march" through the local northern Arabkir district.

Earlier in the day, a group of Hayastan activists blocked Arabkir's main thoroughfare, Komitas Avenue, before being detained by riot police.

Several others headed to Yerevan on foot from Pashinyan's hometown, Ijevan. The opposition bloc headed by former President Robert Kocharyan promised similar

marches to the Armenian capital from three other parts of the country.

"Every day we will be organizing various protests, marches and demonstrations in Yerevan," Hayastan's Ishkhan Saghatelyan told reporters.

"Our goal is to get our people all over Armenia to rise up over the next five days," he said, adding that the opposition has scheduled its first "big rally" for Sunday.

"We have come out for a decisive fight," said Anna Grigoryan, another lawmaker representing the bloc. She charged that Pashinyan and his political team are "ready to see Karabakh as a part of Azerbaijan."

Meanwhile, Artur Vanetsyan, a leader of the Pativ Unem alliance, led a similar march through the city center. Vanetsyan and a group of his loyalists had begun a nonstop sit-in in Liberty Square on April 17.

Vanetsyan said on Monday morning that he has succeeded in attracting public atten-

tion and that the opposition can now switch to the "second phase" of its "decentralized" campaign.

Pativ Unem and Hayastan jointly rallied thousands of supporters in Liberty Square on April 5 to warn Pashinyan against agreeing to restore Azerbaijan's control over Nagorno-Karabakh. The prime minister met with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Brussels the following day for talks hosted by European Council President Charles Michel.

Speaking in parliament on April 13, Pashinyan said the international community is pressing Armenia to scale back its demands on Karabakh's status and recognize Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. He signaled Yerevan's intention to make such concessions to Baku.

Some pro-government lawmakers insisted afterwards that Pashinyan did not call for the restoration of Azerbaijani control of Karabakh.

2022 Aurora Humanitarians Announced in Yerevan

YEREVAN — On April 24, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative announced the names of the 2022 Aurora Humanitarians, chosen for their exceptional impact, courage and commitment to putting themselves at risk to help others. A \$1,000,000 award is given on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors in order to address on-the-ground humanitarian challenges around the world with the focus on helping the most destitute.

The announcement was made in the Matenadaran, the national repository of ancient manuscripts. One of the three will later be named the 2022 Aurora Prize Laureate.

"Such exceptional modern-day heroes remind us that even in the darkest times, a brighter future is in the hands of those who believe in it and are willing to do extraordinary things to protect it. Many of us may feel overwhelmed by the seemingly end-

less tide of human sorrow and suffering we face today, but the Aurora Humanitarians remain beacons of compassion, guiding and inspiring humanity. It is an honor for me to be part of the Initiative that recognizes and supports them," said Lord Ara Darzi, Chair of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee and Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London.

The 2022 Aurora Humanitarians are:

* Jamila Afghani (Afghanistan), a peace activist and founder of the Noor Educational and Capacity Development Organization (NECDO) who has dedicated over 25 years of her life to giving the women of Afghanistan access to education. After the Taliban took over her country, Afghani was forced to flee her homeland – but she hasn't given up on its people.

* Hadi Jumaan (Yemen), a peace activist, mediator, and body collector from Yemen

who regularly risks his life to facilitate the exchange of prisoners of war and recover human remains from the frontlines. As the country continues to experience a prolonged political and humanitarian crisis caused by the civil war, Jumaan brings to the families the only solace left to them – the knowledge that their loved and lost ones may finally rest in peace.

* Mahienour El-Massry (Egypt), a lawyer and political activist from Egypt who promotes political freedoms and human rights in the country by organizing peaceful protests and defending political prisoners in courts. In Egypt, voicing disagreement with the official policy can be dangerous, and El-Massry has been detained and put in jail several times for her activism. Nevertheless, she remains optimistic about the future of her country and committed to being an agent of positive change.

"As one of the Aurora Prize Laureates, I have witnessed the impact of support and recognition on the international level. The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative gives activists and human rights defenders, often operating on their own, a way to promote and elevate their work so they can achieve even more. I would like to congratulate the 2022 Aurora Humanitarians and wish them all the best in their activities," said 2021 Aurora Prize Laureate Julianne Lusenge, co-founder of Women's Solidarity for Inclusive Peace and Development (SOFEPADI) and Fund for Congolese Women (FFC).

Nominations for the 2022 Aurora Prize officially opened on April 24, 2021. A total of 633 submissions were received from 62 countries including Armenia, Brazil, Czech Republic, Georgia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, USA, and Ukraine.

"Every year, I'm in awe of the outstanding heroes that Aurora empowers and their work. They are dealing with immeasurable challenges in unimaginable circumstances where the odds are stacked high against them, and yet their humanity, their faith, their courage allows them to keep moving forward. It is my ardent hope that the world learns from them, as it would definitely make it a much better place," noted 2017 Prize Laureate Dr. Tom Catena, Chair of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and Medical Director of the Mother Mercy Hospital in Sudan.

In accordance with the tradition, the names of the 2022 Aurora Humanitarians are inscribed in the Chronicles of Aurora, a unique 21st century manuscript containing the depictions of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative activities, and the tome will be displayed for the public in the Matenadaran.

Armenia, Azerbaijan to Start Talks on Border Demarcation

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Armenia and Azerbaijan have agreed to start negotiations on delimiting and demarcating their long border, the Armenian Foreign Ministry announced on Monday, April 25.

The ministry said Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan and his Azerbaijani counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov reached the agreement in what was their second phone call in two weeks. The two sides will soon hold a "meeting regarding the commission" on border demarcation, it said without giving any dates.

According to the ministry's readout of the phone call, Mirzoyan and Bayramov also discussed preparations for separate negotiations on an Armenian-Azerbaijani peace treaty.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said, meanwhile, that he has already appointed Azerbaijani negotiators two will discuss the treaty and border demarcation with their Armenian counterparts.

It was not clear whether Yerevan has also named members of its two negotiating teams. The Armenian government could not be reached for comment.

Aliyev and Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan first agreed to form such a commission during their trilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin last No-

vember. However, it was not set up in the following months not least because of confidence-building measures demanded by Yerevan.

Aliyev and Pashinyan pledged to form the commission before the end of this month during their April 6 talks in Brussels hosted by European Council President Charles Michel. The latter said they also plan to "move rapidly" towards negotiating the peace treaty.

Russian responded by accusing the European Union and the United States of trying to hijack Russian efforts to broker peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan as part of the ongoing geopolitical standoff over Ukraine.

In a joint declaration issued after their April 19 talks, Pashinyan and Russian President Vladimir Putin reaffirmed Moscow's key role in the peace process. They said they will speed up the planned creation of the border demarcation commission.

"We are ready to provide advisory assistance to the bilateral Commission on border delimitation, to provide the necessary cartographic materials," a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official, Denis Gonchar, told the RIA Novosti news agency in an interview published on Monday.



ARMENIA

Armenia Marks Genocide Anniversary

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan stressed the importance of normalizing Armenia’s relations with Turkey on Sunday as tens of thousands of people marched to the Tsitsernakabert memorial in Yerevan to mark the 107th anniversary of the Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire.

The annual daylong procession began with an official wreath-laying ceremony at the hilltop memorial led by Pashinyan and President Vahagn Khachaturyan.

The country’s political leaders were again not joined by Catholicos Karekin II, the supreme head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, at odds with Pashinyan’s government. Garegin and other high-ranking clergymen visited Tsitsernakabert separately to hold a traditional prayer service by its eternal fire.

“The goal of Ottoman Turkey was to exterminate our ancestors,” Pashinyan said in a statement released on the occasion.

He called for a greater international recognition of the genocide. He stressed that Armenia will strive for it “not to increase regional tensions but, on the contrary, to defuse the region.”

In that regard, Pashinyan again touted his appointment commitment to “opening an era of peaceful development” in the region after the devastating 2020 war with Azerbaijan, saying that it will strengthen Armenia’s independence and security.

“This is also a reason why we are holding talks aimed at normalizing relations between Armenia and Turkey. We hope that the aspirations of the Turkish side are



People walk to the Tsitsernakabert memorial in Yerevan during an annual commemoration of the 1915 Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey, April 24, 2022.

sincere and that we will be able to move forward in this direction,”

Special envoys named by the Turkish and

Armenian governments held two rounds of negotiations earlier this year. They are expected to meet again in the coming weeks and months.

Armenian opposition leaders claim that Pashinyan is ready to make sweeping concessions to Ankara, including on the geno-

cide issue, in return for the opening of the Turkish-Armenian border and the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two nations. Pashinyan’s government and political allies maintain that Yerevan stands for an unconditional normalization of Turkish-Armenian ties.



Armenia’s leaders at Tsitsernakabert



Armenian opposition groups start a torchlight procession to the Armenian genocide memorial in Yerevan, April 23, 2022.

Foreign Minister Issues Statement on April 24

YEREVAN — Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan issued the following statement on April 24, to commemorate the Armenian Genocide:

Every year on April 24, Armenians around the world commemorate the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide - the first Genocide of the 20th century.

In 1915-1923, Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire were subjected to unprecedented mass atrocities - brutal killings, violence and forcible displacement, which were pre-planned and implemented by the Government of Young Turks. Around 1.5 million men and women, elderly and children were murdered just because they were Armenians, and hundreds of thousands were deprived of their economic, educational and spiritual property.

Despite all the deprivations and hardships, the Armenian people survived and overcame the horror of genocide due to the national unification, the humanitarian support of different peoples, societies and individuals, managed to form communities in different countries of the world, preserve and strengthen their national identity, and most importantly, to rebuild its independent statehood.

A century after the Armenian Genocide, it is important to emphasize that the international community demonstrates significant solidarity on international recognition and condemnation of genocide, the manifestation of which is the state-level recognition of the Armenian Genocide by around 30 countries, as well as the adoption of relevant declarations and resolutions by a number of international organizations and institutions.

It is also important to emphasize that the agenda of international recognition of the Armenian Genocide serves to the strengthening of the system of security guarantees in the region, including the suppression of aspirations for new ethnic cleansing, and prevention of recurrence of such crimes against humanity in any other part of the world.

The crime committed against the Armenians by the Government of Young Turks later became the foundation for the development of the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The “crime of crimes” - the genocide still happens, depriving the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent people. The Republic of Armenia is resolutely fighting for the restoration of justice and the rights of the victims, having its significant contribution and leadership in the prevention of crimes against humanity.

Today we bow in memory of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide and reaffirm our commitment to the recognition of truth, the restoration of justice, and the prevention of new genocides and crimes against humanity.

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Opposition MP Probed for ‘Insulting Turkish Nation’ With Genocide Posts

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) — The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office has opened an investigation against MP Sezgin Tanrikulu of the main opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP) because of his social media posts about the Armenian Genocide, Bianet reports.

The MP is under investigation for “insulting the Turkish nation and the state of the Republic of Turkey” as per article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code.

Prosecutors opened the investigation on April 25 because “there was concrete evidence” that Tanrikulu had “insulted the legal person of the state of the Republic of Turkey.”

On Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day on April 24, Tanrikulu wrote on Twitter: “107 years ago, on April 24, 1915, hundreds of Armenian intellectuals were detained in Istanbul, exiled to Çankırı, Ayaş and Ankara, and forcibly disappeared. Without confronting this date, which is the milestone of evil, true justice cannot be achieved.”

Canadian PM Commemorates Armenian Genocide

OTTAWA (Panorama.am) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued the following statement on Armenian Genocide Memorial Day, also known as Medz Yeghern, marked on April 24:

“Today, we join Armenian communities in Canada and around the world to honor the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide — one of the darkest chapters in human history. We also honor their descendants, including Canadians of Armenian heritage, who have contributed and who continue to help shape the strong, diverse, and inclusive country that we enjoy today.

“The atrocities committed and the horrific number of lives that were taken from 1915 to 1923 must never be forgotten. In 2015, a century after the start of this tragedy, Parliament passed a motion declaring April 24 as Armenian Genocide Memorial Day, a date that has since served to remember the loss, trauma, and pain inflicted by these atrocities and to ensure they are never repeated. This day falls during Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month.

“Hatred and violence must never again be met with indifference. Each and every one of us has a role to play in making sure such brutality is never repeated, and it starts with taking a stand against discrimination and hate in all its forms — whenever and wherever it occurs.

“Together, on this somber anniversary, we remember the lives lost, recognize the strength and spirit of the Armenian people, and look forward with hope to a future of peace, mutual respect, and dignity among people and countries around the world.”

On April 24, Erdogan Rues Deaths of ‘All Ottoman Citizens’ Who Died During World War I

ISTANBUL (Panorama.am) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan sent a message on April 24 to the Patriarch of the Armenians of Turkey, Sahak Mashalyan.

Describing the Armenian Genocide as a “painful reality that took place during the years of World War I,” Erdogan said he commemorates “the Ottoman Armenians lost in the war.”

“Let’s build the future instead of magnifying the suffering,” Erdogan said in his message.

He wished God’s mercy for “all Ottoman citizens who passed away forever in the difficult conditions” of World War I.

“The last years of the Ottoman Empire, corresponding to World War I, were a very painful period for millions of Ottoman people. It is a duty of humanity to understand and share these common pains without any religious, ethnic or cultural discrimination,” the Turkish President said.

Erdogan also touched upon the recent normalization period between Turkey and Armenia and said: “I know that the normalization process is sincerely supported by our citizens of Armenian origin, who favor close cooperation between the two neighboring countries, and I attach great importance to this.”

“I expect you to make a strong contribution to the evaluation of this historical opportunity that has emerged in the name of permanent peace and stability in our region after many years.

“I want you to make sure that we will make every effort to ensure that our Armenian citizens, who have left indelible traces in our cultural and human lives throughout our centuries-long partnership on this land, lead their lives in peace, security and safety,” he stated.

He added, “It is a humanitarian duty to comprehend and share these pains without any religious, ethnic, or cultural discrimination. It is important for us, who have for centuries shared each other’s joy and sorrow, to heal the wounds of the past and fur-

ther strengthen social ties.”

He then spoke about the recently launched normalization talks between Turkey and Armenia.

“I know and attach great importance to the fact that the normalization process is being sincerely supported by our citizens of Armenian origin, who favor close cooperation between the two neighborly countries, as well,” he noted.

Erdogan’s statement came shortly before U.S. President Joe Biden described the 1915 events as “genocide,” leading to harsh criticism from Ankara.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan criticized U.S. President Joe Biden on

Monday for again characterizing the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians by Ottoman Empire forces as a “genocide,” saying the U.S. leader’s statement was “based on lies and false information.”

In a televised address following a Cabinet meeting, Erdogan challenged Biden to “learn the history” concerning the Armenians, insisted that such statements were “provoking enmity” between the Turkish and Armenian people and maintained that the Armenian people would suffer the most from the “hypocrisy.”

(<https://www.ekathimerini.com/> contributed to this report.)

Erdogan Accuses Paylan of Treason For Genocide Comments

ISTANBUL (Azatutryun) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has strongly condemned Turkish-Armenian Member of Parliament Garo Paylan for demanding that Ankara officially recognize the 1915 Armenian genocide.

Erdogan said on April 25 that a corresponding parliamentary resolution drafted by Paylan, amounts to high treason.

The resolution not only calls for a formal recognition of the genocide but also says that the Turkish authorities must rename streets bearing the names of Ottoman masterminds of the genocide and offer Turkish citizenship to Armenian descendants of its survivors.

“We regard as clear treason the manifestation of such brazenness in this body symbolizing the expression of national will,” Erdogan said after chairing a cabinet meeting in Ankara on Monday.

Erdogan said that the Turkish authorities will take “appropriate actions”

against Paylan. But he did not clarify whether the 49-year-old lawmaker representing the pro-Kurdish opposition party HDP will face criminal charges.

The authorities have for years tried to strip Paylan of his parliamentary immunity from prosecution.

Speaking to the CNN-Turk TV channel, Paylan described the furious reaction to his initiative as unprecedented. He said that similar resolutions drafted by in the past did not cause such a government outcry.

“I have not changed, which means that Turkey has,” he said, adding that Erdogan’s government is no longer willing to tolerate public actions challenging the official Turkish version of the events of 1915.

The HDP is the only major Turkish party to have recognized the World War One-era mass killings of Armenians as genocide.

Turkish FM Makes Gray Wolves Gesture During Uruguay Visit

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was also criticized by members of the Uruguayan government and politicians.

Foreign Minister Francisco Bustillo, speaking at an event dedicated to the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, stated: “Uruguay is a country that honors memory, a country that strives for peace and a future. Our country prefers reconciliation in case of confrontation. We preach mutual understanding, tolerance and hope that those who visit this land of peace and tolerance will do the same. I reject and condemn any offensive behavior or gesture that involves physical or mental violence.”

Turkish Ambassador Huseyin Muftuoglu has been summoned by the Foreign Ministry of Uruguay.

The gesture also raised temperatures in Yerevan. Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Relations, member of the ruling Civil Contract faction Eduard Aghajanyan condemned the behavior of the Turkish minister: “This is a reprehensible act. It in no way contributes to the formation of an atmosphere of mutual understanding and dialogue between the two peoples.”

At the same time, the deputy welcomed the response of the Uruguayan side, which followed the incident, as well as the fact that the Turkish ambassador was invited to

the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry for clarification.

Gegham Nazaryan, a member of the Hayastan opposition parliamentary faction (Armenia), described Çavusoglu’s gesture as “sobering”: “You know, there are millions of hidden Armenians in Turkey, and yesterday I was convinced that one of them is Çavusoglu himself [ironically], who, with a desperate gesture, wanted to sober up the Armenian people, saying that Turkey’s goals are completely different, not those that the head of your country is talking about. It was a sobering call to the Armenian people.”

Çavusoglu’s behavior reminded former Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan of the leader of Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler.

“@MevlutCavusoglu “grey wolves” salute is disgusting, disgraceful and racist”, the Armenian diplomat wrote on Twitter. “Hitler is saluting back from his grave.”

As for the normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations, the ex-minister believes that the establishment of relations between neighboring nations is a necessary process, but it presupposes conscientiousness and compassion:

“The denial [of the fact of the genocide] by Turkey does not meet the condition of good faith. Stop denying”.

Political observer Hakob Badalyan considers Çavusoglu’s “gesture” an expression of cynicism. However, he does not rule out that this manifestation of cynicism has “irritating political overtones,” for example, in connection with the Armenian-Turkish process of normalizing relations.

Badalyan believes that Turkey is annoyed, in particular, by the fact that the Armenian-Turkish dialogue is not direct, but indirect: “It’s annoying, because they need the Armenian-Turkish process, at least in the context of international political realities, and they do not consider it expedient to abandon it. And it is possible that there will be such “cynical provocations” to push Armenia to abandon the process, and thus the responsibility for disrupting the process will fall on Armenia”.

Hakob Badalyan considers a direct conversation important, but he is sure that Armenia should try to use the influence of “third parties”:

“All the same, they [the Turkish side] have enough potential for influence. In this case, it is more expedient to work with this “influence”. In addition, the “third party” factor must be used at least to some extent to compensate for the huge difference in ‘weight categories’ that exists between Armenia and Turkey.”



INTERNATIONAL

Remembrance in Times of War

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gathering with participation of Armenian Ambassador Viktor Yengibaryan, guest speaker historian Dr. Hans-Lukas Kieser, leading regional and local elected officials, and Bishop Serovpé Isakhanyan, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church, took place in Frankfurt.

In Berlin, two events marked the anniversary. On April 23, the Working Group for Recognition – Against Genocide, for Understanding among Peoples (AGA), held a vigil in front of the Turkish Embassy in Berlin. In a gathering that the AGA says has “unfortunately become traditional,” the 40 or so participants reiterated their demand for Turkish recognition of the genocide and assumption of responsibility for its history. AGA founding member Gerayer Koutcharian opened his remarks at the vigil with the *Hayr Mer*, something, he said, that perhaps might raise questions. He then read out the names of 24 Armenian intellectuals, artists, journalists, writers, parliamentarians and clergymen, who were deported, killed and lie in unknown graves; they were the first in an “Elitocide,” almost unique in human history.

A Religiously Motivated Genocide

This, “the greatest persecution of Christians in human history,” he said, “did not take place in Rome under Emperor Nero, but in Turkey in 1915.” Among the more than 5 million Christians who were murdered or deported were “Armenians, Greeks in Pontos, in Asia Minor and Thrace, Aramaeans/Assyrians/Chaldeans, Christian Arabs, Armenian Roma and also Yazidis.” Gerayan focused on this aspect of the genocide. It was religiously motivated, he said, and the Elitocide targeted “the clergy of the Armenian-Apostolic, Armenian-Catholic or Uniate Christians as well as the Protestant Armenians. Of the 5,500 Armenian priests and pastors of various denominations, there were only about 52 still alive at the end of the First World War.”

Koutcharian said 2,250 Armenian religious edifices, churches, monasteries, chapels that were turned into mosques and said the devastation continues today, as so-called treasure hunters ravage such buildings in search of buried wealth. He noted: “How cynical is this pretext for destruction? Do Turks perhaps hide money or gold in mosques?”

It was not only the Armenian but also other Christian communities whose monuments were destroyed; here too he gave figures: “2.5 million Greeks lived around 1915 in the Ottoman Empire, with 2,300 schools and 200,000 pupils... 2,000 Greek Orthodox edifices, and over 3,000 clergy.” By contrast now there are fewer than a thousand in what was once the Greek Byzantine capital Constantinople. Koutcharian noted in this context the transformation last year of the Hagia Sophia in a mosque “under the eyes of the whole world.” The tragedy continued, eliminating a half million Assyrians and Chaldeans, devastating their holy places.

Turning to the current situation, Koutcharian addressed the continuing aggression by Azerbaijan and Turkey: quoting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s 2021 declaration in Baku, that they were “completing what had begun in 1915,” Khoutcharian said the genocide was continuing in the shadows of the Ukraine war.

In his view today’s advocates of “Pan-Turkism” aim to take Artsakh, then Syunik, then Yerevan and surroundings, all “under the harmless term ‘normalization of relations’ with Turkey and as implementation of a ‘peace treaty’ with Azerbaijan” — a treaty he hopes will suffer the same fate as the 2009 Zurich protocols — a dead letter.

Koutcharian ended his speech with a call for all those victimized in the genocide, Christians of all communities as well as Armenian Roma and Yazidis, to work together.

Ecumenical Altars of Remembrance

The following day, well over 70 people attended a commemoration at the Lusienkirchhof Cemetery in Berlin-Charlottenburg. It was organized by the Promotional Society for the Ecumenical Monuments for Genocide Victims (FÖGG), the group which sponsored three Altars of Remembrance there. These are majestic monuments dedicated to the memory of the Armenians, the Greeks of Pontos, Asia Minor and Thrace and the Aramaeans, Assyrians and Chaldeans. Along with the many Armenians present— young and old—were also numerous Kurdish and Turkish participants.

Dr. Tessa Hofmann, FÖGG board spokeswoman, opened the event, held in the chapel, by recalling the “Elitocide” committed by Ottoman Turkish rulers on April 24 in Constantinople, when members of the “intellectual and spiritual leadership” were arrested and sent to their doom,

merely because they were Armenians. This was the first act in the planned elimination of 1.5 million Armenians, implemented through deportations that turned into death marches that ended up in the Mesopotamian deserts. The answer to the question, “Who was most endangered?” she said, cannot be given in the case of genocide, “since it aims in fact precisely at the extermination of an entire national, ethnic or religious group.”

And yet, the fate of Armenian children is “particularly tragic. In the tens of thousands, they were burned alive, drowned in rivers, lakes and even the Black Sea, poisoned or massacred.” To commemorate these victimized children, actress Bea Ehlers Kerbekian would deliver a

Hofmann expressed her gratitude to Ertem’s widow, Selay Ertem, and the association for carrying their work forward.

The SKD statement began with a pledge to continue fighting for recognition in Turkey of the genocide that began 107 years ago. Why is it so important even at this late date? Recognition is “necessary,” Aytan said, because “no society and no state that flee from their own historical and social realities, blind themselves to them or even turn them upside down and distort them, has a future ... an enlightened and democratic future.”

Furthermore, “unatoned genocides” have to be seen, not only as a Turkish problem, but one affecting the international community; in this sense the SKD calls on Germany



Very Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Avetisyan at the service

dramatic reading of a Greek eye-witness account from the Pontos region. The author, Efstathios Christoforidis (Sarpoglis), was born in 1905 in Kounaka, in the Ottoman province Trabzon. He lived in Xirolimni, Greece, after the genocide and forced population transfer, and died in 1984. Hofmann related how Christoforidis, as a youngster of ten, witnessed the mass murder of deported Armenian children in his homeland. The experience traumatized him his whole life. His children related how “our father never slept through till morning” because “the heads of the Armenian children are waiting for me.”

It took 68 years before he was able to write down what he had experienced, in a memoir he finished a year before his death. The book, *Black Times and Black Day – The Birthplace of Kounaka* (1983), written in his Pontic dialect (Pontiaka), includes the description of the brutal murder of six hundred Armenian children.

Enduring Trauma and Solidarity

Hofmann stressed that the trauma experienced by Armenians, Greeks and Aramaeans was transmitted to subsequent generations, who continued to live in precarious conditions. “This applies to Armenians still threatened in what remains of their homeland,” she said, pointing to the continuing Azerbaijani aggression in Artsakh. She added that, not satisfied with its military gains, Azerbaijan has exploited the situation of war in Ukraine to intimidate and drive out the remaining Armenian population through continued aggression. “Many Armenians are indignant and frustrated, that Europe’s and North America’s solidarity with Ukraine, attacked by Russia, seems boundless, while other victims of war, including in Artsakh, have sorely missed it.” She explained that Armenians experience this aggression by Azerbaijan — supported by Turkey — if not as a continuation of the genocide, at least as a threat of annihilation. The trauma of the past reemerges as a “trauma of withheld solidarity.”

Hofmann called on German political decision makers to demonstrate such solidarity, as they have in the case of Ukraine, with Armenia and Artsakh.

Unatoned Genocides

Following Hofmann’s introduction, AGA member Gülsen Aytan read a statement by the Frankfurt Association Against Genocide (Soykırım Karşıtları Derneği-SKD), whose founder, human rights activist Ali Ertem, had joined with the AGA in 2000 to petition the German Bundestag (Parliament) to recognize the 1915 genocide. Last October, Hofmann had recalled, Ertem passed away, just a month after the death of another intellectual and human rights advocate, Doğan Akhanlı. Both colleagues are sorely missed;

to own up to its own responsibility as well as to exert pressure on Turkey.

The genocide against the Armenians developed into a genocide against all Christian minorities in the Ottoman Empire, thus altering the social-demographic structure totally and eliminating powerful forces for development. Turkish society “plunged into profound darkness.” Furthermore, this, the “greatest unpunished genocide of the modern era” stands out from other genocides due to continuing denial, denial which has “been transformed into an instrument of power.”

Aytan concluded with a pledge to continue to “tell our children the truth,” to keep alive the memory of the genocide and “our responsibility for justice ... so that future generations may live together on the basis of mutual respect, and enjoy the rights and freedoms we have longed for, without war or destruction, in accordance with human dignity!”

Tragic Fate of Children

Bea Ehlers Kerbekian’s dramatic reading of the text by Efstathios Christoforidis shook the audience profoundly. It simply defies summarization; the English version of the account, “What Our Eyes Have Seen... The Mass Killing of Armenian Children near Farnavazu,” can be accessed at this URL (scroll down to last item): <https://virtual-genocide-memorial.de/region/the-black-sea-marmara-and-aegean-littorals-eastern-thrace-and-central-anatolia/trabzon-trapezounta-trebizond-vilayet-province/sancak-trabzon-trapezunta-%cf%84%cf%81%ce%b1%cf%80%ce%b5%ce%b6%ce%bf%cf%8d%ce%bd%cf%84%ce%b1/kaza-trabzon-trapezunta-%cf%84%cf%81%ce%b1%cf%80%ce%b5%ce%b6%ce%bf%cf%8d%ce%bd%cf%84%ce%b1/?searchedfor=Christoforidisoforidis>

Actor and songwriter Stepan Gantralyan sang *Cilicia*, a song considered the unofficial hymn of diaspora Armenians. The entire event was accompanied by music: violinist Lilit Rostomyan performed three folk tunes arranged by Komitas, who was among the first intellectuals arrested on Bloody Sunday 1915. Also by Komitas were *Dle yaman* and *Garuna*.

Outside the chapel, participants gathered with Archimandrit Yeghishe Avetisyan (Honorary Chairman of the Armenian Church and Cultural Community), who offered requiem prayers and a wreath was laid. Lilit Rostomyan concluded with *Krunck*, (Crane), which expresses diasporan Armenians’ longing for their homeland.

A report of the Frankfurt commemoration will appear next week.



Community News

Michelle Tusan Maps Armenian Genocide With Innovative Technology

By Harry Kezelian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — On Wednesday, April 20, the University of Michigan Ann Arbor’s Center for Armenian Studies played host to a lecture in conjunction with the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide on April 24.

The speaker, Prof. Michelle Tusan of the University of Nevada – Las Vegas, showed the ways in which modern mapping technology can be used to better understand the geography of the Armenian Genocide and in particular of refugee movements that spanned the Middle East and the globe in the wake of the First World War.

Tusan, a native of Fresno, received her PhD in history (specializing in British history) from the University



Dr. Michelle Tusan

of California, Berkeley, in 1999. In more recent years, she has focused on the World War I era and the treatment of minorities in the Ottoman Empire. Her training in British history has allowed her to shed light on the dual role Britain and the other Allies of WWI played in the region; i.e. military action against the Ottoman Empire as well as humanitarian aid for minorities.

Tusan’s recent publications include *Smyrna’s Ashes: Humanitarianism, Genocide, and the Birth of the Middle East* (2012), and *The British Empire and the Armenian Genocide: Humanitarianism and Imperial Politics from Gladstone to Churchill* (2019).

A small group of students, academics, and friends of the Armenian Studies program gathered at University of Michigan’s Weiser Hall for the lecture, which was also presented live on Zoom.

New Technology Sheds Light on Past

Tusan’s lecture was titled “Geography of Genocide: Mapping Refugee Movement at the End of World War I.” She has worked with a mapmaker see TUSAN, page 7



The modern yet classical facade of St. Sarkis Church in Dallas

St. Sarkis Church in Dallas Is Consecrated

By Mihran Aroian
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

DALLAS — Armenians from across Texas converged at the consecration of Saint Sarkis Armenian Church in Dallas this past weekend.

The newly constructed church was inspired by the seventh-century Saint Hripsime Church in Echmiadzin with a modern façade etched with 1.5 million unique pixels representing the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide. (See related story in this section on the design of the church.)

The consecration events began on Friday, April 22, followed by the consecration led by Bishop Daniel Findikyan on Saturday.

St. Sarkis hosted a sold-out banquet Saturday evening in the newly constructed banquet hall. Present for the consecration was Primate, Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Archbishop Haigazoun Najarian, and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian along with Rev. Ghevond Ajamian, pastor of St. Sarkis.

It was a very moving and spiritual experience for all who attended. To learn more about St. Sarkis, please visit www.stsarkis.org

Architect David Hotson Reinterprets Classical Armenian Church Design in Texas

CARROLLTON, Texas — The new Saint Sarkis Armenian Church, 4421 Charles Street, in Carrollton, Texas, designed by award-winning New York architect David Hotson, AIA, will be consecrated on April 23, 2022. The church will celebrate its first Sunday Service on April 24, 2022, the annual date on which the international Armenian Diaspora memorializes the 1.5 million victims of the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

The new church building is modeled on the ancient Armenian church of Saint Hripsime which still stands near Yerevan. The connection of the new see DESIGN, page 7



Concave light covers sculpted into the exterior reflect the powerful Texas sunlight indirectly into the Saint Sarkis church’s interior space, resulting in an ethereal quality of illumination.

Truth Is Truly Stranger than Fiction

By Mihran Aroian
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

AUSTIN, Tex. — I recently received an email from a woman who had contacted the Armenian Church of Austin wanting to have some text translated into English. She had just returned home to Austin after spending a few weeks traveling throughout Armenia. She went there with her husband to celebrate their wedding anniversary. Finding it odd that someone would randomly vacation in Armenia, I inquired as to why she chose Armenia. She emailed the above photo and shared the following story:

“Actually it was God who must have wanted us to go to Armenia! It’s sort of a funny story but my husband arranged for a speaker to address his Vistage Business group and the speaker told them all how beautiful his home country was and spoke about it so enticingly that my husband came home and said, ‘How about going to Armenia for our anniversary trip?’ I remembered that Mt. Ararat could be seen from areas in Armenia and I have ALWAYS wanted to see the mountain where Noah’s ark rests so I eagerly agreed. After plans were made and plane tickets purchased, my husband called the speaker to ask specific questions about what to see while in Armenia and the man replied, ‘You must have the wrong man or the wrong country...I’m from Azerbaijan.’ So, we were meant to go explore Armenia and we are very happy for this lapse in my husband’s memory.”

The photo she wanted translated was from St. John’s Church in Artashat!



St. John’s Church in Artashat, Armenia. The inscription the woman wanted translated reads: “By the will and grace of the Most High God, During the patriarchate of the Catholicos of All Armenians Lord Garegin II, and during the vicarship of Archbishop Lord Navasard, also with the benevolence and care of Hovik Abrahamyan, this holy church was built in the name of St. John the Evangelist, in the year of the Armenians 1464, and in the year 2015 of the Lord.”



COMMUNITY NEWS

Michelle Tusan Maps Armenian Genocide with Innovative Technology

TUSAN, from page 6

using ArcGIS digital map technology to visualize the movement of people in the wake of the Armenian Genocide and First World War. The changing demographics of the Middle Eastern countries formed from the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire were heavily impacted by these events.

Tusan suggests that Western historians are too focused on the European theater of World War I, particularly the “Western Front” between Germany and France. Military activities happening elsewhere are relegated to secondary importance, and thus the war is considered to have ended with the Armistice of 11 November 1918, which ended fighting in Western Europe.

Conveniently, the Armistice of Mudros, which temporarily ended hostilities in Turkey, was signed a month prior; historians therefore portray 1918 as the end date of the overall World War. But Tusan argues that historians in the West need to pay more attention to the Middle Eastern theatre of WWI, and the rise of the Kemalist movement meant that warfare continued in the Middle East until the Treaty of Lausanne was signed in 1923. This also begs the question as to when the Armenian Genocide ended: 1918, 1923 or even 1930, when laws were passed expelling all remaining Armenians from the Anatolian interior.

Ultimately, Tusan argued for an end date of 1923 for World War I and considers the Treaty of Lausanne to be the document that brought an end to the war.

If scholars were to consider the “post-war” events of 1918-1923 in the Ottoman sphere as part and parcel of the Great War, it would aid in understanding of regional and world history, she argued.

The lecture brought out a number of facets, such as the fact that civilian populations were being used as a “weapon of war.” On one hand, the Ottomans were slaughtering Armenians in furtherance of their various objectives while on the other hand the Allies’ humanitarian mission to the Armenians went hand-in-hand with their military activity against the Ottomans.

Tusan frequently referred to the British occupation of Baghdad in 1917 as a turning point in the refugee crisis. From 1915 to 1917, Armenians were internal refugees; after 1917, the Allies set up a humanitarian aid network that worked to undo the genocide ongoing under the Ottomans. Areas where deportees had ended up came under the military occupation of the Allies and rather than bringing refugees to the West or to other parts of the Middle East, they were working to get the refugees home, ostensibly while looking to occupy the parts of the Empire where those homes were located.

As a cultural historian, Tusan says she “looks for patterns.” In the case of the Armenian Genocide and this mapping project, she wanted to focus on individuals. Much of the important work of delineating the political causes of the Genocide, the orders given by Ottoman officials, the chronology, and so on, has been done. Tusan’s current project aims to focus more on the human side: how people experienced the Genocide. By reading survivor memoirs, which in some cases have not been taken as seriously by scholars previously, Tusan is seeing the facts on the ground of what happened in real time during the atrocities. But she needed “a new model to pin down the human aspect of the Genocide.” As she formulated it, “quantitative data allows me to ask qualitative questions.” That’s where “deep maps” and the technology of ArcGIS comes in.

Armenian Genocide Left Few Traces

With the help of deep maps, Tusan is able to compare and contrast the journeys of multiple survivors at the same time. Most people who have studied the Armenian Genocide have seen the famous maps with large red dots — the larger the dot, the more deaths which took place in that location. Tusan’s map project is like that map but with extra dimensions and with the stories of an increasing list of individuals.

Deportation routes, amount of time spent in internal exile, how, when, and where survivors move all matter, says Tusan. It is time

to show the data relating to the many personal stories that have been written down and collected over the years, and “expand the story as far as I can,” she stated. Therefore, the basic concept of the project is to plot onto a map the route and stopping places of every individual whose story is used.

Concentration camps were formed in the desert in location like the infamous Deir-ez-Zor. But many of these sites were converted into humanitarian refugee camps after the British conquered Baghdad and went on to occupy other parts of the Middle East. This led to a very important observation by Tusan: the Armenian Genocide left few traces. That is to say, although the Armenian people left an enormous amount of heritage in Turkey (despite the government’s continued destruction of churches), the actual genocidal apparatus left few traces; there are no gas chambers such as students of the Holocaust can view in modern-day Auschwitz, for example. The only things left are mass graves, which, as Tusan pointed out, the Turkish government today will explain away as the casualties of war or civil unrest. This brings greater importance to Tusan’s project of bringing to light the geographic realities of the Armenian Genocide.

A World That Did Not Want Them To Exist

Tusan displayed several maps, showing for example generalized deportation routes. Collating information from 34 survivor memoirs, several routes were used throughout the period and these were displayed in a stylized manner so as to make clear how many of the sources used each route. Tusan also showed her audience maps depicting where survivors ended up and their routes leaving Anatolia.

Thirty four is a low number of sources when talking about the Armenian Genocide, of course, but Tusan stressed that this project is just beginning and not only does she plan to add many more accounts, but intimated that collaboration with other academics was possible and desirable, in order to expand the project to include as many

survivors as possible.

The deep maps concept allows for the computer program to create multiple different map images with one, some, or all of the source information; it is a concept most are aware of from everyday use of Google Maps and similar applications, but which has not fully been applied to historical research.

Eyewitnesses and aid workers also have stories that could be added to the project. They are “participants” in this historical event as well, said Tusan. After the 1917 occupation of Baghdad, aid was easier to access. For her as a WWI historian, this aspect is particularly interesting.

Tusan also showed maps that depicted the journeys of subgroups of survivors, such as all women or all single men. Gender and life status differences seemed to play a role in the survivors’ fates; for example women tended to have a long journey while single men seem to have moved around a great deal. Tusan noted that political exiles often ended up settling in locations where communities developed, yet some of these locations were “unexpected” as refugee destinations, Tusan hypothesized that political exiles sparked community formation in such places.

Tusan noted that many survivors actually did try to go back to their homes in Anatolia, some under the protection of the French occupation of Cilicia. After 1923 as the Republic of Turkey came into existence, some victims remained “in a world that didn’t want them to exist.” There was an attempt to adopt survivors into Muslim families, which was one way to make them disappear. But because their presence disrupted the social order, the Turkish government eventually resorted to an edict of expulsion in 1930. Turkey tried to form itself into a homogenous ethno-state, relabeling the Kurds as “Mountain Turks,” and so on.

Tusan’s conclusion was that “genocide is the experience of a people,” and so it is the individual experiences of survivors that she highlights, while keeping a historian’s objective attitude.

Architect David Hotson Reinterprets Classical Armenian Church Design in Texas

DESIGN, from page 6

church building to this ancient prototype provides a link to Armenia’s legacy as the world’s first Christian nation, having adopted Christianity in 301AD, and reflects the faith and endurance of the Armenian people through 14 centuries of challenge and upheaval. The church of Saint Hripsime was completed in 618 AD and the cornerstone of Saint Sarkis was laid exactly 14 centuries later in 2018.

Working with long-time collaborator architect Stepan Terzyan, Hotson developed a design that looks forward as well as backward, marrying Armenia’s ancient architectural and artistic traditions with contemporary digitally-driven design and fabrication technologies. The total interior floor area for the entire complex is about 32,000 square feet.

The most striking of these contemporary innovations is the west façade of the church, which serves as a subtle but powerful memorial to the 1.5 million victims of the 1915 Armenian genocide.

The façade depicts a traditional Armenian cross or “tree of life” composed of interwoven botanical and geometrical motifs drawn from Armenian art. As a visitor approaches the façade, the overall façade design dissolves into 1.5 million tiny icons or

pixels, derived from the circular emblems that recur throughout the Armenian artistic tradition. The individual pixels were generated by a computer script to make every pixel unique. Like 1.5 million snowflakes, each individual pixel represents one of the 1.5 million individuals who perished in the 1915 Armenian genocide, including members of the families that belong to the Saint Sarkis congregation. The scale of the individual icons spreading across the entire building façade provides a visceral encounter with the scale of this historical atrocity.

To implement the façade, Hotson collaborated closely with Fiandre, the innovative architectural surfaces manufacturer that has developed the revolutionary DYS (Design Your Slab) system that allows exterior grade, UV-resistant custom printing at extremely fine resolution on Fiandre’s large-format porcelain rain screen panel materials. Fiandre fabricated the façade panels in their Italian factory to the exact pixel modules required by the façade and printed the intricate design through a proprietary process. The façade was installed by Graniti Vicentia Façades utilizing the proprietary ventilated façade system of Granitech.

This is the first time that exterior grade

high-resolution digital printing technology is used featuring such a complex and sophisticated façade design to optically engage the viewer in a series of visual scales nested inside each other.

In addition to the memorial façade, Fiandre supplied the full range of porcelain interior and exterior floor, wall and soffit finishes used throughout the Saint Sarkis Campus.

The solid gray mass of the church exterior, rendered in modern materials, references the monolithic sculptural character of ancient Armenian churches which were constructed entirely of stone. The juxtaposition of the monochrome architecture against the rich multicolored vegetation, envisioned and implemented by landscape designer Zepur Ohanian, recreates the powerful relationship between monolithic architecture and verdant landscape that is typical of ancient Armenian churches.

Upon stepping into the church through the memorial façade, the visitor emerges into the luminous sanctuary, a composition of light-filled spatial volumes modeled on the interior of Saint Hripsime. Concave light coves sculpted into the exterior reflect the powerful Texas sunlight indirectly into the interior space, resulting

in an ethereal quality of illumination. The doubly-curved plaster vaults that shape the interior space were fabricated in glass-fiber-reinforced gypsum directly from the architect’s computer model, through an innovative process developed by the Toronto-based manufacturer Formglas. The interior vaults are smooth and scaleless, with no visible lighting fixtures, air-conditioning registers, or other contemporary technical details to interrupt the luminous spatial figure, which carries the memory of the 1,400 sanctuary of Saint Hripsime.

The church is heated and cooled with a displacement climate control system that introduces conditioned air at low velocity through floor registers located under the pews. The result is a silent interior—without any mechanical vibration or the ambient sound of a conventional high-velocity air conditioning system—providing a silent backdrop for the reverberant acoustics of traditional Armenian choral music.

David Hotson, AIA, is the principal of David Hotson Architect, established in New York in 1991. His work has been recognized with awards from the international Architizer A+ Awards program and the Best of Year Awards program from Interior Design Magazine. He is a graduate of the Yale School of Architecture.



OBITUARY

Mary (Girazian) Yacoubian

Of Lynnfield, Formerly of Belmont

LYNNFIELD, Mass. — Mary Yacoubian of Lynnfield, formerly of Belmont for 56 years, passed away on April 22 at the age of 106.

She was the wife of the late Harry Mihr-tad Yacoubian, mother of Gary C. and Debo-rah Clark Yacoubian, Harriet V and Thomas Anderson; grandmother of Catherine De-coux, Michael Yacoubian, Tommy Ander-son, and Will Anderson; great-grandmother to Amelia Decoux, Logan Decoux, Miles Anderson, Wesley Anderson and Maggie Grace Anderson. She was the sister of the late Evelyn (Girazian) Sarkisian and Mar-garet (Girazian) Agababian.



Mary was born in Lowell, on October 13, 1915. to Veron (Berberian) and Char-lie Garo (Girazian). They moved to Detroit (Highland Park) when she was 12. She graduated high school in 1933 and worked at Hudson Department Stores. Through friends and family, she met and married Harry Yacoubian in 1945 and he moved her back to Massachusetts.

She worked at Paine’s Furniture before starting her family, settling in Watertown and then lived in Belmont until she reached 100 years of age. When her children were

old enough, she started a 40-year career working at Harvard University, first at the School of Design Library and then in the President’s Office (during President Bok, Rudenstein and Summers’ time). She was the first person to greet visitors at the front desk; they loved her there for many years, into her 80s.

She loved and cherished her family first, making sure her children went to college, as she never got that chance. Education was most important.

She loved entertaining family and friends, always bringing people together for a meal and laughter. Her manners and her ethics were pure of heart. She most enjoyed playing cards with her Armenian lady friends. Her Armenian heritage was strong and she passed this on to her chil-dren and grandchildren in her cooking and her holiday traditions. Favorite card game was Hand and Foot – playing until she was 104. She was an avid bridge player also.

She sewed beautifully, making her own clothing as a young woman, she often reminisced about the hats and dresses of the 1930s and ’40s. She loved fashion and was a smart shopper of Filene’s Basement and taught her children the “art of finding a deal.”

She was very active at the Holy Trin-ity Armenian Church (Cambridge) in the 1960s and 1970s, and part of the Ladies Guild and the Daughters of Vartan (Presi-dent 1970).

Losing her husband, Harry, in 1970, she continued to support her family, becoming the Matriarch of the Yacoubian family.

She leaves behind a devoted and loving family who will honor her forever as a kind and generous person.

A Memorial service will be held at Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge, on Wednesday, May 4 at noon. A Visitation period will be held at church from 11 – 12 noon, immedi-ately prior to the Memorial service. Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend. Cemetery prayers will follow at Belmont Cemetery, 121 Grove Street, Belmont.

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Berj Kalamkarian

Tekeyan, AGBU Leader in Fresno

FRESNO, Calif. — Born in Aleppo, Syr-ia, on October 6, 1942 to Hagop Kalamkar-ian of Kilis and Eliz Boghosian of Konya in a home full of the love of education and music, Berj attended the Cilician School and later the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Lazar Najarian School.

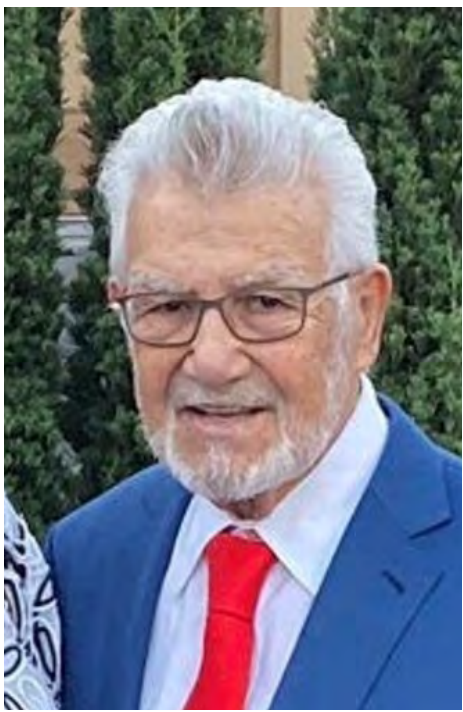
He was admitted to the Melkonian Edu-cational Institution in Cyprus and went on to study at Yerevan’s Medical University. After graduating with honors, he returned to Lebanon, where he specialized in anes-thesiology at the American University of Beirut’s hospital. His hard work and ded-ication soon led him to play a leading role at the Greek Hospital of Beirut.

He married Nellie Mihranian and be-came a dedicated family man. The couple settled in Fresno. There, Berj, in addition to anesthesiology also specialized in pain management, and soon had his own med-ical center.

Berj and his wife had three sons, Narek, Arman and Vigen. The first two followed in their father’s professional footsteps, while the third is also in the medical field.

In order to satisfy his great desire to see the world, he became a great traveler, in-cluding most of all to the Armenian home-land.

Berj sang at school and in church, and



played an active part in any art event taking place in Fresno.

He was one of the founders of the Fresno chapter of the Tekeyan Cultural Associa-tion and for many years, he chaired it as well as the local AGBU chapter, with the motto “If you can, rise up and raise others with you.”

Alice Alix-Marie Varjabedian

Hair Salon Owner Born in Marseille

Alice Alix-Marie (Mahdessian) Var-jabedian died on July 14, 2021. She was born on December 9, 1926, in Marseilles, France to parents Arshag Mahdessian from Mush and Akabi (Chaker-Hagopian) from Bandirma, Western Anatolia, by the Sea of Marmara.

During the Kemalist War between Tur-key and Greece (after the Genocide), in the 1920s, Akabi’s family (with Arshag), escaped from the advancing Kemalists on the last Greek boat from Bandirma to the Greek Islands. Due to lack of work, the family moved to Marseilles, France.

Arshag eventually found work as a *var-jabed* (teacher) in an Armenian school in Alexandria, Egypt where the family moved when Alice was 2 years old.

She graduated high school and after-wards, during World War II, she worked as a telephone switch operator, while Alexan-dria was bombarded.

She had one older sister, Sonia, who was a couple of months old when her family es-caped the Kemalists in Banderma in 1920. She pre-deceased Alice in 2010 in Beirut, Lebanon.

Sonia introduced one of her friends, Varoujan Noubar Varjabedian, from Cairo, to her younger sister Alice. They married in Cairo on September 1, 1946. They had two children, Vatche (1948) and Diana (1951). Diana pre-deceased her on December 29, 2018.

With the turmoil in the Middle East, the family moved to New Jersey in (1958) where Alice’s aunt Vahanouhi had come in the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide.

Thereafter, they lived in New Jersey. In the difficult early years, Alice attended beauty school and her husband became the chief engineer of a large factory. Al-ice eventually opened her own successful beauty shop for several decades, until her retirement.

Alice was a devoted wife and doted on

her children. With her support, both chil-dren graduated universities and became professionals in their fields. In later years, husband and wife travelled extensively through Europe, and North America (in-cluding numerous cruises).

Alice was an avid reader of medical and health oriented publications. Her cooking expertise was oriented to a healthy diet. In



addition, she was an expert in crochet and creative designs.

Through the years she enjoyed family gatherings and fine dining in restaurants. She used to enjoy long walks and exercise to keep fit.

Alice had an enormous love and concern for people.

Even toward the end of her life, she re-tained her elegance, even putting on her lipstick and combing her hair as the ambu-lance was taking her to a hospital. When recently asked her age, she proudly an-nounced “94 and a half,” with a smile and her finger pointing up.

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OBITUARY /COMMUNITY NEWS

Gregory Yergatian

Army Veteran, Financial Planner, Active Member of Community

MILFORD, Mass. — Gregory Yergatian, 83, of Milford, passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, surrounded by his family.

Born and raised on a poultry farm in Franklin, he was the son of the late Setrak and Agnes (Terzian) Yergatian. He was the husband for 55 years of Shirley Ann (Meregian) Yergatian.

Greg graduated from Franklin High School in 1956. After high school he served for three years in the US Army.

He later earned his BS from Northeast-



ern University, and then went on to earn his MBA from Babson College.

He spent the first half of his career in the high-tech industry, which was highlighted by 16 years at Hewlett Packard. However, his true passion was always finance; at the age of 50, he changed careers to become a financial and estate planner, spending many years working at Metropolitan Life

Insurance Company and later, Bridgewater Savings Bank.

Raising his family in Walpole, Greg enjoyed being involved in the community and in his church.

He served on the Walpole School Committee, was an active member of the Walpole Lions Club, the Knights of Vartan (Ararat Lodge) and the Council of Armenian Executives.

He took pleasure in traveling the globe with his wife and friends, and especially looked forward to their winter retreat to Marco Island, Fla.

He had a strong work ethic and greatly valued education. He was an avid landscaper and took tremendous pride in his home and yard. He also enjoyed watching Boston sports, and the evening news. Greg was always up for a good political discussion over a scotch and cigar. His greatest pleasure in life was spending time with his family, particularly his five grandsons of whom he was so proud, offering advice, encouragement, and words of wisdom.

In addition to his wife, Shirley, he leaves his children Brian Yergatian and his wife Viktorija of Plymouth, MA and daughter Candace Kojoian and her husband Harry of North Attleboro, MA. He was the grandfather of Harry Jr., Nikolas and Alex Kojoian, and Derek and Kurt Yergatian. He was the brother of Vivian Kamishlian of Daytona Beach Shores, Fla., Charles Yergatian of Franklin, and Setrak Yergatian and his wife Margaret of Myrtle Beach, SC. He also leaves several nieces, nephews and cousins.

The funeral service took place on Monday, April 25 at the Armenian Church of the Holy Translators, Framingham. Burial followed at Union Street Cemetery in Franklin. Arrangements were by the Chesmore Funeral Home in Hopkinton.

Lucille E. (Shooshan) Demirjian

Devoted to Her Children

WALTHAM, Mass. — Demirjian, Lucille E. (Shooshan) of Waltham and Jupiter, Fla., formerly of Belmont, passed away in her sleep at her Waltham home on April 18, 2022. She was 95.

Lucille was the wife of the late John G. Demirjian, and mother of George Demirjian, and Carol Ishkanian and her husband Richard.

She was the daughter of the late George and Elsie Shooshan, and sister of the late Henry Shooshan and George Shooshan, Jr., all of Worcester.

Lucille's life was devoted to family, church, and a wide circle of friends.

As her children got older, she took a position in the Registrar's Office at Harvard Law School, helping students prepare for the bar exam and assisting the FBI as they conducted background checks on candidates for government office, among other things.

Lucille had a sense of determination second to none. Even the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis could not keep her from continuing the work she loved to do at the law school for nearly 25 years. She lived with MS for 70 years. Eventually, her son George became her primary caregiver, with



help from his sister. Together, as her health declined, they were committed to keep her at home and ensure her enjoyment of life. She in turn gave them all she had to give — her greatest gift being a mother's love. She will long be remembered for her many kindnesses, her strength in the face of challenge, and her beauty inside and out.

At the request of the family, funeral arrangements are private.



Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt of Peabody with community members commemorating the Armenian Genocide (photo Marine Melkonian)

Peabody Program Commemorates Armenian Genocide

PEABODY, Mass. — The ceremony of commemoration of the Armenian Genocide has been held in Peabody, Massachusetts, for over three decades. Late Mayor Peter Torigian (1936-2004) of Peabody began the flag-raising and commemoration event and it continued with his successors until 2019. This year ninth-grade Peabody student Gabriella Melkonian petitioned the city of Peabody to raise the Armenian flag once again to commemorate the Genocide anniversary on April 24. Melkonian and her friends distributed the petition at Peabody Veterans Memorial High school. After they obtained over 200 signatures, they presented the petition to Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt. The mayor accepted the petition.

On Thursday, April 21, at 1 p.m. in front of Peabody City Hall, the flag-raising ceremony was held for the 107th anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt served as host and gave a speech about what had happened during the Genocide to the Armenian people. Late Mayor Peter Torigian's wife Jackie Torigian was also present during the ceremony and helped the mayor to raise the flag, together with Melkonian.

Bettencourt presented a proclamation which decreed April 26 to be the day for commemoration of the 107th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Peabody and gave it to Gabriella Melkonian.

Mayor Bettencourt in his closing remarks said that Peabody will continue this tradition to commemorate the Armenian Genocide.



Ninth-grader Gabriella Melkonian and Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt holding the Armenian Genocide commemoration proclamation (photo Marine Melkonian)



The Armenian flag flying in front of Peabody City Hall (photo Marine Melkonian)

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Throng Returns at Times Square Commemoration

COMMEMORATION, from page 1

Key elected officials such as Senators Bob Menendez and Chuck Schumer, who for decades fought for US recognition of the first genocide of the 20th century, once again graced the podium, and remarked on the symbolic victory of Armenian Genocide affirmation by the US.

The Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada, a co-sponsor of the event, was represented by its executive director, Aram Arkun. He paid tribute to the pioneering work of Sam Azadian, who helped secure one of the most prominent locales in the world to inform the world about the Genocide nearly four decades ago, the many years of service of Hrant Gulian, and the efforts of succeeding generation of leaders of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan.

Pointing to the front row, Arkun exclaimed that the Armenian Genocide survivors who used to sit there several decades ago were no longer with us and even the generation of their children is largely gone from the scene, leaving the third generation as the last with direct contact with eyewitness survivors, while denial of the Genocide continues. Collectively, Armenians are left with the powerful obligation to transmit their memory, cull lessons from their experiences, and pass on the torch for the struggle for justice, not just for Armenians but for other oppressed peoples and subjects of genocide, to new generations. He added that Armenians today are facing another existential crisis, but if they come together, they can overcome it.

"I am so proud that we put legislation on the floor and finally got America to recognize the genocide against the Armenian people," said Senator and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY). "For too long throughout history, nations of the world turned a blind eye to one of the most shameful episodes of human history, and for years I called on both parties to lead the world by example and to define the atrocity for what it was, a genocide, and finally those tireless efforts culminated last year in a huge milestone when President Biden



Congressman Thomas Suozzi

Schumer noted that although the Armenian Genocide was the first genocide of the 20th century, it was not the last, and that all genocides are "a stain on humanity."

"Every generation must say never again, and every generation should not fail to keep that promise," concluded Schumer.

An equally tireless and longtime advocate for Armenian Genocide recognition,

memorations to "remind the world of this crime."

"The [Ottomans] tried to suppress the truth," said Menendez. "They sent Armenians to the Syrian desert for elimination, denying them food and water, starving them until they were skin and bones, and threatening to arrest anyone who would supply evidence to foreign embassies, and

solidarity. "This is a cause I've cared about deeply and it's a cause that's close to my heart, and I'm proud that even as American leaders and allies stayed silent on this issue, I did not."

Menendez blocked U.S. Ambassador nominees from their positions because of their refusal to refer to the Armenian Genocide as a genocide, he introduced resolutions recognizing the Armenian Genocide since he came to the Senate in 2006, and he urged both Democrats and Republicans to acknowledge the truth, despite Turkey's threats to close military bases.

"I went to the floor of the U.S. Senate time after time and fought my colleagues who would deny the Armenian Genocide and not agree to pass the resolution until I shamed them into admitting it," said Menendez. "That was a great victory, but our fight is not over. When Turkey continues its campaign of denials and threats, when Azerbaijan launches a war against Artsakh with Turkey's full backing, resulting in appalling human rights abuses, these threats to the Armenian people cannot go unanswered."

As Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, Menendez vowed to "continue to press this government to make sure they end military assistance to Azerbaijan because we cannot have another genocide."

"We must fight for the truth even if dictators prefer silence," said Menendez in closing. "We must hold accountable those committing genocide today even if it takes a lifetime, and if we back up our values with actions and have the courage to stand up for our principles, I believe we will triumph over tyranny."

Rep. Thomas Suozzi (D-NY) drew a parallel between the human rights violations occurring in Ukraine and how "attention must also be paid to what is going on in Armenia right now as we speak."

"We cannot have a waiver of a section of the law (Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act), that would hurt the Armenian people even more than they are right now," said Suozzi. "I want you to know that I will always stand with the Armenian people, and long live (*getzeh*) Hayasdan, and long live (*getzeh*) Artsakh."

Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr., Minority Leader of the New Jersey Senate, stated the "atrocities against the Armenian people are never forgotten."

"We know from history that intentionally ignoring crimes of humanity only ensures that atrocities like those will be repeated," he said, highlighting that the Armenian Genocide and the deaths of 1.5 million men, women, and children, have been acknowledged and "universally condemned."

New York State Sen. John Liu said that the "truth never disappears," even after a century, and finally the President of the U.S. "called what happened to 1.5 million people beginning in 1915 what it is — a genocide."

"Until people recognize what happened, we are doomed to repeat the same mistakes again," said Liu. "Recognition and apologies have to take place so the world makes amends the right way."

Grand Commander of the Knights of Vartan, Steven Adams, reflected on the rich history of the Armenians and their perseverance in overcoming challenges, including the Battle of Vartanantz, which was a fight for their Christian faith.

"We still remember and commemorate this Battle, which took place 1,571 years ago, so to the world and to the Turkish government, let me assure you that we aren't going away and we will never forget," he said.



Senator Thomas Kean, Jr.

recognized the genocide."

Schumer commended the "hardworking and successful" Armenian-American community for their persistence and hard work, and highlighted their efforts to never forget their ancestors who died in peril.

Citing his "relief and gratification" that the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide can be commemorated with the knowledge that the US has finally recognized the *Medz Yeghern*, Schumer said it's the duty of humanity to recognize the victims and the survivors because "a genocide not properly remembered can lead to another."

Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ), who serves as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, stated that "after more than a century of side-stepping, an American president called the Ottoman Empire's systematic drive to eliminate the American people by its true name. President Biden called it Genocide and that is what history records it as."

Menendez praised the Armenian-American diaspora, organizations, churches, civic groups, lobby legislators and individuals who year after year "never gave up on the truth" and attended the Times Square Com-



Co-MC Nvair Beylerian

as they piled bodies on the edge of roadways, they prohibited anyone from taking photos."

Menendez noted that Turkey has spent millions of dollars on public relations and political lobbyists to deny the past, while prosecuting, jailing, and even assassinating writers, historians, and journalists who speak the truth.

"Turkey tries to cover up historical facts undermining the fundamental fact of the freedom of speech," said Menendez, who stated that the only way to overcome the denial is to continue to stand up together in



COMMUNITY NEWS



Senator Bob Menendez

“The wound of denial will never heal on its own,” said Adams. “The historic lands of the Armenians are physically there and we can see them on the map, but the soul of that land is gone.”

Adams urged everyone to continue to speak the truth, noting that “our freedom requires us to proclaim that genocide has been committed and the world will not tolerate it as we ask for justice to those who perished and truth to those who deny.”

In his closing remarks and prayer, Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, expressed that the Armenian Genocide is



Singer Elie Berberian

the “root of evil acts” and that even after 107 years, the “perpetrators deny it with arrogance.” Tanielian highlighted the 44-day Artsakh War in the fall of 2020 and the ongoing destruction of Armenian churches and cultural heritage sites.

“We stand with the victims of injustice around the world and we will stand with them until justice prevails,” Archbishop Tanielian concluded.

The afternoon’s artistic program featured singer Elie Berberian, accompanied by pianists Paul Malakhanian and Lia Grigoryan, duduk player Vagharshak Aleksanyan, and musician Marco, who performed Komitas’s *Anduni*, Bocelli’s *The Prayer*, as well as *Hayer Miatzek*, *Adanayi Vokhpuh* and *Kedashen*.

Other organizations’ speakers includ-

ed Bryan Ardouny (Armenian Assembly of America), Scott Ohengian (Armenian Bar Association), Alisa Hovagimian Unell (Armenian Council of America), Dr. Shahe Sanentz (Armenian Democratic Liberal Party), Natalie Gabrelian (Armenian General Benevolent Union), Haig Kherlopian (Armenian Missionary Association of America), Dr. Ara Chalian (Armenian National Committee of America) and Fr. Richard Shakil (Roman Catholic Armenian Eparchy of America and Canada).

The opening prayer was made by Rev. Fr. Tavit Karamyan, representing Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. Other clergy in attendance included representatives of the Roman Catholic Armenian Eparchy of America and Canada, as well as the Armenian Evangelical Church.

The Astghikner Vocal Ensemble of Brooklyn Armenian School sang the Armenian and American anthems and *God Bless America*, under the leadership of Maria Sahakyan.

Armen McOmber, Esq. Prof. Nvair Beylerian, and Lucine Beylerian led the program with conviction and passion.

The results of the 2022 Knights and Daughters of Vartan International Armenian Genocide Essay Contest were announced, including first-place winner Gohar Grigoryan and second place recipient Diana Hakobyan. New York City and New York State Proclamations honoring the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide were also presented.

The 107th Armenian Genocide Commemoration in Times Square, New York, was broadcast live on the Armenian Radio Hour of New Jersey and live streamed on the Perv-TV YouTube Channel, thanks to the decades-long service of the Armenian Radio Hour volunteers.

The Knights and Daughters of Vartan have sponsored the Times Square Armenian Genocide Commemoration since 1985, along with the support of a multitude of Armenian-American community organizations. This year the event was co-chaired by Tigran Sahakyan and Ari Minnetyan, under the guidance of Chairman Emeritus Hirant Gulian.

-Taleen Babayan

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Boston Commemorates 107th Anniversary of Armenian Genocide

By Ken Martin
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BOSTON — While the concept of genocide is being constantly debated in international news due to the war between Russia and Ukraine, the Boston community commemorated the 107th anniversary of the commencement of the Armenian Genocide on April 23 in Armenian Heritage Park. Covid-19 restrictions prevented the use of the customary setting of the Massachusetts Statehouse, now closed to all public events.

Notwithstanding the issues connected to the pandemic, Armenians and their friends filled the circular maze construction of Armenian Heritage Park on the Rose Ken-

Boston said prayers and blessed the event and memory of the lost ancestors of the majority of the audience, all having been granted sainthood by the Armenian Church during the 2015 centenary of the Armenian Genocide.

Among the prominent guests in the audience were Ambassador Meron Reuben, the Consul General of Israel to New England, Massachusetts State Rep. Steven C. Owens of Watertown, and entrepreneur and philanthropist Noubar Afeyan.

Justin Bilton, an English teacher who created a successful Genocide Studies course at Essex North Shore and Technical High School, reported about the need for education on all cases of genocide. He



From left, Justin Bilton, State Rep. David Muradian, State Rep. Kate Lipper-Garabedian, Anais Astarjian, Henry Theriault, and Herman Purutyan (Astarjian and Purutyan were co-chairs of this year's organizing committee)



Amb. Meron Reuben, the Consul General of Israel to New England



Massachusetts State Rep. David Muradian speaking

nedy Greenway and surrounded the Armenian Genocide memorial sculpture there early in the evening. The ceremonies were opened by State Representatives David K. Muradian, Jr. and Kate Lipper-Garabedian. An honor guard of the Homenetmen Armenian Scouts carrying the flags of the United States, the state of Massachusetts, the Republic of Armenia, and the Artsakh Republic marched to the stage. Stirring renditions of the *Star-Spangled Banner* and *Mer Hairenik* [Our Fatherland], the respective American and Armenian national anthems, were performed by vocalist Sevan Dulgarian. The Armenian clergy of Greater

spoke about how his students have reacted in positive ways to learning about genocides even though many are focused on agricultural and technical learning.

Sam Sjostedt was introduced by Lipper-Garabedian for a musical interlude with the *duduk*. It held the audience spellbound with its subdued power and seemed to reduce the constant grinding sound of vehicular traffic nearby to a background murmur.

Lipper-Garabedian and Muradian presented and read Governor Charles Baker's proclamation on the occasion of the 107th commemoration of the Armenian

Genocide followed by keynote speaker Dr. Henry Theriault, chair of the Philosophy Department at Worcester State University and coordinator of the university's Center for the Study of Human Rights.

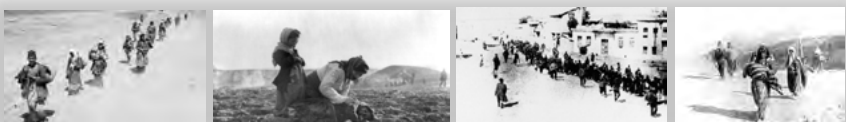
Prof. Theriault's revealing and powerful presentation laid plain that the genocide of Armenians was continuing today, unlike the situation in Germany after World War II. There, with the trials and punishment of the perpetrators of the Holocaust, responsibilities were accepted and reparations made. Turkey, however, remains unrepentant for its crime of planned genocide and allows itself to continue killing Armenians in the Artsakh Republic and other areas of the world where Armenians reside. Theriault said this should make Armenians (and others) shudder.

He added that for all practical purposes, Azerbaijan had become Turkey's 83rd province, with its military taken over by Turkey and guided during the Karabakh War of 2020. The joint actions of both countries led to killings of young Armenian soldiers and civilians and the occupation of much territory inhabited by Armenians. It seemingly leads to a continuation of the same policy of genocide, including the erasure of

the Armenian people with their culture and history. Theriault said this is proof that Turkey has not rehabilitated itself and thinks it can continue the Genocide with impunity.

The Armenian government is being pressured by Turkey to eliminate any reference to the Armenian Genocide in exchange for better economic and political relations with Turkey and peace in the region. However, Theriault said, salvation for Armenia and Artsakh relies on continued demands for Genocide recognition and reparations by Turkey. Only the Armenian diaspora can achieve this through education and pursuing genocide recognition around the world. He added that it must support actions such as creation of the Armenian Genocide Education Act just submitted to the US Congress for approval. Education about the Armenian Genocide must be provided to the Turkish people as well, who have been manipulated by genocide supporters in their government since its founding by many of the planners of the Armenian Genocide.

Closing remarks by Lipper-Garabedian and Muradian and Armenian music by DJ Rams concluded the evening, with members of the audience lingering to discuss the event and socialize.



**Tekeyan Cultural Association, Detroit Chapter
AGBU, Detroit Chapter and C.S.A.I., Detroit Chapter
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A Very Special Lecture Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm
AGBU School Library
commemorating the 107th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide
Dr. Ari Sekeryan
The Aftermath of the Armenian Genocide: Survival and Resilience During Armistice (1918-1923)

In April 1915, the Ottoman state ordered the arrest of Armenian intellectuals in Istanbul and sent them to isolated prisons in central Anatolia, where most of them were killed. This marks the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. Through the spring and summer of 1915, in all corners of the Empire, even cities far from the conflict zones, the government orchestrated the deportations which soon transformed into a genocide, in which thousands of Armenians perished. Yet in October 1918, the Ottoman Empire officially signed the Armistice of Mudros and the Young Turk leaders fled the Ottoman capital. While it was a signature of defeat for the Ottoman Empire, it was the beginning of a new period for the Armenians. In this lecture, Dr. Şekeryan will analyze the post-genocide period, the social and political developments regarding the post-genocide Armenian community by utilizing the Ottoman Turkish and Armenian press sources. The lecture will focus on the survival and resilience of the community amid political chaos.



Dr. Ari Şekeryan received his PhD from the University of Oxford in 2018. His first manuscript, *Armenians and the Fall of the Ottoman Empire, After Genocide (1918-1923)*, will be published in December 2022 by Cambridge University Press, analyses the fall of the Ottoman Empire and the transformation of the Ottoman Armenian political stance and the impacts of social and political developments of the period on the Ottoman Armenian community by examining the Ottoman Turkish and Armenian press as well as the Ottoman archives. Armenian and Ottoman Turkish media sources published in the Ottoman Empire during the Armistice years (1918-1923) are employed to track the post-war communal relationships in Ottoman society in general and with regards to the Armenian community in particular. His research was grounded in detailed archival research conducted at the library of the Armenian Mekhitarist Congregation in Vienna, Austria; the Prime Minister's Ottoman Archives in Istanbul, Turkey; and the National Library of Yerevan, Armenia. He edited *The Adana Massacre 1909: Three Reports and An Anthology of Armenian Literature 1913*. His latest articles appeared in the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, *Turkish Studies*, the *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*, and *War in History*. Dr. Şekeryan was a fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2019, the Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno during Spring 2020 and the Manoogian Postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Armenian Studies at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor during the academic year of 2020-2021.

Refreshments and "meet the Scholar" to follow lecture....



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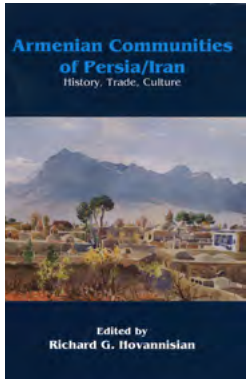
Arts & Culture

Prof. Hovannisian to Present Latest Book On Armenians of Iran

BELMONT, Mass. — The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) will host an illustrated presentation by Prof. Richard G. Hovannisian of his new publication, *Armenian Communities of Persia/Iran: History, Trade, Culture*, on Friday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m., in Batmasian Hall on the third floor of the NAASR Vartan Gregorian Building, 395 Concord Ave. The program is co-sponsored by the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, the Armenian Society of Boston, and the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS).

This will be an in-person event and also presented online live via Zoom (Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/NAASR-Hovannisian>) and YouTube (www.youtube.com/c/ArmenianStudies). For those attending in person, NAASR recommends the wearing of masks to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Armenian-Iranian interactions date back to the depths of antiquity. At times, Armenia and Iran were friends and allies, even sharing common dynasties, and at other times fierce and unrelenting adversaries.



Whatever their political relationship may have been, their commonalities in pre-Christian and pre-Islamic social structures and cultural attributes, including linguistic affiliation, are striking. The boundaries between the Iranian and Armenian worlds were porous in many ways. The Armenian presence in Iran is attested from the Achaemenid centuries to the present. Although the Armenian Iranian community has decreased significantly since the nineteenth century, it still constitutes the most significant Christian element in Iran, finding means to preserve in large measure its religion, language, and traditions and to navigate between Armenian and Iranian identities.

This volume of 23 chapters by specialists in the field spans the centuries from antiquity to the present. It is based on two conferences held at UCLA in the series titled “Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces.” Prof. Hovannisian will be joined during this presentation by NAASR Library Curator Ani Babaian who contributed a chapter to the volume. *Armenian Communities of Persia/Iran* is available for purchase from the NAASR Bookstore.

Hovannisian is past holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and a Presidential Fellow at Chapman University. He is a founder and six-time president of the Society for Armenian Studies and has published thirty books and numerous scholarly articles.



The scarf with the dancing Armenian girls that made Anet famous

Anet Abnous Creates a Legacy of Her Own

By Ani Duzdabanyan

Special to the *Mirror-Spectator*

LOS ANGELES — When I first met Anet Abnous, the founder of Anet’s Collection in 2018, she had already earned the title of “Scarf Lady” in the community, with her artistic scarves occupying valuable shelf space in many stores. She had also co-curated Manhattan’s first Armenian female art exhibition in 2007.

So, I carefully choose a cobalt-blue and raspberry-pink scarf by imagining her critique. “You are a small-scarf woman then,” Abnous said, turning a keen professional eye to the effect.

During the last four years, Anet’s Collection has become a mainstay in more than 12 stores, including museum shops in the U.S. and a showroom in Europe. Recently she has expanded the brand collection by going into jewelry, leather goods and other accessories.

Her passion for fashion started long before she immigrated from Iran to the United States with her family in 1996. Her father, Marcel Abnous, was a tailor in a province near Tehran and owned a suit factory, a business that he built from scratch.

During the apex of his career, the Islamic Revolution took place in 1978, and the factory was burned to the ground the revolutionaries. “No one was wearing a suit after the revolution. It was considered Western. I was only 4-5 years old but I remember all that,” said Anet Abnous.

After losing the factory and laying off many of his employees, Marcel transformed the business into a fashion boutique where he sold women fashion pieces imported from neighboring countries.

“We all grew up in it. We did as much as we could, you know, as kids. I remember going to the bazaars to buy from wholesalers. I remember doing a lot of things with my mom to basically run the boutique. I was a very artsy kid. I loved drawing and I would always dream about doing fashion and probably taking over my parents’ business,” Abnous remembered.

That dream took her to the Al-Zahra University in Tehran to study fashion design. Anet remembers that she had to wear a headscarf and even gloves to cover her nail polish — very inconvenient especially during the hot summer days. As a graduation assignment, Abnous had to design a headscarf.

“And being of course influenced with all the Western fashion, I kept thinking ‘I came to school to study fashion. Why do I have to design headscarves?’ I hated the headscarf, you know, being covered all the time,” exclaimed Anet.



Anet Abnous

see ABNOUS, page 17

AIWA Presents Inspiring Program On Children’s Literature

By Arpi Sarafian

Special to the *Mirror-Spectator*

LOS ANGELES — “Thank you for moving our hearts,” was the concluding remark of moderator Alice Petrossian at the “Beyond The Book: Transforming Armenian Children’s Literature” webinar, organized by the Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA) to celebrate International Children’s Book Day. And move our hearts is what the participants did. Gayaneh Aghabalyan and Laura Gaboudian, two young authors from Armenia and the United States respectively, and Mimi Zarookian, who has lived and taught Children’s Literature both in the US and Armenia, had come together to present a topic that is, more often than not, regarded as “lesser than.” “You’ve never been told to pick up a children’s book and read it,” deplored Zarookian.

“That’s for children,” is a derogatory comment we have all heard. Naturally, an adult’s world is different from a child’s world and consequently the experiences of the characters and the themes explored in literature written for adults are different from those in literature written for children. That difference, however, does not constitute an opposition and a hierarchy, a fact the participants were well aware of. Indeed, the three women succeeded in putting children’s literature on par with literature written for adults. Their aim was, in Gaboudian’s words, to “spark the joy of literacy in students,” not to categorize.

With their expertise and commitment to their careers as educators, the participants could have awakened anyone to the value of children’s books. All three articulated the importance of what they were doing effectively. Their rhetorical sophistication could match that of any student schooled in theories of writing and composition. It was a joy to listen to Aghabalyan, teaching associate at the American University of Armenia (AUA), talk about her revision process. “Distancing myself has been a challenge,” she avowed, “because something to revise always comes up.” The budding writer understands, however, that the process has to halt at some point.

The disarmingly gentle manner in which Aghabalyan expressed her anger at our culture’s reluctance to address “diversity and special needs,” themes she tackles in her stories, made her presentation even more compelling. *Sunny Cook*, her debut children’s book, is about a young man with the Down Syndrome that even teachers do not want in the classroom because he looks different. In her story, this “unique and wonderful” young man ends up with a loving family where exclusion is no longer an issue.

Gaboudian’s goal, on the other hand, is to expose others to Armenian culture and history, more specifically to the Armenian Genocide, “a difficult topic,” by sharing her grandparents’

see CHILDREN, page 15



ARTS & CULTURE

Recipe
Corner



by Christine
Vartanian



California Walnut Board’s
Greek Walnut Meatballs
With Tzatziki Sauce

By Maria Koutsogiannis

These Greek-inspired walnut meatballs from talented food blogger and author Maria Koutsogiannis are featured at the California Walnut Board (CWB) website (<https://walnuts.org/>), and can be enjoyed as appetizers or as a side or main dish.

Maria, a Greek Canadian, is the creator of FoodByMaria (<https://www.foodbymaria.com/>). Her popular recipes have been published in Impact Magazine, Spoonful: A Guide to Food and Laughter, Whole Foods, and Food Network Canada. FoodByMaria is on a mission to change the way many people eat and understand their food. She uses her website to share her love for appetizing, healthy,



plant-based eating. The FoodByMaria App features over 140 plant-based healthy, nutritious, and simple recipes, colorful breakfasts, simple snacks, nutrient-rich dinners, and desserts so decadent you won’t believe they contain no sugar (<https://www.foodbymaria.com/shop/>).

Walnuts are a multipurpose nut with a flavor profile that pairs beautifully with foods. There is a long list of benefits that come with walnuts that work well as a meat substitute; they can be incorporated in a variety of recipes anytime of the year. Walnuts are a gluten-free food that can be used in sweet and

savory dishes; they add a delicious, nutty flavor to cakes, breads, pestos, sauces, salads, chutneys and more. They add crunch to salads and side dishes, boost the nutrient content of desserts, cookies, and snack bars, and are perfect as a plant-based crumble in tacos, burritos, casseroles, and more. Use a food processor to pulse walnuts and either mushrooms, cauliflower or beans, with desired seasoning, for use as a replacement in scrambles and toppings.

To download the California Walnuts Simple Recipes and Tips Cookbook, go to: https://walnuts.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CWB-N0157-Simple-Recipes-Booklet_sp.pdf

“Established in 1948, the CWB represents walnut growers and handlers of California,” says Michelle McNeil Connelly, CWB Executive Director. “People are surprised to learn that over 99 percent of the walnuts in U.S. are grown in the fertile soils of California’s Central Valley. California walnuts supply over half of the world’s walnut trade,” she adds. California-grown walnuts are not genetically modified. California’s walnut industry understands consumer concerns regarding genetically modified foods. The CWB works with the University of California’s walnut breeding program to release new walnut varieties for planting that have been developed through conventional breeding methods. (The CWB does not anticipate production of genetically modified walnuts in California in the foreseeable future.)

There are over 4,400 California walnut growers, and most farms are owned and operated by families who have been in the walnut business for several gener-

ations. For over 30 years, the California Walnut Commission has also supported health-related research examining the effect of walnut consumption on areas including heart health, cognition, cancer, diabetes, metabolic syndrome, gut health, body weight/composition, reproductive health and more.”

Enjoy these tasty walnut meatballs with a fresh tzatziki sauce, thrown into a pita sandwich or pasta dish, or on top of hot rice, bulgur pilaf or noodles.

Tzatziki Sauce

INGREDIENTS:

- 3/4 cup plain Greek yogurt or vegan yogurt
- 1 tablespoon olive oil (to taste)
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice (to taste)
- 1 tablespoon roughly chopped fresh dill
- 1 clove grated or minced garlic
- 1/8 teaspoon sea salt
- Pinch of pepper
- 1/2 medium cucumber, grated and squeezed or patted dry between paper towels to remove any excess liquid

Meatballs

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup feta or vegan feta cheese
- 3 tablespoons capers, drained
- 1 tablespoon umami spice
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 2 teaspoons dried thyme
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 3/4 cup California Walnuts
- 1/2 cup cooked chickpeas, rice, or lentils
- 1/4 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice (to taste)
- 2 tablespoons roughly chopped fresh dill
- Olive oil spray

PREPARATION:

Combine tzatziki sauce ingredients together in a bowl; cover and chill for at least 1 hour or overnight. (The flavor will continue to improve the longer it sits.)

Heat olive oil in a medium skillet over medium heat. Add onions and garlic and cook for 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from heat and stir in feta, capers and seasonings; let cool slightly.

Place walnuts and chickpeas, rice or lentils in a food processor and pulse to coarsely chop. Add onion mixture, breadcrumbs and lemon juice and pulse again until all ingredients are chopped and mixture holds together when gently pressed together, being careful not to over mix. Add dill and pulse to mix. Let stand for 15-20 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Roll into 18 equal balls, slightly larger than a tablespoon, and place on baking sheet. Coat with olive oil spray and cook for 30 minutes, turning and coating with olive oil spray every 10 minutes. Serve with tzatziki sauce, a Greek salad, grains, or as a part of an appetizer platter.

Note: Chickpeas: You can choose between chickpeas, lentils, or rice in this recipe but if you use chickpeas you’ll help improve your digestion, and get a boost of protein while also helping to reduce the risk of several diseases.

For this recipe, see:

<https://walnuts.org/recipe/greek-walnut-meatballs-with-tzatziki-sauce/>

This recipe is featured at:

<https://www.foodbymaria.com/walnut-meatballs/>

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<https://walnuts.org/about-us/california-walnut-board/>

For healthy and delicious walnuts recipes from the California Walnut Board, <https://walnuts.org/recipes/>

Learn more about the nutritional benefits in one ounce of walnuts at: <https://walnuts.org/nutrition/>

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ARTS & CULTURE

AIWA Presents Inspiring Program on Children's Literature

CHILDREN, from page 13

stories of survival with the world. Her debut children's book, *Under The light of The Moon*, is the true story of her great-grandmother. Gaboudian travelled to Western Armenia and actually climbed the cherry tree Uncle Stepan teaches Lucy how to climb in her fictional recreation of the memory. When a publisher rejected her submission with, "This is not essential history," confessed Gaboudian, "Her curt rejection made me want to publish even more." She humbly admits to "learning as I go, the whole publishing process."

Gaboudian currently serves as the Glendale Unified School District's English Language Arts and English Language Development Specialist.

No less appealing was the authority of Mimi Zarookian, adjunct lecturer in children's literature at AUA. "With the current global upheaval and turmoil, with wars raging around the world, children's literature could help children understand and adapt," said Zarookian. "Children's books could be a transformative agent for societal change, especially for Armenians," she affirmed. With unmasked joy, this career educator revealed the book of stories produced by her students, a course requirement, ready for publication. "There are a hundred more ready to publish," she said with visible pride. However, she lamented the fact that because of the lack of funds, "publication caliber books by so many promising writers will never see the light of day."

All were agreed that children's books help children better understand themselves and the world around them, insights typically associated with adult literature. Indeed, the sense of the magical and the fantastic associated with children's literature may very well be the ingredient needed for "a fuller understanding of life." While dismissed as unreal, the magical, that which makes the impossible possible, could help us find meaning where meaning has pretty much



Alice Petrossian



Mimi Zarookian



Gayane Aghabalyan



Laura Gaboudian

been lost. At a time when it is difficult to be hopeful, a fantasy world, a world where what is offensive does not exist, could restore our faith in the promise of a life that goes beyond the deception and the greed that have become the new world order. It is not surprising that French author Antoine de Saint Exupery's *The Little Prince*, has for decades been a best-seller enjoyed by children and adults alike. The sense of wonder, unique to children, is what makes the world go round.

In fact, creating a fantasy world that bypasses the restrictions and the judgments of society, as Kenneth Grahame does in his tale of the adventures of four small animals, *The Wind in The Willows*, described as "a classic of magical fancy," could be a step to-

wards the creation of the world we fantasize about but deem "impossible." Sometimes, even "problematic" behavior that creates conflict with authority — Pippi Longstocking's attempts to stand up for the weak and the oppressed in the eponymous series of children's books by Swedish author Astrid Lindgren come to mind here — could help expose unfair and unkind behavior and bring awareness to the need to create a more compassionate and good-natured world.

Children do things because they enjoy doing them. Rather than dismiss their fun and play as "childish," meaning immature and irrational, we could use the element of fun to create the "better world" we dream of. Fun need not be the opposite of seriousness. Not all fun is "wrong" either. Fun can in fact


be a great teaching tool. Research shows that when students read for fun, they develop better reading skills and are more apt to succeed in school. I am beginning to appreciate the wisdom of my son's, "A children's book is better than any science in society."

Evidence of growth in the popularity of children's literature is encouraging. Talented writers are increasingly turning to younger readers for an audience. There are also many awards made to authors and illustrators of children's books.

The mood of the webinar was one of wonderful inclusiveness. The fantastic had been made part of the "real." Children and adults, seriousness and play, were no longer diametrically opposed. Topics considered taboo, such as the mentally challenged and the "different," were confronted boldly. "Acceptance and tolerance are fundamental to pursuing our lives," asserted Zarookian. These pioneering women, inspired and inspiring, were determined to "transform the world." They moved more than our hearts. They moved us to take action.

The focus of the initiative was on Armenian writers whose insights could be extended to any culture. There was a call to global women's networks who share awareness. It was all in line with AIWA's mission "to connect and elevate Armenian women globally." On a slightly different note, I would like to add that I am thrilled to learn that books written by classic and contemporary Armenian writers are now part of Sweden's largest collection of foreign language children's books.

Alice Petrossian, a multiple-award-winning educator, led and moderated with grace and authority, generously including her students every step of the way. Her "No doubt they will succeed" had no doubt at all in it. But funds are needed, which is where AIWA's leadership comes in. Launching a fundraiser to support these young authors could very well be the next item on AIWA's to-do list.



Tekeyan Cultural Association Metro Los Angeles Chapter



ARMS FOR ARMENIA: THE MATTER OF AIRPLANES

The attempted purchase of surplus British Royal Air Force fighter planes for the First Republic of Armenia by the Constitutional Ramgavar Party of Egypt



Keynote speaker

DR. RICHARD G. HOVANNISIAN

Past Holder of the
Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History at
UCLA and Presidential Fellow at Chapman University

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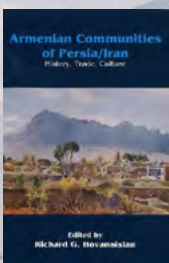
PRESENTS

Armenian Communities of Persia/Iran: History, Trade, Culture

An Illustrated Presentation By
Prof. Richard G. Hovannisian
Professor Emeritus of Modern Armenian History, UCLA

Friday, May 6, 2022
7:30 p.m. (Eastern) / 4:30 p.m. (Pacific)

In-Person at the NAASR Vartan Gregorian Building, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA, and online live via Zoom and YouTube



Armenian-Iranian interactions date back to the depths of antiquity. At times, Armenia and Iran were friends and allies, even sharing common dynasties, and at other times fierce and unrelenting adversaries. Whatever their political relationship may have been, their commonalities in pre-Christian and pre-Islamic social structures and cultural attributes, including linguistic affiliation, are striking. The boundaries between the Iranian and Armenian worlds were porous in many ways. The Armenian presence in Iran is attested from the Achaemenid centuries to the present. Although the Armenian Iranian community has decreased significantly since the nineteenth century, it still constitutes the most significant Christian element in Iran, finding means to preserve in large measure its religion, language, and traditions and to navigate between Armenian and Iranian identities.

This volume of twenty-three chapters by specialists in the field spans the centuries from antiquity to the present. It is based on two conferences held at UCLA in the series titled "Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces." Prof. Hovannisian will be joined during this presentation by NAASR Library Curator Ani Babaian who contributed a chapter to the volume. *Armenian Communities of Persia/Iran* is available for purchase from the NAASR Bookstore.

Richard G. Hovannisian is past holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and a Presidential Fellow at Chapman University. He is a founder and six-time president of the Society for Armenian Studies and has published thirty books and numerous scholarly articles, including 5 volumes on the Armenian Genocide and 15 volumes by Mazda Publishers on historic Armenian cities and provinces.

Zoom Registration Link:
<https://bit.ly/NAASR-Hovannisian>

NAASR YouTube Channel Link:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/ArmenianStudies>

We recommend the wearing of masks to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus.



ARTS & CULTURE

CALENDAR

OF EVENTS & PROGRAMS

CALIFORNIA

JUNE 5 — Save the date. The Armenian Assembly of America will mark its 50th anniversary with a program on Sunday, at 5.30 p.m., at the Jonathan Club. This special event will highlight five decades of the Assembly's influential achievements in advocacy, education, and awareness on Armenian issues. For more information visit <https://www.aimhye.com/>

MASSACHUSETTS

MAY 2 — St. James Men's Club Dinner and Fellowship. Monday, Speaker Dan Shaughnessy, Boston Globe journalist, author and sports commentator will discuss his latest book, *Wish It Lasted Forever: Life with the Larry Bird Celtics*. Social Hour at 6.15 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Losh kebab and Kheyma dinner, \$20 per person. St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mount Auburn St., Watertown. All are welcome.

MAY 7 — "We Wait for Your Return — A Love Letter to Armenia," evening of photography, storytelling, and music is a theatrical experience will take you on a unique journey from Watertown to Armenia through the intimate stories and evocative imagery of American photographer Winslow Martin. It also includes many photos and memories of Der Dajad Davidian, who set Winslow on his road to Armenia. Northeastern's Blackman Auditorium, Ell Hall, 342 Huntington Ave, Boston, on Saturday, at 8 p.m. A visual and musical celebration of the beauty and soul of the Armenian people, with music by award-winning composer Astghik Martirosyan. Sponsored by the Northeastern University Department of Music, tickets are available on-line at: <http://www.wewaitforyourreturn.com>

MAY 7 — In Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Celebrate Public Art! Saturday, 1 p.m., World Labyrinth Day: Walk As One in Peace and Harmony. Joining people in cities and towns in countries worldwide followed by reception to celebrate the abstract sculpture and all its configurations. Welcome: Ted Touloukian, AIA, Principal, Touloukian Touloukian Inc. Trustee, Boston Society of Architects Foundation. Greetings: Karin Goodfellow, Director of Public Art, City of Boston. Reception is hosted by Starbucks. RSVP appreciated hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

MAY 7 — Hye Pointe Church's Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) is sponsoring a Mother's Day Armenian Concert. Doors open 6.30 p.m., Concert at 7 p.m. Featuring singer Margar Yeghiazaryan, duduk and clarinet player Mher Mnatsakanyan, dhol and percussion player Markos Shahbazyan and keyboardist Gegham Margaryan. Tickets adults \$60, 18 and under \$40. For tickets go to www.hypointearmenianchurch.org or contact Sarah Tavitian at 978-652-8448, sarahtavitian@yahoo.com

MAY 18 — "Chris Bohjalian and Stephen Kurkjian in Conversation" at the Armenian Museum of America. Author Chris Bohjalian and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Stephen Kurkjian will talk about *The Lioness*: Bohjalian's 23rd novel. Wednesday, May 18 at 7 p.m. 65 Main St., Watertown. Free event but please register: www.tinyurl.com/lionessatama

MAY 19 — The Armenian Assembly of America Honor Gail Talanian O'Reilly with Distinguished Humanitarian Award at a program at 6 p.m. at Hyatt Regency/Cambridge, 575 Memorial Dr, Cambridge. For tickets, donations or more information, visit <https://www.armenian-assembly.org/>

MAY 20-21 — Armenian Memorial Church Fair, Friday 5-8 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Delicious Armenian chicken, losh and beef kebab dinners served under the tent or take-out, Armenian baked delicacies. Armenian Memorial Church, 32 Bigelow Avenue, Watertown. For information call 617-923-0498. Armenian Memorial Church, 32 Bigelow Ave., Watertown.

JUNE 8 — Armenian Night at the Pops will feature violinist Diana Adamyan as the featured soloist with the Boston Pops Orchestra, Keith Lockhart conducting. Wednesday, 8 p.m. Symphony Hall, Boston. Presented by the Friends of Armenian Culture Society. Details to follow.

SEPTEMBER 21 — Gala Benefit Celebrating Contributions of Our Nation's Immigrants. InterContinental Hotel, Boston. 6pm Honoring Stephen Kurkjian, Distinguished Citizen, Leader, Pulitzer Prize Journalist and Author, and Recognizing Organizations Serving Immigrants and Refugees. Funds raised support the Legacy Fund, endowed fund to care for and maintain the Park year-round. Advance Reservations only. To receive the invitation, please send name and address to hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

NEW JERSEY

JUNE 17 — Tekeyan Cultural Association Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group in association with Huyser Music Ensemble presents "Huyser and Friends Project: Harmony," an open-air concert dedicated to the 75th Anniversary of Tekeyan Cultural Association. Featuring Gohar Hovhannisyan & Band from Armenia. Friday, 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Armenian Church, 174 Essex Dr. Tenafly, NJ. Donation \$60, includes Aran Wines from Artsakh. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. For tickets call Marie: 201-745-8850 or Talar: 201-240-8541 or visit: www.itsmyseat.com/harmony

NEW YORK

OCTOBER 15 — Save the date! The Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater New York Chapter is celebrating the diamond anniversary of the Tekeyan Cultural Association with a gala. Details to follow.

Anet Abnous Creates a Legacy of Her Own

ABNOUS, from page 13

Ironically, years later, the scarf became her calling card for the world of fashion. When the Abnous family moved to New York in 1996, Marcel started to provide alteration services at Bergdorf Goodman, the iconic department store. Anet was adamant in continuing her career in the fashion industry but her father didn't want her to go through all the hardship that he had gone through.

"I think, that he was also thinking about the ways he developed his business and how torturous it was, not realizing that in America it's different," said Anet.

Anet eventually was accepted to the Queens College-CUNY and earned a degree in fine arts. In the meanwhile, she started to work in a hair salon in Manhattan as a color specialist. "It was creative, something close to fashion," she adds.

In 2008, after successfully laying a foundation as an emerging artist, represented in art galleries in New York and Rhode Island, Anet with her family moved to Los Angeles to follow her dream in fashion. Here, she had her very first solo exhibition featuring paintings with mixed-media and

acrylic. Later, these same artworks became Anet's Collection's best-selling scarfs.

"The one painting that I sold in the exhibition in 2007 has Armenian girls dancing on it with their hands up. So, I used that painting in a mill. I thought, it's rectangle, like a frame. I used that as a base of the scarf and added Armenian letters using the colors from the painting all around it. Little did I know that it would become a hit product to this day! I sold more than 5,000 of those scarves. That scarf got me into retail stores. That scarf got me into doing collaborations and fundraising events with so many organizations, SOAR [Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief] being one of them. Just everything changed after that. Pretty soon I got the title of 'Scarf Lady' in the community," said Abnous with a laugh.

Anet's Collection didn't stop here though. As a female owned and led business that positively impacts the community, Anet was selected to become a member of Female Founder Collective, founded by a renowned fashion designer Rebecca Minkoff. Very recently Abnous received a Women's Entrepreneurship Certification



This picture represents Marcel Abnous's scissors and him with his employees.

from Cornell University through the Tory Burch Foundation Grant. This grant helped her to launch her jewelry and leather goods collections reflecting her Armenian heritage and history with unique designs and patterns.

Unfortunately, Marcel Abnous didn't

see her daughter succeed. He passed away before Anet's Collection entered the market. "I wish he could see this," Anet added emotionally, "He was the greatest influence in my life."

To check out Abnous' collection, visit <http://anetscollection.com/>

COMMENTARY

THE ARMENIAN MIRROR SPECTATOR

SINCE 1932



An ADL Publication

THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE
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EDITORIAL

Genocide Anniversary Marked by Contradictory Signals from Turkey



By Edmond Y.
Azadian

As negotiations between Armenia and Turkey for establishing relations enter a very sensitive and critical stage, one would assume that the two sides would use extreme caution and restraint if they are truly interested in a positive outcome.

While on the Armenian side, reaction to a provocation has been extremely restrained — even cowardly — the Turkish side does not seem to be under similar constraints.

The negotiation process began under President Biden's advice — if not pressure — to Turkish leaders, but Turkey had to weigh the pros and cons of the initiative. For the Armenian side, the benefits are obvious; lifting of the Turkish-Azerbaijani blockade will open up the outside world for the Armenian market.

For Turkey, on the other hand, successful negotiations will pave a road all the way to Central Asia, where Ankara plans to extend its Pan-Turanic empire, while at the same time, the opening of the border will spur economic activity and prosperity for moribund eastern Turkey, or Western Armenia, now populated primarily by the Kurdish minority.

begin that tour could not be coincidental, as they were selected to send a signal to the world Armenian community. Uruguay was the first nation to recognize the Armenian Genocide, on April 20, 1965.

Mr. Çavusoglu landed in Montevideo on April 23 for the dedication of the new Turkish embassy there, a city that is home to a large Armenian community. As if riding on a main highway named Armenia were not enough, Mr. Çavusoglu had to pass through the main square, also dedicated to Armenia. And then, he faced Armenian demonstrators chanting demands for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. The foreign minister, in a very undiplomatic mood, lost his temper and showed his true face by flashing the hand signal of the Gray Wolves, a neo-fascist terrorist organization in Turkey. Any diplomat with dignity and genuine concern for the outcome of negotiations would have exercised self-control. However, Mr. Çavusoglu's diplomatic training was not enough to prevent his game face from slipping before the world.

This incident reminds us also of the episode involving President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's bodyguards in Washington in 2017, when they began beating peaceful demonstrators, ultimately triggering a diplomatic incident with the US.

It is not surprising that a Turkish court sentenced that nation's most principled citizen, Osman Kavala, to life imprisonment, without the possibility of parole, the very same day as the Çavusoglu incident, with that nation thumbing its nose at the verdict of the European Court of Human Rights which had judged his imprisonment illegal and demanded his immediate release in 2019.

The reaction from Uruguay was swift, appropriate and dignified — much more so than the Armenian government's reaction, which came only from the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Relations of the ruling Civil Contract Faction Eduard Aghajanyan, who condemned the behavior of the Turk-



It remains to be seen if the Turkish government is really interested in the economic recovery of the Kurdish region, which may fuel demands for equal rights, democracy and even independence. There are also "hidden" Armenians among the Kurds, and the cross-fertilization of ideas with Armenians across the border may spark sentiments of irredentism.

As stated above, Ankara has to calibrate its act before getting too far in the process. Thus far, signs indicate that Turkey is a reluctant partner in the process at best, creating one obstacle after another, with nary a reaction or protest from the Armenian government.

First, both parties had agreed to hold the negotiations with the premise of no preconditions. Then the Turkish side entered a new item on the agenda, relegating the initiative of setting conditions to Azerbaijan. The latter came up with a five-point agenda for a peace treaty to which Yerevan agreed, without adding any preconditions of its own.

As Armenia continues its dual-track negotiations, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has been upping the ante by reintroducing the issue of the Zangezur Corridor through Armenia, which had been considered off the negotiating table.

The worldwide commemoration of the Armenian Genocide revealed some other aspects of official Turkish behavior and intentions.

First came Foreign Minister Mevlut Çavusoglu's shocking gesture in Uruguay and next the reactions of Turkish officials to President Joseph Biden's commemoration statement.

Turkey had sent its foreign minister for a tour of South America this past week. The date and the country chosen to

ish diplomat.

"This is a reprehensible act. It in no way contributes to the formation of an atmosphere of mutual understanding and dialogue between the two peoples," he said. In addition, some analysts did not rule out that this could have been Turkey's attempt to provoke the Armenian government to jettison negotiation process. There was no reaction from Yerevan's Foreign Ministry, possibly out of fear that it would rock the boat.

However, the reaction of Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle Pou was more forceful and direct. He stated, "It is unfortunate that the Turkish foreign minister showed the Turkish ultra-nationalist Gray Wolves salute to a group of Armenians in Montevideo. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Çavusoglu's conduct must be strongly criticized. The Armenian community is hurt and they are right."

He also noted that advancing ties in commercial matters between his country and Turkey does not mean that they agree with the other side's domestic or foreign policies. Later, the Turkish ambassador, Huseyin Muftuoglu, was summoned by the Foreign Ministry of Uruguay. Also, the vice president and the president of the parliament spoke at gatherings marking the Genocide and criticized Mr. Çavusoglu.

The Gray Wolves is a terrorist group banned in Austria and France, and has been involved in many terrorist acts, such as the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul and journalists Abdi Ipekçi and Hrant Dink.

Mr. Çavusoglu's rash act has been balanced with President Erdogan's equivocal address to the Armenian community in see CONTRADICTIONS, page 18



COMMENTARY

The EU’s Dining Diplomacy And the Armenia-Azerbaijan Reconciliation Process

By Anna Barseghyan

On April 6, 2022, on the initiative of European Council President Charles Michel, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev held a meeting in the format of a working dinner in Brussels.

At the onset of the meeting, 43 Members of European Parliament (MEPs) from all the major political groups, led by François-Xavier Bellamy (France-EPP) and Loucas Fourlas (Cyprus-EPP), addressed a letter to Charles Michel and Josep Borrell, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The main concerns of the MEPs related to Azerbaijan’s policy of ethnic cleansing in the territory of Artsakh. They call on the EU leaders to use their leverage to urge Azerbaijan to stop its aggressive policy, immediately withdraw its military forces back to their initial positions, and stop any action that could endanger the indigenous Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh. However, the negotiations seem to have gone down a different path.

After more than 4.5 hours of negotiations, the announcement from the heads of the Armenian and Azerbaijani press secretary offices is very restrained. Pashinyan’s office released a statement that reads, “Based on the results of the meeting, an agreement was reached to set up a bilateral commission on border delimitation between Armenia and Azerbaijan until the end of April, envisaged in the agreement reached in Sochi on November 26, 2021, which will be authorized to deal with security and stability issues along the border.” Moreover, The Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of Azerbaijan instructed their foreign ministers to start preparations for bilateral peace talks between the two countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Azerbaijan emphasized some nuances, which shed light on the context of the negotiations. They noted that: “Following the meeting, an agreement was reached to instruct the heads of the foreign affairs agencies of Azerbaijan and Armenia to begin work on a future peace treaty, based on the initiative put forward by Azerbaijan a year ago and the basic principles presented by Baku some time ago.” One of the basic principles of Baku’s 5-point proposal is the recognition of each other’s territorial integrity, implying that Armenia abandon Artsakh’s attempts to gain a recognized status independent of Azerbaijan.

The MFA of Armenia had answered this proposal by applying “to the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship to organize negotiations for the signing of the peace agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan based on the UN Charter, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Helsinki Final Act.” The Helsinki Final Act includes the principle of the self-determination of peoples. Following the statement, the EU took the initiative to organize a meeting, instead of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship, which includes France, Russia and the United States. The implication is that the OSCE Minsk Group format is no longer operating, with the EU taking on its responsibility.

Charles Michel released his own statement following the meeting, which noted “both President Aliyev’s and Prime Minister Pashinyan’s stated desire to move rapidly towards a peace agreement between their countries.”

The main outcomes of the meeting are the following:

To form a joint border commission by the end of April 2022 to start the process of delimitation. According to international law, delimitation is the legal process by which two sovereign nations establish and describe in writing the location of their common boundary, mainly as the result of negotiations. For delimitation, it is mandatory to recognize the exact boundaries of the states. The commission’s mandate will also include security and stability issues along the border.

The status of Nagorno-Karabakh was not discussed. There is not a single word in any of the statements by the three parties in the negotiation about the status of Artsakh. While Baku is proposing recognizing territorial integrity as a condition for starting negotiations, the Armenian side is not raising the topic. Of course, it’s hard to predict what is taking place behind the scenes, but the fact remains that there is no mention of the ongoing tense situation in Artsakh because of Azerbaijani provocations and military operations.

As Michel stated, each side has expressed willingness to sign the agreement rapidly, despite a host of unresolved issues. Is it beneficial for Armenia to try and expedite the process? The international community is preoccupied with Ukraine, and not paying attention to the humanitarian crisis and the aggressive policy of Azerbaijan towards the people of Artsakh. Such urgent steps will most definitely not guarantee fair and comprehensive solutions for Armenia.

The OSCE Minsk Group has been sidelined since the 2020 Artsakh War. The Minsk Group format was the most balanced and preferable one for Armenia and it is one of the rare platforms where Russia and the West cooperate. After Azerbaijan launched the war in 2020, however, Russia took the initiative and became the main mediator. After this “shock”, the EU has started to make gradual attempts to have its place on the negotiation table. One of the attempts was in December 2021 in the scope of the Eastern Partnership’s 6th Summit when Pashinyan and Aliyev had a meeting again coordinated by Charles Michel.

Why now?

Why is the EU taking the initiative now while being an observer during the course of the Artsakh war and even afterward? The EU’s immediate neighborhood is on fire, security issues at its borders are critical, there is a looming migrant crisis knocking at its door and suddenly Armenia and Azerbaijan appear on the EU agenda. In the meantime, with Russia invading Ukraine, the European Parliament condemned the destruction of the Armenian heritage of Artsakh. It could be assumed that the EU needs a success story in the Eastern Partnership region. Considering the fact that Russia is busy with the war in Ukraine and the U.S. is practically absent in the mediation process, the EU aspires to take the lead and use the geopolitical deadlock over Ukraine to find a rapid solution for the South Caucasus. The EU’s geopolitical entry to the South Caucasus was in 2008, during the Russo-Georgian war. It was indeed a success story for the EU to be the conflict manager between Georgia and Russia. If the Armenian-Azerbaijani reconciliation process will take place under the auspices of the EU, it will be another bold “plus” on the EU’s record.

A day after the meeting in Brussels, Prime Minister Pashinyan summed up the main points during the governmental session mentioning Russia’s role in the mediation process several times. “The Russian Federation has expressed readiness to support the delimitation and demarcation work. The European Union is also ready to support [this], we must move in this direction,” he added. Moreover, Pashinyan said that the Armenian side has emphasized that there is “nothing unacceptable” but that Azerbaijan’s proposals do not include security guarantees of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh or the protection of their rights and freedoms. “The clarification of the final status of Nagorno Karabakh is of fundamental importance for us,” he noted. “These issues are included in our response to the peace agenda and they should become subject of negotiations. Of course, as before, we consider the involvement of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs essential in this process, and we must continue to work in that direction.”

Although Pashinyan attempted to stress the importance of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, actions speak for themselves. It now seems that the Armenia-Azerbaijan reconciliation process will be led by spontaneous initiatives.

Pashinyan also stressed the need to investigate the competence of the Russian peace-keeping force, the adequacy of their actions, and possible inaction during the course of developments in Artsakh. The Armenian Prime Minister concluded his address to the government by speaking about the “era of peace” in the region stressing that “we must do our utmost to make this agenda a reality.” Unfortunately the era of peace thus far has only brought losses for Armenia and Artsakh.

(This commentary originally appeared in EVN Report on April 7.)

Genocide Anniversary Marked by Contradictory Signals from Turkey

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Turkey and through them to the world Armenian community.

For the last few years, Turkey’s president has addressed messages to the Armenian Patriarch of Istanbul, with the supposed intention of empathizing with the Armenians, concerning what he termed this year the “painful reality that took place during World War I.” And then, he continued, “I respectfully commemorate the deceased Ottoman Armenians, once again, and convey my sincere condolences to their surviving relatives.”

Next, he blamed the conditions created by the war rather than the Ittihadist government as the perpetrators of the deaths.

Then Mr. Erdogan advised, “Let’s build the future instead of magnifying the suffering.” Little does he know that the suffering is so immense that there is no room for magnifying it.

Turkey’s domestic economic woes and the dimming prospects for his reelection in 2023 have tamed Mr. Erdogan’s hubris in foreign adventures. At this point, he is trying to ingratiate himself with the Biden administration, the responsible party for the Armenian-Turkish rapprochement. Mr. Erdogan has been working overtime to restore

relations with the US’s friends and allies in the Middle East, particularly with Egypt and Israel; good relations with Saudi Arabia and UAE have already paid off.

Despite Turkey’s intransigence in keeping Russian S-400 missiles, the US has been softening its stand on allowing it US F-16 fighter planes, and Washington is sending some signals it is willing to redirect gas pipelines through Turkey to Europe rather than through Greece.

In this delicate period, President Biden’s Armenian Genocide message, which for the second time uses the term “genocide,” has not been met with Turkish administration’s fury. There is not even the thought of recalling Turkey’s ambassador from Washington. Instead, Mr. Erdogan, contrary to his usual tenor, has reacted mildly, by stating, “Statements relating to the Armenian claims ... are of no effect to us. This is how we see the statement of the US president and we do not even find it worth dwelling on because it is all based on lies and false information.”

Turkey’s minister of defense, Hulusi Akar, reacted in an even milder statement, saying Turkey’s “history is clear.”

Genocide commemorations and the controversies it has generated this year represent only one chapter of the ongoing Armenian-Turkish and Armenian-Azerbaijani negotiations. There is fear and apprehension in Armenia that the

government is giving in too much at this stage, at the very start of the talks.

With the split among the co-chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, France and the US have become more active in pulling Armenia towards the West and away from Russia. Russia, fearful of letting Armenia slip through its grasp, invited Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan last week to sign a 30-clause agreement, while moving the Karabakh issue and Turkish-Armenian relations into the format of 3+3: Russia, Turkey and Iran vs. Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. In that format, there is no party that can help formulate the Karabakh settlement favorably to Armenian interests. That is why Yerevan is joining the 3+3 format cautiously, on the condition of discussing Karabakh only in the OSCE format.

Unfortunately, regional and international developments are too complicated for Armenia’s foreign policy establishment to handle, while the domestic opposition has been agitating to make the government’s task even more challenging.

Armenia’s population is confused by the actions of an inept ruling party and a boisterous opposition which does not offer a viable political agenda.



COMMENTARY

MY TURN



by Harut Sassounian

Turkey Disgraces Itself by Denying The Genocide after Biden's Acknowledgment

President Joe Biden issued a written statement on April 24, officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide for the second year in a row.

Here is an excerpt from President Biden's acknowledgment: "On April 24, 1915, Ottoman authorities arrested Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople. Thus began the Armenian genocide -- one of the worst mass atrocities of the 20th century. Today, we remember the one and a half million Armenians who were deported, massacred, or marched to their deaths in a campaign of extermination, and mourn the tragic loss of so many lives.... Today, 107 years later, the American people continue to honor all Armenians who perished in the genocide."

In his statement, President Biden used the word "Genocide" four times and once "Meds Yeghern," an Armenian term used to describe the mass killings, before Raphael Lemkin coined the term Genocide in the 1940's. President Biden also identified "Ottoman authorities" as perpetrators of the Armenian Genocide.

While Armenians appreciate the sympathetic words of President Biden, he must be reminded that a similar danger of extinction is looming today over Artsakh. He should not have approved military aid to Azerbaijan, a country that is intent on wiping out both Artsakh and Armenia.

President Biden should turn his moral acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide to actionable foreign policy by pressuring Turkey to recognize its crime, compensate for the mass murders committed by its predecessor regime, and return the occupied Western Armenian lands. Recognition without restitution is meaningless!

Just as Western countries rose to the defense of Ukraine with massive military and humanitarian assistance, so should they protect Artsakh. During the 2020 war, Artsakh was subjected to a brutal attack by Azerbaijan, Turkey, and imported Jihadist terrorists, committing war crimes and crimes against humanity. But the world remained silent. There should be no favoritism for the suffering of one people over another. All human beings deserve the same protection.

In addition to President Biden's declaration on the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, statements were issued by the Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, California Governor Gavin Newsom, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada, Vice President of Argentina Cristina Fernandez, President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, President of Greece Katerina Sakellaropoulou, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, and several other leaders. However, the United Kingdom, Australia and Israel are some of the countries that are still afraid of Turkey to acknowledge the truth about the mass murders of 1.5 million Armenians.

Turkey, the perpetrator of the genocide, and its vassal state, Azerbaijan, continue to deny the Armenian Genocide. Armenians around the world and all people of goodwill continue to hold protests, exposing their lies and remind the world of the mass murders.

This year, on April 23, when Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Çavusoglu was in Montevideo, Uruguay, a group of Armenians protested his visit. Çavusoglu mocked the gathered Armenians by flashing the threatening hand gesture of the Turkish terrorist group, Gray Wolves. Mehmet Ali Agca, who shot and wounded Pope John Paul II in 1981, was a member of the Gray Wolves. Imagine if a German Foreign Minister showed the Nazi insignia to Jewish Holocaust survivors. The President of Uruguay condemned the Turkish Foreign Minister's undiplomatic gesture and the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry summoned the Turkish Ambassador to explain the Turkish Foreign Minister's inappropriate behavior.

Nevertheless, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is beginning to realize the futility of his denials of the Armenian Genocide. After years of threatening the United States if it recognized the Armenian Genocide, Erdogan turned into a mouse after President Biden recognized it last year. Erdogan had arrogantly announced that he will complain to the U.S. President about his recognition of the Armenian Genocide. However, when the two met last June, he did not dare to say a word to Biden about it. Afterwards when the Turkish press asked Erdogan if he complained to Biden about the Genocide, he absurdly said, "No, Biden did not bring it up." Erdogan was thoroughly humiliated.

In a message to Armenians who had gathered at the Armenian Patriarchate in Istanbul to commemorate the Armenian Genocide on April 24, Erdogan wrote to Armenian Patriarch Sahak Mashalyan: "I believe that we should build the future together, inspired by our deep-rooted unity of up to a thousand years, instead of magnifying the suffering." Rather than acknowledging the Armenian Genocide, Erdogan claimed that Ottoman citizens (both Armenians and Turks) died as a result of World War I, without distinguishing between the victims of genocide and war.

Furthermore, the Turkish Foreign Ministry announced that it rejected the statements made on April 24 by various countries: "This includes today's unfortunate statement by US President Biden, repeating the mistake he made in 2021. We reject such statements and decisions that distort historical facts with political motives, and condemn those who insist on this mistake." This is coming from the Turkish Foreign Minister who made a terroristic hand gesture in Uruguay.

Meanwhile, the Governor of Istanbul banned the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, which had been held annually since 2010, except for the last two years due to COVID.

Finally, Garo Paylan, the Armenian member of the Turkish Parliament, submitted a bold resolution to the Parliament last week demanding that it recognize the Armenian Genocide, identify those responsible, remove their names from public places, and grant Turkish citizenship to the victims and their families. Paylan came under vicious attacks from Turkish officials. The Speaker of Parliament rejected his motion. The spokesman of AKP, the ruling party, demanded an apology from Paylan and threatened to sue him. Furthermore, President Erdogan condemned Paylan and urged the Parliament "to deal with him."

If Turkish leaders don't mind to be humiliated and exposed to the world for denying that their country committed genocide, Armenians will continue to expose them as supporters of barbaric actions. The sooner they come to their senses, acknowledge the Genocide and make amends, the sooner they will stop being disgraced.

What Should Follow Prime Minister Pashinyan's Catastrophic Confessions?

By Dr. Arshavir Gundjian C.M.

On April 13, Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan delivered a stunning speech for over an hour at the National Assembly in Yerevan. It was a compilation of self-criticism and criticism of previous administrations, as well as an enumeration of events related to Artsakh since the independence of Armenia in 1990. It concluded in an awkward capitulation summarized by his defeatist formulation of the status of Artsakh. In other words, on April 13, Pashinyan finally dropped the bomb that had been suspected to be in the works since the tragic end of the disastrous 44-day-war of Artsakh.

Pashinyan's long excursion filled with emotional ups and downs basically informed Armenians around the globe that it was now time to stop dreaming and wake up: "Fellow Armenians, just accept that Artsakh is part of Azerbaijan!" This after thirty years of demagogically shouting from the roofs the exact contrary.

Our short answer to that long speech is: Mr. Pashinyan, you are entirely wrong!

As might be expected, this speech has unleashed an uproar of strong disagreement and protest from across the entire Armenian world. First and foremost, the rejection came from the Artsakh authorities and its parliament. Similar rejections and condemnations have been pouring in from the varied but utterly shocked political circles and personalities of Armenia and the diaspora.

The present article intends to make a well documented case for such rebuttals. A quick reminder of the internationally accepted irrefutable legal basis for Artsakh's claim to sovereignty will be followed by the harsh demand for the Armenian authorities to shake up their current half-hearted diplomatic "modesty" when presenting the Artsakh and Armenian case to the international community. Indeed, Artsakh's case is solid, but it requires equally capable politicians to successfully prosecute that case in the court of

the international public opinion. So far, the contrary has taken place. Certainly after Mr. Pashinyan's own public admission of failure in his fundamental duty for the protection and promotion of the highest and legitimate interests of the Armenian nation, it is inevitable that he must step aside in order to let better qualified leadership pick up the duty of confronting successfully that crucial challenge.

The modesty mentioned above is in fact a too kind qualifier. It must be elevated to the level of complete incapacity. It is painful to recall that his failure in the brutal fields of diplomacy and international opinion allowed the international media to qualify the brutal Turkish-Azerbaijani attack of the 44 days war, as the "liberation by Azeris of Armenian-occupied Azeri territories" instead of the exact opposite.

Artsakh's claim to independence is solidly based on two distinct and internationally accepted arguments.

The first of these arguments is based on a succession of events that took place in the period of 1990 to 1991, right around the time of the dismantling of the old USSR. Artsakh has indeed complied at that time with internationally accepted legal requirements, and de jure irrefutably secured its claim to independence. The sequence of events is the following: On April 3, 1990, the USSR passed law No. 1409 prescribing the right for any of its regions to secede from the Union by holding a referendum to that effect. Artsakh, at the time an autonomous region within Azerbaijan, which itself was still part of the USSR, held such a referendum successfully on December 10, 1991, and thus became de jure independent as of that date. Following the latter event, the USSR itself stopped existing and Azerbaijan held its own referendum for independence, respectively on December 26 and 29, 1991, when Artsakh was already independent and not any longer part of Azerbaijan.

The details of this rather eventful period for the USSR and its composing entities are of course available from many sources in the international literature. A proper presentation of the specific events concerning Artsakh proper was given in an article in the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator's* April 25, 2021 issue, entitled "On the Legal-Political Status of Nagorno-Karabakh" and authored by the young political geography expert Dr. Vahagn Vardanyan.

Thus, Artsakh has been an independent Armenian country, since December 10, 1991. Period.

Artsakh's second equally valid argument for its independence is in addition to, and see CONFESSIONS, page 20

What Should Follow Prime Minister Pashinyan’s Catastrophic Confessions?

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totally separate from, the previous one. It is based on the internationally recognized right for independence of a minority when the latter is subjected to a credible threat to its survival – exactly the same argument that led currently independent Kosovo to separate from Serbia in 2008. Indeed, Azerbaijan, which ironically now dares to “offer Armenians of Artsakh, some autonomous status within its borders,” is notorious for its consistency in its almost daily actions of suppression and annihilation of ethnic Armenians. To suggest today that Armenians should live under Azerbaijani rule is an outright insult to anyone’s intelligence. Thus, on the grounds of its right for survival, Artsakh has internationally as much right as Kosovo for its independence.

Given the above two solid arguments that establish the right of Artsakh Armenians for their independence from Azerbaijan, the only possible reason why 30 years after 1991 Artsakh still faces controversy on this issue, and that Pashinyan goes so far as to confess publicly that Artsakh has no choice but to remain within Azerbaijan, is the diplomatic impotency of his administration along with the equal incapacity of the previous administrations. The latter failed to resolve this issue over several decades.

In pronouncing this verdict, one has to make sure to recognize that in retrospect, the first president of Armenia, Levon Der Bedrossian, is given credit for his more realistic approach. In 1998 he insisted that Artsakh had to negotiate and permanently settle its independent status by giving up those territories that were occupied just for strategic security but did not belong in fact

to modern Armenian Karabakh. Indeed, in retrospect, Der Bedrossian was right. The administrations that followed ought to have pursued a pragmatic diplomatic policy. Armenia should not only have consolidated its legitimate territorial gains but also should have quietly built a strong and modern army as the solid guarantor of its independence. Instead, there has been singing, dancing and celebrating Artsakh with hollow “genats”s, drinking alcohol while the army was in disarray.

In conclusion, Armenians all over the world rightly condemn the weakness and incapacity of the current prime minister and of his administration to defend the legitimate rights of the heroic people of Artsakh.

Armenia and Artsakh need today a leader-

ship capable of conducting intelligently and aggressively the existential – and legally well-justified – diplomatic war for Artsakh. The two legal arguments enumerated above must be voiced loudly and clearly in every relevant forum in the world. It is better late than never. It must start certainly from the National Assembly of Armenia, as well as in the international media. Pashinyan’s speech must be declared null and invalid.

To defend our rights, we need the Armenian equivalent of the Ukrainian Zelenskyy who, day and night, loudly demands the support of every nation on the planet in his fight for the legitimate independence of his country, instead of capitulating like Armenia’s leader. He does this even though he is facing the overwhelming brutal force of

a world power. If such leadership will not manifest itself promptly in Armenia, then it will need to be created by mobilizing all Armenians, from Artsakh to Armenia and the diaspora.

Armenians must defend their rights and win. Any weakness and failure in this Artsakh war will certainly lead to a next phase, to nibbling at the present territories of Armenia itself, until that too will disappear. Aliyev has announced more than once that Yerevan belongs to him. So far, he has certainly obtained what he asked for, because we allowed him to do so.

Fellow Armenians, yes indeed, “Artsakh is Armenian, Արցախը մերն է.” The patriotic spirit of the 1988 “Artsakhyan Sharjoun” must be revived again, now!

President Biden Marks Genocide Anniversary



BIDEN, from page 1

As we reflect on the Armenian genocide, we renew our pledge to remain vigilant against the corrosive influence of hate in all its forms. We recommit ourselves to speaking out and stopping atrocities that leave lasting scars on the world. And, as we mourn what was lost during the *Medz Yeghern*, let us redouble our efforts toward healing and building the better, more peaceful world that we wish for our children. A world where human rights are respected, where the evils of bigotry and intolerance do not mark our daily lives, and where people everywhere are free to pursue their lives in dignity and security.

This is also a moment to reflect on the strength and resiliency of the Armenian people. After enduring a genocide, the Armenian people were determined to rebuild their community and their culture, so often in new homes and new lands, including the United States. Armenian Americans are a vital part of the fabric of the United States. They make our nation stronger and more dynamic, even as they continue to carry with them the tragic knowledge of what their ancestors endured. We recognize their pain and honor their story.

Today, 107 years later, the American people continue to honor all Armenians who perished in the genocide.



“The Armenian Museum is a powerful experience for visitors, no matter how familiar they are with Armenian culture and history. It’s a testament not only to the layered ancient world, but to a peoples’ resilient drive to survive and flourish.”

- Nell Porter Brown, Harvard Magazine

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