

Documentarian Bared Maronian Tackles the Brutal Recent History of Artsakh

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

BOSTON — Bared Maronian, the Emmy-award-winning documentarian, in June hosted a private screening of his most recent work, tentatively titled “Genocide 2.0: Artsakh Ethnic Cleansing,” at the West Newton Cinema in Newton. The documentary focuses the atrocities that took place in Karabakh (Artsakh), between 2020, when Armenia lost the war and the majority of the enclave to Azerbaijan, until 2023, when the remaining portion of the region was overrun by Azerbaijani forces, leading to the forced exodus of the entire population.

For Maronian, the screening was part focus group and part community outreach.

see MARONIAN, page 14



Yervant Nahikian and Bared Maronian as the former receives an award (Ken Martin photo)



A view of Areni-1 Cave

Armenia’s Areni-1 Cave Added To UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List

BUSAN, Korea (Public Radio of Armenia) — Armenia has secured the inclusion of the “Areni-1 Cave: Prehistoric Life and Winemaking in the Arpa River Valley” in UNESCO’s World Heritage Tentative List during the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee, currently taking place in Busan, the Republic of Korea, from July 19 to 29.

Armenia is participating in the session as a member of the World Heritage Committee for the first time. The Armenian delegation is headed by the country’s Permanent Representative to UNESCO, Aram Hakobyan, and includes Head of the Department for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments at the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport Harutyun Vanyan, along with five national experts.

The newly registered nomination was prepared under a cooperation memorandum signed between the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, the Areni-1 Cave Research Foundation, and the Armenian Enotourism Council NGO. The project was financed by the Armenian Enotourism Council, highlighting another successful example of public-private partnership in the preservation and promotion of Armenia’s cultural heritage.

see CAVE, page 2

Armenian Prisoners ‘Injured in Azeri Custody’

By Ruzanna Stepanian

YEREVAN (Azatutyun) — Some of the Armenian prisoners held by Azerbaijan have suffered serious injuries in Azerbaijani jails, an Armenian human rights lawyer noted on Friday, July 24, based on comments from their families.

“We have received reports of serious injuries,” Siranush Sahakyan told RFE/RL’s Armenian Service. “We have no way to verify this ourselves. Of course, I don’t think the families have any motive to provide incorrect or false information. At this point, we trust that information.”

Sahakyan, who represents the 19 prisoners in the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), said the injuries include bone fractures and may have been caused by torture. She did not name any of the allegedly injured prisoners.

The captives include eight former leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh who were detained during Azerbaijan’s recapture of the region in September 2023. Five of them were sentenced to life imprisonment while the three others, including Armenian-born billionaire Ruben Vardanyan, received 20-year jail sentences in February at the end of yearlong trials denounced by Amnesty International as a “travesty.”

In a statement released from an Azerbaijani prison through his family in May, Vardanyan said that some of the prisoners “have no teeth.” He did not name them or give other details.

see PRISONERS, page 5

Opposition Tycoon Tsarukyan’s Shopping Mall Shuttered Over Alleged Safety Violations

By Arshaluys Barseghyan

Armenian authorities have said the Arinj shopping mall, owned by businessperson and opposition leader Gagik Tsarukyan, has been shuttered after inspections identified safety violations. The closure is the latest in a series of measures affecting Tsarukyan’s businesses since his arrest earlier in July, with his team saying around 10,000 employees have been left unable to work.

On Thursday, July 23, the Investigative Committee said the decision followed a comprehensive forensic examination commissioned on June 5, 2025, the findings of which were received on June 10, 2026.

see TYCOON, page 4

Tekeyan Cultural Association Brings UCLA VEM String Quartet to Six Cities

By Aram Arkun
Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN—The UCLA Vem String Quartet, during a spring tour sponsored and planned by the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) and the UCLA Armenian Music Program, gave six concerts. The tour started in Philadelphia, then went on to Cambridge, Mass., Montreal, Ann Arbor and Southfield, Mich., and finally Altadena, Calif. In each of these cities, local TCA chapters made arrangements for presentations and performances. Vem gave bravura performances of works of Khachaturian, Komitas, Toumajan, Suni, Gazarossian, Saryan and Schubert.

see VEM, page 10



The Vem Ensemble performing at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

ARMENIA

Fewer University Entrants Raise Concerns Over Armenia’s Education System



BELGIUM

Levon Aronian Wins Biel Masters on Debut



JAPAN

Takahiro Akiba: The Japanese Heart That Beats With Komitas





ARMENIA

NEWS from ARMENIA

Ruben Rubinyan Moves to Oust Outgoing Speaker's Staff

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) — Ruben Rubinyan, a ruling Civil Contract party lawmaker nominated to become Armenia's next parliament speaker, has begun issuing a series of administrative orders, including the dismissal of several aides and advisers to outgoing National Assembly Speaker Alen Simonyan.

Rubinyan has already ordered the distribution of bonus funds allocated for the National Assembly among lawmakers, state employees and other parliament staffers.

He has also dismissed several members of Simonyan's office.

Anna Hakobyan Reports Receiving Threats to Life

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Anna Hakobyan, the wife of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, during a livestream on Facebook on July 28 said she feels her life is under threat after speaking publicly about domestic violence in families.

Hakobyan expressed hope that state authorities would be able to prevent any such incident, saying that "it would be a major blow to the country's reputation if the prime minister's wife became a victim of violence."

She also urged women not to be afraid or remain silent about domestic violence, encouraging them to speak openly about the issue, declaring that "we will no longer tolerate violence in our families."

The Prosecutor General's Office has initiated a review of Hakobyan's public statement regarding threats. The Prosecutor's Office confirmed the development, according to 1lur.am.

Missing Soldiers' Families Inform NSS of Next Steps

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Relatives of servicemen who went missing during the 44-day war had given the Armenian government one week to provide clarifications on the efforts being made to locate their loved ones. The deadline expired this week, without them receiving a response, they said.

Arsen Ghukasyan, a relative of a missing serviceman, said the parents held a discussion and consultation, decided on their next steps, and will visit Armenia's National Security Service (NSS), according to Pastinfo.

Last week, outside the government building, Ghukasyan said they were planning to travel to the Hakari bridge in an effort to establish contact with people on the Azerbaijani side who have relatives in the same situation, hoping to exchange information about their missing family members through mutual assistance.

Armenia Looks to Boost Gas Imports from Iran

YEREVAN (Azatutyun) — Following Russia's threats to hike the price of its natural gas for Armenia, Armenian Infrastructures Minister Davit Khudatyan discussed with senior Iranian officials in Tehran over the weekend the possibility of increasing Iranian gas supplies to his country.

Khudatyan met with Iran's Vice President Hamid Pourmohammadi, Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad and Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi during the visit.

According to the Armenian Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures, he and Paknejad spoke about "increasing the volume of gas supplied as well as expanding trade in the energy sector." Paknejad reportedly expressed Tehran's readiness to supply more gas to Armenia.

"Armenia has helped Iran during difficult days, and we also seek to help this friendly country," the official IRNA news agency quoted him as telling journalists after the talks.

The two sides agreed to set up a "joint specialized task force" that will look into practical modalities of expanding Armenian-Iranian energy ties. Khudatyan was reported to tell Pourmohammadi that this is of "strategic importance" to Yerevan.

Russia accounts for more than 80 percent of some 2.3 billion cubic meters of natural gas imported by Armenia each year. The rest of those supplies come from Iran through a pipeline with an estimated annual capacity of up to 2 billion cubic meters.

The Russian gas price for the South Caucasus country is set well below international



Armenian Infrastructures Minister Davit Khudatyan, left, and Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad

market-based levels. President Vladimir Putin and other Russian leaders warned of an end to that discount in May as Moscow stepped up economic pressure on Yerevan over its pro-Western foreign policy.

"We supply gas to Armenia at a quarter of its price, to our own detriment (the price in Armenia is \$177.50 per thousand cubic meters, while in Europe it's \$633 per thousand cubic meters) ... What we get in return is [Prime Minister Nikol] Pashinyan's meanness and dishonesty. This cannot continue," said Vyacheslav Volodin, the State Duma speaker.

Pashinyan dismissed the Russian threats at the time. He claimed that Armenia will soon be awash with "billions and trillions" of dollars as a result of transport links and other commercial ties forged with neighbor-

ing Turkey and Azerbaijan. The country can therefore afford a higher gas price, he said.

In addition to being supplied to households and power plants, Russian gas is also heavily used in some sectors of the Armenian economy such as greenhouse farming. Iranian gas is believed to be significantly more expensive even if Yerevan pays for it with electricity exported to the Islamic Republic.

The Armenian government has repeatedly announced plans to boost gas imports from Iran in the last few years. But there appears to have been no sizable increase in their volume to date.

Areni-1 Cave Added To UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List

CAVE, from page 1

With the inclusion of the Areni-1 Cave nomination, Armenia has doubled the number of sites on UNESCO's World Heritage Tentative List over the past three years, adding four new entries to the four sites originally registered in 1995 as a result of sustained efforts.

The Areni-1 Cave, locally known as the Birds' Cave, is formed in the limestone cliffs of the Arpa River gorge, one of the most striking landscapes in southern Armenia. Situated at the natural crossroads between the Ararat Depression and the Syunik Uplands, the site overlooks fertile alluvial lands that have been cultivated for thousands of years with orchards and vineyards. The cave itself is a multi-chamber karst system. It includes:

Three main cave galleries extend over 40 meters into the cliff, featuring subsidiary niches and side chambers. The eastern gallery rises to more than 10 meters at its entrance, while the central gallery extends deeply into the bedrock, forming dark, stable microclimates.

The total interior area is approximately 850 m², while the larger cave system and adjacent terrace together exceed 7800 m².

This environment provided natural protection and ideal conditions for preservation of organic materials, rarely encountered in world prehistory. Wood, rope, textiles, leather, plant remains, and even food residues have survived for six millennia. The cave forms part of a wider cultural landscape of caves in the Arpa gorge: surveys documented nearly forty caves with traces of prehistoric use. Areni-1, however, is one of the largest, richest, and most intensively occupied.

Armenian Exports Tumble Following Russian Sanctions

YEREVAN (Azatutyun) — Armenia's exports fell by more than 20 percent year on year last month following unprecedented trade restrictions imposed by Russia, the South Caucasus country's main trading partner, according to official statistics.

Although the Armenian government's Statistical Committee has not yet released a country-by-country breakdown of exports in June or the first half of this year, the sharp fall clearly resulted from the sanctions highlighting heightened tensions between Moscow and Yerevan.

Citing sanitary grounds, the Russian authorities blocked in late May and early June multimillion-dollar imports of Armenian fruits, vegetables, mineral water, flowers, fish and some alcoholic beverages. Moscow imposed the sanctions as it pressed Yerevan to quickly choose between continuing to seek membership of the European Union and remaining part of a Russian-led trade bloc.

Economy Minister Gevorg Papoyan touted over the weekend sharp rises in first-half Armenian exports to the EU, China and India. However, Papoyan pointedly declined to give any absolute numbers or mention the fact that overall exports fell by 6.7 percent in January-June 2026.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has downplayed the impact of the Russian sanctions on the Armenian economy. Papoyan likewise cited Statistical Committee data showing that economic growth in the country remained robust in June. By contrast, the World Bank expressed concern at

possible consequences of the embargo earlier this month.

"Should the [Russian] ban continue and widen without mitigation measures, the negative impacts could spill beyond trade and affect growth, prices and social conditions," it warned in a report.

The ban is already affecting the Armenian government's tax revenue. The government's State Revenue Committee (SRC) has reported sharp reductions in taxes collected in the first half of the year from Armenia's leading companies growing and/or exporting agricultural products. Taxes paid by the largest of them, Spayka, shrunk by almost half, to 1.78 billion drams (\$4.8 million).

Last week, Rosselkhoznadzor, the Russian government's agricultural oversight agency, also banned imports of Armenian dairy products. The move came more than two weeks after Pashinyan's meeting with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin. The latter reportedly repeated the Russian demands during the talks held in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg.

Pashinyan has ruled out any reversal of his European integration drive since his party's victory in disputed parliamentary elections held on June 7. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen reaffirmed support for that policy when she visited Yerevan on July 2. She promised that the EU will open its market to Armenian products in addition to providing 52 million euros (\$60 million) in urgent financial aid to Pashinyan's government.



ARMENIA

Russian Intelligence Service Warns of ‘Deep Crisis’ in Armenia

YEREVAN (Azatutyun) — Armenia’s possible exit from the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) would plunge the country into a “deep economic crisis” and destabilize its government, Russia’s Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) claimed on July 28.

In a statement, it also said that the European Union should not expect Russia and other ex-Soviet states making up the trade bloc to “not allow the Yerevan political crew to drown” and to “sponsor its marathon swim towards the EU.”

The statement came the day after Russian President Vladimir Putin’s phone conversation with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan during which he again called for a referendum on whether Armenia should leave the Russian-led bloc and continue seeking EU membership. Pashinyan was reported to reiterate that such a vote cannot take place before the Armenian government makes a formal membership bid. The government remains in no rush to do that despite enacting last year a law declaring the “start of a process of Armenia’s accession to the European Union.”

Putin declared this spring that Yerevan can no longer combine its European integration policy with its membership in the

EEU, which gives Armenian exporters’ tariff-free access to Russia, their main market. That was followed by Russian bans on multimillion-dollar imports of Armenian agricultural products and beverages. The EU responded to Moscow’s “economic coercion” by providing 52 million euros (\$60 million) in urgent financial aid to Pashinyan’s government and promising to open its market to the Armenian products hit by the Russian sanctions.

“According to information received by the SVR, Brussels recognizes the inevitability of a deep economic crisis in Armenia if Yerevan finds itself outside the Eurasian Economic Union,” said the Russian intelligence service. “It is emphasized that zeroing out revenues from participation in Eurasian integration will not ensure the stability of the Armenian authorities... at the expense of EEU members.”

The SVR also claimed that although the EU will be unable to compensate Armenia for “billions” of dollars in economic losses, it is pressuring Pashinyan to “reduce the presence of Russian businesses in strategic sectors, sever humanitarian ties with the Russian Federation and suppress domestic opponents who oppose this.”



Sergei Naryshkin, head of Russia’s Foreign Intelligence Service (July 18, 2022)

The Armenian government did not immediately react to the claims. Pashinyan said earlier that the South Caucasus country cannot be kicked out of the EEU against its will.

Putin and the presidents of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan implicitly threatened to do that in a joint statement issued in late May. They instructed their prime ministers to present “possible consequenc-

es” of such a scenario at an EEU summit planned for December.

Russia is Armenia’s number one trading partner. According to Armenian government data, it accounted for 28 percent of Armenian foreign trade in the first five months of this year, compared with the EU’s 16.7 percent share. Russia also supplies the bulk of natural gas used in Armenia at a significant discount.

H. Hovnanian Family Foundation Awards \$237,000 for Parks and Recreation Projects

YEREVAN — Vibrant public spaces, green zones, and accessible recreational areas are essential for healthy, thriving communities. To support this need, the H. Hovnanian Family Foundation has awarded \$237,000 in grants to six impactful initiatives through its first-quarter 2026 Parks & Recreation grant cycle.

This quarter’s funding focused exclusively on Syunik and Vayots Dzor. By strengthening these communities in these provinces, the selected projects aim to improve the everyday quality of life for local residents, boost tourism potential, and foster environmental resilience. “Investing in public parks and recreation areas is an investment in community resilience and social cohesion,” said Anahit Hakobyan, Program Manager at the H. Hovnanian Family Foundation. “We were particularly encouraged by the strong participation of public sector entities, including the municipalities of Kapan, Goris, and Sisian. By pairing local government commitment with the specialized on-the-ground expertise of dedicated NGOs, we are ensuring these spaces become safe, sustainable, and universally accessible assets for thousands of families.”

Little Bridge NGO will establish the Vayk Inclusive Gardens, a 1,000 m² public playground and park in Vayk (Vayots Dzor region), to be implemented over a six-month period. Driven by a 15 per cent population increase from displaced families, the project addresses a critical lack of safe, accessible recreational options for the community’s 6,743 residents. Utilizing universal design principles, the park will feature four distinct zones: inclusive play for 1,983 children; health and mobility stations for 870 individuals in rehabilitation or living with disabilities; geriatric areas for 1,840 elderly residents; and fitness spaces serving over 2,050 people. The health and inclusion component includes a ‘living fence’ of 32 trees and 50 shrubs instead of traditional gates, recessed cattle grids to ensure seamless wheelchair and stroller access, and a

400 m² lawn attached to a municipally extended drip irrigation line.

The Armenian branch of the SOS Chrétiens d’Orient will create a 500 m² public square around the Aram Manukian bust in the village of Davit Bek, located within the Kapan enlarged community of the Syunik province. To be implemented over seven months, the project directly addresses the lack of developed public spaces in the village, benefiting approximately 1,000 local residents. The initiative includes comprehensive site development, paving, comfortable seating, water access, and the integration of green areas featuring lawns, trees, and flowers. Playground equipment will also be installed, provided as an in-kind contribution by the organization.

The Kapan Municipality will lead an eight-month revitalization of the 2,200 m² public area adjacent to the iconic Garegin Nzhdeh monument in Kapan, which has not been renovated since its construction in 2001. The project entails the demolition and clearing of worn infrastructure, followed by the installation of new paving, curbs, walkways, and stairs. It also includes the rehabilitation of the monument’s immediate surroundings, landscaping with an integrated irrigation system, outdoor lighting, modern urban furniture, and robust accessibility upgrades. The completed site will serve Kapan’s 45,815 residents and an estimated 10,000 annual visitors.

The Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) will launch the 12-month Together in the Park project in Yeghegnadzor, Vayots Dzor, targeting the broader community of 14,844 people. This initiative combines structural physical upgrades with targeted social programming to combat isolation and a lack of youth spaces following recent regional challenges. Physically, the project will rehabilitate the 600 m² municipality-owned central Momik Park by paving, lighting, greening, and improving safety. Socially, ARCS will leverage its extensive volunteer network to deliver more than 30 structured activities, including intergener-

ational sessions, youth microgrants, and local volunteer-led community initiatives.

Baleni Agricultural Charitable Foundation will establish a 25,000 m² (2.5 hectares) forest-park in Shaghat village within the Sisian community of Syunik. Developed over 12 months in close cooperation with active local youth and supportive village leadership, the project encompasses a 5,000 m² landscaped park zone and a 20,000 m² forest plantation. The intervention features extensive afforestation through the planting of roughly 6,000 trees, an irrigation system, solar lighting, walking paths, and protective fencing. Merging the environment with innovation, the park will feature an outdoor movie screening area and benches equipped with QR codes linking visitors to regional historical and geographical information, benefiting 1,000 direct residents and neighboring communities.

Jardar NGO will co-create a community park in Goris, Syunik, on municipal land adjacent to a local school. Serving as a permanent public asset, the site will also

host the second LINE Armenian Architecture Biennial, themed ‘Urban Recreations by Line.’ Spanning a total area of 15,000 m², the project will begin with an intensive participatory design process—bringing together residents, youth, and local stakeholders through research and collaborative workshops—before moving into the physical construction of a public park that seamlessly blends ecological, architectural, and recreational elements. The grant serves for the first phase of the project, covering the research and design components.

Taken together, these six projects reflect a holistic vision for regional development. Whether transforming village squares, piloting inclusive infrastructure, or introducing digital components to brand-new parks, these initiatives ensure that the natural beauty and community spirit of Syunik and Vayots Dzor are preserved, celebrated, and made accessible to all.

Full details about the Foundation’s grant program and upcoming calls are available at <https://hovnanianfoundation.org/en/armenia-grants/general-grants>.

Armenian Chamber of Advocates Condemns Actions against Tsarukyan Lawyer

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) — The Armenian Chamber of Advocates strongly condemned unlawful interference in the professional work of attorney Yerem Sargsyan, who represents opposition leader Gagik Tsarukyan, on July 28.

In a unanimous decision adopted on July 28, the Chamber’s council said Sargsyan’s rights were violated when he was removed from a criminal case without clear legal justification, summoned as a witness in the same proceedings and pressured to disclose information protected by attorney-client privilege. The council also warned against searches or seizures of his office, home, or digital devices that could expose confidential materials.

The Chamber of Advocates urged investigative authorities to immediately review the legality of excluding Sargsyan from the case, refrain from questioning him about matters learned through legal representation and ensure the inviolability of privileged documents and communications. It also called for measures to restore the defendant’s right to defense through counsel of choice and for greater public accountability to ease concerns within the legal community.

The council appealed to the chief prosecutor to exercise oversight, as well as to Armenia’s human rights defender, international organizations and foreign partners to monitor the situation and help prevent similar incidents.



ARMENIA

Fewer University Entrants Raise Concerns over Armenia’s Education System

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) — A decline in university admissions and concerns over falling academic standards have fueled renewed debate about the state of Armenia’s education system, with education experts warning that recent policy changes are discouraging students from pursuing higher education.

One issue drawing criticism is the timing of compulsory military service for male students. Under current rules, many school graduates are drafted immediately after finishing secondary education and learn the outcome of their university entrance examinations only after reporting for military service.

“My son was admitted to university, but he is already serving in the army. What are parents supposed to do now?” is a common complaint posted beneath social media updates from government education authorities.

Education expert Atom Mkrtchyan said the previous system allowed young men to spend at least a year preparing for university entrance examinations before beginning military service, giving them a better chance of securing admission.

“Today they no longer have that oppor-

tunity and are drafted immediately after graduating from school. That does not contribute to educational development,” he said in an interview with Panorama.am on earlier in July.

Official admission figures point to a downward trend. In 2026, the number of students admitted to Armenian universities fell by around 1,100 compared with 2024 and by approximately 1,350 from 2025.

The government allocated 12,720 university places for the 2026 admissions cycle, including 2,130 state-funded places and 10,587 fee-paying places. However, only 9,620 applicants secured admission. Of those, 1,875 were admitted to state-funded places, including reserved and targeted quotas, while 7,799 enrolled on a fee-paying basis.

Mkrtchyan also criticized Armenia’s 12-year school system, arguing that the final year has become increasingly ineffective because many students spend much of their time preparing for entrance examinations with private tutors rather than attending classes.

He said only about one-quarter of school graduates apply to university, adding that

just 58.4 percent of applicants were admitted this year.

“Those who apply are generally students who want to pursue higher education and have either prepared with tutors or performed well at school. Yet only slightly more than half succeed,” he said.

According to Mkrtchyan, declining admission rates reflect broader weaknesses in general education despite easier university entrance examinations in recent years. He attributed the deterioration to repeated education reforms, teacher certification requirements and training programs, which

he said have failed to improve outcomes and have contributed to teacher shortages. More than 1,000 teaching positions are currently vacant across Armenia’s roughly 1,400 schools, he said.

As potential remedies, Mkrtchyan called for replacing incompetent decision-makers and substantially increasing public investment in education.

He noted that Armenia allocates between 2 and 2.4 percent of its gross domestic product to education, compared with around 5 percent or more in many developed countries.



Armenian college students

COAF Helps Bring International Electronic Artists to Armenia for Fundraising Festival

YEREVAN — Across the Armenian countryside, Horizon Festival is bringing together an international lineup of electronic music heavyweights for what promises to be one of the region’s most exciting new music events.

Co-organized by the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) and Turntables, the three-part festival will unite renowned artists and their international fanbases in unforgettable settings across Armenia.

Proceeds received by COAF will go directly toward funding their transformative programs for youth.

The Horizon festival is held with the technological support and sponsorship of Team Telecom Armenia, whose ongoing backing of innovative and community-based initiatives fosters the development of new cultural and technology-driven formats across Armenia.

Each festival experience unfolds as a carefully curated journey through sound, light, and energy. Music, cuisine, and immersive environments come together to create memorable moments from day to night.

Horizon will launch on August 2 at the COAF SMART Campus, a sprawling venue nestled among the pastoral hills of Armenia’s northern Lori region. The inaugural event will feature performances by Satori, the celebrated Dutch producer and live performer known for blending organic instrumentation with melodic electronic music; Son of Son, the Swedish artist known as the Great Blondino, whose cinematic, genre-defying sound has earned a growing international following; and Tamada, the Georgian artist whose immersive live performances draw inspiration from his rich cultural heritage while pushing contemporary electronic music forward.

On August 22, Horizon will continue at the historic Garni Temple, just east of Armenia’s capital, with a headline performance by acclaimed German producer and live electronic artist Stephan Bodzin. The ancient Greco-Roman temple has quickly emerged as one of the region’s most striking settings for live music.

The festival will conclude on September 25, with the location and lineup for its final event to be announced.

For tickets, programming, and additional information, visit <https://www.horizon-armenia.com/>.

Learn more at www.coaf.org.

Opposition Tycoon Tsarukyan’s Shopping Mall Shuttered Over Alleged Safety Violations

TYCOON, from page 1

According to the committee, the 3.5-hectare site in the village of Arinj, Kotayk region, overlaps with the safety zone of a 110-kV high-voltage transmission line and also falls within the protective zone of the Yerevan–Abovyan railway. They also found that unauthorized structures, including the parking lot and part of the shopping pavilions, had been built within this area.

Investigators also said experts had concluded that the land had been transferred without complying with the legal requirements in force at the time.

According to RFE/RL, law enforcement officers sealed dozens of retail pavilions on Monday, July 20, when the market was closed for its regular day off. Tenants and employees said they had received no advance notice and only learned about the closures when they returned to work on July 21.

Employees and business owners questioned why the authorities had only now identified the location as unsafe when the power lines, electricity poles, and shopping pavilions had stood side by side for years. They also pointed to a nearby construction site where building work is taking place next to a similar electric pole.

The closure prompted protests by tenants and employees, who demanded that the



Gates of Gagik Tsarukyan’s Arinj Mall closed amid suspension of the shopping center in July 2026 (screengrab from RFE/RL video)

shopping centre be reopened. Several businesses belonging to Tsarukyan have also seen similar protests staged by employees since his arrest earlier in July on charges of large-scale fraud and money laundering allegedly carried out between 2022 and 2024.

During the heated pre-election period, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan repeatedly vowed to imprison his opponents and con-

fiscate their assets.

So far, only the Ararat Cement plant — also a Tsarukyan asset — has resumed operations after its management was transferred to the Armenian government.

In mid-July, Tsarukyan’s Multi Wellness gym was taken over by the Yerevan Municipality, with Yerevan Mayor Tigran Avinyan noting that the gym had been built

on inalienable land which led to Yerevan municipality.

Arinj Mall is the latest business to suspend operations since Tsarukyan’s detention. Earlier this month, Prosperous Armenia spokesperson Iveta Tonoyan said restrictions imposed on companies belonging to Tsarukyan had left around 10,000 employees on involuntary leave.

Tsarukyan has been under investigation since June 9, a mere two days after Armenians took to the polls to vote in the parliamentary elections.

He is one of the wealthiest men in Armenian politics. Having begun his business career in food processing during the 1990s, in the following three decades he amassed a stake in a wide variety of industries throughout Armenia, including alcohol and food production, casinos, hotels, mineral extraction, pharmaceuticals, and most recently, bitcoin mining.

The eccentric tycoon has previously been charged with several crimes in the past.

He was convicted of raping two women in 1979, for which he was sentenced to seven years in prison. In 2001, during Robert Kocharyan’s presidency, the Armenian Court of Cassation overturned the verdict, exonerating Tsarukyan.

(This story originally appeared on www.oc-media.org on July 24.)



INTERNATIONAL

Talysh Researcher Igbal Abilov Says He Was Tortured in Baku Prison

By Aytan Farhadova

Imprisoned Talysh researcher Igbal Abilov has reportedly been tortured while in solitary confinement, allegedly for wearing a t-shirt in court that featured words from a Talysh poem that read, “The day a nation loses its head, it deserves its country’s death sentence.” Abilov, who was sentenced on charges of treason in 2024, was in court to sue several pro-government media outlets for violating his presumption of innocence.

Abilov’s family has said that the researcher was tortured at the Baku Pre-Trial Detention Centre. His father, Shahin Abilov, told OC Media that he had worn the shirt to a court hearing on July 7.

“His hands were tied to an iron bed and he was beaten, resulting in bruises and serious injuries to various parts of his body,” Shahin Abilov said, adding he had learned about the torture from his son’s lawyer Fariz Namazli when they attempted to visit him on July 9. The family claims that the prison administration told them that Abilov had been placed in solitary confinement.

Shahin Abilov stated that his son spoke about the torture as he was being escorted into a court hearing on July 13. He claimed he had been beaten by the director of the prison, Javid Gulaliyev. In court, Igbal Abilov also said he had been subjected to X-ray examinations against his will on more than one occasion in prison, which included physical force.

Prior to his arrest, Abilov was the editor-in-chief of the News of the Talysh National Academy, a magazine dedicated to the study of Talysh history, language, and

culture.

The Talysh are Azerbaijan’s largest minority, with estimates putting their population between 500,000 and one million. They have long struggled to secure their own ethnic autonomy and civil rights, including the ability to access education in the Talysh language.

Abilov was arrested by the State Service Security (DTX) and sentenced to 18 years in prison on charges of high treason in May 2025.

According to his father, Abilov grew up in Belarus and was a lecturer at the Belarus State University.

“He was engaged in science his whole life and was never interested in politics. Now he is charged for his activity in science and in his last court hearings Igbal accused the prosecutor not in ethnic discrimination but system discrimination,” his father said.

When Abilov was detained by the DTX, pro-government media claimed that he had been charged with working with Armenian security services, and had been “organizing activities” against Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity, and “taking action aimed at creating hatred and enmity on ethnic grounds.”

Pro-government media outlets cited a Skype call with the Iranian–Armenian historian Garnik Asatryan, who also researches the Talysh history and language, as evidence of his “betrayal.”

Later, four months after Abilov’s arrest, his father was summoned to the DTX, where an investigator asked whether he could influence his son’s decision to cooperate with the DTX.

“I was asked to speak to Igbal so he would reach an agreement with them — after that, they might be able to help him. I asked: “And what will you do? Drop the charges against him?.” They replied: “No, we’ll help him while he’s in prison” .”

In March, the pro-government media outlet Baku TV released a video entitled “the true face of the ‘scientist’ who betrayed Azerbaijan | Those behind Igbal Abilov” — where they echoed claims that Abilov was working for Armenian intelligence.

Following the program, Abilov published a response in Tolishmedia, claiming the DTX had offered him a shorter sentence if he confessed.

Talysh people have previously claimed that the DTX attempted to recruit them.

One such activist was Mirhafiz Jafarzade, who advocated for the creation of Talysh school textbooks in Azerbaijan. An Azerbaijani court sentenced him to 16 years in prison in October 2024.

Jafarzade told OC Media in October 2025 that he was detained in September 2021 while attempting to leave the country. He said that after hours of interrogation by the DTX, he was released, but placed under a travel ban.

Jafarzade was subsequently detained again, with DTX officers demanding that he gather and pass on information about other Talysh in Azerbaijan. Jafarzade refused, and in November 2022, he was arrested and later sentenced to 16 years in prison on charges of high treason.

(This article originally appeared on www.oc-media.org on July 21.)

INTERNATIONAL

Zakharova Explains CSTO Stance on Karabakh

MOSCOW (PanARMENIAN.Net) — The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) could not have become involved in the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh because Armenia itself had not recognized the territory, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on July 28.

“There was the case of Armenia, which seemed to say, ‘Let’s activate the CSTO mechanism.’ But in reality, with regard to whom and what? Regarding the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, which Armenia itself, unfortunately or fortunately did not recognize either as its own or as an independent entity,” Zakharova said at the Gvardiysk youth forum.

She stressed under such circumstances, it was impossible to activate the CSTO mechanism.

Armenia has not expected CSTO involvement in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Instead, it requested the organization to activate its mechanisms in September 2022, when Azerbaijan attacked Armenia’s sovereign territory, from which its forces have still not withdrawn.

Armenian Ambassador, Cypriot Defense Minister Meet

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Armenian Ambassador to Cyprus Inna Torgomyan met with Cypriot Defense Minister Vasilis Palmas on July 27 in Nicosia.

The Armenian Embassy in Cyprus announced the meeting in a statement.

According to the statement, the sides discussed bilateral relations and prospects for further strengthening them.

They also exchanged views on Armenia-European Union relations and opportunities to expand cooperation within the EU framework.

Iran Labels Azeri TV Channel Hostile Outlet

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Iran’s Ministry of Intelligence has added Azerbaijan’s state television channel AzTV, along with several other foreign media outlets, to its list of “hostile media” and introduced criminal liability for individuals who cooperate with them, Factor.am reported.

Baku responded by declaring the activities of Iran’s Seher television channel and the Mehr news agency illegal.

According to Azerbaijani media, Azerbaijan has continued to uphold the principle of protecting journalists’ professional activities.

“According to Article 11.4 of the Law on Media, if another state imposes special restrictions on the professional activities of journalists ... similar restrictions may also be imposed in Azerbaijan on journalists from the state that introduced those restrictions,” the agency said.

Armenian Prisoners ‘Injured in Azeri Custody’

PRISONERS, from page 1

According to Sahakyan, other prisoners have serious health issues and do not receive adequate medical care in prison. Last week, the wife of the 56-year-old

headaches and problems with heart and lungs,” Hranush Mkrtchyan told RFE/RL’s Armenian Service.

Last year, the Azerbaijani authorities banned representatives of the International

even after the initialization of an Armenian-Azerbaijani peace treaty in Washington last August 8. Neither the treaty nor a separate declaration signed by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev



Former leaders of Nagorno Karabakh stand trial in Baku, November 3, 2025.

Lyudvig Mkrtchyan, who was taken prisoner by Azerbaijanis during the 2020 war in Karabakh, expressed serious concern about what she described as a sharp deterioration of his health. She is able to talk to him by phone once in every one or two months.

“He has shortness of breath, dizziness,

al Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from periodically visiting the prisoners to inspect their detention conditions and inquire about their health. The ECHR later ordered Azerbaijan to submit such information to the Strasbourg court.

Prospects for the release anytime soon of the remaining captives remain uncer-

and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan at the White House commits Baku to freeing them. This fact fueled more claims by Pashinyan’s domestic critics that Yerevan is doing little to secure the prisoners’ release. Pashinyan and other Armenian officials have denied them.



INTERNATIONAL

Levon Aronian Wins Biel Masters on Debut

BIEL, Belgium — He was one of the very few players from the world’s elite who had never previously competed at the Biel Chess Festival, and now he has won on his first attempt: Levon Aronian. The former world number two claimed the 2026 Masters Triathlon in late July, thanks in particular to outstanding performances in the fast-paced rapid and blitz disciplines. Aydin Süleymanli finished second, ahead of Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus and Lê Quang Liêm.

The Generations Challenge was won by Václav Finěk, the youngest player in the competition. The young Czech put in an excellent performance across all three disciplines, leaving Xiao Tong and Marco Materia in second and third place, respectively.

The Biel Chess Festival featured the Masters Triathlon, the Generations Challenge, and several side events. Both the Masters and the Challenge were 6-player round-robins that combined three different time controls (blitz, rapid, and classical), with results counting toward a cumulative final score. The top four players from the triathlon then competed in an additional classical single round-robin.

The situation looked highly favorable for Levon Aronian heading into the final round as the sole leader. Trailing by four points, his closest rival and final-round opponent, Aydin Süleymanli, had to go for a win with the black pieces to overtake him. However, the American played virtually flawlessly, leaving Süleymanli with no winning opportunities, and the game ended in a draw by threefold repetition. Aronian proved to be rock-solid in classical chess, drawing all eight of his classical games. Combined with his outstanding



performances in rapid (9/10 points) and blitz (8½/10 points), he finished with a total of 29½ points, thereby clinching the 2026 Biel Masters Triathlon.

With his victory in Biel, Levon Aronian — the 43-year-old Armenian-born player who has represented the USA since 2021 — adds yet another title to his impressive resume. Once ranked number two in the world, he achieved the fourth-highest Elo rating of all time in 2014 with 2830. He has now been playing at the very highest international level for over 20 years, and with Aronian, the Biel Chess Festival has a highly worthy winner for 2026.

Aydin Süleymanli finished in second place. Had the Azerbaijani won his final-round game, he could have even secured the tournament title. He would have finished level on points with Aronian and

would have claimed the trophy thanks to a superior performance in the ACCENTUS Chess960 tiebreak. Still, second place remains a major success for Süleymanli. According to his pre-tournament Elo rating, he was ranked only fifth out of the six players. Above all, he was called up at short notice to replace Yakubboev, who was unable to participate, meaning he could not prepare as thoroughly as his rivals.

The other two players, Lê Quang Liêm and Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus, also had a chance of finishing second; a win would have given either of them the opportunity to overtake Süleymanli. Lê could well have managed this: his b-pawn advanced all the way to the seventh rank, and with flawless play, he could have converted this advantage into a win. However, it was not to be, as Erdogmus escaped with a draw by repe-

tion. As a result, the two tied on points for third and fourth place, with Erdogmus taking the final podium spot thanks to a better ACCENTUS Chess960 score.

Finěk Captures the Generations Challenge

Václav Finěk celebrated a start-to-finish victory in the Generations Challenge. He seized the lead on the very first day in the rapid discipline and never relinquished it. Hot on his heels was Xiao Tong, against whom Finěk had to defend his lead in the final round. As in the Masters, the closest challenger needed a final-round win to catch the leader. However, Xiao could only manage a draw, meaning that Finěk — at sixteen, the youngest player in the Generations Challenge — secured the victory.

Finěk performed strongly across all three disciplines of the triathlon, finishing first in classical and rapid chess and just a half-point behind Xiao (who was the best in that discipline) in the blitz portion. With this victory, the Generations Challenge crowns a winner who has not yet been awarded the Grandmaster title. Currently ranked as an International Master (IM), Finěk is highly likely to earn his GM title very soon.

Xiao Tong finished in second place behind Finěk. The young Chinese player had already competed in the open Masters tournament in Biel two years ago at the age of 15. On his return this year, he too put in a strong performance, confirming his status as the field’s highest-ranked player. Behind him, Marco Materia rounded out the podium. He, too, has competed in the Biel Masters tournament three times in recent years and has now had the chance to prove himself at this level.

169 Armenian Manuscripts from Pontificio Collegio Armeno In Rome Are Now Available in Reading Room

ROME — The Armenian manuscript collections preserved at the Pontificio Collegio Armeno (PCA), including manuscripts originally from San Biagio della Pagnotta (PCA SB), are now fully cataloged and accessible through HMML Reading Room.

These collections represent an important witness to the history of Armenian religious, intellectual, and communal life in Rome. The Pontificio Collegio Armeno is an academic institute, aimed particularly at the formation of the Armenian Catholic clergy, and it was founded by Pope Leo XIII in Rome in 1883. The community church of San Biagio della Pagnotta (or San Biagio degli Armeni) originated before the 10th century, but it is first recorded in the year 1072. Together, these institutions have long served as sites in the cosmopolitan city of Rome where Armenian communities gathered to worship, educate clergy and scholars, preserve cultural memory, and transmit textual traditions. The manuscripts conserved in these institutions bear enduring testimony to those flourishing communities and to the broader historical presence of Armenians in Rome until this day.

The collections include a rich and varied corpus of Armenian manuscript traditions, among them illuminated Gospel books, liturgical manuscripts such as lectionaries, Psalters, Yaysmawurk‘, illuminated Mashtots‘ (ritual books from Roman and Polish traditions), Zhamagirk‘, (books of hours), illuminated Sharaknots‘ (hymnals), K‘anonagirk‘ (collections of sermons and homilies), and Armenian church calendars. Also represented are historical writings, polemical and apologetic works, theological and philosophical writings translated from Italian or Latin texts, texts in Armeno-Turkish, a manuscript

treating Jewish customs and practices, and other notable texts highlighting cross-cultural encounters. Together, these materials offer significant resources for the study of Armenian theology, liturgy, manuscript culture, interreligious encounter, and intellectual history. Among the notable holdings is the library of Yovhannēs Vardapet Kiwrghean Trabizonets‘i, an important 19th-century scholarly collection preserved within the archive.

Forty six manuscripts from the Pontificio Collegio Armeno and 58 from San Biagio degli Armeni were cataloged by Nersēs Akinean in 1961. The remaining 64 manuscripts are currently being cataloged by Anna Sirinian of the University of Bologna, continuing the scholarly effort to document these important holdings in full.

The completion and accessibility of this catalog through HMML marks a major step forward for the study of Armenian manuscripts and wider Armenian Christian history, making these materials available



Illuminated Mashtots², copied in Artskē, Kajberunik‘, Eastern Turkey (modern-day Adilcevaz, Turkey), in the year 1432, by priest Karapet (PCA 00062)

to scholars worldwide and further illuminating the global history of Armenian textual and religious culture. Work is ongoing on the archival (PCA ARCH) and foreign language (PCA FAL) manuscripts.



Community News

Diana Grigoryan Is *Mirror-Spectator's* Summer Intern

The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* has continued its annual tradition of hiring summer interns, and this year that intern is Diana Grigoryan.

Grigoryan is a rising junior at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, pursuing a double major in political science and economics with a minor in philosophy. Alongside her studies, she works as a Strategy and Operations Analyst at a boutique relocation and mobility concierge firm based in the Washington, D.C. area.

Having spent her life between Armenia and the United States, Diana carries a deep, lived understanding of both cultures and the ties that bind the Armenian diaspora to its homeland. That dual perspective shapes everything she does from her academic work to her professional life driven by a genuine commitment to the betterment of her people and country.

As an editorial and digital media intern at the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, Diana is currently reporting and writing a feature on Armenian youth culture, conducting original interviews with young Armenians across the homeland and diaspora, and managing the publication's Instagram presence.



She previously was an intern at the Armenian Assembly of America.

She is currently the president of the UMass Amherst's Armenian Students' Association chapter. She is also active with Students for Sustainable Fashion and Art on campus.

Mirror-Spectator Editor Alin K. Gregorian said, "Diana is a bright student and brings so much enthusiasm and intelligence to her tasks. I have no doubt she has a bright future ahead."

Managing Editor Aram Arkun praised Diana's work ethic, and in particular noted that she is doing an excellent job with postings on the *Mirror-Spectator's* Instagram account.

Arkun thanked the Armenian Students' Association of America (ASA) for its Journalism Internship Program, which generously provides funding each summer for honoraria for the interns at the *Mirror-Spectator*. He declared that this program has made a difference for many, many students over the years and the ASA deserves much credit for this and its other scholarship programs.



At the event

Young Adult Gathering Organized by TCA Montreal Social Committee

MONTREAL — On Sunday, July 12, the park of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Montreal Center was filled with youthful energy as the TCA Montreal Social Committee hosted its first social gathering for young adults between the ages of 18 and 30. The event brought together 27 young participants, in addition to members of the organizing committee.

The gathering opened with welcoming remarks by Dzovag Soghikian, chair of the Social Committee, who greeted the participants and expressed her hope that such initiatives would continue to provide opportunities for young people to meet, build new friendships, and enjoy meaningful moments together. She emphasized that the committee remains committed to organizing similar activities in the future.

Upon arrival, participants registered and provided their contact information to facilitate future communication and participation in upcoming activities. The first part of the evening created a warm and relaxed atmosphere as each participant prepared his or her own pizza by selecting preferred toppings. Preparing and sharing the meal together helped the young adults become more comfortable with one another and encouraged natural interaction.

see MONTREAL, page 8



Among the event organizers, from left, Gabriel Kasnakian, Hagop Iradian, Kevork Iradian, Eddy Garabed, Aline Kalfaian, Silva Bedrian, Dzovag Soghikian, Magalie Soghikian, Avedis Bakkalian

Trump Defies Bipartisan Congressional Opposition to Arming Turkey

WASHINGTON — During the NATO summit in Ankara in early July, President Donald Trump announced that his administration will lift sanctions on Turkey and consider readmitting Ankara into the F-35 fighter jet program, defying bipartisan opposition reflected in two Congressional hearings, a Joint Resolution of Disapproval, and two letters signed by dozens of U.S. Representatives.

"We're going to be taking the sanctions off, OK?" Trump said at a press conference alongside Erdogan. Asked whether Turkey would receive F-35s, Trump called it "certainly something we will consider."

"Members of Congress from across the aisle are sounding the alarm — through two hearings, a Joint Resolution of Disapproval, and U.S. House letters to House leadership — and yet President Trump went to Ankara and crossed every Congressional red line," said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. "Arming Ankara may score the President a few points with Erdogan, but at the cost of angering Congress and alienating voters heading into the mid-terms and the 2028 presidential election."

Since Trump's June 24 announcement of the proposed \$700 million jet engine sale to Turkey and his administration's review of Turkey's reintegration into the F-35 program, Members of Congress have moved on multiple fronts to block it.

Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV) introduced H.J.Res.200, a Joint Resolution of Disapproval to block the proposed sale of General Electric F110-GE-129E/F engines for Turkey's KAAN fighter aircraft program. Titus told POLITICO's National Security Daily that Erdogan's government "has made repeated threats of military action against NATO allies and other partner nations," and that selling the engines would "embolden it to pursue those threats."

Titus also led a letter to House Majority Leader Steve Scalise and Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries urging leadership to be prepared to introduce a Joint Resolution of Disapproval under CAATSA Section 216(c)(3) — the same sanctions authority Trump said today he intends to lift — should the administration attempt to readmit Turkey to the F-35 program without a credible legal basis. The letter cited Turkey's "aggressive posture toward Greece and Cyprus" and its "material support to Azerbaijan in its military campaigns against Armenia" as evidence Ankara has not behaved as a good-faith NATO partner.

On a separate, bipartisan track, Representatives Mike Lawler (R-NY) and Brad Sherman (D-CA) led a letter to President Trump opposing Turkey's F-35 reintegration. The letter states that Turkey "has hardly see TRUMP, page 9



COMMUNITY NEWS

ACYOA's Mission Trip to Kansas City

NEW YORK — Young members of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) from across the Eastern Diocese came together last week for a first-ever Summer Mission Trip to Kansas City, MO.

The Eastern Diocese's Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries brought together the group of 12 ACYOA

in the Habitat for Humanity house build.

Ranging from high school students to working professionals, the dozen young participants were immersed in a weekend of service, education, witness, worship, and fellowship. They traveled from eight states (Massachusetts, New Jersey, Kansas, Illinois, Maryland, Virginia, Florida, and Alabama), representing various par-

morning, participants traveled by two minivans to Olathe, the site of the Habitat for Humanity build. During the drive, they engaged in morning meditation and discussion rooted in the gifts they have to offer to the world, in preparation for the work ahead.

After meeting with Habitat for Humanity staff and receiving an orientation

rbed Church for an evening of worship and fellowship with members of the local community. Fr. Yeprem led group of natives and visitors in a Vespers service, after which the young adults provided and served dinner for parishioners. The evening continued with fellowship, as participants and community members played cards and tavloo while getting to know one another.

Each evening concluded with late-night group discussions in the hotel meeting room. These conversations provided participants with space for reflection and deeper growth in their faith and prayer life. Morning reflections and evening discussions were rooted in the participants' service as members of the Body of Christ, and explored the "fruits of the spirit" described by St. Paul in his Letter to the Galatians (Galatians 5:22-23).

One of the youngest participants, Rafael Kazazian from Boca Raton, FL, shared how the ACYOA Summer Mission Trip served as an opportunity for him "to give back to the community, helping underprivileged households; to grow in my faith, working alongside like-minded individuals; and to make new friends, which has genuinely been great."

The trip concluded on Sunday as the group participated in the parish's annual picnic, which began with a morning prayer service led by Fr. Kelegian. The warm hospitality of the St. Garabed community, with delicious food, fun games, and meaningful conversation, provided a wonderful end to the weekend. Der Yeprem reflected: "The team members prayed, reflected, and shared their deep faith; did Habitat work and served the local Armenian Church. This is what the Church does!"



The ACYOA Summer Mission Trip lineup

Juniors (ages 13-18) and Seniors (ages 18-30), in partnership with Habitat for Humanity and the city's St. Garabed Armenian Church. Running June 11-14, the Mission trip was made possible through a generous grant from the Dadourian Foundation, which covered participants' lodging, ground transportation, meals, and donation fees required to participate

ish communities of the Eastern Diocese, joined by group leader Fr. Yeprem Kelegian, with Jennifer Morris and Serien Keleshian of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries department.

The group gathered via Zoom earlier in the week for a brief orientation and reflection before arriving in Kansas City on Thursday evening. Early Friday

to the project, the group eagerly began two full days of volunteer work. Participants trimmed and installed siding, cut and installed insulation, applied caulking, sanded and painted interiors, and moved and organized materials to help bring their homes closer to completion.

Following a full first day on the worksite, participants went to the St. Ga-

Young Adult Gathering Organized by TCA Montreal Social Committee

MONTREAL, from page 7

Following dinner, an interactive ice-breaker activity was organized. Each participant received a card featuring an Armenian cultural symbol or image and was asked to find the person holding the matching card. The participants then formed a circle and introduced one another. Those who did not find their matching partner introduced themselves to the group. The activity generated enthusiasm and quickly helped create a friendly and welcoming environment.

Avedis Bakkalian, editor of the trilingual Montreal-based newspaper Abaka, then addressed the gathering, emphasizing that the purpose of the initiative was not simply to bring young people together for an evening, but to create opportunities for lasting friendships, meaningful connections and future cooperation.

In his remarks, he stated: "The smallest building block of our nation is the individual. When our individuals are healthy, trust one another, care for one another and work together, our nation becomes stronger. For this reason, every young person is valuable to us, and we want each of you to feel that you are an important member of this family."

He then shared a simple wish with the participants: "When you leave through this door today, I hope each of you will have gained at least one new friend. If we succeed in that, then our first gathering will have achieved its purpose." These words



Avedis Bakkalian speaking to the gathering

were reflected throughout the evening as participants continued their conversations in a relaxed atmosphere, exchanged ideas and developed new friendships.

Bakkalian also asked whether the participants would be interested in attending future gatherings. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with everyone expressing their willingness to participate again and thanking the organizers for creating such a memorable occasion. He announced that participants would soon re-

ceive an email inviting them to share their thoughts and suggestions, with the aim of maintaining communication and encouraging an ongoing exchange of ideas between the young adults and the organizers.

Following the introduction activities, participants enjoyed refreshments, including watermelon, and continued socializing. Some played table tennis, others enjoyed card games, while many gathered in small groups for conversations with one another and with members of the organizing com-

mittee.

At the conclusion of the gathering, many participants expressed their appreciation for the initiative and shared ideas for future programs, additional activities and the possible establishment of a youth committee.

The expenses of the event were sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Avo Djihanian, long-time benefactors and founding members of TCA Montreal. The TCA Montreal Social Committee extends its deepest gratitude to them.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Assembly Praises Bipartisan Bill Asking Azerbaijan to Free Armenian Prisoners

WASHINGTON — The Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) applauds the House Foreign Affairs Committee’s strong bipartisan adoption of an amendment introduced by Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues Co-Chair Representative Brad Sherman (D-CA), calling upon Azerbaijan to immediately and unconditionally release all Armenian hostages.

The amendment to H.R. 9087, the House Foreign Service Act, was approved on July 22 by a vote of 44-7, placing the Committee firmly on record against Azerbaijan’s continued detention of Armenian hostages.

“The Committee’s overwhelming vote sends an important and unequivocal message that the unlawful detention of Armenians cannot be ignored or treated as a secondary issue,” stated Assembly Congressional Relations Director Mariam Khaloyan. “We commend Congressman Sherman for his steadfast leadership, Chairman Brian Mast for supporting the amendment, and the bipartisan group of Committee members who voted in favor of the immediate and unconditional release of every Armenian

hostage held by Azerbaijan.”

The amendment expresses the sense of Congress that Azerbaijan must release all Armenian hostages without conditions. Its adoption follows years of sustained advocacy by the Assembly, including testimony submitted to both the House and Senate calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Armenian hostages, as well as continued concern regarding Azerbaijan’s treatment of Armenian hostages, including reports of torture, mistreatment, politically motivated prosecutions, denial of due process, and restrictions on independent international access.

The Assembly urges Congress and the Administration to build upon this vote by using all available diplomatic and policy tools to secure the hostages’ release and hold Azerbaijan accountable for continuing violations of international law and human rights. The Assembly further reiterates its support for the full enforcement of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act and for prohibiting U.S. security assistance that could strengthen Azerbaijan’s capacity to threaten Armenia or commit further abuses.



Rep. Brad Sherman with Armenian Assembly of America interns in Washington.

Trump Defies Bipartisan Congressional Opposition to Arming Turkey

TRUMP, from page 7

been a reliable partner in the present day,” pointing to its military presence in occupied northern Cyprus and its aggressive posture toward Greece, and urges the administration to “maintain this prohibition today,” warning that reversing the F-35 ban “would send the wrong message to President Erdogan and to our allies and partners both in Europe and the Middle East.”

Other groups working alongside the Armenian groups include Hellenic American organizations, including the International Coordinating Committee — Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA), the Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC), the American Hellenic Institute (AHI), and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), to oppose both the engine sale and Turkey’s F-35 reintegration.

Two Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearings, held June 3 and June 30, documented Erdogan’s political repression at home, Turkey’s denial of the Armenian Genocide, and its occupation of Cyprus ahead of the summit.

At the June 3 hearing, “Can Turkey Find Its Way Back to Freedom?,” Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Co-Chair Rep. Chris Smith said Turkey holds more than ten thousand political prisoners, including journalists, lawyers, elected officials, and civil society leaders. Michael Rubin of the

Middle East Forum testified that Erdogan’s genocide denial and persecution of religious minorities, including Armenians and Greeks, follow the same pattern of impunity. “We saw this with both the Biden administration’s recognition of the Armenian Genocide and that of all fifty states and the District of Columbia,” Rubin testified. “Those recognitions happened and Turkey didn’t do a damn thing.”

At the June 30 hearing, “Human Rights in Occupied Cyprus,” Republic of Cyprus Ambassador Evangelos Savva testified that Turkey continues to block access to mass graves from the 1974 invasion, including the remains of at least five American citizens. Savas Tsivicos of the International Coordinating Committee — Justice for Cyprus (PSEKA) testified that Turkish colonization of the occupied north has reduced Turkish Cypriots to a minority in their own community and stripped basic rights from Armenians, Maronites, and Latins alike. Tsivicos also warned that any F-35s or engines sold to Turkey “are not going to go against Russia” but would instead be used “against the three strategic allies of the United States: Israel, Greece, and Cyprus.” Rep. Titus told the commission directly that arming Erdogan would mean “perpetuating the horrific policies of a government that has flouted international law with respect to Cyprus.”



Tekeyan Cultural Association, Inc.

Dr. Nubar Berberian 2026 Annual Awards



Dr. Nubar Berberian, intellectual, journalist, activist and editor of many ADL daily newspapers for more than 50 years passed away at the age of 94 in November 23, 2016. In his Will, Dr. Berberian directed his Trust Fund managers to appropriate awards every year to college students of Armenian descent worldwide who major in either International Law or Political Science.

ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Eligible recipients are college students of Armenian descent who major in either International Law or Political Science.
- 2) Applicant must be enrolled in a full-time graduate program in a fully accredited college or university in the world.
- 3) Applicant must provide all of the information requested on the application form.
- 4) Applicant must submit a copy of his or her most recent college transcript.
- 5) Applicant is to include a small head and shoulders self-portrait.
- 6) Application could be received by requesting from Tcadirector@Aol.com.
- 7) Applicants should submit applications electronically (via email) to: Tcadirector@Aol.com,
- 8) The deadline of receiving the applications is **September 26, 2026.**
- 9) The administrators and managers of the fund will vote the qualified winners in **October, 2026** based on the merits of each applicant.
- 10) The winners will receive their awards in **November, 2026**
- 11) Winning applicants are not eligible to apply again.
- 12) This announcement is published in Armenian, English, French and Spanish.

Watertown, MA, July 20, 2026

Donation

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator thanks Dr. Vaghenag Tarpinian for his donation of \$100.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Tekeyan Cultural Association Brings UCLA VEM String Quartet to Six Cities

VEM, from page 1

This most likely would be the final Tekeyan-sponsored Vem tour with the charismatic prize-winning violinist Movses Pogossian, the founder and advisor of the UCLA Armenian Music Program, as Pogossian retired in June as Distinguished Professor of Violin at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.

Pogossian seems to connect effortlessly with audiences of all ages. He prefaces performances of important musical works with brief introductions providing their context and thus ensures greater engagement and understanding by listeners.

TCA has sponsored a number of tours of the Vem Ensemble over the past decade, and as part of this collaboration, the Tekeyan Triptych was composed specially for Vem by Artashes Kartalyan in 2018, inspired by the poetry of Vahan Tekeyan. This work, premiered during the Vem tour of 2019, also appears on the 2020 Naxos/New Focus Recordings album "Modulation Necklace."

The VEM String Quartet, in residence at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, is the cornerstone of the Armenian Music Program at UCLA, which in its 13 years of existence has become an internationally renowned leader in celebrating the richness and diversity of the Armenian musical tradition.

Vem's tour members included Ally Cho,

Niall Tarō Ferguson, founder Movses Pogossian and Damon Zavala.

Zavala, a Mexican-American violist and violinist from Oregon, declared the following about the current tour: "What's been special about this tour isn't just the delicious food and the generosity of the Armenian communities we visited through the various Tekeyan chapters, but how warmly and openly they welcomed someone outside their community into their culture, their stories, their music. As someone who isn't Armenian, witnessing how powerfully this community understands where it comes from, and carries that story forward to guide its future, was something I will not forget. If there was one thing I took from this tour, it's how music can be a cornerstone for bringing people together as storytellers, and being part of that process, and welcomed so warmly for it, was an honor."

Cellist, composer and orchestrator Niall Taro Ferguson said, "Every VEM tour is special, particularly because we get to experience, in real time, the connective power of the music we present. We often remark on the distinct character of each community we visit, and moving between them in rapid succession only makes those differences more apparent. Yet the love for the music is never diminished. Our programs are intentionally curated to place the familiar alongside the new. As a performer, it is rare to encounter audiences who are as en-



The Vem Ensemble performing at St. John Armenian Church in Southfield, Mich.



The Vem members at the Tekeyan Center in Montreal



TCA Philadelphia Chapter executive members at Villanova University: from left, Vahe Hovsepien, Sira Albarian, Ara Mouradian and Vicken Bazarbashian [less important photo]



The Vem quartet gave a demonstration and performance for the students at St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School in Watertown, Mass. (photo Aram Arkun)

thusiastic about songs they have sung their whole lives as they are about music they are hearing for the very first time."

A doctoral student of violin performance at UCLA, Ally Cho added: "As performers, we spend so much time preparing the music that it's easy to forget what happens when it finally reaches an audience. This tour was a wonderful reminder of how music can create a sense of connection, even among people meeting for the first time."

Local Cosponsors

In addition to TCA and UCLA, local cosponsors who helped make the tour possible included: on May 1, in Philadelphia, the

Villanova Armenian Students' Organization; in greater Boston, Holy Trinity Armenian Church on May 3; in greater Detroit, on May 9 Saint John Armenian Church and its Music Guild and on May 10, the University of Michigan Center for Armenian Studies (here there were guest speakers Melissa Bilal, director of the UCLA Armenian Music Program and Promise Chair of Armenian Music, Arts, and Culture, Ronald Suny and Anoush Suni).

Along with the formal performances, a pro bono Vem demonstration was given on May 4 to St. Stephen's Armenian School

continued on next page



Vem Quartet with Tekeyan Cultural Association Montreal members and Armenian clergy



COMMUNITY NEWS



The UCLA Vem String Quartet performing at Villanova University

from previous page

students in Watertown, and the Vem members enjoyed special visits and tours of other Armenian institutions and sites of interest during their travels. For example, they

visited the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research in Belmont, and in Philadelphia, the recently dedicated Armenian Heritage Walk, a garden/walkway surrounding the Armenian Young Mher



Vem and Tekeyan Cultural Association members with Fr. Vasken Kouzouian at Holy Trinity Armenian Church

Statue next to the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The May 8 Montreal concert and the May 17 Altadena concert were both at Tekeyan Centers without other local cosponsors,

and the latter included a second unique component with a performance by the UCLA Armenian Music Ensemble. This group includes students Mickey Hashim on shvi, and Hayk Gargaloyan, duduk, with special guests folk singer Hasmik Harutyunyan, Antranig Kzirian, oud, and Vardan Baghdasaryan, kamancha.

Bilal also spoke at Altadena's TCA Beshgeturian Center.

Recently, while recalling the Vem tours of past years, as well as this year's performance, Boston area co-host Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Church, declared: "It has been a pleasure for the Holy Trinity Armenian Church to join with the Tekeyan Cultural Association for the third time in hosting the phenomenal Vem Ensemble of UCLA here in Greater Boston for the enjoyment of the community. The four gifted artists brought added beauty to our lives through classical music from the Armenian and Western traditions for the great enjoyment of all. We look forward to their return in the years to come."



Folk singer Hasmik Harutyunyan and Vardan Baghdasaryan, kamancha performer, at the Tekeyan Cultural Association Beshgeturian Center in Altadena, Calif.



Melissa Bilal, director of the UCLA Armenian Music Program and Promise Chair of Armenian Music, Arts, and Culture, speaking at the TCA Beshgeturian Center in Altadena, Calif.

TUMD 15
THE NEXT FIFTEEN YEARS

15TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Celebrating 15 years of free, world-class tech and design education for teens.

Join us in supporting the next chapter in Armenia.

September 20, 2026  **Vibiana | Los Angeles**



COMMUNITY NEWS

Jack and Zarig Youredjian Establish a \$100,000 Endowed Scholarship Fund Through AIWA Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — The Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA) announced last week receiving a \$100,000 endowed scholarship fund — the Zarig Youredjian Scholarship Endowment — established by Jack and Zarig Youredjian at the organization’s Los Angeles chapter. This donation reflects their steadfast commitment to education, empowerment and the advancement of Armenian women around the world.

Jack and Zarig Youredjian’s journey to philanthropy is a legacy rooted in humble beginnings and deeply personal. Jack’s path to higher education was inspired by a scholarship from the Gulbenkian Foundation, a milestone that opened doors to new opportunities. He earned a degree from the American University of Beirut and later a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Southern California. He began his career by opening his first pharmacy in 1977, ultimately building a growing chain by starting Western Drug Medical Supply, which has developed into a leader in the medical supply field with eight divisions across California.

Zarig’s story is equally compelling. Born into a family rooted in Gesaria, she and her family moved from Cyprus to London, where she attended high school. Her lifelong involvement with the Armenian community — participating in dance groups and organizing commemorative events that celebrate Armenian life and culture — underscores her deep commitment to heritage and community. A fateful visit to Los Angeles introduced her to Jack, and it was love at first sight.

The Youredjians’ philanthropy extends beyond individual success to broader community impact. Zarig Youredjian is a lifelong AIWA Los Angeles member and one of the organization’s most devoted supporters and donors. Together, they are passionate believers in the transformative power of education and scholarship. “My mom has an extraordinary way of putting others first,” said their daughter Rene Arakelyan. “She embodies pure grace, kindness, generosity, and a boundless capacity to love. She is the heart and rock of our family.”

The couple has already helped support



Jack and Zarig Youredjian

more than 300 young scholars in Armenia, creating opportunities and changing lives for future generations through meaningful contributions to COAF (Children of Armenia Fund). Through their generosity they are reinforcing their commitment to sustainable development in rural Armenia and the empowerment of families and communities through education.

The Zarig Youredjian Scholarship En-

dowment will provide enduring support to Armenian women pursuing higher education, professional development, and leadership opportunities. “This, (the endowment) does not surprise me., said their son Haig. “Her actions and contributions are backed by her unwavering dedication and compassion, and I am proud and thankful for her each and every day.”

“We are eternally grateful for Jack and Zarig’s shared vision for education and community. Their generosity, compassion, and steadfast dedication to AIWA’s mission promise to leave a lasting impact on countless students for years to come,” said Silva Katchiguan, president of AIWA.

The Zarig Youredjian Scholarship Endowment embodies the Youredjians’ enduring belief in education as a powerful catalyst for personal growth, community resilience, and social transformation. AIWA looks forward to partnering with this endowed fund to identify deserving scholars, provide meaningful opportunities, and celebrate the achievements of Armenian women who are shaping the future through education and leadership.

OBITUARY

George Airasian Devoted to Family

WATERTOWN — George Airasian of Watertown died on July 14, 2026. George met his beloved wife Carol at Watertown High School, they were married in 1973. George was a devoted father to Gail Airasian and her husband Shane Norton and Andrew Airasian and his wife Monique.

George supported his children’s interests in every way, attending all of Gail’s sports events over the years and even taking a three-day cruise on an aircraft carrier on which Andrew was stationed.

He and Carol loved to visit historic (and

even prehistoric) landmarks, his fondest memories were road trips to the Rawah Dude Ranch in Colorado and various geological road trips to explore mines and caves. George photographed every person, place or thing he came into contact with and created multiple carousels of slides after that trip, and many others.

George’s grandchildren, Theodore and James Norton and Andrew and Augustine Airasian were the light of his life. His greatest wish was for them to thrive in the world supported by his regular distribution of \$20 bills and rare coins to them on most every visit. He was also very concerned they weren’t getting enough food, and regularly showered them with his favorite snacks — lahmejune, kofte, cannolis, donuts and chocolates from any local Candy House (which he took great joy in exploring).

George was the older brother of Susan Airasian Havlin and Jimmy Airasian. He took his role as older brother and help to his mother Dorothy (Dolly) Airasian seriously, and she lived with him at the end of her life. He adored his nieces and nephews as well, his face lit up anytime he saw a Toli, a Silverman, a Wilhelm, a Shea or a Kasper kid.

A Celebration of Life was held at the Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, 558 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown on July 28. Donations in his name can be made to Lexington Christian Academy, where Gail and Andy attended and George worked for many years.



Suzy Orchanian Formerly of San Diego

Suzy Orchanian of Waltham, formerly of San Diego, Calif., passed away on July 19, 2026.

She was the daughter of the late of the Melkon and Haigouhi (Keshishian) Orchanian; sister of Azniv Nigoghosian and her husband Jack, Hagop Orchanian and his wife Nora, Zohrab Orchanian and his wife Andrea, and Zareh Orchanian and his wife Lori; aunt of Vahe Nigoghosian and his wife Ani, Arpie Evans, Silva Orchanian, Shant Orchanian, Nicholas Orchanian, Stephanie Orchanian, Jonathan Orchanian and Rita Orchanian. She was also blessed to enjoy her great nieces and great nephew; Sarine Nigoghosian and Isabelle and Dominic Evans. She is also survived by numerous cousins and family members, all of whom will miss her dearly.

Funeral services were held at the Armenian Memorial Church, 32 Bigelow Ave., Watertown, on Friday, July 24.

Interment followed at Ridgelawn Ceme-



tery, Watertown. At the request of the family, any donations or gifts In lieu of flowers may be made to the Armenian Memorial Church.

DENNIS M. DEVENEY & SONS Cemetery Monuments

Specializing in
Armenian Designs and Lettering

701 Moody St. Waltham, MA 02543
(781) 891-9876 www.NEMonuments.com

James “Jack” Giragosian, CPC

Mark J. Giragosian

Giragosian
FUNERAL HOME

576 Mount Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472, Tel: 617-924-0606
www.giragosianfuneralhome.com

Telephone (617) 924-7400

Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN
PAUL BEDROSIAN
LARRY BEDROSIAN



Arts & Culture

Armenian Film Society London Launches Open Call for Western Armenian Films

LONDON — Armenian Film Society London has launched an international open call for films in or about Western Armenian to premiere at the prestigious Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) as part of the Armenian Film Festival London. The initiative is set to become a permanent strand of the festival, celebrating Armenian as a creative language through the art of cinema.

Tatevik Ayvazyan, co-director of the festival, says: “Western Armenian is a language of poets and storytellers, songs and jokes, memories and dreams — spoken, used, loved and cherished across the world. Giving it a permanent home at our festival, in a wonderful location like the ICA London, attended by thousands of people, will elevate the language even further. It also gives filmmakers working in and with Western Armenian a stage of their own, and the recognition their work deserves.”

The program will showcase films exploring Western Armenian language and dialects, writing, literature and culture, accompanied by filmmaker Q&As and panel discussions. The initiative will include a publication and podcasts exploring the history and contemporary landscape of Western Armenian cinema, plus a public masterclass on making poetry film in the language.

The project is supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and aims to create a platform for filmmakers working in the language while introducing audiences to contemporary Armenian voices.

By bringing together film exhibition, public discussion, and creative development, the initiative aims to grow the visibility, use, and cultural relevance of Western Armenian, its dialects, and the diverse experiences of its speakers — through cinema.

The organizers invite submissions of films of any genre and length, completed between 2021 and 2026, that are either in Western Armenian or explore Western Armenian language, culture, history or lived experience.

The Festival also accepts submissions from British Armenian filmmakers, continuing the development of a platform for local talent alongside international voices and strengthening the UK’s Armenian creative community.

Submissions are open until September 1 via FilmFreeway. The official selection will be announced in mid-September 2026.

The Armenian Film Festival London will take place at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) from 3–6 December 2026.

FilmFreeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/ArmenianFilmFestival-London>



Takahiro Akiba

The Japanese Heart That Beats with Komitas

By Artsvi Bakhchinyan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

YEREVAN/NAGANO, Japan — Japanese pianist Takahiro Akiba (born 1984 in Yokohama) is one of Japan’s leading interpreters of

Armenian and Russian classical music. He graduated at the top of his class from the Piano Department of the Tokyo University of the Arts (TUA), later earning a Doctor of Musical Arts degree with research devoted to the great Russian pianist-composer Samuil Evgenievich Feinberg. He also studied at the Moscow P. I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory under Prof. Mikhail Olenov and received additional guidance from Victor Bunin and from Anahit Nersesyan. In 2013, Akiba won First Prize at the Komitas International Music Competition in Germany, and in recognition of his contribution to the promotion of Armenian music he received honors from the former Ministry of Diaspora of Republic of Armenia in 2015 and the Armenian Ministry of Education’s Gold Medal in 2021.

Akiba founded the Armenian Music Society of Japan named after Komitas (often referred to as the Komitas Society Japan or the Komitas Center in Tokyo), through which he has organized concerts, educational programs, and cultural exchanges dedicated to the music of Komitas and other Armenian composers deeply influenced by Komitas’ creative heritages. He has performed extensively in Japan, Armenia, Russia, and Europe, and has collaborated with many internationally renowned musicians, including Arax Mansourian (soprano), Karen Shakhgaldyan (violin), Komitas Quartet and etc. Alongside his concert career, he is an active educator and currently serves as Associate Professor of Piano Course at Aichi University of the Arts (AUArts). Akiba’s official website is: www.takahiroakiba.com.

Dear Takahiro-san, I imagine you are often asked this question: Why Komitas?

Komitas is the person who brought the pure identity of the Armenian nation into sharp relief through music. It’s not an easy task — even on a global view — to find a musician who, with such deeply diligent and extremely pure devotion, purified the great energy nurtured by the spiritual life of his compatriots of all eras, transcribed it into notes of mysterious impact, and converted it into audible sound (despite the existence of a few superficially similar examples in the world music history...). Komitas carefully cleared away the dense, tangled multiethnic mixture that had overgrown the landscape of Armenian music prior to his time, and cultivated his musical homeland through the power of music, which cannot be invaded by anything or anyone. As one of the inhabitants of this world ruled by the chaos of wars and invasion, I find the salvation within this sense of inner harmony for the human identity — absolutely inviolable — that Komitas has constructed.

For more than a decade, you have been introducing Komitas’s music to audiences around the world. How would you characterize his music — and Armenian music in general? Is it closer to Eastern Europe, Western Asia, somewhere in between, or does it transcend such geographical and cultural classifications, much like the Armenian alphabet?

The musical heritages of Komitas are like fresh fruits that have not yet been plucked from the tree. From giants of Armenian music history such as Aram Khachaturian, Arno Babajanyan, Alexander Arutiunyan and Tigran Mansurian to the other brilliant contemporary musicians have truly benefited from the “Fruits of Komitas’s tree,” discovering their own unique musical languages rooted in that spiritual fruits.

see AKIBA, page 17

From ‘Euphoria’ To ‘Sugar,’ Jack Topalian Shows Off His Range as An Actor

LOS ANGELES (TVBrittanyF.com) — Jack Topalian is grabbing audiences’ attention in two very different TV shows. He recurred in the third — and final — season of HBO’s smash hit “Euphoria” as Naz. Yet just as that series came to an end, the second season of Apple TV’s “Sugar” premiered, featuring Jack as Teddy Garnikian. These two unique characters are excellent additions to his extensive resume.

In a wide-ranging interview with TVBrittanyF.com, Jack spoke about what inspires him as an actor and his path to performing. He reflected on working on two shows around the same time, and what each experience meant to him. Plus, he delved into some of his other favorite memories, and revealed who he’d like to share the screen with in the future.



Actor Jack Topalian

Brittany Frederick: What originally motivated or inspired you to become an actor? What was it that made this the right choice for you, especially as it’s not something you did right away?

Jack Topalian: I’ve always loved movies ever since I was a little boy. When we came to the States, I was ten, eleven, and one of the first movies I watched was “Star Wars.” I was captivated by movies. I lived my life, but then in my 40s, I was taking my kids to casting, because my kids showed some interest [in acting]. A lot of casting directors were asking me if I was in the business and so forth... and I realized that I love it, and I started getting training for it, and it just became a passion.

I woke up thinking about it. I’d go to class; I’d study with some great coaches all over the place. The long and short of it is, I got cast in a TV show called “Southland,” and then the rest just kind of started to evolve. I enjoyed being on set, I enjoyed meeting a lot of people—seeing some of the people that I’ve seen some of their movies and TV shows. It was pretty fascinating.

see TOPALIAN, page 15

ARTS & CULTURE

Documentarian Bard Maronian Tackles the Brutal Recent History of Artsakh

MARONIAN, from page 1

Maronian's previous documentaries on Armenian issues include "Bloodless: The Path to Democracy," about the Velvet Revolution of 2018, "Women of 1915," and "Orphans of the Genocide."

The documentary was harrowing, featuring footage from several photojournalists who had captured scenes of bombs raining down on Stepanakert and their aftereffects. In addition, Maronian included interviews with survivors, including a mother, whose 8-year-old daughter had been killed by one of the bombs. In her grief, the woman, who had later fled to Armenia with the rest of her family, wanted only to get her daughter's body back so that she could be buried in Armenia.

Other footage in "Genocide 2.0" included those shot by Azerbaijani soldiers, who during the 2020 war, devised ways not only to torture the Armenian soldiers they had captured, but to also inflict maximum pain on the surviving families by recording videos of themselves on the victims' phones, committing the most heinous crimes imaginable, and then sending them to the families. The level of brutality and cruelty is barely comprehensible.

In addition, the documentary features interviews with Luis Moreno Ocampo (First Prosecutor, International Criminal Court (2003- 2012), Baroness Caroline Cox, Member, British House of Lords (Founder, Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART), David L. Phillips, Adjunct Professor (Conflict Resolution and Mediation, Georgetown University), Judge Gassia Apkarian (California State Jurist Orange County, CA), Karnig Kerkonian (International Lawyer), Michael Rubin, Senior Fellow (American Enterprise Institute, Director of Policy Analysis, Middle East Forum (MEF)), Thomas Becker, PhD (Legal and Policy Director, University Network for Human Rights), Joel Veldkamp, PhD (Christian Solidarity International), Am-



A poster of "Genocide 2.0," whose seven-minute cut was nominated for a regional Emmy

"I would like to have as many different types of distribution as possible. The goal is to have the film seen by as many people as possible," Maronian said. He added they are not focusing on a theatrical release, as documentaries are seldom seen in movie theaters. Instead, he noted that he would love for it to be broadcast.

He added that he is working on trimming the documentary. "Based on some of the comments we received, we are considering making some changes," Maronian said. He added that the screening was his first time seeing "Genocide 2.0" on a big screen.

"I took some notes and discussed with my co-producer Jackie Abramian. We will make some changes. It is 90 minutes now — feature length — but we have to bring it down to about 52 or 53 minutes" for broadcast purposes, he said.

Some of the footage, as well as on-camera interviews, feature photojournalist

edy. "He lost his dad. Finding people who are willing to relive the stories, the most difficult parts of their lives on camera," Maronian said, is very difficult. "These are very personal experiences that maybe 1 percent of individuals are willing to share. It was very difficult for us to record or listen to but just imagine how difficult it was for them."

"The way I try, and hopefully I am successful enough, is to make the film understandable to a non-Armenian about Armenian topics," he said.

Maronian praised the entities that funded "Genocide 2.0."

"Without funding, we can't move," he said, adding "We are very lucky to have organizations like the Vahe Fattal Foundation and the Cultural Impact Foundation."

Vahe Fattal Foundation Chair Yervant Nahikian was present at the June screening, where he spoke about the organization's namesake and its efforts. In turn, Maronian gave Nahikian the Trdat the Architect Award.

The award is apt because "Mr. Nahikian is also an architect. He has built a lot of structures in Massachusetts and designed this Greek church," he said. "It was a true honor to work with VFF, especially considering that Vahe Fattal designed the Artsakh flag. The foundation was also the major contributor to this project."

And, he added, "he was the architect of this project."

Maronian also praised Nicole Babikian Hajjar for her help. "Nicole was the vital conduit for this project, serving on the boards of both VFF and CIF. I am deeply grateful for her friendship," he said.

He added a special thanks to the Gulabi Gulbenkian Foundation as well as Jackie Abramian and the Production Team. "My co-producer, Jackie, put together a diverse and brilliant academic advisory board. I also consider myself incredibly lucky to have worked with the best international production team spanning the US, Canada, Europe, Armenia, and Artsakh. I just remembered that our 7-minute version of the film was nominated for a 2024 Suncoast Regional Emmy Award in the Religion/Short Form Content category, and we have started hearing good news about the feature-length film from the industry."

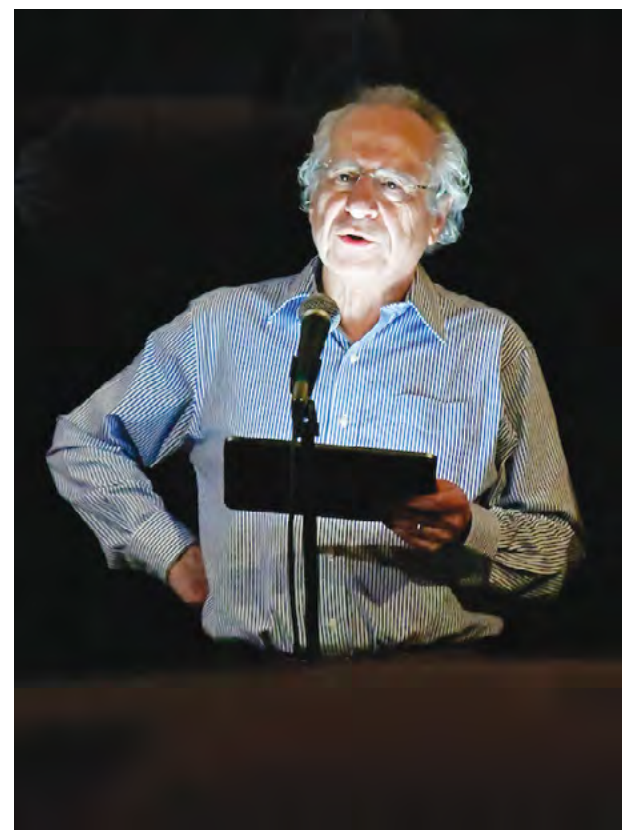
Faces of Persecution

Maronian also singled out the Cultural Impact Foundation (CIF) and its Chair Dr. Chris Sassouni for their help. "Dr. Sassouni and I conceived the idea for a documentary series about highlighting the most vulnerable, voiceless religious and ethnic minorities who have been persecuted and ignored by mainstream media. CIF's mission perfectly aligns with this initiative: to commission projects that reveal acts of human kindness and heroism in the face of adversity," he said.

Maronian stressed that "Genocide 2.0" is the third film in a series stated in 2020, titled the "Faces of Persecution" series. The organization is an educational documentary series focusing on religious persecution around the world.

Two years ago, he completed the documentary "10 Years On," about the Yazidi Genocide for the project, which he said got an excellent reception in Europe. "Armenia is portrayed as a model of a country for religious freedom. There are over 35,000 Yazidis in Armenia as citizens. They practice their religion without issues and are part of the society," he added.

ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), also known as ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) or Daesh, is an extremist violent group that has overrun parts of countries in the Middle East. In Sinjar, Syria, in 2014, the group was responsible for the dispersal of the millennial-old Yazidi



Yervant Nahikian, chairman of the board of the Vahe Fattal Foundation (Ken Martin photo)



The post-screening reception at the Newton West Cinema (Ken Martin photo)

bassador Sam Brownback (Former Ambassador at Large, International Religious Freedom) and Simon Meghahyan, PhD (Security and Defense Studies/Heritage Crime, Cranfield University).

Maronian in a recent interview said a screening is in the works at Yale University sometime in September. In addition, he said that they have submitted it so several film festivals, with many positive reactions so far.

He and his team are still trying to secure a distributor for "Genocide 2.0."

Dikran Petrosyan. "We started working with Dikran Petrosyan, as a journalist and a cameraman," he said. "He was our go-to person there. A lot of the footage is from him. And we made an agreement with Artsakh TV and got some footage from them. In addition, hetq.com had one of their producers on the battlefield and we got some very interesting footage from him. Dikran had a few friends who were cameramen and we got footage," Maronian said.

Later, Petrosyan himself became a victim himself as well as an observer of the trag-

di (Yezidi) community. Their actions led to the deaths of between 2100 and 5,000, while around 6,000 women and children were kidnapped by the group and forced into sexual slavery.

A Canadian film festival recently contacted him about showing "10 Years On" in October in London, Ontario.

He was especially proud of this renewed interest in the Yazidi genocide and the film, because one of the survivors of the ISIS, a slave, now lives in London, Ontario.

"They're amazing survival stories. I see a lot of similarities between the Armenians and Yazidis," he said.

The next chapter the organization will focus on will be about Christian Nigerians in the country's Kaduna state, where people are being persecuted for their faith.

More episodes are slated to be produced, pending funding.

Maronian is a graduate of Haigazian University in Beirut and a graduate of the Broadcast Career Institute of Palm Beach, Florida. His production credits include a large number of award winning national, regional, and local television programming for the American PBS network spanning over twenty years. One of Maronian's works, Orphans of the Genocide has reached over 50.6 million households by way of national television broadcasting and satellite distribution such as Direct TV and Dish Network.

To find out more about Maronian and his documentaries, visit <https://baredmaronian.com/>



ARTS & CULTURE

Recipe Corner



by Christine Vartanian Datian



(Photos courtesy <https://amiraspantry.com/maamoul-mad-pistachio-with-ashta-recipe/>)

Ma'amoul Mad Pistachio with Ashta

The talented recipe developer and photographer at Amira’s Pantry writes, “I was born and raised in Egypt, and our family stayed part of the summer in the Gulf area where my father worked. At an early age, I made close friends from Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Morocco, Libya, India, Pakistan, you name the country. Of course, these friendships and contacts did not come without exposure to lots of outstanding food and cooking experiences. In Egypt alone our style of cooking and recipes are often influenced by other cuisines and cultures. Turkish, Italian, French and Greek cuisines have many recipes in common with Egyptian cuisine. In fact, many of my friends argue to this day about the origins of our favorite family dishes.”

“Here is one of the best semolina flour recipes I’ve ever made. A delicious Lebanese treat with a new ashta recipe,” she adds.

The recipe in full is below, as shared by the Art of Armenian & Middle Eastern Cooking on Facebook.

- INGREDIENTS:**
- 2 cups farina flour
 - 1 cup semolina flour
 - 1 teaspoon dry yeast
 - 1/2 cup sugar
 - 1 cup butter, at room temperature
 - 3 tablespoons rose water
 - 3 tablespoons orange blossom water

- For the ashta filling:**
- 3 cups water
 - 1 can sweetened condensed milk
 - 3/4 cup cornstarch
 - 2 teaspoons orange blossom water

- Garnish:**
- Finely ground pistachios (about 1 cup)

PREPARATION:

In a deep bowl, combine first five ingredients mixing with your hands to cover all the granules with the butter. Add the rose water and orange blossom water and mix. Cover and let the dish rest for an hour.

Meanwhile prepare the filling; in a deep pot over medium heat boil 2 1/2 cups of water. Add the condensed milk and stir to combine. In a separate bowl add the starch to the remaining 1/2 cup of water stirring vigorously with a whisk. Pour the starch mixture to the pot and stir with the whisk until it is smooth and no visible lumps are forming. Keep stirring for 2-3 minutes until it thickens -- this happens quickly.

Remove from heat, and set aside to cool.

Preheat the oven to 325°F for dark baking pans and 350°F for glass pans. Prepare a 9x9-inch pan by brushing it with some butter on the sides and bottom. Press half of the semolina mixture on the bottom in a uniform thick layer. Pour over the ashta filling and level the surface.

Add the remaining semolina mixture and gently press with your hands. Bake for 30-40 minutes or until the dish browns nicely. Take the dish out of the oven and sprinkle ground pistachios on top. Let the dish cool completely before cutting and serving. Serve with a simple syrup on the side.

- For the syrup:**
- 2 cups granulated sugar
 - 1 1/4 cups water
 - 1/4 cup honey
 - 1 teaspoon lime juice

- For flavoring the syrup:**
- 1 tablespoon orange blossom water OR
 - 1 tablespoon rose water OR
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

PREPARATION:

In a saucepan over medium-high heat add sugar, water, honey and your choice of flavors, stirring to combine. Bring to a boil then add the lemon juice. Reduce the heat to low and simmer for 10 minutes. Turn heat off and let the syrup cool completely to room temperature.

* If you left your ashta too long and it became too thick to pour just scoop it over the mixture, wet your hands with cold water and gently press against the semolina layer to smooth. Garnishing is optional but highly recommended.

Copyright © 2026 - Amira’s Pantry

From ‘Euphoria’ to ‘Sugar,’ Jack Topalian Shows Off His Range as an Actor

TOPALIAN, from page 13

Was there a particular role, or a particular moment, where you felt like you had made the right decision? A formative character that made that choice sink in?

“Argo” was this blockbuster that ended up winning the Oscar with Ben Affleck and it was just an amazing experience... We were filming it in the Ontario airport that was turned into Tehran airport, and it was pretty amazing just to see this machine at work with hundreds and hundreds of extras.

But one of the first times that I remember that it really hit me, if you will, [was when] I got cast for “Ray Donovan.” I did multiple episodes, but one of the first episodes I did, they said hey, we’re having a table read, would you like to attend?... So I showed up, and they had this table with my name tag on it, and right next to me is going to sit Jon Voight, and right next to him is gonna be Liev Schreiber, and across from me [are] going to be all these other stars that are in this show.

I’m the first one there, because I’m so excited I got there real early... One by one they all came in. Jon Voight came in and introduced himself. And then Liev came; he was amazing. Steven Bauer, who plays Liev’s right hand man in “Ray Donovan,” he was Manolo in “Scarface;” I grew up watching that. So that was the very first time that it really hit home for me that I’m at a place where I’ve dreamed about being.

Viewers are seeing you in two very different shows, as “Euphoria” recently ended and “Sugar” has just started. What was it like to be part of both shows?

There was some overlap. Very different shows, very different characters, very different themes. I got cast for “Sugar”, and then I got cast for “Euphoria”, so I would kind of go back and forth... I had never actually done that back and forth. I’ve done projects where there’s maybe a little bit of an overlap, but not to this extent, because I’m recurring on “Sugar” as well as on “Euphoria”, so I’m in multiple episodes. I

love those kind of challenges. You get up in the morning, today I’m going to be this guy, and tomorrow I’m going to go back to being that guy again. It was pretty cool.

I think they’re very well-written characters, and they’re characters that I understood and I gravitated towards.

With that range, is there anything you’d want to do, or anyone you’d love to work with as your career continues?

I’d love to work with Jon Hamm. I’d love to work with Ridley Scott or David Fincher as directors. I’d love to do some crime [stories], but I also love comedy. I go out for comedy once in a while, and I’ve shot a couple of pilots actually, and I think they were hilarious. The comedy that I bring is very different, because I come from a very serious place, and I think that’s what makes it funnier. But I ‘d love to do more comedy.

I love “The Night Agent.” I love “Li-oness.” So I’d love to be a part of that, or Landman with Billy Bob Thornton; that world is kind of cool. It’s just very differ-

ent, but I’d love to do some of that stuff.

What has this period in your career been like for you personally? It was a pretty amazing experience being on “Euphoria”. [It’s] such an iconic show, and the fact that it hasn’t been around for a few years — [Season 3] takes a time jump to five years later. Everybody’s kind of grown up, in the adult world. Just to see that, the way that was filmed, I’m really, really excited to watch that. There’s a lot of people that have never even seen the show [who are] going to end up watching it—not only because you have Zendaya, Jacob Elordi, Sydney Sweeney, and everyone else that have become big stars, but the mood and feel of the show, and the way it was filmed on 65MM film.

Other than that, besides “Sugar”, there’s a feature that I did last year; I think that’s getting released later this year. I’m working on a couple of projects of my own.

(“Euphoria” is now streaming on HBO Max. “Sugar” streams Fridays on Apple TV.)



ARTS & CULTURE

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Acquires Martin Barooshian's 'Revelation'

BOSTON — The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA) and the Martin Barooshian Artwork Trust announced on July 21 the MFA's acquisition of Martin Barooshian's oil painting "Revelation" (1960), a landmark addition to its permanent collection. Among the earliest works from Barooshian's mature period, "Revelation" shows his distinctive visual language coming fully into view: a vivid ever-shifting world of biomorphic forms, fantastical figures, symbolic imagery, layered patterns and bold color. "Revelation" joins 36 Barooshian works on paper already at the MFA, deepening the museum's commitment to an artist whose full significance is only now receiving the institutional recognition it deserves.

"Revelation" offers a vivid reminder that postwar American art was richer, stranger and more alive than dominant narratives have long suggested. In place of the scale, gesture, and spectacle of postwar modernism, Barooshian's visual language is rooted in density, interiority, and a vision of nature as a vital, interconnected force — resisting categorization and proposing a fundamentally different model for American art. Barooshian traced a parallel path that moved fluidly through abstraction, figuration, symbolism, and organic form, shaped by sources ranging from Renaissance and Baroque art to Symbolism, Surrealism, Arshile Gorky, comics, cinema, and the anxieties of the Cold War era.

"Revelation" brings this approach into focus. Rather than literally illustrating the biblical narrative, Barooshian transforms it into a fluid, non-linear cosmos. Within this space, shifting biomorphic forms merge and collide to give shape to themes of apocalypse, judgment, rupture, and renewal in a language unmistakably his own. Lush, buttery passages of painterly richness alternate with intricate patterning on a strategically flattened picture plane, underscoring the compositional complexity of "Revelation" and reflecting Barooshian's unabashed "more is more" philosophy. "Revelation" shows a master riding a razor's edge between restraint and excess, precision and chaos.

Michael Russo, curator of the Martin Barooshian Artwork Trust, highlighted the painting's contrasts: "'Revelation' is quintessential Barooshian — a bold, expansive, and dynamic work that's alive with wild energy, which also invites quiet, intimate engagement and deep personal involvement. We're delighted that 'Revelation' has found a home at the MFA."

Barooshian (1929–2022) was no outsider. A Boston native, he trained under the influential Karl Zerbe at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, under S.W. Hayter at Atelier 17, and at Atelier Jean Pons in Paris — immersed in the most rigorous artistic traditions of the postwar period. He was at the center of the New York art world, leading the professional workshop at the Pratt Institute Print Center, shaping generations of artists, and counting Willem de Kooning among his friends.

Despite his prominence in the New York art scene, Barooshian resisted its dominant trends. While many of his contemporaries embraced a pure abstraction that rejected history and the human form, Barooshian carved out his own path. By fusing rich international art traditions and history with contemporary American visual culture into a singular, cohesive language, Barooshian kept figures, symbolism, narrative suggestion and mythic scale alive on the canvas. In doing so, he expanded the creative possibilities of his era, anchoring a visionary, symbolic, and deeply layered style firmly within the story of postwar American art.

The timing of this acquisition by the MFA is not incidental. Museum curators and

scholars are now re-evaluating the postwar timeline, showing renewed interest in artists like Barooshian who expand its scope. Claire Howard, inaugural Hansjörg Wyss Curator of Modern Art at the MFA, com-

oblique narrative — is precisely what a vital strand of contemporary art is articulating today. As neo-surrealism endures as one of the defining currents of current practice, and as institutions worldwide undertake



"Revelation," Martin Barooshian (American, 1929–2022), 1960, oil on canvas; gift of the Martin Barooshian Artwork Trust in honor of Claire Howard, Patrick Murphy, and Michael J. Russo (© 2026 Martin Barooshian / / Licensed by VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY; photograph © Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)

mented, "As the MFA redefines its presentation of 20th-century art, we are thrilled to include Barooshian among the original and innovative voices that enhance our understanding of the period."

Barooshian's resistance now reads as prescience. The language Barooshian committed to across seven decades — biomorphic form, symbolic figuration, interiority,

a long-overdue reassessment of who was written out of the postwar canon and why, Revelation arrives not merely as a historical correction but as a living document. Barooshian was outside the orthodoxies of his time because he was ahead of it. That gap is finally closing.

About Martin Barooshian

Barooshian (1929–2022) was born in

Chelsea, Mass. to immigrant survivors of the Armenian Genocide. He was trained at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Boston University, Tufts University, Atelier Jean Pons, and Atelier 17 in Paris. He has been called "Pablo Picasso meets Stan Lee... who has always defined his own style" by Boston Globe critic Cate McQuaid.

Addison Gallery curator Susan Faxon described Barooshian as "an artist whose sweep was wide...and whose exuberance, inventiveness, imagination, and artistic commitment were boundless." He was taught painting by Karl Zerbe, lithography by Gaston Dorfinant, and intaglio etching by Stanley Hayter; he was friends with Armin Landeck and Gerald Geerlings, de Kooning and Paul Jenkins; he taught Barnett Newman to make lithographs. His story is the story of mid-20th-century American art. Across a prolific 70-year career, Barooshian developed a singular cross-media practice built around organic, generative image-systems. By fusing painting and printmaking with myth, humor, history, and biomorphic invention, his distinctive vision opens up a vital, yet largely overlooked, chapter of postwar American art. Barooshian's art is in the collections of many major museums in addition to the MFA, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art (NY), the Museum of Modern Art, the National Gallery, and the Addison Gallery. More information is available in the book *Martin Barooshian: A Catalogue Raisonné of the Prints, 1948–1970* by Michael Russo, and at www.martinbarooshian.org. The International Society for the Study of Surrealism (ISSS) hosted a panel discussion on Barooshian at its 2024 annual conference in Paris, "Rediscovering the Biomorphic Surrealism of Martin Barooshian" which can be viewed on YouTube.

Tekeyan Cultural Association Greater New York
in collaboration with the Armenian Radio Hour
of New Jersey presents

**ROMANTIC SOUL:
MASTERPIECES FOR
PIANO TRIO**

Featuring works by
Khachaturian, Mendelssohn,
Naregatsi, Babajanian
and others

**TANYA
GABRIELIAN**
piano

**ANI
KALAYJIAN**
cello

**ERIC
SILBERGER**
violin

Sunday, September 27, 2026
4PM

West Side Presbyterian Church
6 S Monroe St, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Tickets \$75, \$50, \$40



ARTS & CULTURE

Takahiro Akiba

The Japanese Heart That Beats with Komitas

AKIBA, from page 13

Of course, the contributions made to Armenian music by Russian and Soviet musical art — for example, the great influence of Tchaikovsky's dramaturgy on Khachaturian's ballet music, the influence of Rachmaninoff's artistry on the pianism of Babajanian and Eduard Bagdasaryan — are quite obvious and it is also very excited to observe the creative history from the deep impact between the Western avant-garde and the Armenian spirit to the crystallization of musical languages based on pure Armenian poetry in the creative journey of Mansurian.

After your concert in Yerevan on last June 11, a friend wrote the following on social media: "A performance that touches the deepest strings of your soul and leaves you profoundly inspired. Many foreign musicians who come to Armenia try to please the audience by play-

Several decades ago, Aram Khachaturian was widely known in Japan. Would it be fair to say that, thanks in part to your work, Komitas and Armenian music are becoming increasingly familiar to Japanese audiences as well?

Aram Khachaturian's music remains immensely popular even today! As for Komitas, while it certainly cannot be said that he is yet as famous in Japan as Khachaturian, for example, many audiences were astonished and deeply moved by the beauty of Komitas' songs — particularly through the series of performances in Japan by one of the greatest Armenian soprano Ms. Arax Mansurian, organized by the Embassy of Armenia and myself. Furthermore, Armenian music featured prominently in the programs presented by numerous Armenian artists-performers — foremost among them my dear mentor Anahit Nersesyan, Svetlana Navasardyan, the Khachaturian Trio, the



Takahiro Akiba in Armenia

ing a piece by an Armenian composer. They do play it — but they do not truly perform it, feel it, or live through it. But this Japanese pianist, Takahiro Akiba, is different. He feels and lives every single note of Armenian music, conveying its spirit and emotional depth with remarkable sincerity." I totally agree. How did you develop such a deep emotional and artistic connection?

I deeply thank you and your friend for the kind words. However, I've never been conscious of how I did development my emotional connection with music. I'm simply making every effort to listen to and to express as accurately as possible what these notes (musical score) — the only means of understanding the composer's intentions — speaks to me, and to try to bring them clearly to the audience through my instrument.

Komitas Quartet, Tatevik Movsesyan and Sergey Khachaturian — deeply captivating Japanese audiences.

And many of my students and pupils also continue to perform works by Armenian composers. A particularly noteworthy example is the talented tenor Mr. Toshiki Ohno (He also studied in my piano class for four years). He performs Komitas's songs magnificently in Armenian; a video of him singing Komitas's *Le, le, yaman (Dele Yaman)* — posted on social media a few years ago — garnered an explosive number of views and earned high praise from Armenian experts.

Komitas collected, preserved and transformed Armenian folk songs into works of art. As a performer, how do you balance faithfulness to the score with the freedom to express your own artistic voice? And is there a particular piece by

CALENDAR

OF EVENTS & PROGRAMS

MASSACHUSETTS

AUGUST 2 — Saints Vartanantz Annual Church Picnic, 12 Noon – 5:00 p.m., Music – Food – Dancing featuring the Jason Naroian Ensemble. 180 Old Westford Rd., Chelmsford.

AUGUST 9 — UNDER THE AUGUST MOON. Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston. Sunday at 7:30pm Featuring Dan Teager's Black Sea Salsa Combo and their unique. Sound of Latin and Middle Eastern Jazz. Meet & Greet, old friends and new. Refreshments

AUGUST 11 — An evening of conversation with Chris Bohjalian and Nancy Kricorian celebrating the launch of Bohjalian's latest novel, The Amateur. 7 p.m. Armenian Museum of America, 65 Main Street, Watertown. For details & to RSVP, visit <https://www.armenianmuseum.org/events/celebrating-the-amateur-chris-bohjalian-with-nancy-kricorian> or call 617-926-2562 x102.

AUGUST 23 — CELEBRATING WHAT UNITES US! Highlights Barbados. Sunday at 4pm Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston. Sunday at 4pm .in collaboration with the City of Boston Office of Immigrant Advancement RSVP appreciated, hello@armenianheritagepark.org

AUGUST 23 — ANNUAL PICNIC 12-5 p.m. Lamb Shish Kebab, Chicken Kebab, Losh Kebab and Kheyma. Pastries Table and Armenian Coffee. Live music by the Jason Naroian Ensemble. Holy Archangels Armenian Church, 1280 Boston Rd., Haverhill.

SEPTEMBER 15 — ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT at Hickory Hill Golf Course 200 North Lowell Street, Methuen. 7:30 a.m. registration, 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Tee-Off; sponsored by Holy Archangels Armenian Church; for more information, contact Mark Kazanjian (508) 633-7447 or Markkaz55@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 19 —CELEBRATE ARMENIA! Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston. Saturday, 1pm-8pm. Joyful celebration of culture, tradition and heritage through music, dance, cuisine. Storytelling and community in honor of Armenian Independence Day. 1pm-8pm.rain date: September 27

SEPTEMBER 24 — Celebrating Contributions! Gala to benefit the Armenian Heritage Park's Endowed Fund for Care and Maintenance. Honoring Raffi and Nina Festekjian, Distinguished Leaders in Philanthropy, Business, and the Arts. InterContinental Boston, 6 p.m. Reception. 7 p.m. Dinner and Program. For reservations:ArmenianHeritagePark.org/Support or email: hello@armenianheritagepark.org

OCTOBER 25 — "Voices Across Time: Armenian Piano Music: A Homage to Robert Mirak," Piano Recital and CD Launch by Alessandra Pompili. Works by Stephen Minas, Alan Hovhaness, Emanuel Melik-Aslanian, Loris Tjeknavorian, Komitas, George Gurdjieff, Diane Goolkasian Rahbee, Aram Khachaturian, and Koharik Gazarossian. Armenian Cultural Foundation, Arlington, Sunday at 5 p.m. Free and Open to the Public - Reception to follow.

NOVEMBER 15 — GIVING THANKS! TOGETHER IN CELEBRATION. Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston. Sunday at 2pm./Meet & Greet. Share the Warmth: Bring a Winter Hat, Scarf or Gloves for the ABCD Winter Drive, Seasonal Refreshments. RSVP appreciated hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

NOVEMBER 21 and 22: Save the Date. America's oldest Armenian Church Celebrates 135 years. Banquet November 21. Divine Liturgy November 22. Details to follow.

DECEMBER 6 — CANDLELIT LABYRINTH WALK: IN PEACE & HARMONY Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston. Sunday at 4:45pm. Meet & Greet. Walk the Candlelit Labyrinth Walk. Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Sweet Treats. RSVP appreciated. hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

To send Calendar items email alin@mirrorspectator.com or alin.gregorian@gmail.com. You can also visit our website, www.mirrorspectator.com, and find the "calendar" section under the heading "More" or mail them to the Armenian Mirror-Spectator, 755 Mount Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472. All calendar entries must be received by noon on Monday before publication.

Komitas that has become especially personal to you?

As many great musicians have pointed out, musical notation fails to fully convey the precision of living rhythm or the organic deviations from the meter that inevitably occur in musical expression. Truly, in those "missing parts" we can find the keys for the native-like expression of various traditional folk music. And in my case, my deep love of listening to the authentic performances of traditional Armenian music or the recordings of singing by Komitas himself or by legendary singers — foremost among them Arax Mansurian — helps to fill this gap.

And, amongst Komitas' works, the ones I particularly love are the *Patarag* (Divine Liturgy). From the very first note of

Patarag, tears automatically stream down from my eyes.

Looking ahead, what are your hopes for the future of Armenian-Japanese musical and cultural exchange? Are there any projects, collaborations, or recordings you would like to undertake to bring Armenian music to an even wider international audience?

I have plenty of dreams, but realizing them entails many difficulties! Above all, I am planning to hold "Komitasiana" with tenor Toshiki Ohno in this autumn or early next year. Furthermore — as many people have often urged me to do it — it is time for me to finally record a CD album featuring piano works by Komitas and the other Armenian composers. Well, let's see!



COMMENTARY

THE ARMENIAN
**MIRROR
SPECTATOR**
— SINCE 1932 —



An ADL Publication

THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ARMENIAN WEEKLY IN THE
UNITED STATES

EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

MANAGING EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Mark (Mgrditchian) McKertich

CONTRIBUTORS

Christopher Atamian, Artsvi Bakhchinyan,
Florence Avakian, Christine Vartanian
Datian, Dr. Arshavir Gundjian, Philippe
Raffi Kalfayan, Ken Martin, Gerald
Papasian, Benjamin Poghosyan, Suren
Sargsyan, Harut Sassounian, Hagop
Vartivarian

REGIONAL
CORRESPONDENTS

LOS ANGELES: Ani Duzdabanyan-
Manoukian, Kevork Keushkerian,
Michelle Mkhlian
YEREVAN: Raffi Elliott
BERLIN: Muriel Mirak-Weissbach
PARIS: Jean Eckian
SAN FRANCISCO: Kim Bardakian
Demirjian
CAIRO: Maydaa Nadar

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jirair Hovsepian, Ken Martin

VIDEO CORRESPONDENT

Haykaram Nahapetyan

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator is
published weekly, except two weeks in
July and the first week of the year, by:

Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA
02472-1509

Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

U.S.A.	\$100 one year
Canada	\$150 one year
Other Countries	\$230 one year

© 2026 The Armenian Mirror-Spectator
Periodical Class Postage Paid at Boston,
MA and additional mailing offices.

ISSN 0004-234X

Postmaster: Send address
changes to The Armenian
Mirror-Spectator, 755 Mount
Auburn St.,
Watertown, MA 02472

Other than the Editorial, views
and opinions expressed in this
newspaper do not necessarily
reflect the policies of the
publisher.

How Likely Is the Chance of TRIPP Being Implemented at This Stage?

By Suren Sargsyan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

I have repeatedly noted that the Trump administration has achieved a level of activity and engagement in the South Caucasus and, arguably, in Central Asia as well, that no US administration has been able to achieve since 1992. The reason for this is not only the favorable geopolitical environment. The fact that Russia is focused on the war in Ukraine has had a significant impact, as a result of which its involvement and influence in the South Caucasus and Central Asia have considerably weakened. The same applies to Iran. These circumstances have created an opportunity for the Trump administration to play a much more active role in the region.

However, two additional key factors have been extremely important in making this process unprecedentedly fast and effective.

The First Factor: Steve Witkoff

According to available information, Steve Witkoff is one of the architects of the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP). The idea of connecting Central Asia with Turkey and Europe through TRIPP is attributed to his team. This initiative is not only significant from an economic and transportation perspective but also has an important geopolitical dimension.

It is also crucial that Witkoff has a direct line of communication with President Trump, which helped prevent bureaucratic and hierarchical obstacles from emerging during the initial phase of the project (February 2025).

The resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict provides Washington with an opportunity to deprive Russia of one of its key instruments for maintaining influence in the South Caucasus — the ability to leverage the continued existence of the conflict.

The Second Factor: Non-bureaucrats

The second important factor in this process is the Trump administration's governing style, which is characterized by a significant reduction in bureaucratic procedures, particularly when it comes to implementing issues of vital importance, including the use of force when necessary. One only needs to recall how quickly the Panama Canal, Venezuela, and several other pending issues were addressed.

Decision-making processes are moving as quickly as possible, without traditional bureaucratic delays, allowing such large-scale geopolitical projects to be advanced and solutions to be reached in a more timely manner.

In this context, it is important that President Trump is personally engaged in these processes. Furthermore, Marco Rubio oversees not only the State Department but also the work of the National Security Council, which contributes to closer coordination between foreign policy and national security institutions.

As a result, competition between different agencies and lengthy interagency approval processes are minimized, making decision-making and implementation faster and more effective.

Neither Trump nor the key members of his team have ever been traditional bureaucrats. This very fact has allowed them to understand how bureaucracy complicates not only the adoption of political decisions but also their implementation, even when those decisions concern urgent and strategically important issues.

In this respect, this administration differs favorably from

all previous administrations without exception. These are, of course, key factors, but they are not the only ones.

There are also a number of factors that could hinder the implementation of TRIPP, even despite such significant efforts. I will address those issues separately in another article.

Based on all available information at this stage, one can conclude that TRIPP continues to move forward despite the existing complexities and challenges, including the positions of global actors regarding this issue. The primary concerns here relate to Iran and Russia.

It can be observed that the current delays are not the result of bureaucratic obstacles or administrative disputes, but rather are caused by processes that are beyond the direct control of the Trump administration.

The Trump administration has appointed Konstantin Sokolov as the official responsible for overseeing the effective allocation and use of financial resources designated for the TRIPP project. This indicates that the administration is committed to resolving



the issue as quickly as possible and is prepared to provide the necessary funding within the current fiscal year.

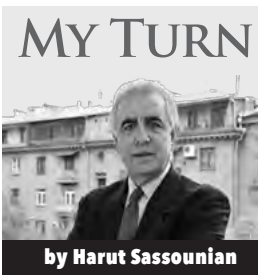
Sokolov enjoys trust both in Armenia and in the United States. He has a business presence in the Republic of Armenia and has a strong understanding of the realities on the ground. At the same time, he is trusted within Trump's team, as he is a major Republican donor.

This appointment therefore makes it possible to involve a person who understands the administration very well, has a strong understanding of Armenia, and knows how to establish effective channels of cooperation without additional bureaucratic delays.

(Suren Sargsyan is an expert on US foreign policy, researcher and author. He is a graduate of Yerevan State University, American University of Armenia and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Suren Sargsyan is a founder of the Armenian Center for American Studies, a research center based in Yerevan.)



COMMENTARY



MY TURN

Not Finding Justice in Yerevan, Armenians Should Apply to the European Court

While successive Armenian governments have exhibited democratic shortcomings since independence in 1991, the current situation is far worse than at any time before.

Since Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan came to power in 2018, democratic institutions have steadily deteriorated, despite his repeated claims to the contrary. Even more troubling is that the so-called democratic West has totally ignored his abuses because he serves their geopolitical interests rather than Armenia's.

Today, all governmental institutions are run by one man. The constitutional provision calling for the separation of powers among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches has been severely undermined. As a result, both Armenia's domestic governance and foreign policy have suffered. Pashinyan entered office with no management experience, yet he proudly proclaims that he makes all decisions on his own without consulting anyone.

The judiciary provides the clearest example of this deterioration. In 2019, Pashinyan and his supporters surrounded a courthouse in Yerevan, preventing a judge from conducting a trial. On June 5, 2019, he made his infamous statement: "Is there a judge in Armenia today who wouldn't do what the Prime Minister says?"

Pashinyan and his parliamentary majority replaced the members of the Constitutional Court, including the Chief Justice, with judges loyal to the government. He has repeatedly ordered the arrest of political opponents critical of his administration. Hundreds have been detained in recent months in the course of the June 7 elections. Even more alarming, authorities have confiscated the property of several prominent detainees before any trial or judicial determination of guilt. As a result, many Armenians have lost confidence in their country's judicial system.

Because Armenia is a member of the Council of Europe and falls under the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), Armenians whose constitutional rights have been violated have the right to pursue justice before that Court, after exhausting all available domestic legal remedies.

Some Armenians have already done so successfully. The ECHR has awarded compensation to complainants after finding that the Armenian government had violated rights protected under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Ironically, Pashinyan himself appealed to the ECHR in 2010 after he and his newspaper were convicted by an Armenian court in connection with the 2008 post-election unrest. After becoming Prime Minister in 2018, he chose

not to withdraw his complaints to the ECHR. This is an unprecedented case in which a sitting head of government sues his own country before an international court.

Moreover, as Prime Minister, Pashinyan prevented the Armenian government's attorney before the ECHR from defending the country's position, thereby helping to secure a judgment in his favor in 2022. The ECHR awarded his newspaper 9,000 euros in damages, plus taxes to be paid to him by the Armenian government.

Pashinyan has violated numerous Armenian laws as well as multiple articles of the Constitution over the past eight years. Here is a short list of the Prime Minister's violations that should be referred to the European Court of Human Rights:

1) The Prime Minister has interfered in the internal affairs of the Armenian Apostolic Church in order to replace the Catholicos, despite the Constitution's requirement that Church and State remain separate.

2) In 2020, he signed an agreement with President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan and President Vladimir Putin of Russia, transferring large portions of Artsakh to Azerbaijan, despite lacking the authority to do so. As Prime Minister of Armenia, his decisions are limited to some issues exclusive to the Republic of Armenia. Therefore, the 2020 agreement he signed is an illegal document and should be considered null and void.

3) Without any jurisdiction, he later recognized the entire Republic of Artsakh as part of Azerbaijan, despite his previous declaration that "Artsakh is Armenia. Period."

4) He violated numerous provisions of Armenian law, during the June 7, 2026 elections. Nevertheless, his appointees at the Central Election Commission and the Constitutional Court upheld the election results.

5) In July, Parliament enacted an illegal law that prohibits Armenian citizens from voting if they had not lived in Armenia for one year during the preceding two years. This law violates Armenia's Constitution, which gives all citizens the right to vote regardless of the length of residency in Armenia. This law disenfranchises hundreds of thousands of Armenian citizens who live outside the country for a variety of reasons. Articles 8, 48, and 80 of the Constitution protect the voting rights of all adult citizens without imposing a residency requirement. Furthermore, Article 80 specifically stipulates: "The essence of the provisions on basic rights and freedoms enshrined in this Chapter shall be inviolable."

It is important to note that legal cases can be filed with the European Court of Human Rights by individuals and organizations living inside or outside Armenia. Applicants do not have to be Armenian citizens — or even Armenian — provided they can demonstrate that they were affected by the violation.

There should be hundreds, if not thousands of cases filed with the ECHR. Because such lawsuits can be expensive, a legal defense fund should be established to cover attorney fees and related expenses. Wealthy Armenians should contribute generously to such a fund.

If justice cannot be obtained in Armenia, it must be pursued wherever the rule of law prevails.

Armenian Police See Rise in Domestic Violence Reports: Data and Analysis

In the first half of 2026, Armenia's police received 1,375 reports of domestic and family violence. That is 78 more cases than during the same period last year.

Police say that for many years incidents of domestic violence went unreported because families kept them hidden. Now, however, many victims are choosing to contact the police. Law enforcement officials attribute this to people's growing confidence that "their voices will be heard and their safety and rights will be protected."

Representatives of civil society have also noticed a change in people's behavior. Nare Hayrapetyan, head of the Kotayk regional NGO Women's Empowerment Resource Centre, describes it as a "victory" that even people who previously categorically rejected the idea are now turning to law enforcement for help.

"Trust in both the state and the institutions responsible for providing protection has increased," she says.

In the first six months of 2026, Armenian police registered 1,155 people who committed violence against family members, up from 1,011 during the same period last year.

In response to the identified cases of domestic violence, police took the following measures:

325 perpetrators received an official warning (compared with 304 last year);

961 emergency intervention orders were issued (up from 833 last year).

The Interior Ministry says cooperation between civil society organizations and the police is key to preventing domestic violence. To strengthen that cooperation, regular

meetings are held in Yerevan and the regions to assess the effectiveness of joint efforts and identify existing challenges.

"Our cooperation with the police is at a very high level," says Anahit Abgaryan, head of the NGO Talin-Huys.

According to her, many more people are now turning to the police, which she also sees as a result of growing trust in the system.

"In the past, we encouraged victims to go to the police. We explained that we could not guarantee their safety in the same way the police could. But they refused," Abgaryan says.

According to Georgy Khachatryan, head of the Police Department for Professional Methodological Support, police respond promptly to every report of domestic violence.

"For a police officer working in the community, protecting victims of violence is the priority," he says.

He outlined the police's main responsibilities: identifying and preventing all forms of violence; protecting every person subjected to violence; taking the necessary measures to reduce the risk of repeat violence.

Khachatryan argues that the increase in domestic violence reports should not be viewed as a negative indicator.

"Domestic violence is, in fact, a hidden crime. Therefore, the increase in detected cases does not necessarily mean there are more incidents of violence. Rather, these crimes are now coming to the attention of law enforcement authorities," he says.

To improve the speed of emergency responses, the SAFE YOU app has been operating since 2025 as part of a partnership between the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Armenian police.

"When an alert is triggered, it ensures the simultaneous involvement of all relevant state agencies. This is crucial both for a rapid response and for organizing protection measures," Khachatryan said.

(This article originally appeared on JAM-news.net on July 2.)

Turkey Takes Practical Steps to Restore Rail Link with Armenia

Turkey has begun restoring the entire railway infrastructure along the Akyaka-Gyumri route, the section connecting it with Armenia. Preliminary estimates suggest the work will take two to three months to complete. Akyaka Mayor Erduger Toptas told this to a group of Armenian journalists visiting Turkey.

According to Toptas, the construction work now under way in Turkey signals preparations for reopening the Armenian-Turkish border. He said reopening the border would give Turkey another route to the Caucasus. It would also allow Armenia to establish transport links with Middle Eastern countries through Turkey.

Kadir Bozan, chairman of the Kars Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also told the Armenian journalists that freight traffic on the Akhalkalaki-Kars railway has increased by 400% in recent months. He did not specify whether Armenia uses the route for exports or imports.

However, on May 24, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said that "the Akhalkalaki-Kars railway is now open for exports from Armenia and imports into Armenia." He described the development as extremely important for the country's economy.

According to official information, a group of Armenian journalists travelled to Turkey as part of a journalist exchange programme. The purpose of the visit was to observe progress on the work to reopen the railway on the Turkish side.

The journalists also wanted to see how Turkey's railway infrastructure operates more broadly. In see RAIL, page 20

Turkey Takes Practical Steps to Restore Rail Link with Armenia

RAIL, from page 19

particular, they travelled by train from Kars to Akyaka. The 57-kilometer journey took just 50 minutes.

After returning, they wrote that Akyaka station lies only 18–20 kilometers from the Armenian city of Gyumri. That means the journey would take just 30–40 minutes. However, the closed border currently makes it impossible to travel from Akyaka to Gyumri.

Akyaka Mayor Erduger Toptas said Turkey plans to restore not only the railway but also the highway.

“The tender for the construction of the road from Akyaka to Gyumri has already been announced. We now expect work on that project to begin as well,” he said.

According to Toptas, these developments indicate that both governments are moving towards establishing good-neighbourly and

friendly relations.

The mayor said reopening the Armenian-Turkish border and expanding bilateral economic cooperation would benefit

AKYAKA MAYOR ERDUGER TOPTAS SAID TURKEY PLANS TO RESTORE NOT ONLY THE RAILWAY BUT ALSO THE HIGHWAY.

both countries. He believes the two sides have opportunities to cooperate in both agriculture and industry.

The Armenian journalists also spoke with residents of Turkish settlements near the Armenian border. Most said they hope the border will reopen as soon as possible. They also believe it will create new eco-

omic opportunities for local communities on both sides of the border.

Akyaka Mayor Erduger Toptas expressed optimism about the prospects for normalizing relations between Armenia and Turkey. In his view, once Armenia and Azerbaijan normalize their relations, reopening the Armenian-Turkish border should not present any difficulties.

He said that, on the instructions of the Turkish president and under the coordination of the transport ministry, officials have begun preparatory work at the border crossing points ahead of the border’s reopening. Railway infrastructure also requires restoration. However, he said the closed border remains the main obstacle to resuming rail services.

At the beginning of 2026, Armenian media reported that the Armenian-Turkish border would open on 1 February to third-coun-

try nationals and holders of diplomatic passports. Armenia’s and Turkey’s special envoys for normalization, Ruben Rubinyan and Serdar Kilic, reached that agreement in July 2022. The Margara border crossing on the Armenian side has stood ready to receive travellers since December 2023. Despite those agreements, however, Turkey has kept the border closed.

Even so, the two countries periodically announce positive steps. For example, from January 1, 2026, Armenia and Turkey simplified visa procedures for holders of diplomatic, special and service passports. They can now obtain a free electronic visa (e-visa) for short-term trips of up to 20 days.

Background

Since 2008, Armenia’s railway network has operated under a concession held by the South Caucasus Railway company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Russian Railways. The concession agreement runs for 30 years, with an option to extend it by another 10 years if both sides agree.

Armenian experts say freight traffic on the country’s railways has halved since 2008. Some routes have ceased operating, while the mandatory investment commitments have never materialised.

Despite this, Yerevan asked Moscow to restore the Gyumri–Akhurik and Yerask railway sections.

Rebuilding these lines would reconnect Armenia with the borders of Azerbaijan and Turkey. This is strategically important for Yerevan, which seeks to fully unblock regional transport links.

Russia has neither acted on Armenia’s request nor indicated a willingness to do so. At the same time, Moscow has said it does not intend to give up its railway concession.

Meanwhile, the Armenian government is considering revoking Russia’s concession and taking control of the railway network itself. It has also left open the possibility of transferring the concession to a third party.

At the beginning of July, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan announced that Armenia had begun preparatory work to restore the Gyumri–Akhurik and Yerask railway sections.

“We will carry out this work ourselves. As for the remaining sections, we will continue working-level discussions, including with our Russian partners,” he said.

(This analysis originally appeared on www.jam-news.net on July 28.)w

10



ԱՄԵՆԱԿ

ՄԻՋԳԵՐԱՆԵՍ

ՀԱՅԿԱՍՏԱՆԻ ԵՐԱՐԱՆԻ ԳԵՂԱՐՈՒԹՅԱՆ

BAIKAR WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

SAVE *the* DATE

10TH ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026

ST LEON CHURCH HALL
FAIRLAWN, NEW JERSEY

Details to follow!

THANK YOU FOR 10 YEARS OF
SUPPORT, TRUST, AND COMMUNITY.



Sponsor a Teacher Program

Any inquiries for information about the Sponsor a Teacher Program or donations should be henceforth directed to the central office of the Tekeyan Cultural Association at 755 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown MA 02472, or emailed to Aram.Arkun@tcadirector.org