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PM Pashinyan

Peace Treaty Must Be Based on Internationally Negotiated Mechanism



YEREVAN — Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan called for international response to Azerbaijan's attempts to escalate the tension, saying also reliable international negotiation mechanism is needed for achieving the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace treaty and for implementation of agreements reached between Stepanakert and Baku on ensuring the security and the rights of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Speaking at a government session Pashinyan drew international community's attention to Azerbaijan's preparations for a new escalation. He stressed that Azerbaijan's rhetoric of

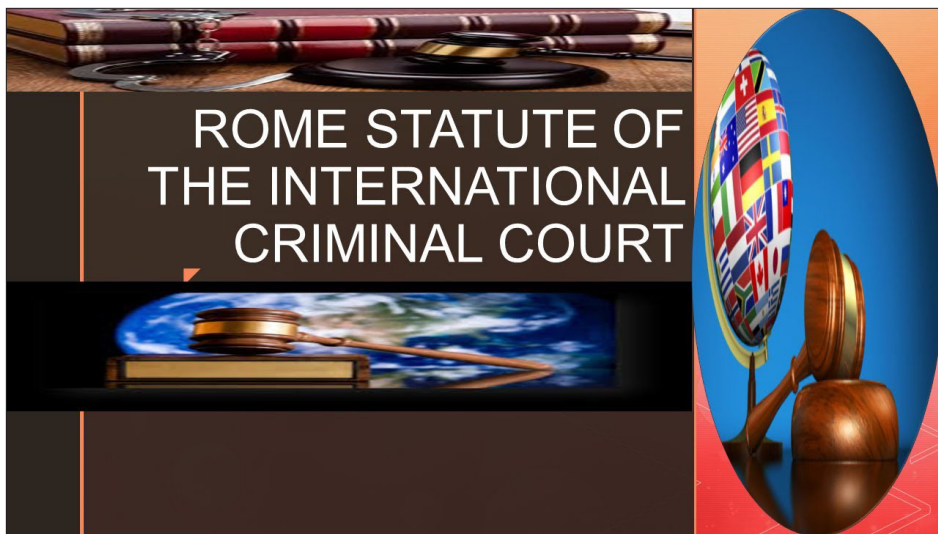
so-called "Western Azerbaijan" is a blatant act of encroachment on the sovereign territory of Armenia.

"Unpunished violations of internationally reached agreements by Azerbaijan encourage Baku to make new incitements. Such a monstrous provocation took place yesterday when the Azerbaijani side purposefully shot and killed Arshak Sarkisyan, a serviceman of the Armenian Armed Forces with a sniper shot," he said.

At the same time, Pashinyan stressed that the peace treaty will be

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Armenia's Constitutional Court Approves Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court



YEREVAN -- Armenia's Constitutional Court ruled today that the country's obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) comply with the Basic Law.

The ruling was announced by Constitutional Court Judge Arman Dilanyan. The ruling is final and will come into force upon publication. Judges of the Constitutional Court Hrayr Tovmasyan, Arayik Tunyan and Yervand Khandikyan expressed their dissenting opinions.

In late 2022, the Armenian gov-

ernment had asked the Constitutional Court to examine the constitutionality of the Rome Statute. According to the government, the ratification of this document will allow it to initiate legal proceedings against Azerbaijan (for war crimes committed in Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia) at the ICC.

Armenia signed the Rome Statute in 1998, but has not ratified it after the Constitutional Court in 2004 found that the treaty's obligations contradicted several provisions of the Constitution in effect at the time.

Azerbaijani Forces Violate the Ceasefire Agreement, Enter Artsakh Territory



STEPANAKERT -- Russia accused Azerbaijani troops of violating the 2020 Armenian-Azerbaijani ceasefire after they advanced into Nagorno-Karabakh on Saturday.

The Russian Defense Ministry said they occupied a hill near the Lachin corridor connecting Karabakh to Armenia which has been blocked by Azerbaijan for more than three months. It said the Azerbaijani action violated a key term of the Russian-brokered ceasefire that stopped the six-week war in Karabakh.

"The command of the Russian peacekeepers is taking measures aimed to prevent the escalation of the crisis situation and mutual provocations by the warring parties," the ministry said in a statement.

The peacekeepers have demanded that the Azerbaijan "withdraw units of

the national armed forces to their previously occupied positions," added the statement.

The authorities in Stepanakert condemned the Azerbaijani troop advance calling it a gross violation of the truce accord and urged the Russian peacekeepers to take "concrete steps to eliminate its consequences."

"The authorities of the Artsakh Republic immediately informed the command staff of the Russian peacekeeping forces about another gross violation of the provisions of the Tripartite Statement, given the mission and functions assumed by them pursuant to the document. The authorities expect the peacekeeping troops to take practical steps to eliminate the consequences of this violation and prevent new ones".

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Armenia and Turkey Announce Border Opening for Third-Country Citizens Ahead of Tourist Season



YEREVAN — Armenia and Turkey have agreed to open their common border for citizens of third countries and persons with diplomatic passports before the start of this year's tourist season, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said Friday.

He said Armenia is preparing for the opening of border. He also recalled that the Margara land checkpoint on the Armenian-Turkish border was

opened for the first time in 30 years in February this year for Armenian trucks to deliver tons of food, medicine and other relief supplies to Turkey's regions affected by the powerful earthquake.

Turkey shut down its border for Armenia in 1993, in a show of solidarity with Azerbaijan which was locked in a conflict with Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The White House Urges Armenia, Azerbaijan to Deescalate the Situation

WASHINGTON, DC -- The United States has called on Armenia and Azerbaijan to defuse tensions in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone that have risen again in recent weeks.

“We urge all sides here to deescalate,” John Kirby, the White House national security spokesman, told a news briefing in Washington late on Tuesday.

“We don’t want to see any of this violence, and we want to see all sides take appropriate steps to deescalate the tension and to stop the violence,” he said.

Kirby refused to comment on the presence of Russian peacekeeping forces in Karabakh.

The U.S. State Department insisted on March 6 that Washington is not competing with Moscow in its efforts to facilitate an Armenian-Azerbaijani settlement.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed those efforts with Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev in a phone call earlier on Tuesday. He spoke with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Monday.

According to the State Department, Blinken told the two leaders that



Washington remains committed to helping the two South Caucasus nations reach a “sustainable peace.”

Armenian leaders have repeatedly accused Azerbaijan this month of planning a “new military aggression” against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Pashinyan expressed concern over “Azerbaijan’s increasingly aggressive rhetoric” during his conversation with Blinken.

Aliyev dismissed on Tuesday U.S. calls for an end to the three-month blockade of the sole highway connecting Karabakh to Armenia.

Artsakh Leadership Again Reject ‘Reintegration’ Talks in Baku

STEPANAKERT — Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR) leadership dismissed on Tuesday a fresh Azerbaijani offer to send its representatives to Baku for talks on the Armenian-populated region’s “reintegration” into Azerbaijan.



It reiterated that Azerbaijani and Karabakh officials should continue to meet at the Karabakh headquarters of Russian peacekeeping forces and discuss, first and foremost, humanitarian issues such as the reopening of the Lachin corridor blocked by Baku for more than three months.

A statement released by the Artsakh Foreign Ministry also insisted on an “internationally recognized negotiation format” for discussing with Baku a broader political settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev’s office made the offer on Monday two days after Azerbaijani troops seized a hill overlooking a dirt road that bypasses the blocked section of the Lachin corridor. The authorities in Stepanakert as well as the Russian peacekeepers accused Baku of violating the Russian-brokered ceasefire that stopped the 2020 war in Karabakh.

The Foreign Ministry statement said the timing of Aliyev’s latest offer shows that Baku is keen to impose solutions on the Karabakh Armenians, rather than negotiate with them in good

faith.

Artsakh PPresident Arayik Harutyunyan, convened on Monday an extraordinary extended-format session of the Security Council with the participation of representatives of the political forces of the National Assembly Harutyunyan said the NKR leaders need to “soberly assess” the worsening security and humanitarian situation and “draw necessary conclusions.” The crisis can still be resolved through “prudent steps,” he said in his publicized remarks.

Speaking about Azerbaijan’s continuous violation of the provisions of the trilateral declaration since 2020 and the consistent increase in humanitarian, socio-economic, military, political and psychological pressures on Artsakh in the conditions of the ongoing blockade since December 12, 2022, President Harutyunyan noted that despite our many statements and exhortations, international actors continue to limit themselves to declarative statements, being inconsistent in the implementation of weighty decisions.

Over 65 House Members Send Bipartisan Letter In Support of Artsakh and Armenia

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Over 65 US House Members have co-sponsored a letter spearheaded by Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) that outlines key congressional priorities for Armenia and Artsakh, reported the Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly).

The bipartisan letter, sent to House State Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Mario Díaz-Balart (R-FL) and Ranking Member Barbara Lee (D-CA), specifically calls for \$100 million in aid to Armenia, \$50 million in aid to Artsakh, \$2 million for demining efforts, as well as enforcing Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, and releasing Armenian prisoners of war and captured civilians who were supposed to be freed under the terms of the trilateral statement signed in November 2020.

Citing Azerbaijan’s “inhumane” and illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor, which is now in its third month, the letter emphasized that the region’s Armenian people are “on the brink of a humanitarian crisis” that “threatens to have lasting consequences on the region’s security.”

While the Armenian people are still trying to recover from the “severe hardships caused by the deadly 44-day war” that Azerbaijan, with the full and open support of Turkey, waged on Artsakh in September 2020, the letter highlighted that these ongoing “cruel actions” of blockading the Lachin Corridor and denying access to medical treatments, food, and essential goods, have created “overwhelming needs” and therefore “the assistance provided to date by the U.S. government is wholly insufficient.”

In order to bolster the security of Armenia and champion democracy in the region, the letter also urges assistance to Armenia to “protect their sovereignty” in the face of constant



“Azerbaijani expansion and authoritarianism.” The “critical investment” will build on the past support for Armenia and Artsakh and further strengthen U.S.-Armenia relations and partnerships.

Cutting off military assistance to Azerbaijan is another point underscored in the letter, which states that it is “abundantly clear that the continued waiver of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, amidst Azerbaijan’s unabated policy of aggression, has emboldened this violent pattern of behavior.”

Tracing President Ilham Aliyev’s brutal 2020 assault on Artsakh not long after receiving over \$100 million in security assistance through the Section 333 Building Partner Capacity Program in Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019, the letter states that “holding Azerbaijan accountable is long overdue and must begin with Congress encouraging the Administration to fully enforce Section 907, restricting the Administration’s authority to waive this law, and enacting statutory prohibitions on any new or pending U.S. military or security aid to Azerbaijan.”

Earlier this month the Administration released its Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, wherein it recommended approximately \$47 million in aid to Armenia and \$10 million to Azerbaijan.

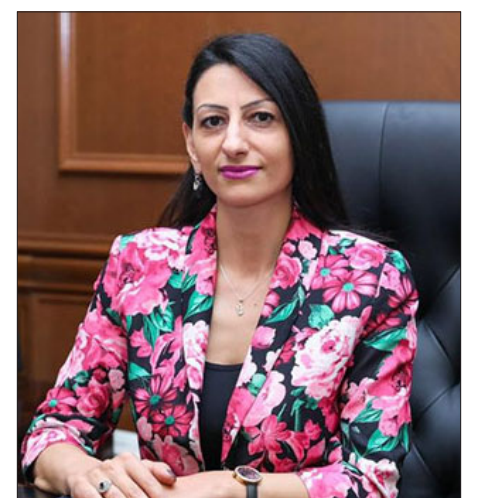
Ruling Party Nominates Anahit Manasyan for Human Rights Defender

YEREVAN — The ruling Civil Contract party has officially nominated Deputy Prosecutor General Anahit Manasyan as its candidate for Human Rights Defender, the party’s parliamentary faction secretary Artur Hovhannisyan announced.

The two opposition factions earlier announced that they would jointly nominate Edgar Ghazaryan, a former Armenian Ambassador to Poland and former Chief of Staff of the Constitutional Court for the position.

Manasyan, 34, was appointed as a deputy prosecutor-general less than five months ago. She previously worked as a deputy rector of Armenia’s Justice Academy and an adviser to two former chairmen of the Constitutional Court. She has also taught constitutional law at Yerevan State University since 2015.

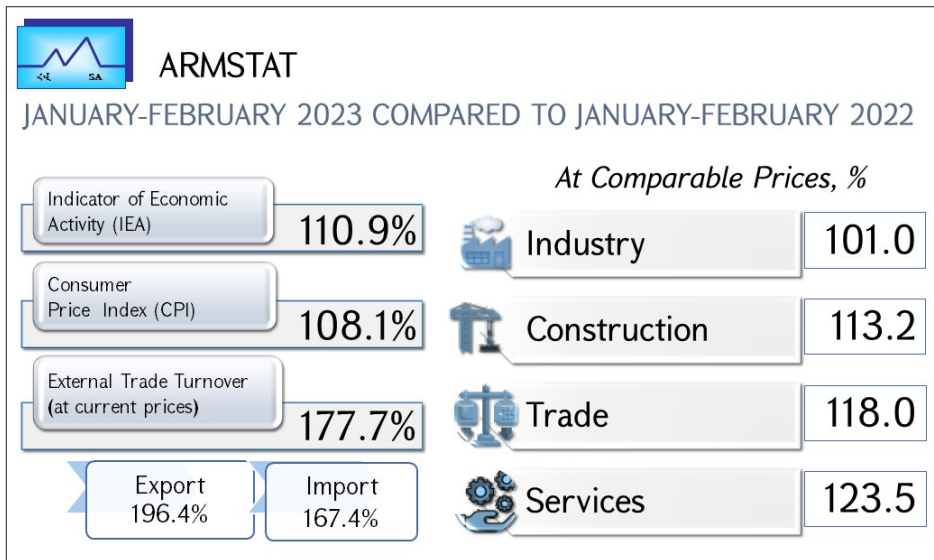
The Human Rights Defender



(Ombudsman) is elected by parliament in a confirmation vote. The Defender will assume office immediately after having been elected by taking an oath.

The post of the Human Rights Defender has been vacant since Kristinne Grigoryan resigned in late January

Armenia's Economic Activity Grows 10.9% in January-February 2023 Foreign Trade Up 77.7%



YEREVAN — Armenia's economic activity recorded 10.9% growth in the first two months of 2023 compared to the same time span of 2022, the National Statistical Committee (NSC) reported.

It said the economic activity in February was up 6.5% as opposed to the previous month, while compared to February 2022 it was up 11.3%.

According to the NSC's figures, all sectors of the economy saw growth in January and February this year, except for electric power industry. No data was available on the agriculture.

The industrial output in the first two months of this year grew by 1% from January-February 2022 to about 363 billion drams. In February, the output grew by 0.7% compared to February of 2022.

The construction sector increased by 13.2% to 37.6 billion drams. Domestic trade turnover reached 622.5 billion drams, which is 18% higher than in the same period in 2022. In February, the domestic trade turnover was up 18.2% year-on-year.

The services sector (without trade) in the first two months of 2023 grew to 427.6 billion drams, 23.5% more than in January-February 2022. In February 2023, it was up 21.2% from February last year.

Armenia's foreign trade in Janu-

ary-February 2023 amounted to over \$2.5 billion, a 77.7% surge over January-February 2022, foreign trade in February 2023 was up 14.6% compared to January of the same year, and up 79.5% compared to February last year. In Armenian drams, the foreign trade in January-February 2023 amounted to 998.7bln.

Armenian exports soared by 96.4% year-on-year to \$994.4mln. In February 2023, a 2.1-fold increase was registered compared to February last year. In dram equivalent, exports in January-February 2023 amounted to 392.6 billion drams.

Armenian imports during the reporting period amounted to over \$1.5 billion, recording an increase of 67.4% compared to January-February 2022. Imports rose 62.3% year-over-year in February. In dram equivalent, imports in January-February amounted to 606.1 billion drams.

Armenian government's growth projection for 2023 is 7%. The inflation is projected to range 4% ($\pm 1.5\%$).

In March 2023, the Central Bank of Armenia said its growth forecast was 5.8%. Fitch predicted 6.1% growth for 2023, the World Bank and EBRD's estimates are 4.1%. The Eurasian Development Bank expects Armenia's economy to grow by 4.2% this year.

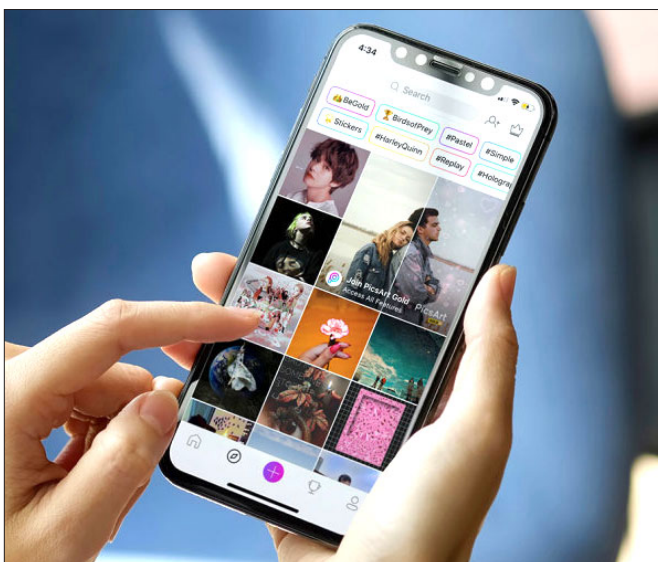
Forbes Lists Armenian Picsart Among 14 "Mind-Blowing" AI Tools

Forbes has listed Armenian Picsart among the 14 "mind-blowing" AI tools.

Picsart is described as a "text-to-image platform with a comprehensive set of image-editing tools that lets you turn words into art and then fine-tune the results to get the images that you need."

In the article Bernard Marr highlights a set of tools, which have the potential to make life easier in a range of different ways.

"The sheer range of applications and platforms covered here also demonstrates how quickly AI is developing and diversifying and its potential impact on all aspects of life," the author says.



Listed alongside Picsart are Synthesia, Cleanvoice, Jasper, Pictory, Canva, Upscaler, Taplio, Talk to Books, KeywordInsights, Sprinklr, Lisa AI Art – Magic Avatar, Perplexity.ai and Beatoven.

Artsakh Microsurgeon Collaborates with US Surgeon to Reconstruct Botched Plastic Surgery



Drs Raffy Karamanoukian and Igor Zakaryan

When a 37-year old female patient with a challenging breast scar consulted with Dr. Raffy Karamanoukian in late February, the Los Angeles plastic surgeon knew he was faced with a difficult reconstructive challenge. The patient had undergone close to five attempts to correct a breast deformity that was originally caused by another plastic surgeon ten years prior. Despite countless consultations with plastic surgeons, no surgeon was willing to assume her care.

"All attempts to reconstruct the patient's breasts had ended up in failure," adds Dr. Karamanoukian, "...so the next logical step was to think outside the box." That is when the board-certified US plastic surgeon spoke with Artsakh microsurgeon Dr. Igor Zakaryan, Chief of Plastic Surgery at Central Republic Hospital in Stepanakert. "Despite the Lachin Corridor blockade, Dr. Zakaryan was eager to assist," notes Dr. Karamanoukian.

For almost a decade, these expert surgeons have managed to keep close ties to one another after having operated together in Stepanakert in

2013 and 2014. Both surgeons have contributed to healthcare initiatives in Artsakh Republic in the fields of plastic surgery and microvascular surgery.

The two surgeons diligently reviewed the case online and through multiple telephone consultations; and eventually developed a reconstructive plan that utilized a more obscure surgical technique that was used in reconstructive surgery decades before. "The delayed-flap technique was instrumental in post-war reconstructive efforts since World War II, but it is a procedure that still has limited applicability," says Dr. Igor Zakaryan. "We chose the technique because every other modern technique had essentially failed."

Two weeks after her initial consultation, the patient underwent a successful staged operation that helped reconstruct the painful wounds of prior botched plastic surgery. The patient's prognosis is quite positive, as we have achieved success in the first phase of reconstruction," adds Dr. Zakaryan. "Having endured years of war, the surgeons in Artsakh are ready and willing to collaborate on an international level."

Peace Treaty Must Be Based

Continued from page 1

concluded on the basis of the documents adopted so far at the highest level.

"As for our actions, the Armenian government and society must engage in daily creative work, building, modernizing and strengthening the se-

curity system. We must not divert for a moment from the path of development, strengthening Armenia and our democracy," he said.

Pashinyan said also that Azerbaijani leader Ilham Aliyev's latest infamous speech constitutes an act of aggression against Armenia and a gross violation of agreements.

Azerbaijani Forces Violate the Ceasefire

Continued from page 1

Artsakh's InfoCenter reported.

"The false claim of the Azerbaijani side about the use of the Stepanakert-Ghaibalishen-Lisagor mountainous road for the purpose of transporting ammunition is just a pretext for their aggressive and destructive actions. On March 5, they attacked and killed three police officers on duty and injured another under the same pretext.

"The authorities of Artsakh have stated on many occasions that under the conditions of the blockade that

started on December 12, this mountain road is used for the organization of civil and urgent communication between Stepanakert and the four communities of Shushi region, which is carried out by tall vehicles, taking into account the very difficult and dangerous terrain of the area.

The existence and normal activity of the Defense Army does not pose any threat to anyone, as it is intended exclusively for self-defense, considering the real and immediate dangers and threats against the physical existence and security of the people of Artsakh". Read the statement.

University of Toronto Press Issues New Edition of Centuries of Genocide

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Armenian National Institute (ANI) announced the release by the University of Toronto Press of a new edition of *Centuries of Genocide: Critical Essays and Eyewitness Accounts*. Extensively updated, the publication, which has been in print for the past 30 years, has been a leading college textbook on the subject of genocide and human rights.

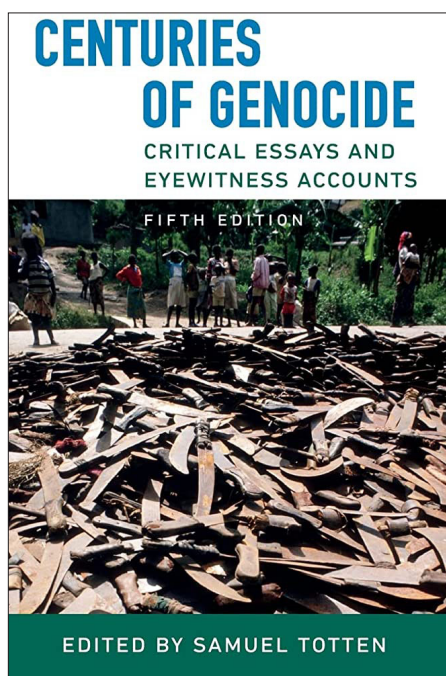
The new fifth edition overseen by Samuel Totten, professor emeritus of education at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, includes 15 chapters on genocide ranging from California's Yana Indians, the Soviet manmade famine in Ukraine, the Holocaust, Cambodia, Iraqi Kurdistan, Rwanda, to Darfur, and more. Besides the introduction, Totten also contributes a chapter on the ISIS genocide of the Yazidis.

A chapter on the Armenian Genocide, authored by ANI Director Dr. Rouben Adalian, has been included in every edition of the publication. The contextualization of the Armenian experience in relation to all the other significant examples of crimes against humanity gives a special depth to the significance of that historic catastrophe.

The essays in *Centuries of Genocide* are supplemented by accounts which provide vivid eyewitness testimony about each specific instance of genocide. The chapter on the Armenian Genocide is augmented with the testimony of four survivors: Helen Tatarian of Dertyol, Sarkis Agojian of Chemeshgadsak, Takhouhi Levonian of Keghi, and Yevnig Adrouni of Hoghe.

"When it comes to concise and insightful overviews, several chapters in *Centuries of Genocide* are as good as any, and Dr. Adalian's chapter on the Armenian Genocide is a prime example. This is why time and again, I have included earlier editions of the book among required and suggested readings in my teaching," said Dr. Khatchig Mouradian, Lecturer in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia University.

Originally issued under the editorship of William Parsons, Israel Charny and Samuel Totten, earlier editions of *Centuries of Genocide* were



released by Routledge, a publishing firm that specializes in professional and academic books. The fifth edition issued by the University of Toronto Press was extensively revised and updated to current scholarship.

Besides Totten and Adalian, contributors to the publication include Benjamin Madley, Dominik J. Schaller, James Mace, Donald L. Niewyk, Rounaq Jahan, Craig Etcheson, Natasha Zaretsky, Susanne Jonas, Michiel Leezenberg, Gerald Caplan, Martin Mennecke, and Ken MacLean, some of whose essays have been part of the publication since its initial issue.

As with previous editions, the chapters remain consistent in their format to allow for student understanding of this challenging subject. Authors address the same set of questions about each genocide: Who committed the genocide? How was the genocide committed? Why was the genocide committed? Who were the victims? What were the outstanding historical forces and trends at work that led to the genocide? What was the long-term impact of the genocide on the victim group?

Centuries of Genocide continues to expand upon the extensive list of instructional resources provided through the ANI website where over 200 multimedia, digital, interactive, and published resources can now be viewed.

Aurora's Sunrise Receives Numerous Awards at International Film Festivals

Aurora's Sunrise, a historical animated documentary Genocide survivor, Aurora Mardigian, receives numerous accolades, awards and recognition from international film festivals, critics and award ceremonies around the world.

The film, based on Zoryan Institute's original interview with Aurora Mardigian, tells the brave story of survival of a young Armenian girl who overcame so much to tell the world about her story.

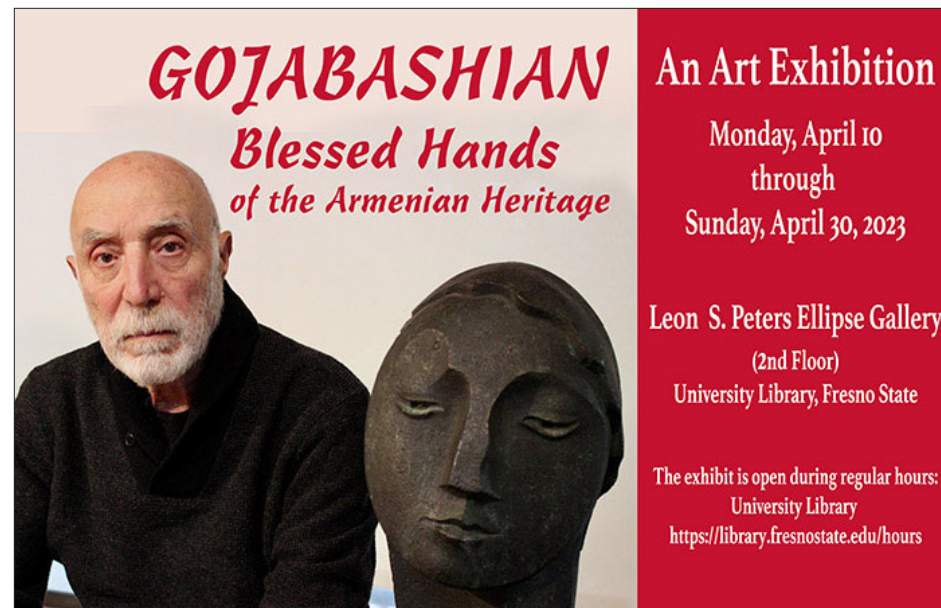
The Zoryan Institute signed a partnership agreement with Bars Media in 2015 to bring Zoryan Institute's oral history testimonies to life on the big screen through animation, to relay stories of genocide survivors to younger generations, and to help empower young women and girls around the world to



follow in Aurora's footsteps and represent their own communities in the face of trauma and violence.

Since entering the international film festival circuit in June 2022, *Aurora Sunrise* has been selected as the

"Gojabashian: Blessed Hands of the Armenian Heritage" An Art Exhibition of the Works of Yervant Gojabashian



FRESNO -- An art exhibition, "Gojabashian: Blessed Hands of the Armenian Heritage," will be held in the Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery (second-floor) of the University Library, 5200 N. Barton Ave., at Fresno State, from Monday, April 10 until Sunday, April 30.

An opening reception with the artist, Yervant Gojabashian, will be held from 6:00PM until 7:00PM on Thursday, April 13, 2023, in the second-floor gallery of the University Library on the Fresno State campus. The reception and the exhibition are free of charge and the public is welcome.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Thomas A. Kooyumjian Family Foundation and the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State. The exhibition organizers are Lucy Eryasian, Mike Bashian, Hazel Antaramian, and Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian and the exhibition curators are Steve Ruppel and Chris Lopez.

Artist Yervant Gojabashian is one of Armenia's most prominent sculptors and painters. He is internationally recognized and his exhibits have appeared in major cities throughout the world.

Yervant Gojabashian was born in 1939, Aleppo Syria and at an early age moved to Soviet Armenia with his family. In 1966, he graduated from the Yerevan Art and Theatre Institute.

Sculpture is more than Yervant Gojabashian's profession, it is his calling. He prefers to work with black tufa, the "national" stone of Armenia, though he is just as expert in handling marble, basalt, and wood.

Gojabashian's bas-reliefs decorate the entrance to St. Etchmiadzin Cathedral, the façade of Hotel Ani, and

Armenian submission for the 2023 Oscars and has premiered at 20 different internationally renowned festivals around the world, with more to come. Its latest award was perhaps the most significant yet, winning the Grand Prize at the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH) of Switzerland, after 10 days of documentary and fiction film screenings. Some of the other notable awards that the film has received to date includes:

- Audience Award: Europa! Film Festival (Australia)
- Grand Prize: The International

the building of the Yerevan House of Cinematography. His reliefs are distinguished for their complex ornamental composition, their variety of national motifs, figures, and plants. He is also an expert in life-size sculptures, most of which are displayed in different museums.

In 1981, Gojabashian moved to the United States and established residence in Montebello, California. He has been featured in several large exhibitions, including in Boston, Detroit, and Los Angeles. His works, including marble and tufa figures, have been exhibited at Harvard University's Sanders Theatre Gallery, the Pasadena Armenian Center, and at the Downey Museum of Art.

"Among the prominent artists of Armenia, Yervant Gojabashian should be singled out," said art critic Poghos Haitaian.

The late art historian Henrik Igitian said, "Armenia is a land of stone, and it is not unnatural that it would produce a generation which is influenced by modern-day life, and would give new form to these stones. In the hands of Yervant Gojabashian the stone is revitalized."

The reception is free and open to the public. Parking is available in Fresno State Lot P30 or P31, near the University Library. A parking pass is required for the Thursday night reception. Contact the Armenian Studies Program for a free parking code.

For information about upcoming Armenian Studies Program presentations, please follow us on our Facebook page, @ArmenianStudiesFresnoState or at the Program website, <https://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies>.

Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH) (Switzerland)

· Best Feature Length Documentary Award: MiradasDoc 2023 (Spain)

The film is also highly ranked by some of the most influential film critics around the world, scoring a 100% on Rotten Tomatoes, and with the following glowing reviews:

"A convincing story elegantly told, through archives, animation and fiction, about a little-known genocide that sheds light and awareness on today's political tensions and challenges." – MiradasDoc

Թիֆլիսի Մեջ Տեղի Են Ունեցել Յովհաննէս Թումանեանի Յիշատակի 100-րդ Տարելիցին Նուիրուած Միջոցառումներ



ՀՀ ԿԳՄՍ նախարարութեան աջակցութեամբ Թիֆլիսի մէջ տեղի են ունեցել Յովհաննէս Թումանեանի յիշատակի 100-րդ տարելիցին նուիրուած միջոցառումներ, որոնց մասնակցելու նպատակով Վրաստան է մեկնել ՀՀ կրթութեան, գիտութեան, մշակույթի եւ սպորտի նախարարի տեղակալ Ալֆրեդ Քոչարեանի գլխավորած պատուիրակութիւնը:

Մարտի 23-ին Թիֆլիսի մէջ՝ Գ. Լեոնիձէի անուան գրականութեան թանգարանում բացուել է «Թումանեանը եւ Թիֆլիսը» խորագիրը կրող ցուցահանդէսը, որը կը գործի մինչեւ Ապրիլի 13-ը: Յուզողութիւնը ներկայացնում է Թիֆլիսեան կեանքի թումանեանական ընկալումները՝ մարդկային յարաբերութիւններից մինչեւ գրական պոսթկուլմներ:

ՀՀ կրթութեան, գիտութեան, մշակույթի եւ սպորտի նախարարի տեղակալ Ալֆրեդ Քոչարեանը նախարարութեան եւ իր անունից ողջունել է ներկաներին Գէորգի Լիոնիձէի անուան գրականութեան պետական թանգարանի հիւրընկալ յարկի ներքոյ:

«Այս երեկոյ հաւաքուել ենք մեր խոնարհումը բերելու հանճարեղ բանաստեղծ, հայ եւ վրաց ժողովուրդների անմացորդ նուիրեալ, մեծ մարդասէր Յովհաննէս Թումանեանի յիշատակի 100-րդ տարելիցի առիթով: Այս վայրի ընտրութիւնը, թերեւս, պատահական չէ, քանի որ այս թանգարանի արխիւներում վստահաբար պահպանուած է հարուստ գրական մի ժառանգութիւն, որի հեղինակներից շատերը Յովհաննէս Թումանեանի երբեմնի մտերիմ գրչակից ընկերներն են եղել: Նրանց փոխադարձ ջերմ զգացումների, խոհերի ու գրույցների մասին վկայութիւնները բազմաթիւ են թէ՛ նամակագրութեան, թէ՛ յուշերի նոթագրումների էջերին», - նշել է նախարարի տեղակալն ու յաւելել՝ լինելով խորապէս ազգային բանաստեղծ՝ Թումանեանը բացառիկ սիրով է լցուած եղել դէպի Վրաստանը, նրա ժողովուրդն ու մշակույթը:

Ալֆրեդ Քոչարեանի դիտարկմամբ՝ հասարակական-քաղաքական ամենաբարդ ժամանակաշրջաններում անգամ Թումանեանն իր ձայնը բարձ-

րացրել է յանուն սթափ դատողութեան, որոշումների ճիշտ կայացման եւ խաղաղ համակեցութեան՝ ցուցաբերելով ազնիւ գործչի իր բացառիկ հոգածութիւնը բոլորի նկատմամբ: Եւ ինչպէս Թումանեան-

նի մասին գրելիս ձեւակերպում է Գէորգի Լիոնիձէն՝ մեծ բանաստեղծները պատկանում են բոլոր ժողովուրդներին:

«Այսօր էլ մեր աչքի առաջ ունենալով մշակութային խոշոր գործիչների մեծ ջանքն ու թողած պատմական ժառանգութիւնը, փոխադարձ ջերմ զգացումներով լցուած կապը հարեւան ժողովուրդի հանդէպ՝ լիայոյս ենք, որ մշակութային կամուրջներն է՛լ աւելի ամուր են լինելու, եւ գործելու ենք ի նպաստ միմիանց պատշաճ գնահատման եւ արժեւորման: Յաւերժ յիշատակ ժողովուրդների՝ հաշտ ու խաղաղ համակեցութեան պատգամաբեր Թումանեանի լուսաւոր անուանը», - եզրափակել է Ալֆրեդ Քոչարեանը:

Յուզահանդէսին ներկայ է եղել Վրաստանի մշակույթի, սպորտի եւ երիտասարդութեան հարցերի նախարարի տեղակալ Իրակլի Գիվիաշվիլին, որը եւս

հանդէս է եկել ելույթով:

Միջոցառումների շրջանակում՝ Մարտի 24-ին, Վ. Սարաջիշվիլու անուան պետական կոնսերվատորիայի դահլիճում տեղի է ունեցել յիշատակի համերգ. ելույթ է ունեցել «Գեղարդ» երգեցիկ խումբը՝ թումանեանական խօսքի ու կոմիտասեան երաժշտութեան համադրութեամբ:

Համերգին ներկայ են եղել Վրաստանում հաւատարմագրուած դեսպանները եւ Վրաստանի խորհրդարանի առաջին փոխխօսնակ Գիա Վոլսկին:

Միջոցառման կազմակերպիչներն են Վրաստանում Հայաստանի դեսպանութիւնը, Հայ առաքելական եկեղեցու Վիրահայոց թեմը, Յովհ. Թումանեանի թանգարանը (Երեւան), «Յովհ. Թումանեանի տուն» գիտամշակութային կեդրոնը, «Հայարտուն» մշակութային կեդրոնը, Կոմիտասի թանգարան-ինստիտուտը:

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