

ՄԻԶԻՆ ԱՐԵՒԵԼՔԻ ԳԱՂՈՒԹԱՐԱՐ ԶԵՒԱՀՈՐՈՒՄԻ ՌԵՏԵՎԱՆՔՆԵՐԸ



ՄԵԹՐ ՊԱՐԳԵՒ ԴԱԽԻԹԵԱՆ

Համաշխարհապետ Ա. Պատերազմին ետք, զաղութարար Ֆրանսան կիբանանի վրայ իր իշխանութիւնը հաստատելով ստանձնեց ձեւաւորումը քրիստոնեայ կիբանանի (1920), իսկ Համաշխարհապետին Բ. Պատերազմին ետք ալ գաղութարար Անգլիան, իր Պալֆուրեան խոստումը կատարելով, ստանձնեց ձեւաւորումը հրեայ Պաղեստինի (1948): Եւ այդպէս ալ, Միջին Արեւելքի մնացեալ շրջաններուն մէջ գաղութատիրութիւնը իր վարձկաններն ու գործակիցները վարձատրեց՝ անոնց տալով իշխանութիւն երկիրներու վրայ, որոնք երբեք չդարձան հայրենիքներ այդ երկիրներու ժողովուրդներուն համար: Արդարեւ, շարունակ միջամուխ ըլլալու պատրաստ զաղութարար Արեւմուտքը իր ձեւաւորած Միջին Արեւելքի երկիրներու սահմաններուն մէջ զետեղեց զերժողոզ եւ չընդունող ժողովրդացին խմբակցութիւններ, որպէսզի ազգային մէկ յայտարարի տակ անոնք չկարենային միանալ ու միատարր դառնալ: «Բաժնէ՝ որ տիրես»-ին տեղ «խառնէ՝ որ շինես»-ը զարձաւ հնարքը զաղութատիրութեան, որ իր հին ու նոր դերակատարներով խառնէ՝ շինելու պատրուակով...:

Փրիստոնեայ կիբանան ու հրեայ Պաղեստինը իսլամական աշխարհի ովկիանոսին մէջ որպէս փոքրիկ կղզիներ հազարումէի փոթորիկի ենթարկուեցան տարիներու ընթացքին: Առաջինը՝ քաղաքական պատերազմներու (1958 եւ 1975-1990) եւ անհաշտ կեանքի ցաւերով տառապեցաւ (եւ տակաւին կը տառապի), իսկ միւսը, անվտանգութեան ու ապահովութեան մտահոգութեամբ ինքոյնք պատած, անվերջ պատերազմներ մղելով մեկուսացուեցաւ եւ բռնագրաւող ըլլալու ամօթով ճանչուեցաւ: Լիբանան իր քրիստոնեայշխամ գոյակցութիւնը ի զուր ուղեց օրինակ ծառայեցնել՝ արաբ-հրեայ գոյակցութեան մը կարելիութիւնը քարոզելով աշխարհին, մինչ իսրայէլ, հարուածներ տեղացնելով պաղեստինցիներու դլիուն, մերժեց ամէն տեսակի գոյակցութիւն արաբին հետ:

Լիբանան, հակառակ իր բարեացակամ քարոզչութեան, քրիստոնեայշխամ երկուութեան պատճառաւ դարձաւ Սուրբիոյ եւ իսրայէլի քաղաքական ու զինուորական գործողութիւններու վեցուացք արաբական աշխարհի միակ քրիստոնեայշխամ մէր: Հակառակ աշխարհի մէր: Արաբական աշխարհի միակ քրիստոնեայշխամ ուղարկած համապատասխան է աշխարհի մասնութիւնը կազմուած աշխարհի մասնութիւնը:

ԱՐԱԲԱԿԱՆ ԱՇԽԱՐՀ ՍՈՒՐԻԱԿԱՆ ԿԱՌԱՎԱՐՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ ՊԱՏՐԱՍ Է ԽՈՍԿՑՈՒԹԵԱՆՑ

Սուրբիոյ երկարատեւ քաղաքացիական պատերազմին վերջ տալու նպատակով, քանի մը օր առաջ, կառավարութիւնը Դամասկոսի մէջ պաշտօնական յայտարարութիւն մը հրապարակելով յայտնեց թէ պատրաստ է այս ամսուան ընթացքին Ժենեվ երթալու եւ խաղաղառթեան բանակցութիւններուն մասնակցելու: Սակայն նախապայման դրաւ իմանալու խոսակցութեանց մասնակցող ընդիմադիրներու անուանացանը:

Այս առնչութեամբ Սուրբիոյ արտաքին գործոց նախարար Ռւալիս Մուսալիէմ, Դամասկոսի մէջ ՄԱԿի պատուիրակի հետ ունեցած հանդիպման ընթացքին նշեց որ կանխաւ կ'ուզէ իմանալ թէ «ահաբեկչիներու խումբ»ը պիտի մասնակցի՝ այդ ժողովին:

Արդարեւ ժընեւի խաղաղութեան ժողովը ծրագրուած էր անցեալ տարուան ընթացքին ՄԱԿի Ապահովութեան Խորհուրդին կողմէ որ կը նպատակադրէ վերջ տալ հինգ տարիներէ ի վեր շարունակուող քաղաքացիական պատերազմին: Այս շրջանին գոյն գացած է շուրջ 260,000 հոգի եւ ստեղծած գաղթականներու ահռելի տագնապ մը թէ շրջանին եւ թէ Եւրոպայի մէջ:

ՄԵՌԻՏԱԿԱՆ ԱՐԱԲԻԱ ՑՆՑՈՒՄԵՐՈՒ ՄԵԶ

Մէուտական Արաբիա նոր տարին կը թեւակոխէ նոր հարցերով, տարնապներով, որոնք սկսած են սրբով սրիւ ու անել կացութեան մատնել երկիրը: Ներքին հարցերէն գլխաւորներէն է շիփթ այլախոհներու դէմ շղթացակերծուած պայքարը, որ հետզհետէ աւելի սուր բնութիւն կը ստանայ, չիւսիսէն իսլամական պետութեան պարագուուի Ապու Պաքը Պաղտատին, ոխերիմ թշնամի կը համարուի քանի որ խոստացած է տապաել Սէուտական տոհմը, զան նկատելով «Օձին Գլուխը»: Երկրի հարաւը սիւնիներով ղեկավարուող Սէուտական գորքերը պատերազմի մէջ են եմէնի շիփթ ապստամբներու դէմ, իսկ արեւելքն շիփթներով ղեկավարուող իրանն է:

Նոր տարուան օրը 47 այլախոհներու զիստուումը մեծ աղմուկ ստեղծեց համաշխարհային չափանիշով: Մահապարտները սիւննի ծայրացնականներէն մէջ մասսամբ, որոնք զօրավիրէ կը կանգէին Ալ Քայիսային: Անոնցմէ չորար միայն շիփթ էին, գլխաւորութեամբ շէցն նիմը էլ նիմը կրօնաւորին: Ան պահանջած էր Մէուտական Արաբիոյ արեւելեան շրջանի անջատումն ու ինքնավարութիւնը, քանի որ մեծ մասով շիփթներէ բնակուած էր: Շէկին սպանութիւնը զանգուածացին ցոյցերու դուռ բացաւ: Իսկ իրանի հոգեւոր գերազոցն ղեկավար Այախօլլահ Ալի Խէմէնին, առաջարկեց իսլամական պետութիւններուն խգել իրենց դիւնապիտական կապերը Սէուտական Արաբիոյ հետ: Սակայն քիչէր միայն ընդառաջնեցին իր կոչին:

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Russian Church Clarifies Position on Armenian Genocide

MOSCOW -- Position of the Russian Church towards the Armenian Genocide is not changed spokesman of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia Deacon Alexander Volkov said in a statement to the Armenian media.

"The position of our Church on the Armenian genocide has been repeatedly and clearly expressed in numerous statements and messages of the Patriarch," added Volkov. He pointed out that high-level Russian Orthodox clerics took part in last year's events in Armenia that marked the centennial of the Armenian genocide.

"In an interview for "Rossiya" TV channel Patriarch Kirill spoke about the terrible and unprecedented situation of the Christians in Syria and Iraq. In that context, he brought the example of the history of the Ottoman



Empire, where there were periods that the imposed order ensured relative security and stability in the lives of religious minorities.

Volkov insisted that the Patriarch alluded to only some periods of Ottoman history that saw "relative security and stability in the lives of religious minorities." "The absence of such order -- both in the Ottoman Empire 100 years ago and in contemporary Iraq, Syria and Libya -- always leads to tragic events," he said.

First Casualty of 2016: Armenian Soldier Killed by Azeri Forces in Karabakh



YEREVAN (Armenianow) -- In what marked the first casualty of the year after a period of relative New Year calm in the Karabakh conflict zone, an Armenian soldier was reportedly killed by Azeri troops at the frontlines over the weekend.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Ministry said 19-year-old Aramais Voskanyan was fatally wounded on Saturday while on duty in the eastern direction of the line of contact with Azerbaijan.

According to the Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Army, in the period of January 3-9, the Azerbaijani side fired more than 4,000 shots from guns of different calibers.

"The advanced units of the De-

fense Army mostly refrained from retaliatory actions and continued to confidently carry out their combat duty," the Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Ministry said.

More than four dozen Armenian servicemen were killed in 2015 around Nagorno-Karabakh and at the restive Armenian-Azerbaijani border as Azeri forces began using larger-caliber and heavier weapons, including mortars and battle tanks.

At one point in December, Armenia's Defense Ministry said the 1994 ceasefire agreement was effectively in tatters, while Nagorno-Karabakh's Defense Minister Levon Mnatsakanyan accused Azerbaijan of "bringing the situation closer to war".

Grigor Hovhannisyan Appointed Armenia's Ambassador to the USA

YEREVAN -- By the decree issued by the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sarkisian on January 12, Grigor Hovhannisyan has been appointed to the post of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the United States of America in Washington, DC.

Hovhannisyan replaces outgoing ambassador and former PM Tigran Sargsyan who will chair the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission, the executive body of the Eurasian Economic Union. He will succeed Victor Khristenko and will assume the post from February 1, 2016.

By the same decree Hovhannisyan was removed from the post of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipoten-



tiary of the Republic of Armenia to the United Mexican States, Republic of Cuba, Republic of Costa Rica, Republic of Guatemala and Republic of Panama by another presidential decree.

Swine Flu Death Toll Rises in Armenia



YEREVAN -- An outbreak of swine flu, which struck Armenia late last month, is under control, the Ministry of Health insisted on Monday after the H1N1 virus killed seven people in the country.

The ministry also continued to downplay an upsurge in other, less severe acute respiratory diseases that has led to the hospitalization of more than 650 Armenians, most of them children, since the start of the New Year.

Ministry officials said 83 of them remain in intensive care. Ten of them are in a severe condition, officials said without elaborating. It was not clear whether they are suffering from swine flu.

According to a spokeswoman for Health Minister Armen Muradian, there were 89 officially registered swine flu cases in the country as of Friday. Two more people died from the dangerous virus over the weekend, raising the H1N1 death toll to 6.

"There is no epidemic in the country," the Ministry of Health said in a statement issued on Monday. "Analyses conducted by a rapid reaction group formed by the ministry show that the overall number of cases is virtually unchanged as of now," it said.

"We are continuing to take preventive measures," added the state-

ment. "Hospitals and polyclinics have been provided with necessary medication and materials."

Acting on Muradian's recommendation, Education Minister Armen Ashotian announced late last week that winter school holidays in Armenia have been extended by one week, until January 18.

Hospitals across the country have struggled over the past week to cope with a continuing inflow of patients suffering from flu, pneumonia and other acute respiratory diseases.

The Arabkir Medical Center, a children's hospital in Yerevan, was packed with infected children, unable to receive more patients.

"We were hospitalized with usual flu symptoms: runny nose, fever, weakness, coughing. But it emerged later that it's pneumonia," said another mother.

The mass hospitalizations appear to have raised fears among many Armenians. Taguhi Stepanian, the head of Yerevan's public ambulance service, reported a record-high number of phone calls received by the service in recent days.

In Stepanian's words, as many as 6,700 Yerevan residents suspecting flu symptoms called an ambulance from December 31 through January 7.

NKR Official Warns Against Haste in Conflict Settlement

STEPANAKERT (tert.am) -- Artificial efforts to speed up the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement are not in the interests of the peace process, Spokesman for the NKR President David Babayan said, commenting on the recent congressional debate urging for rapid efforts to implement the Royce-Engel proposals.

Speaking to Tert.am, Babayan said he doesn't expect artificial haste to work in the best interests of Armenia. "The so-called speeding up of the issue cannot positively influence the settlement process. Imposing artificial timeframes is not effective," he noted.

The spokesperson said he knows that issues more important than those were addressed at the briefing which was classified. "They discussed, for instance, the issue of pulling back snipers and reaching a peaceful solution. If those provisions are brought to life, that would be a major contribution to the settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict. We have repeatedly talked about this, proposed withdrawing the snipers and establishing 'days-off' to rule out [ceasefire] violations



**NKR President Spokesman
David Babayan**

on religious, national and international holidays, but Azerbaijan would not accept them, continuing the policy of destabilization," he noted.

Babayan said he thinks that the situation would be different now had the international community made timely efforts to make Azerbaijan accept the proposals.

"But it's better late than never. We are hopeful this call will have its positive impact in term of maintaining stability in the conflict settlement zone," he said.

Ambassador Mnatsakanyan Elected President of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS



Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan

NEW YORK -- On 11 January, Armenia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan was elected President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP), UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Office for Project Service (UNOPS), the Organizations' governing body, for a one-year term.

The Executive Board is made up of representatives of Member States and is mandated by the UN General Assembly to provide inter-governmental support to and overall supervision of the activities of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS. The Board meets three times a year ensuring that the three Agencies remain responsive to the evolving needs of programme countries.

"2016 will be a pivotal time for our Board and sister-agencies in light

of the recent adoption of the new set of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The year will also be critical in view of the mid-term review of the strategic plans for 2014-2017, as well as the upcoming discussions of the new cycle of Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, which remains the main political mechanism for member states to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of the UN development system's support to national development efforts", - stated Ambassador Mnatsakanyan in his acceptance remarks.

Armenia is a member of the Executive Board of the UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS since 2014. In June 2015, the Board approved the UNDP's and UNFPA's country programme documents for Armenia for the period of 2016-2020.

James Warlick, US Lawmakers Discuss Karabakh Peace

WASHINGTON, DC (RFE/RL)

-- The chief U.S. negotiator in the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process has met with several members of the U.S. Congress to discuss specific measures against increased ceasefire violations in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zone that are strongly advocated by them.

James Warlick, the U.S. co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, said he discussed "Nagorno-Karabakh peace" with Ed Royce, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and other members of the panel on Wednesday.

"We agreed to work for a settlement," Warlick wrote on his Twitter page. He did not give details.

"We need to intensify work towards a negotiated settlement in 2016," Warlick tweeted on January 1. "The parties say they are willing. If not now, when?"

Royce announced the upcoming meeting with the American mediator last month when he addressed a Capitol Hill event dedicated to the 24th anniversary of Karabakh's declaration of independence from Azerbaijan. The pro-Armenian lawmaker renewed his calls for the U.S., Russian and French mediators to press Azerbaijan to accept major safeguards against intensifying violence in the Karabakh conflict zone. Warlick was present at the annual event.

Royce initiated in late October a joint letter by over 80 U.S. legislators to Warlick listing three measures which they believe would minimize deadly



**OSCE Minsk Group U.S. co-chair
James Warlick**

fighting there. Those include withdrawal of snipers by both warring sides, deployment of more OSCE observers, and installation of gunfire-locator systems on the Karabakh frontline. Warlick reportedly backed the proposed safeguards on behalf of the U.S. State Department.

"Why haven't those in the Minsk Group moved forward to endorse this?" Royce asked during the December 9 celebration on Capitol Hill. He said he and other members of the U.S. House of Representatives will discuss the matter with Warlick.

The Minsk Group co-chairs have long been urging the conflicting parties to withdraw their snipers and agree to a mechanism for international investigations of armed incidents. These measures are backed by Armenia and the Karabakh Armenians but rejected by Azerbaijan.

Armenia Human Rights Defender Karen Andreasyan Resigns

YEREVAN -- Armenian Ombudsman Karen Andreasyan has tendered a letter of resignation, the Ombudsman's Office press service said in an official Facebook post today. No reasons for the resignation were clear immediately

"The Human Rights Defender thanks all partners for the joint work, and expresses the hope that the protection of human rights will remain a priority of our state and society," Andreasyan spokesman said.

"There will be no other comments in this connection," the posted statement said.

Andreasyan was elected Human Rights Defender by parliament on March 2, 2011. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Law of Yerevan State University and continued his studies at the University of California, Berkeley (USA), Oxford University, the Canadian Center for Human Rights and the European Journalism Centre (Netherlands). He has a PhD in law, and is an associate professor of Yerevan State University and a member of the Armenian Bar Association.

The resignation is certain to be linked by many with his recent bitter row with several parliamentarians representing the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK). They attacked Andreasyan in late October when he presented the National Assembly with an annual report on the work of his office.



The HHK's Samvel Farmanian launched a particularly scathing attack on Andreasyan, calling the 500-page report "sloppy" and "toothless." Farmanian, who had previously worked as President Serzh Sarkisian's press secretary, accused the human rights defender of wasting taxpayers' money and ignoring "reforms" implemented by the government.

Galust Sahakian, the parliament speaker and a senior HHK figure, effectively defended Farmanian.

Andreasyan rebutted the accusations on the parliament floor, saying that Farmanian is carrying out an "immoral order" issued by an unspecified person at odds with the ombudsman. He refused to name names, saying only that he did not refer to President Sarkisian.

Under Armenia's recently amended constitution, the next ombudsman will be elected by the parliament. He or she will need to be backed by at least three-fifths of its 131 members.

International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation to Honor Memory of Asa Kent Jennings

NEW YORK -- Asa Kent Jennings was an American hero who saved 250,000 people during the Armenian Genocide.

Despite his awe-inspiring life-saving deeds, his story has not been properly recognized, not only around the world, but also in the USA and in Armenia.

The Board of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation has resolved to pay tribute to his legacy in a series of activities that will be made public soon.

Jennings was a small-town handicapped Minister originally from up-state New York. At the beginning of the 20th century he worked in the affluent city of Smyrna in Turkey, as a YMCA employee.

In September 1922, the Turkish nationalist army entered the city with the intent of slaughtering all its Christian residents, mostly Armenians and Greeks. A huge blaze erupted through the city on September 13, trapping scores of refugees in a narrow strip by the sea. Hundreds of thousands were doomed to die on the city's waterfront. Many of them were succumbing to plagues, hunger and thirst, under the Turkish siege.

Aware of their plight, Jennings had set-up a first-aid station for pregnant women in an empty home on the waterfront. He then organized a fleet of ships with the help of the US Navy in an audacious and imaginative rescue plan.

The Jennings evacuation removed 250,000 refugees from Smyrna and relocated them to the Greek Islands and the cities of Thessaloniki and Piraeus.



This blitz operation took only 7 days, to meet a Turkish city amidst threats of deportation. His courage and shrewdness saved the lives of a quarter million innocent human beings from a terrible death.

Asa Kent Jennings is a great American rescuer who went out of his way to save scores of Armenians and Greeks and his legacy needs to be divulged for the world to know that people like him were not indifferent to the plight of other human beings.

His spirit of solidarity should be a beacon of hope and should teach us that one man can make a difference.

The IRWF decision to commemorate the feats of Asa Jennings are in the framework of the NGO's research efforts aimed at discovering the brave women and men who reached-out to the Armenians in their suffering

First Anniversary of Gyumri Massacre Victims Commemorated

Relatives of seven Armenians murdered in Gyumri last year on Tuesday threatened to boycott the trial of a Russian soldier who has confessed to the massacre if it continues inside the Russian military base in Armenia.

Speaking on the first anniversary of the shock killings, they were deeply dissatisfied with criminal investigations conducted by Armenian and Russian law-enforcement authorities. Some of them alleged an official cover-up.

The soldier, Valery Permyakov, was arrested near the Turkish border early on January 13, 2015, hours after six members of the Avetisian family were found shot dead in their home. The family's seventh member, a 6-month-old baby boy, died of his stab injuries a week later.

Permyakov admitted murdering them during his separate interrogations by Russian and Armenian investigators. The latter maintain that he acted alone.

The victims' relatives believe that he also had other accomplices. "Permyakov didn't act alone. It was a preplanned crime," said Rita Petrosian, whose sister Hasmik died in the killing spree.

Gyumri Mayor Samvel Balasanian seemed to echo this claim after he and

senior government officials and lawmakers from Yerevan joined the relatives in remembering the murdered Avetisians during a prayer service held by their graves.

"How come he opened fire and the neighbors didn't hear the gunshots?" asked Balasanian. "Why is it that all victims of a single shooter remained in their beds? These questions must get answers during the judicial process."

A Russian military court sentenced Permyakov to 10 years in prison for desertion and theft of firearms and ammunition in a short trial held in Gyumri in August. The 20-year-old conscript went on another, Armenian trial on December 18, facing charges of murder, armed robbery and an attempt to illegally cross the Armenian-Turkish border.

The trial is taking place at the Gyumri headquarters of the Russian military base where Permyakov has been kept ever since his arrest. The presiding Armenian judge attributed the choice of the venue to security considerations. The explanation failed to satisfy Petrosian and several other relatives who were present at the opening session of the trial.

They warned on Tuesday that they will not attend further court hearings unless they are held in an

Fresno State and American University of Armenia Forge Partnership



Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro and AUA President Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian signing the agreement

FRESNO -- Fresno State officials announced a new partnership with the American University of Armenia (AUA) yesterday as part of an effort to boost opportunities for Armenian studies, The Business Journal reports.

The new deal, signed into being by Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro, will allow for the exchange of students and faculty between the two schools and promote joint research.

"Through this agreement, we will boldly rise together," said President Joseph I. Castro. "It's both important and timely."

Located in Yerevan, Armenia, AUA is in its 25th year and has a student body of 1,600. Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian, university president and one of three cofounders of AUA, said the campus has a lot to offer Fresno State students including studies in engineering, computer science, econom-

ics, public health and law.

"Our university is dynamic and it's growing," he said. "There are so many things to see and there is so much to enjoy."

Studying abroad at AUA would also allow the Central Valley's Armenian students a chance to connect with their ancestral roots, and Der Kiureghian said the university hopes to eventually be a hub for American universities.

For now, Fresno State is the first U.S. university to establish such a relationship with the school.

The new deal bolsters Fresno State's current Armenian studies program and is the latest step Castro has taken in strengthening ties between the university and the Armenian community. In April, 2015, university officials unveiled a monument dedicated to the memory of the Armenian Genocide.

Netflix Launches in Armenia

YEREVAN (Panarmenian.net) -- Netflix announced Wednesday, January 6 that it's launching in an additional 130 countries, including Armenia, making the streaming service available in almost every country, the Guardian reports.

Reed Hastings, the company's CEO, said he's hopeful it will launch in China in the near future. The company also pointed out that North Koreans won't be able to access the wealth of western entertainment either – and Syria is out, too, due to U.S. trade embargoes.

The service will largely be in English in the new countries, supported by subtitles. The company is adding Arabic, Korean and both traditional and simplified Chinese to the roster of 17 languages it already supports.

Even before today's expansion, the company claims it's in 70m homes worldwide. While Netflix might not have as many customers as a large U.S. TV network, the firm can still



claim to have more reach than almost any other traditional broadcaster – the exceptions being news outlets and YouTube.

For the TV and film industries, Netflix does have one powerful draw: it's incredibly good at reducing piracy. The company says that the public will gladly pay a fair monthly price to have access to movies and shows, and this can have a dramatic effect on the amount of illegally downloaded material.

Armenian court house. "We will definitely boycott the trial," said Petrosian. "They do what they want."

"We are not going to go to the Russian base anymore," agreed another woman related to the murdered family. "They want to cover up everything."

Two opposition lawmakers

present at the commemoration of the massacre anniversary, Nikol Pashinian and Zaruhi Postanjian, added their voice to those demands. Postanjian claimed that the venue of the trial runs counter to Armenian law.

The next court hearing is scheduled for January 18.

AGBU Hye Geen and Young Circle Conference Armenian Youth and Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities

PASADENA -- Believing in the decisive role of higher education in developing Armenian American leadership as well as community advancement, AGBU Hye Geen and Young Circle are organizing their 10th annual conference, this year on the theme of Armenian Youth and Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities.

The Conference's keynote speaker is Dr. Mary A. Papazian, President of Southern Connecticut University. Her topic will be "Pathways to Professional and Cultural Success in Higher Education."

Other participants are Dr. Albert K. Karnig, President Emeritus of California State University, San Bernardino, who will address "The Challenges of Global Competitiveness and Technological Innovation for Higher Education." Then Dr. Nelly Kazman, Senior Executive Director of San Fernando Campus, La Verne University, will discuss "Higher Education as

Doorway to Opportunities for Armenian American Leadership." Joining them, Alice Petrossian, Vice-Chair of Los Angeles County Commission for Women, will speak about "Nurturing the Pursuit of Higher Education among Armenian Students."

Finally, Hasmik Kyureghyan, research and development specialist, AYB Educational Foundation, will present "The Ten-Year Experience of AYB Educational Foundation, a New Learning Culture in Armenia and Beyond."

The AGBU Hye Geen and Young Circle 10th annual conference, 2016 will take place on Saturday March 5, 2016 at the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church in Burbank, California. Registration is at 9:00 a.m., Conference starts at 10:00 a.m.

Registration fee is \$30, students with ID \$15. It also includes lunch. Parking is free.

To register, call AGBU Head Office (626) 794-7942.

KCRW Archives the Joyous Sounds of Hovsepian School Children



PASADENA -- Recently, the Administration at St. Gregory Hovsepian School saw an opportunity to archive the sounds that students create as they play during morning recess. The principal, Mr. Shahé Mankerian, who is an avid listener of KCRW (89.9 FM), the flagship of National Public Radio (NPR), heard about the rare opportunity to record eclectic sounds of Los Angeles. Under the subheading of SoundsLA, the newscasters on NPR's Morning Edition encouraged listeners to submit sounds they hear in their daily lives with the following tagline: It's your city. What do you hear? Mr. Mankerian thought, "No one should bypass this whimsical opportunity."

Primarily, SoundsLA is an ongoing series of audio postcards that start with a sound found in and around Los Angeles. The 15-30 seconds of sound then leads to a story behind the recording and about a particular person, place or thing. By using a mobile device to record, Mr. Mankerian submitted one of his favorite sounds, the "noise" of Armenian children playing during morning recess. He accompanied his submission

with the following complementary story:

Multilingual Children at Recess: Every school recess sounds magically the same. Almost. Cacophony of noises produced by children, in various pitches, like a vocal ensemble tuning before a concert. I hear this magical noise every morning, five days a week, for twenty minutes exactly. These children weave sounds in two languages, Armenian and English, like a beautiful bilingual duet, like the mosaic of America, like the unexpected bell that never ends our conversation. Some call the sounds of our school the microcosm; I call it euphoria.

From the Administrative perspective, capturing the sound of our children provides a minimalistic snippet in the world of Armenian schools. The mere 30 seconds of joyous commotion will be preserved like a time capsule in the archives of a prestigious radio station for generations to come. Like the Japanese haiku, sometimes good things come in small packages.

Visit the SoundLA website to experience the sounds of our children and the words of Mr. Mankerian.

Festive Dilijan Program Presents Hidden Gems of Armenian and Russian Music



LOS ANGELES -- The great Russian composer Sergey Taneyev's masterpiece, the magnificent Piano Quintet, will receive a rare performance at Dilijan Chamber Music Series' January 17 concert at Zipper Hall. The first half of the concert features works by four prominent Armenian composers G. Saryan, A. Hovhaness, G. Chutjian, and E. Mirzoian, and String Quartet no. 7 by D. Shostakovich. The returning distinguished artists are violinists Searmi Park, Varty Manouelian and Movses Pogossian, violist Guillaume Sutre, cellist Armen Ksajikian, pianist Armen Guzelimian, as well as five young UCLA graduate students, making their Dilijan

Series debut: soprano Danielle Bayne, and the new incarnation of the VEM String Quartet.

Dilijan Series' 11th season features a lineup of universally admired artists of international reputation, such as violinists Guillaume Sutre and Gabriela Diaz, violist Carrie Dennis, cellists Clive Greensmith and Antonio Lysy, clarinetist Michele Zukovsky, pianists Sergei Babayan, Artur Avanesov, and Armen Guzelimian, and saxophonist Armen Hyusnuntz, among others. The Series will premiere four new chamber works by Sargsyan, Zohrabian, Avanesov, and Hyusnuntz, bringing the total number of the Dilijan commissions to 38.

The Hundred-Year Walk: An Armenian Odyssey

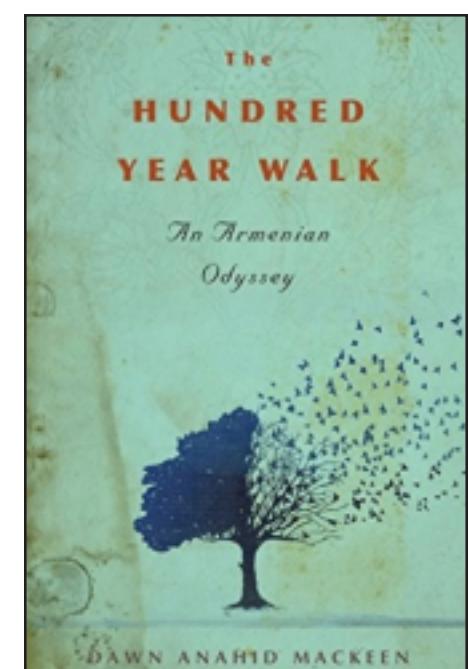
The Hundred-Year Walk: An Armenian Odyssey by Dawn MacKeen is the inspiring story of a young Armenian's harrowing escape from genocide and of his granddaughter's quest to retrace his steps

Growing up, Dawn MacKeen heard fragments of her grandfather Stepan Miskjian's story, of how he was swept up in the deadly mass deportation of Armenians during World War I and of how he miraculously managed to escape.

Stepan kept meticulous journals of his entire story, a "road map to his life," which MacKeen felt compelled to follow by traveling to Turkey and Syria to walk in his steps—a dangerous venture since it was illegal there to even mention this part of history. But she had to "taste his thirst, touch the land where he walked. See the green hills surrounding his Adabazar, where his dreams of becoming the town's first courier had taken root, before they withered and died in the desert."

Part reportage, part memoir, The Hundred Year Walk alternates between Stepan's tale of resilience and Dawn's remarkable journey, giving us a rare eyewitness account of the twentieth century's first large-scale genocide. It's filled with edge of your seat escapes and accounts of lifesaving kindnesses in the harsh desert. And it's in the desert that Dawn finds the unexpected: the secret to Stepan's survival.

MacKeen is an award-winning investigative journalist who has written for places like the New York Times Magazine, Salon, Elle, and Newsday. But several factors almost kept her from writing this astounding piece of



history. To name just a few.

-Her grandfather barely survived the Armenian genocide. He escaped countless times, and all that he witnessed almost died with him.

-In 2006, MacKeen discovered four more notebooks just as she was about to quit the book for lack of additional information. These included Stepan's life before WWI.

-In Raqqqa, Syria, she met a Bedouin sheikh who helped her find the family of the Arab sheikh who saved her grandfather's life. By the time she had returned to Syria in 2009, the Bedouin sheikh had died.

The war in Syria now makes travel to the country impossible. A century later, history is repeating itself along the Euphrates, where MacKeen traveled; the area has once again become a cemetery.

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