

# Massis Weekly

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## EU Special Representative: Crucial Not to Miss Karabakh Conflict Solution

BAKU -- Presently there is a chance to resolve Karabakh conflict and it's crucial not to miss it, EU Special Representative for South Caucasus and Central Asia Peter Semneby told journalists Feb. 24 in Baku.

According to him, last year the negotiation process advanced steadily. "There is some chance for the solution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. It is very important not to lose this chance. This chance should not be lost. The co-chairs are replaced. If the chance is lost, this process will be prolonged," APA quotes Semneby.

"The situation in the region is changing, the status quo cannot last forever. I hope very much that the momentum which was achieved last year will bring to concrete results. In any case, we will contribute in this



regard," said EU Special Representative.

Earlier, arriving in Azerbaijan Semneby stated that time pressures in the solution to Karabakh conflict issue, adding that situation in the region changes and status quo cannot last forever.

## ACA Meets With Glendale Police Chief



ACA representatives with Glendale Police Department leadership

GLENDALE, CA – Representatives of the Armenian Council of America – Glendale Chapter recently met with the newly appointed Glendale Police Chief Ronald DePompa to discuss various issues concerning the Armenian American community and residents of Glendale in general. The items of discussion included the goals and objectives of the Department in relation to its interaction and community outreach with the community, the need for a more diverse workforce, better recruitment/testing methods, and the Ovasapian vs. City of Glendale case.

Chief DePompa acquainted ACA members with new strategies that are being developed in order to lower crime rates through advanced informational technology systems designed to promote time efficiency and effectiveness.

"We had the opportunity to talk to the chief and express our concerns as well as receive insight as to what steps are being taken to address the

issues of the community, and hope this meeting is the beginning of many edifying engagements the Police Department will have with the Armenian American community of Glendale," said Peter Darakjian, ACA board member.

"As a Glendale resident, the meeting was very informative and productive and I'm assured that under the new leadership of Chief DePompa, many improvements in the city will be made including cultural sensitivity training for non-Armenian police officers who interact heavily with the Armenian American community in Glendale on a daily basis," added Vartan Kojababian, of the ACA.

Chief DePompa was joined by public information officer, Sergeant Tom Lorenz, Captain Kirk Palmer, Captain Michael Rock, and Captain Lief Nicollaisen, representing ACA were Executive Board Members; Peter Darakjian, Sahag Ketifian, and ACA Glendale Branch members Vartan Kojababian, and Nareg Gharibian.

## Times Square Set as World Stage for 95th Anniversary Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

NEW YORK -- On Sunday, April 25, 2010, for the 25th year, thousands of Armenian Americans and people against genocide will gather in Times Square from 2-4 PM to commemorate the first genocide of the 20th Century, the Armenian Genocide (Medz Yeghern). The new theme is "Turkey is the Question, America is the Answer."

This historic event will pay tribute to the 1.5 million Armenians who were annihilated by the Young Turk Government of the Ottoman Empire (1915-1923) and address the consequences which are still with us today. Government leaders and the news media have recently been preoccupied with Turkish-Armenians relations and the closed borders in the Caucasus.

Major political figures will speak as well as civic, humanitarian, and educational leaders.

This event is sponsored by the Knights & Daughters of Vartan, a national fraternal organization, and co-sponsored by the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Armenian Assembly of America, Armenian National Committee of America, Armenian Democratic Liberal Party, and the Armenian Council of America. Participating Organizations include the Diocese of the Armenian Church, Prelacy of the Armenian Church, Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenian Missionary Association, Armenian Evangelical Union, Armenian Catholic Eparchy, and several national Armenian youth organizations.

## Armenian National Congress Unveils New Economic Manifesto

YEREVAN -- The main opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK) unveiled on Tuesday a detailed plan of actions which it said are necessary for a "radical transformation" of Armenia's flawed economic system.

The 15-page program was developed by a team of economists led by former Prime Minister Hrant Bagratian. It lists 100 policy measures which the HAK believes would end the monopolization of key sectors of the Armenian economy, improve the country's business environment and ensure a more equitable distribution of wealth among its citizens.

The opposition bloc led by former President Levon Ter-Petrosian specifically wants to shift the main tax burden from small and medium-sized enterprises to a handful of government-linked "oligarchs" whom it accused of "strangling free enterprise" in the country. This would be done through the introduction of a progressive income tax scale as well as sharp increases in other taxes paid by the wealthiest Armenians.

The program also calls for a substantial toughening of Armenia's anti-

trust legislation and a strict separation of business and politics. It says these measures would put an end to "the extreme concentration of the country's economic resources in the hands of a few oligarchs and their families."

Armenia would also be able to quickly double the volume of its state budget, according to the program. It says that would in turn allow for sharp increases in pensions and public sector salaries as well as government spending on education and public services.

"These authorities cater for the oligarchy and are simply unable to implement this program," the HAK's central office coordinator, Levon Zurabian, said, presenting the program at a news conference. He said the bloc would itself take such measures if it succeeds in toppling the government.

Zurabian claimed that the HAK is getting ready for snap national elections in view of what he called continuing government "failures." "If the failures continue at this pace, power will simply fall on our head, and we must be prepared for that," he said.

## Photojournalist Shamasian Assaulted Again

YEREVAN -- Prominent Armenian photojournalist Gagik Shamasian has been verbally abused and attacked by a law-enforcement official outside of the Office of the Prosecutor-General.

The reported incident took place just before an annual meeting of Armenia's state prosecutors that was also attended by top representatives of the police and other security agencies.

Shamasian told RFE/RL's Armenian service that the official swore and repeatedly hit him in the head with a handbag before entering the prosecutors' headquarters. He said he was attacked after refusing to stop taking the man's pictures.

"I know that individual [by face] because he was present as a representative of an investigating body at various trials that I covered," said Shamasian. "But I don't know his name."

Shamasian underwent a medical examination at a hospital in Yerevan later in the day. Doctors there detected a bleeding injury in his ear.

Shamasian, who mainly works for two pro-opposition newspapers, has a history of physical abuse at the hands of security officers. He was also beaten up and hospitalized last March after a row with security guards at a state-run university in Yerevan.