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Պաշտօնաթերթ՝
Ս.Դ. Հայակեան Կուսակցութեան
Արեւմտեան Ամերիկայի

MASSIS Weekly
1060 N. Allen Ave. Suite 101
Pasadena, California 91104

ՍՈՅԿ-ի Յայտարարութիւնը Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան 105-Ամեակի Առիթով

Այսօր, համայն մարդկութեան համար դժուարին պայմաններու ներքոյ կ'ոգեկոչենք Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան 105-ամեակը եւ հակառակ այն հանգամանքին, որ ոգեկոչման հրապարակային ձեռնարկներու ու քայլարջաւները փոխարինուած են առցանցային ու խորհրդանշական միջոցառումներով, մենք կը շարունակենք մնալ հաստատակամ մեր իրաւունքներու հետապնդման ու արդարութեան վերականգնման պայքարին մեջ:

Միւս կողմէ, Թուրքիոյ կառավարութիւնը կը շարունակէ իր ժամանակուած առաջարկան քաղաքականութիւնը և կը մերժէ առերեսուիլ իր պատմութեան սեւ էջերուն հետ: Սակայն, ի հեճուկս Թուրքիոյ իշխանութիւններուն, Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան միջազգային ճանաչման գործընթացը կը շարունակէ գրանցել նորանոր յաջողութիւններու, յատկապէս անցեալ տարի ԱՍՍ Ծերակոյտի եւ Ներկայացուցիչներու Տան կողմէ Ցեղասպանութեան ճանաչումը վերահաստատող զոյց բանաձեւերու ընդունումով, հակառակ թրքական բացայաց սպառնալիքներուն եւ ճշշումներուն:

Այս առիթով, մենք վերստին կ'ուզենք գնահատանքի եւ երախտագիտութեան խօսք յηել ԱՍՍ Գոնկրէսի անդամներուն եւ Թուրքիոյ այն իշխան մտաւորականներուն, որոնք կը շարունակեն պայքարի յանուն ծշմարտութեան: Նաև, անգամ մը եւս կոչ կ'ուղղենք թրքական կառավարութեան վերջապէս ընդունիլ Ցեղասպանութեան փաստը եւ այդպիսով դուռը բանալ Հայաստանի եւ Թուրքիոյ միջեւ բաց երկխօսութեան:

Այս օրերուն, երբ ամբողջ աշխարհը կը պայքարի համաճարակի դէմ, մենք գրիունակութեամբ ականատես կ'ըլլանք հայ ժողովուրի միասնականութեան ու մարդասիրական ոգիի դրսեւորման, երբ զանազան հայահոն գաղութեր ներս կը նախաձեռնուին նապաստարաշխումներ եւ այլ օգնութիւններ համաճարակի հետեւանքով կարիքաւոր դարձած ընտանիքներուն եւ անհատերուն:

Վատահ ենք, որ Հայաստանի եւ Սփիւրքի տարածքին միասնական ջանքերով պիտի կարողանան յաղթահարելայս դժուարին հանգրուանը և գալիք տարիներուն վերանորոգուած երանդով ու բազմահազար շարերով պիտի շարունակենք բարձրացնել մեր բողոքի ձայնը յանուն արդարութեան ու հայ ժողովուրի իրաւունքներու վերականգնման:

Կը յիշե՞նք եւ կը պահանջե՞նք:
Ս.Դ.Ռ.Կ Կեդրոնական
Վարչութիւն

Այլընտրանքային Միջոցառումներով Նշուեցաւ Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան 105-Ամեակը

«Քորոնա» ժահրի համաճարակ պայմաններուն տակ, Հայոց թեղասպանութեան աւանդական երթերը, բողոքի ցոյցերը եւ հրապարակային այլ միջոցառումները ստիպողաբար այս տարի առկախուեցան եւ փոխարինուեցան այլ լընտրանքային նախաձեռնութիւններով՝ Հայաստանի եւ սփիւռքի տարածքին:

Երեւանի մէջ, Ապրիլ 23-ի երեկոյեան ժամը 21:00-ին մարտեցան բնակարաններու լոյսերը եւ եկեղեցիներու գանգերու ներքեւ պատուհաններէն մոմի ճրագով, հեռախօսի լամպերով մարդիկ քանի մը բոպէով միջացան լուսավառ ոգեկոչման միջոցառման:

Ապրիլ 24ին, 1915 կարճ համարին անուն ազգանուն ուղարկելով, հնարաւոր եղաւ մամնակցիլ ժամը 22:00-ին սկսած խորհրդանշական երթին: Մինչեւ լուսաբաց աւելի քան մակ միլիոն մասնակիցներու անունները արտապատկերուեցան Միծենակաբերդի Յուշամամալիրի միւններուն վրայ:

ՀՀ վարչապետ Նիկոլ Փաշին- եան այս առթիւ ժողովուրդի ուղղուած իր պատգամին մէջ մասնաւորապէս ըստ, որ Ապրիլ 24-ը ոչ միայն Ցեղասպանութեան անմեղ գոհերու խնկարկման, այլ նաեւ



մարդկութեան դէմ ուղղուած ծանրագոյն յանցագործութեան օր է:

«Այսօր մեր ժողովրդի զաւակներն աշխարհի բոլոր անկիւններում ոգեկոչում են Հայոց Մեծ Եղեռնի անմեղ զոհերին: Ինչու մէկ դար անց չեն մարտում մէր զգացմունքները, իսկ մեր սրտերում էլ աւելի վառ է այրուում միշտապէի ճրագը: Պատասխանը պարզ է: Անցել է մէկ դարից աւելի, սակայն չեն վերացուած ցեղասպանութեան հետեւանքները: Առ այ-

սօր Թուրքիան կատարուածի համար որեւէ զղում չի յայտնել, ներողութիւն չի հայցել: Դա է պատճառը, որ մենք պայօտ յայտարում ենք՝ յիշում ենք եւ պահանջում ը, ըստ վարչապետը:

Ապրիլ 24ի առաւտուեան ժամը 10-ին սկսեալ, հերթաբար Միծենակաբերդ այցելացին վարչապետ Նիկոլ Փաշինեան եւ տիկինը, նախագահ Արմէն Սարգսեան, Ազգային ժողովի նախագահ՝ Արարատ Միրզոյեան իր տիկնոջ հետ, Լեռնային Ղարաբաղի նորընտիր նախագահ՝ Արայիկ Յարութիւնեան ու Ամենայն Հայոց կաթողիկոսը, ընկերակցութեամբ հոգեւորական դասի:

Խոնարհումի արարողութեան կ'ուղեկցէր դաշնակահար Հայկ Մելիքեանի կենդանի կատարումը:

Յարգանքի տուրքը գեղարուեստական ծրագիրով շարունակուեցաւ մինչեւ ժամը 22:00-ը: Մինչեւ լուսաբաց հնչեց դասական եւ ժողովրդական ստեղծագործութիւնները:

Լու Անելլափի մէջ 105-ամեակը նշուեցաւ առցանց միջոցառումով, որու ընթացքին իրենց խօսքը ուղղեցին ՀՀ գլխաւոր հիւապատու Արմէն Պայտուրթեան, եկեղեցական համաձեռնութեամբ առաջնորդներու առաջնորդներու միջանքերու վերականգնել պետութեան պատճառութեան ուղղութեամբ համար առաջնորդներու առաջնորդներու միջանքերու վերականգնել պետութեան պատճառութեան մէջ:

ՀՀ կը վերաբերի UCOM ընկերութեան, անոր բաժնեմասերու օտարումը Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան օրէնսդրութեամբ: Հասրաւոր է միայն ՀՀ կառավարութեան համաձայնութեամբ: Երբ ընկերութեան բաժնետէրերուն միջեւ վէճ ծագած է, եւ բաժնետէրերու կազմի փոփոխութեան հարց, կառավարութեան դիրքորոշումը եղած է այն, որ Խաչատրեաններու բաժնեմասի վաճառքը Հայրաւոր կ'ըլլայ միայն այն պարագային, եթէ



ՀՀ վարչապետի խօսնակ՝ Մանե Գեորգեան

իսրայէլի կազմակերպութիւններու վերաբերի միջոցառումն այս ժամանակահազար շարերով պիտի շարունակենք բարձրացնել մեր բողոքի ձայնը յանուն արդարութեան ու հայ ժողովուրի իրաւունքներու վերականգնման:

Միւս կողմէ, Ապրիլ 24-ին, ՀԿԲՄ-ի Փատասխանական կեդրունէն ներս տեղի ունեցաւ արիւնարշաւ, գործակցութեամբ Ամերիկայի կարգի Խաչատրեաններու վերաբերի միջին ամառապահապէս կազմակերպութեան:

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Armenia Commemorates 105th Anniversary of the Genocide



YEREVAN—Armenia's leaders laid flowers at the Tsitsernakabert memorial in Yerevan on Friday during official commemorations of the 105th anniversary of the Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey which were scaled back due to the coronavirus pandemic.

President Armen Sarkissian, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, parliament speaker Ararat Mirzoyan and Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, visited the hilltop memorial separately, observing social distancing rules aimed at stopping the spread of the

virus in the country.

Catholicos Karekin II and several other senior clergymen prayed by its eternal fire for some 1.5 million Armenians who were massacred or starved to death by the Ottoman Turks during the First World War.

For the first time ever, ordinary Armenians were not allowed to walk to Tsitsernakabert because of a coronavirus-related nationwide lockdown imposed by the Armenian

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AEBU's Life-Saving Event on the 105th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide



PASADENA—In the absence of the traditional commemorative gatherings that were held to observe the Armenian Genocide worldwide, this year, the Armenian community in Los Angeles partook in other meaningful undertakings to honor the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians who perished during the 1915 genocide perpetrated by the Turkish government. The generous contribution of the community at large have secured more than double the 1.5 million meals that it initially targeted as part of the "America We Thank You" initiative in support of the "Feeding America" program. The Armenian Educational Benevolent Union (AEBU) and its members ac-

tively participated in this program.

One of the other few symbolic and meaningful events that took place on April 24, was the blood drive hosted by the Armenian Educational Benevolent Union, in partnership with the American Red Cross at the AEBU Center in Pasadena. This life-saving event was our organization's way to honor the memory of our martyrs. At the same time, it was an opportunity to give back to the community at large and the Red Cross in specific, for its role in helping the survivors of the atrocities committed by the Ottoman government, even in the years preced-

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S.D.H.P. Statement on 105th Anniversary of Armenian Genocide

We commemorate the 105th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide amid the devastating pandemic facing mankind and despite the fact that the commemorative gatherings and marches have been replaced by online and symbolic events, we are determined as ever in our pursuit toward truth and justice.

On the other hand, the Turkish government continues to maintain its denialist policy and refuses to come face to face with the dark chapters of its recent past. However, much to the chagrin of Turkey's leadership, our efforts toward international recognition of the Armenian Genocide continue to succeed, particularly last year, when the United States Senate and the House of Representatives affirmed their recognition of the Genocide by adopting twin resolutions despite Turkey's blatant threats and pressure tactics.

On this occasion, we once again extend our appreciation and gratitude toward the members of the U.S. Congress and the Turkish intellectuals who continue to pursue the truth. We also urge the Turkish government to finally recognize the Armenian Genocide as a historical fact and thereby open the door of frank dialogue between Armenia and Turkey.

Within the worldwide fight against the pandemic, we have witnessed the sense of unity and the humanitarianism of the Armenian people across the globe, demonstrated by the numerous acts of charity and benevolence toward families and individuals who have been impoverished by the pandemic. We are confident that with the combined efforts of Armenia and the Diaspora, we will overcome this difficult period and with renewed spirit and vigor, we will continue to raise our voices in the name of justice and the restoration of the rights of the Armenian people.

We remember and we demand.

S.D.H.P. Central Committee
April 24, 2020



Statement by President Donald Trump on Armenian "Remembrance Day"

WASHINGTON, DC — US President Donald Trump has issued his annual statement on the 105th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, once again refraining from using the word Genocide calling it "Meds Yeghern", its Armenian term.

Following is the President's full statement:

Today, we join the global community in memorializing the lives lost during the "Meds Yeghern", one of the worst mass atrocities of the 20th century. Beginning in 1915, 1 and a half million Armenians were deported, massacred, or marched to their deaths in the final years of the Ottoman Empire. On this day of remembrance, we pay respect to those who suffered and lost their lives, while also renewing our commitment to fostering a more humane and peaceful world.

Every year on April 24, we reflect on the strong and enduring ties between the American and Armenian peoples. We are proud of the founders of the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, a ground-breaking effort established in 1915 that provided crucial humanitarian support to Armenian refugees, and grateful for the thousands of Americans who contributed or volunteered to help Armenians expelled from their homes.



On this day, we bear witness to the strength and resiliency of the Armenian people in the face of tragedy. We are fortunate that so many Armenians have brought their rich culture to our shores and contributed so much to our country, including decorated soldiers, celebrated entertainers, renowned architects, and successful businesspeople.

We welcome efforts by the Armenians and Turks to acknowledge and reckon with their painful history. On this day, we believe it is our obligation to remember those who suffered and perished and reaffirm our commitment to protecting vulnerable religious and ethnic minorities around the world.

President Macron “France is More than Ever Committed to Defend the Memory of Armenian Genocide Victims”

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron pledged to counter attempts to deny the 1915 Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey as his government joined France’s Armenian community in commemorating its 105th anniversary on Friday.

In a letter addressed to Armenian President Armen Sarkissian, Macron said, “On this April 24, France remembers the assassination in Constantinople of 600 Armenian intellectuals, which marked the beginning of the genocide.

“France is today more than ever committed to defending the memory of the victims, combating denial of the genocide and carrying the universal lessons of this page of tragic history,” he wrote.

“In accordance with commitments made by me, my country last year declared April 24 the day of commemoration of the Armenian genocide. While ensuring strict compliance with the restrictions imposed by the current health situation, I decided that this day will be marked again this year by a restricted ceremony in Paris in the presence of representatives of the



French government.”

France formally recognized the Armenian genocide with a special law enacted in 2001. In 2018, Macron decided to assign an official day of commemoration for the Armenians massacred by the Ottoman Turks during the First World War.

In his letter to Sarkissian, Macron also mentioned the coronavirus pandemic, saying that it poses a new grave challenge to the world. “We will confront these challenges together, and I know that France and Armenia will work together in international forums in favor of more effective multilateralism and new forms of solidarity,” he said.

“Whatever the ordeals, Armenians can count on the friendship of France,” concluded the French leader.

Former Vice President Joe Biden Pledges Unequivocal Support for Affirmation of the Armenian Genocide

Following is official statement of Democratic presidential candidate, former vice-president Joe Biden:

Today we remember the atrocities faced by the Armenian people in the Metz Yeghern — the Armenian Genocide. From 1915 to 1923, almost 2 million Armenians were deported en masse, and 1.5 million men, women, and children were killed. Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syriacs, Arameans, Maronites, and other Christians were also targeted. We must never forget or remain silent about this horrific and systematic campaign of extermination. And we will forever respect the perseverance of the Armenian people in the wake of such tragedy.

It is particularly important to speak these words and commemorate this history at a moment when we are reminded daily of the power of truth, and of our shared responsibility to stand against hate — because silence is complicity. If we do not fully acknowledge, commemorate, and teach our children about genocide, the words “never again” lose their meaning. The facts must be as clear and as powerful for future generations as for those whose memories are seared by tragedy. Failing to remember or acknowledge the fact of a genocide only paves the way for future mass atrocities.

During my years in the Senate, I



was proud to lead efforts to recognize the genocide against the Armenian people. Last year, I was pleased to endorse bipartisan legislation in the House and Senate that officially recognized and established an ongoing U.S. commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. If elected, I pledge to support a resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide and will make universal human rights a top priority for my administration.

I stand today with all Armenians and the Armenian-American community, which has contributed so much to our nation, in remembering and honoring the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Vice President Joe Biden

IMF Plans \$280 Million in Emergency Funding for Armenia

YEREVAN -- The International Monetary Fund will likely disburse next month \$280 million in emergency loans designed to help Armenia fight the coronavirus outbreak and mitigate its economic consequences, a senior IMF official said over the weekend.

Julia Ustyugova, the fund’s resident representative in Yerevan, told RFE/RL’s Armenian service that the IMF is also planning \$140 million in additional funding to Armenia.

The Armenian government announced last week plans to borrow around \$540 million for cushioning the impact of an unfolding economic recession in the country. Finance Minister Atom Janjughazyan said the government needs to offset a major shortfall in its tax revenues and to continue financing coronavirus relief measures.

Ustyugova said that IMF officials have recommended the \$280 million disbursement to the fund’s executive board, which should approve it in the second half of May. She said the sum includes a \$248 million “stand-by arrangement” which was allocated to Armenia in May 2019 and has not been used by the latter until now.

“Also, the [Armenian] authorities have requested additional financial help from the IMF to help pay for the economic support program and necessary healthcare expenditures in the current environment,” said Ustyugova.

“So \$280 million will be available in the second half of May. The program itself will last until May 2022, and about \$140 million will additionally be available after May 2020,” added the IMF official.

She insisted that the emergency borrowing is justified even though it will lead to a sizable increase in Armenia’s foreign debt. “The measures that need to be taken right now will help to avoid more painful and prolonged socioeconomic damage in the future,” she said.

The Armenian government has promised a wide range of coronavirus-



related compensatory measures, including cash payments to a large part of the population, financial assistance to businesses and loan subsidies for farmers. According to Janjughazyan, it plans to spend \$150 billion drams (\$315 million) for this purpose this year.

Ustyugova praised the government’s “swift” response to the economic fallout from the global health crisis. “We welcome the package of economic policy measures that was announced by the authorities,” she said.

In its World Economic Outlook released earlier this month, the IMF forecast that the Armenian economy will shrink by 1.5 percent this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Armenian Ministry of Finance expects a 2 percent drop in GDP.

Ustyugova stood by the IMF projections. “We currently see the pandemic having a very sharp but also very short-lived impact on Armenia,” she said. “So we expect the peak of the shock to happen around the second quarter, with some slight recovery starting already in the third quarter [of this year,] and an acceleration of economic activity in the fourth quarter to 2021.”

The IMF cautioned at the same time that a prolonged COVID-19 pandemic would lead to a sharper GDP contraction.

Azerbaijani Troops Fire Mortar Shells on Artsakh Army Positions



YEREVAN -- The NKR (Artsakh) Defense Army said on Wednesday that Azerbaijani forces have fired 60 mm caliber mortars on its frontline positions near Martuni for the first time in almost a year.

In a statement, the Defense Army said that the shelling did not hurt any of its soldiers and stopped after its troops

returned fire. It did not specify whether they also used mortars in response.

“It has to be noted that this is the first instance of the Azerbaijani army’s use of mortars against Armenian positions since June 2019,” the statement said, adding that “the situation on the frontline is calm at the moment.”

Extorting the Precious Gift Savagely



BY NAZIG BEDROSIAN

Nowadays, we are going through a very hard situation in regard to the spread of pandemic; panic-stricken feeling coupled with anxiety increase among people. As a consequence, following eagerly up every tiny detail in the daily news becomes a spontaneous habit for us, aiming to find a glimpse of hope for retrieving our normal life. But let us ask ourselves this question,

“What is the reason of that aggravated scare?”

The reply is: “We are afraid of losing life.” hence, depending on this point, we conclude that the desire towards maintaining life will intensively increase when the risk of death approaches, furthermore, the challenge for staying alive, will also rise up lest

we lose life. So, “How precious the life is!”

After reading the introduction, the readers will completely astonish for it has no relation with the topic; by way of contrast, the significance will be pretty obvious in the forthcoming lines.

Actually, The 24th of April of this year (the Armenian genocide commemoration) will coincide with world’s current events. So, within this silence where life seems entirely motionless, the imagination suddenly transfers me to the genocide’s site. I hear moaning of kids, screaming of mothers, thundering gun shots; suppressed voices beseeching rescue, wailing of unarmed men during execution, and sound of bare-feet steps lifted exhaustedly up to continue walking in the desert of “Deir

Zour”, without knowing it would be the giant pile of their corpses. This was, indeed, the Armenians gloomy destiny 105 years ago, when they were subjected to the hugest genocide crime in the 20th century, through which a considerable number - estimated 1.5 million - of innocent Armenians have been slaughtered, unmercifully, with no reason. If you read the Armenian history, you will definitely shock and horrify from inhuman and brutal means utilized by Ottoman Empire’s leaders in eradicating the Armenian Nation who were living under the mentioned empire sovereignty. To demonstrate, as long as life is the most precious gift granted by God, so no one has the right to kidnap it, unless otherwise the Mighty God, Himself, retrieves it according to his specified time.

How about barbarous actions of Turk criminals when they, in 1915, savagely grabbed more than 1.5 million lives?

Being one of Armenian genocide survivor’s granddaughters, I undoubtedly possess an excessive sensitivity in feeling my afflicted -nation pain. Although neither an eloquent tongue nor an iconic narrator could describe accurately the distressing events, but my noble ancestor’s agonies urge me to compare their case with our horrible fright during corona virus’s spread. In spite of being the two cases thoroughly different; however, they lead to the same point, and that is “losing life.” Were their lives worthless and valueless to this extent? If yes, then, how much patience did they have for enduring those heartbreak scenes and tremendous hardships?

Alas! How much deprivation, yearning, and regret are there in every Armenian’s heart! Nevertheless, owning concentrated strength facilitated the impossible dream to become a reality. Who believes that the countable survivors who had the opportunity to escape with bloody and bare feet from Gendarme’s swords, by finding shelters in safe havens worldwide, could be able to increase tenfold, and write their own miserable history in their native language to be a genuine guide, likewise, a tremendous evidence for the coming generations in acknowledging their past - this within itself deems a great victory for the Armenian Nation, and meantime unbelievable Miracle!

More importantly, we should never forget; but on the contrary, devotedly complement our holy obligations towards victim’s souls. The main one is to acquaint the coming generations the tragedy of their nation for perceiving its own history, secondly raise confidence and enthusiasm to persist the path of struggle, and finally boost morale to grasp lessons for overcoming their difficulties.

Finally, to our dignified martyrs and victims of genocide,

You will stay forever alive through us. We owe an honorable appreciation, and reverential respect to your heroic tasks in defending language, religion and culture.

We pledge that your innocent souls will stay our intimate companions during lifetime and your sublime past an illuminated spot to encourage us reclaim dignity, and demand rights as well.

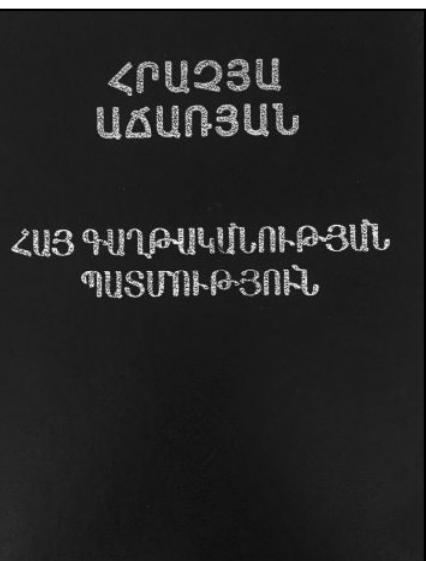
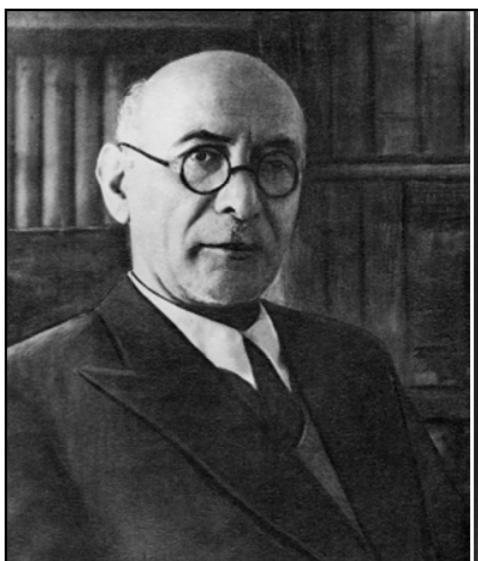
early as 1921, the year the Republic of Armenia was annexed to the Soviet Union. Ajarrian lived all his life in Armenia as a lecturer in the State University and the Kevorkian Seminary, publishing monumental volumes on the Armenian language and its origins next to his “Etymological Dictionary,” among them his famous “Dictionary of Armenian Proper Names”. He passed away in 1953.

The Etymological Dictionary

The “Etymological Dictionary,” unique in its kind, has gained international recognition. It deals with all Armenian words from the antiquity, selected from all Armenian historiographies from the 5th to the 17th centuries, evaluating each according to their origins and derivatives. As he explains in his 40-page in-depth Introduction, written purely in classical style and orthography, six divisions were needed to accomplish the etymology: the knowledge of the words individually regarding to the roots of each, their declensions, meanings, citations, derivatives, and the variants “as the most fundamental and important parts,” as he states.

In his specialty, Ajarrian has excelled all previous Armenian linguists, being able to collect all the vocabulary scientifically, historically, and academically concurrent with the rules of the sounds of each word. His conclusive work included 5062 Armenian words in total, including gradually developed words from the provinces. Taking all

Linguist Hrachia Ajarrian (1876-1953) “Armenian Etymological Dictionary” In View of Today’s National Anxiety



BY FR. ZAVEN ARZOUMANIAN,
PhD

Why Recall The Great Linguist?

We should recall the greatest Armenian linguist Prof. Hrachia Ajarrian in view of today’s uneasiness and anxiety regarding the seriously endangered Armenian language both in Armenia and abroad, where the Eastern and Western sister dialects are under severe damage right from their foundations. Irresponsible steps taken occasionally have closed Armenian schools and drastically demoted language instructors especially in the Diaspora, let alone the Eastern dialect that suffered deeply under the Soviet regime. Recently regrettably even after

the collapse of the system, and ironically under the independent Armenian Republic the language is intolerably falling apart. Most carelessly and catastrophically the regress in Armenia is contributing to the deterioration of the pure Armenian vocabulary and the vivid style which the Eastern dialect enjoyed before the Soviet occupation. The pure Eastern Armenian in our homeland is now unrecognizable, as simultaneously the Western dialect abroad is struggling for survival.

Many scholars have alerted the danger many times, and I think it may even be too late to salvage any part of its glorious past. In reminiscing the famous linguist, Hrachia Ajarrian and his unique “Armenian Etymological

His Life

Even though Hrachia Ajarrian was born in Constantinople in 1876, he lived his entire life in Armenia and dedicated himself to the homeland and to the complete study of the Armenian language, after graduating both from Sorbonne (Paris) and Strasbourg (Germany) universities, specializing in linguistics, under famous scholars of the Armenian language Antoine Meillet and Heinrich Hubsch-mann, who invited Ajarrian to deliver papers at their universities.

Subsequently, he was invited in 1898 by Catholicos Mkrtich I Khrimian of Holy Etchmiadzin to teach at the Kevorkian Seminary, where he published his first epoch-making study “Classification des dialects armeniens” in French. He was among the very few scholars who upon return from Europe founded the State University of Yerevan one hundred years ago, as

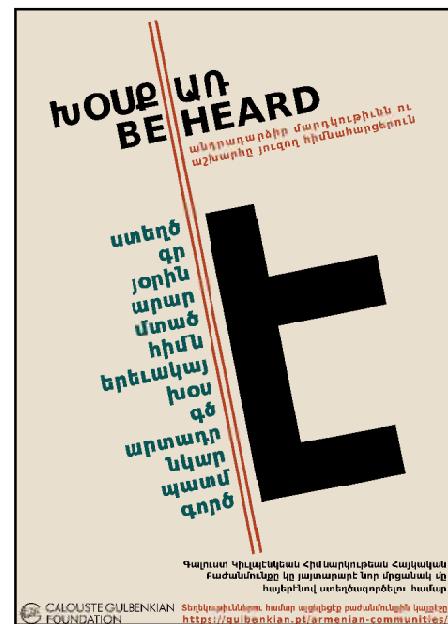
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Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is Launching the BE HEARD Prize Initiative

LISBON -- The BE HEARD prize provides opportunities to Armenian speakers around the world to express themselves in Armenian on a range of critical issues facing humanity during these challenging times.

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced millions of Armenians to self-isolate. The internet and social media have proven to be powerful tools of communication and many are using these tools to express themselves and to create new forms of culture. It is in this context that the Armenian Communities Department is announcing the online audiovisual and literary production prize BE HEARD, inviting speakers of the language to produce creative materials that would address critical global issues and render key messages into innovative works that can inform and engage society, and that have the power to initiate long overdue conversations in the Armenian language.

In the words of Razmik Panossian, the Director of the Armenian Communities Department, "we need to bring forth much-needed discussions that tackle contemporary global issues that touch Armenians everywhere: the climate crisis, the refugee crisis, ongoing wars, community challenges, and so forth.



Our objective is two-fold. First, to encourage dialogue on global issues as a community, and second to have these conversations in Armenian, be that in text or other media."

If you want to say something to the world in Armenian regarding a global issue, this is your chance. You are invited to submit content in audio, video, text or graphic form.

The winning entries will receive a 500 USD award. In total, 50 prizes will be given.

Armenia Commemorates Genocide

Continued from page 1

government last month. Heading a government appeal, many of them turned off the lights in their homes and lit mobile phone flashlights or candles by their windows for three minutes in memory of the dead on Thursday evening. Churches across the country tolled their bells in the meantime.

"The Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire was a crime not only against our ethnic identity but also against human civilization," Pashinyan declared in a televised address to the nation broadcast live from Tsitsernakabert.

"More than a century has passed but the consequences of the Genocide have not been eliminated," he said.

"Turkey has not yet apologized for what it did. That is why we declare that we remember and demand."

Both Pashinyan and Sarkissian thanked the three dozen countries, including the United States, France, Germany and Russia, whose parliaments and/or governments have recognized the Armenian genocide. Sarkissian urged more states to do the same.

"We cannot on one hand declare that we are going to fight together against xenophobia, discrimination, intolerance, anti-Semitism, denial and other all-human vices, and on the other hand 'play diplomacy' with Turkey on the Armenian Genocide," the president said in a statement released on Thursday.

Linguist Hrachia Ajarrian

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the above into consideration the author of the Dictionary has grouped the words according to their historic origins, whether local or borrowed, the former from the original Indo-European aboriginal language, and the latter "borrowed from the Iranian language, old and new, from the Assyrian, the Khaldian, the Georgian, and the Latin languages".

Above all Ajarrian has created four groupings of the Armenian words, identifying them as "created by the people, the self-sounding words, the unspecified ones, and those deformed handwritten words, all of them discovered in ancient manuscripts." He has credited our medieval historians with the knowledge of etymology, since "most of their vocabulary is scientifically evidenced." A prime sample in my

opinion is the 5th century theologian and philosopher Eznik of Kolb, one of the leading translators of the Bible under Sts. Sahag and Mesrob, who wrote his book on the "Refutation of Sects."

Conclusion

The "Etymological Dictionary" is truly an encyclopedia of the Armenian language that expounds in many directions each word from its origin, history, and application, with gradual growth and influence, paralleled with the culture of the Armenian people in general. It also helps to understand the interaction of other neighboring languages in terms of "borrowing" and "influencing". As stated by Prof. Hrachia Ajarrian's student Edik Aghayan, "It is impossible to figure any etymological study, Armenian or otherwise, without having at hand the wealth of this monumental Dictionary."

Wreckage of Soviet Hospital Ship "Armenia" Found in the Black Sea



MOSCOW (Armradio) -- The wreckage of Soviet hospital ship Armenia sunk by German aviation in 1941 has been found in the Black Sea, 15 miles away from the Crimean coast, RIA Novosti quotes the Russian Geographic Society as saying.

It has been estimated that approximately 5,000 to 7,000 people were killed during the sinking, making it one of the deadliest maritime disasters in history. There were only eight survivors.

The Russian Geographical Society says the vessel stands on an even keel as a single fragment. The hull is covered with a layer of silt, but does not have obvious holes, which eliminates the possibility of being destroyed by torpedoes, as the official version puts it.

At the same time, superstructures and decks have obvious and ter-

rifying traces of destruction: railings and other vertical elements are turned outward. Most likely, these are the consequences of explosions as a result of air bombs.

The sunken ship has been actively searched for over the past 20 years. More than 300 square kilometers of the seabed were explored. The search has been carried out by the Russian Ministry of Defense. The research and identification of the vessel involved specialists from the Center for Underwater Research of the Russian Geographical Society.

The ship was built in 1928 in Leningrad. A vessel for 950 passengers was rebuilt for ambulance transport in Odessa in 1941. As a medical vessel, it used to transport injured soldiers, civilians and medical supplies.

AEBU's Life-Saving Event



Continued from page 1

ing the 1915 Genocide, and following years.

During the past several months, and due to numerous cancellations of previously scheduled blood drives amid the current pandemic, the American Red Cross has repeatedly called on all of us to donate blood and prevent severe shortages in supplies. AEBU stepped up to the challenge. The response was overwhelming and in a mere one week upon announcing the event, all appointments were filled.

"Donating blood is a powerful act of humanity. With this Blood Drive we are fighting death with life, darkness with light, desperation with hope," said Dr. Rosine Der Tavitian, member of the AEBU Blood Drive organizing committee.

We are thankful to the American

Red Cross for relentlessly continuing its mission and saving millions of lives through its numerous programs and specially blood drives. Statistically, each pint collected saves 3 lives and through this blood drive AEBU was able to collect 33 pints. At the conclusion of the event, Edward Kim, Charge RN and representative of the American Red Cross said, "Thank you for hosting us. You are amazing sponsors. My staff and I were very happy to conduct the drive at your center. The donors felt very comfortable with the set up as well. Our initial goal was 25 pints and we surpassed that number. We are very satisfied with the outcome."

Armenian Educational Benevolent Union is a California based charitable organization, exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Tax ID # 95-3798531



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