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Prime Minister Sarkisian Criticizes EU, NATO Over Turkish Blockade of Armenia

YEREVAN -- Prime Minister Serzh Sarkisian of Armenia criticized NATO and the European Union last Friday for turning a blind eye to Turkey's long-running blockade of its borders, saying Ankara's refusal to open land routes was costing the small, landlocked state a third of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"Europeans are shy over these issues. They love to talk about human rights, about democratic values but it's much easier to talk rather than to implement anything," Prime Minister Sarkisian told Reuters in an interview.

Turkey shut its borders to Christian Armenia in 1993 to protest against the capture by Armenian forces of territory inside Azerbaijan, Ankara's historic Muslim ally, during fighting over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Ankara says it will not reopen its frontier until Armenia reaches a peace agreement with Azerbaijan.

The blockade, coupled with similar measures by Azerbaijan, means Armenia has to route its trade through its land border with Georgia, or over treacherous mountain passes that link it to Iran. Those difficulties greatly increase costs.

Sarkisian said Armenia wanted to resume relations with Turkey without preconditions and would not obstruct

Turkey's desire to join the EU because this might make Ankara "more predictable".

"Although NATO officials tell us that Turkey is predictable as it's a member of NATO, I don't believe it because even before our blockade Turkey was a member of NATO when it occupied Cyprus," the prime minister added.

Sarkisian said Armenia still needed help from its strategic ally Moscow to defend itself. Russia has 5,000 troops stationed here. "I do not think that the Turkish threat has disappeared and our Russian military base is a guarantee against the Turkish threat," he added.

Sarkisian also said that if Western nations granted independence to the Serbian province of Kosovo, they "could not fail to recognize" the right of the majority Armenian territory of Nagorno-Karabakh to self-determination.

"I see the solution of this issue based on compromise but I do not see any steps or reactions from the Azeri side," Sarkisian said. "We have done all we can".

Asked about his own political ambitions, Sarkisian said it was "likely" he would be the presidential candidate of Armenia's ruling Republican party, although a final decision would not come until a party congress in the autumn.

Matthew Bryza:

No Universal Formula For the Fundamental Principles of Territorial Integrity and Right to Self-Determination

WASHINGTON, DC -- During a special briefing by US Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs Matthew J. Bryza and Azerbaijani Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov in Washington on the results of Azerbaijani-US security consultations, Bryza, who is also the US co-chairman in the OSCE Minsk Group, in response to a question on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement pace said, "... We're at a point in the negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh where the presidents need to make some serious decisions, some tough decisions".

"They have shown political will. Their deputy ministers have shown political will. Their ministers have shown political will and have taken the negotiations about as far as they can now go without presidents making the tough calls," he added.

Bryza said also that "The United States does have a deep commitment to Azerbaijan's sovereignty, its independence, and its territorial integrity."

"I spend a lot of my own time working on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and we proceed from a desire to negotiate a compromise between two fundamental principles which are the principles of a state's right to its territorial integrity and the people's right to self-determination. So while diplomats have to find some way to negotiate a compromise through those treacherous waters that is mutually acceptable and there's no universal formula, there's no worldwide accepted way to do that," he said.

Azimov for his part said, "The conflict is very complicated. It's a long one. It had many heavy results for both nations, but of course, Azerbaijan is more suffering from that. Continued occupation does not bring anyone any benefit and I think Armenia has to get courage to deal with that — with that issue. There are many other issues which both sides have to address. Therefore, these negotiations will continue, I believe."

Rudolf Perina Appointed Charge d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy to Armenia

Hoagland Remains President Bush's Candidate for Ambassador

YEREVAN -- Ambassador Rudolf V. Perina has arrived in Yerevan and assumed the duties of Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan as of July 10. He has replaced Anthony Godfrey, who took over the office of U.S. Charge d'Affaires after Ambassador John Evans' recall.

According to a statement provided by the U.S. Embassy: "Ambassador Perina's extensive knowledge and experience in Armenia, and well-established personal and professional relationships with senior Armenian leaders, will be a great help in sustaining continuity in our important bilateral relationship with Armenia. This will not be a long-term assignment, and it does not alter the need for a permanent U.S. ambassador in Armenia. Ambassador Richard Hoagland remains President Bush's nominee for the position of Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia".

"The appointment of a diplomat of Rudolf Perina's rank and experience as Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Armenia is a welcome move, which indicates the Bush administration's re-



Ambassador Rudolf V. Perina

solve to maintain a high-level relationship with Armenia, despite the congressional blocking of the designated ambassador, Richard Hoagland," stated Cori Welt, Deputy Director of Russian and Eurasian Program of the Center of Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Rudolf Perina was the U.S. Co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group in 2001-2004. In 1993-1996 he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Canada. In 1998-2001 he was U.S. Ambassador to Moldavia.

The Number of Members of the UK Parliament Recognizing the Armenian Genocide Passes 150

LONDON -- Another important milestone on the journey to UK Recognition of the Genocide was passed today. Glenda Jackson MP became the 150th Member of the UK Parliament to sign Early Day Motion 357, recognizing the Truth of the Genocide

which Armenians endured during the years of 1915-23. This motion, put by Bob Spink MP, has put the Armenian Genocide issue at the forefront of international issues on which MPs have shown

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Remains of Alex and Marie Manoogian to be Interred in Holy Etchmiadzin

On July 13, the earthly remains of Alex Manoogian, National Hero of the Republic of Armenia, Life President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union and national benefactor of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, along with those of his wife, Marie Manoogian, will arrive in the homeland via the Paris - Yerevan flight. They had previously been interred in Detroit, Michigan. The interment service of the renowned Armenians will take place in the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin on July 17 at 10:00 AM, at which time the remains shall be committed to the earth in sight of the Treasury Museum built through their sponsorship. The funeral will occur with full state honors and church services, under the presidency of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians; and with the participation of the children and family of the Manoogians, and our pious faithful.

The bodies of the benefactors will lie in state in the Monastery of St. Gayane until July 17, where Armenians can offer their prayers and respect.

PACE President Criticizes Armenia On Foreign-Broadcasting Bill

TBILISI -- Rene van der Linden, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, has criticized attempts by Armenia's parliament to place restrictions on foreign broadcast media. RFE/RL Georgian Service correspondent Nino Gelashvili spoke to the PACE president in Tbilisi, where he is meeting with Georgian officials as part of a South Caucasus tour.

Van der Linden called "unacceptable" the move by Armenian lawmakers to block foreign broadcasts.

"It is unacceptable that there is any restriction," he said. "We will have also a monitoring report on Armenia, and [the proposed restrictions] will be, without any doubt, a part of this report. And it is really important that we have an opinion on facts and figures, and that we can discuss this in the Council of Europe during the next debate on the monitoring report."

Lawmakers in Yerevan on July 3 tried but failed to pass draft legislation that would have placed strict limitations on foreign broadcasters, including RFE/RL.

Van der Linden, who is on a seven-day tour — July 4-10 — of the South Caucasus, also said he was



Van der Linden speaking to RFE/RL

disappointed to see how little progress had been made by either Armenia or Azerbaijan in resolving the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh, a predominantly ethnic-Armenian region of Azerbaijan.

"It was a disappointment that I, after two years, didn't see real progress," van der Linden said. "On the contrary, I was not optimistic, I am not optimistic after my talks in Armenia, and I will see what happens in Azerbaijan. It is necessary that they solve this problem for the whole region, for the future of the country."

Speaking ahead of his visit, van der Linden said the trip is aimed at helping to resolve the region's frozen conflicts, including Nagorno-Karabakh and Georgia's South Ossetia and Abkhazia disputes.

Three Killed In Yerevan Cemetery Shooting

YEREVAN -- Three men were shot dead in a cemetery in Yerevan at the weekend, becoming the latest victims of an apparent bloody vendetta between two wealthy families related to each other.

Police said in a brief statement that the 33-year-old Artavazd Vartanian was gunned down along with his brother-in-law and driver as he laid flowers at the grave of his assassinated father Ashot late on Saturday. No details were reported.

Gagik Shamshian, a freelance photojournalist, visited the cemetery located in the city's western Silikian suburb shortly after the shootings and saw two corpses carried away by law-enforcement officers from the scene. Shamshian took pictures of Ashot Vartanian's grave stained with his son's blood.

Both the Armenian police and prosecutors told RFE/RL on Monday that nobody has been arrested in connection with the killings so far. They said they have not yet identified any suspects either.

Ashot Vartanian, who owned a pastry company and a restaurant, was fatally shot in downtown Yerevan in broad daylight March 2006. The police eventually identified a man who they say murdered the 53-year-old businessman, but failed to arrest and prosecute him. They claim to be still hunting for him.

According to various newspaper reports citing unnamed law-enforcement sources, the 2006 killing stemmed from a bitter business dispute between Vartanian and his cousin Gagik Vartanian. One of Gagik's friends had been killed in 2005, and he is said to

have felt that the crime was the work of Ashot.

The alleged dispute took a new twist on May 9 when Gagik's son Stepan was shot dead outside a Yerevan restaurant. The Armenian daily "Aravot" reported later in May that investigators believe the murderers were linked with Ashot's two sons.

Incidentally, the owner of the restaurant in question, Levon Gulian, died in police custody on May 12 in still unclear circumstances after three days of interrogations. Gulian's family says the 31-year-old was brutally tortured by his interrogators, while the police claim that he fell to his death while attempting to escape from the police building.

The latest shooting spree will raise more questions about the ongoing criminal investigations into the previous killings apparently connected with it and, in particular, the law-enforcement authorities' failure to arrest anyone. Armenia's security apparatus is already under fire over an upsurge in high-profile contract murders reported over the past year. Their victims included Shahen Hovasapian, a senior tax official, Sedrak Zatikian, a senior member of the Yerkrapah Union of veterans of the war in Nagorno-Karabakh, and at least two reputed crime figures.

Many in Armenia feel that such crimes, most of them still not solved, result from a sense of impunity reigning among wealthy government-connected individuals and their families. Many of them possess weapons, including assault rifles, and have armed bodyguards.

Armenian Diamond-Cutting Sector Suffers Dramatic Slump

YEREVAN -- Armenia's diamond-cutting industry suffered a major slump in the first five months of this year reporting a 50 percent decline in production volumes from a year ago. The sector, once announced by the government as one of its major priorities, has been suffering decline for the fourth consecutive year after a decade of rapid expansion.

According to Gagik Mkrtchian, head of the department on precious stones and jewelry at the Armenian Ministry of Trade and Economic Development, Armenian diamond-cutting companies produced over the first five months of 2007 20.2 billion Armenian Drams (AMD) worth output, down from almost 38.6 billion from a year ago.

The sale volumes decreased from almost 39 billion AMD in the first five months of 2006 to 19.6 billion Drams in January-May of 2007. Export volumes decreased from 37.5 AMD to 19.3 billion AMD.

Mr. Mkrtchian said one of the major reasons behind this dramatic slump was the shortfall in anticipated deliveries of rough diamonds from Russia. A 2001 Russian-Armenian agreement enabled Armenian companies to process up to

400,000 carats of Russian rough diamonds annually from 2002 through 2004. The quota was subsequently raised to 450,000 carats for 2005 and 2006, but only a fraction of that actually was delivered in 2005 and no raw-diamond arrived in 2006.

Another reason was the lower demand for diamond and golden items in the global market in 2004, but though the global crisis was over, Armenian sector failed to recover. As a result, one of the biggest Armenian companies, Shoghakh, had to close 1000 jobs.

He said the chief manager of the Russian Alrosa company, one of the biggest raw-diamond companies, will arrive in Yerevan soon to negotiate establishment of a joint or Russian company in Armenia.

Mkrtchian said establishment of a Russian diamond-cutting company in Armenia is a way out since "Russia has the raw-material, which it wants to sell, while Armenia has facilities and labor force to process it."

The bulk of the rough supplies come mainly from Israel and Belgium, explaining why the two countries are among Armenia's leading trading partners.

Russian Firm Linked With Gold Production In Armenia

MOSCOW -- A Russian financial and industrial conglomerate could become the new owner of a troubled company developing the bulk of Armenia's gold reserves, reports from Moscow said on Thursday.

According to the Russian Regnum news agency, the Promyshlennye Investory group has pointedly declined to refute or confirm reports that it is holding negotiations on the possible takeover of the Ararat Gold Recovery Company (AGRC).

AGRC has been widely expected to change hands ever since the Armenian government brought a fraud case against its Indian-owned parent company Vedanta Resources earlier this year. Vedanta was accused of underreporting millions of dollars worth of ore extracted from its Zod and Meghradzor gold mines. The ore is turned into gold at an AGRC smelter in the southern town of Ararat.

Vedanta executives have strongly denied the accusations.

Prosecutors reportedly raided the AGRC offices in January amid media speculation that the authorities have decided force Vedanta to sell its Armenian assets to a Russian investor. The speculation followed President Robert Kocharian's meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin that focused on economic issues. Kocharian described mining as a new promising area of Russian-Armenian economic cooperation.

AGRC's smelter and mines have since reportedly stood idle, with most of their Indian personnel leaving Armenia with their families. Reports in the Armenian press have also said Vedanta will announce the sale of AGRC to a Georgian subsidiary of Promyshlennye Investory next week.

According to Regnum, a spokesman for Promyshlennye Investory refused to comment on those reports, saying that the Russian group announces its takeovers only after they are agreed on. "If an agreement on the acquisition of AGRC is signed, we will provide relevant information," Oleg Rumiantsev was quoted as saying.

Another Russian news agency, Interfax, reported last February that AGRC could be purchased by Russia's leading diamond producer, Alrosa. It cited an unnamed industry source as saying that an Alrosa executive visited Armenia to "examine the state of affairs at AGRC."

Vedanta has been dogged by controversy ever since its 2002 purchase of AGRC, until then an Armenian-Canadian joint venture. It pledged to breathe a new life into the Armenian gold industry by making large-scale investments and significantly boosting production levels. However, AGRC's output has since shrunk considerably despite a spike in the international price of gold.

Its Indian executives have blamed the decline on high costs allegedly incurred during ore's transportation by rail from Zod to Ararat. Two years ago they asked the government in Yerevan for a permission to build a new ore processing plant near Zod. Zod is by far the largest of Armenian gold deposits, containing an estimated 80 metric tons of the precious metal.

The government rejected the \$85 million project, strongly opposed by environmentalists, citing the area's proximity to Armenia's ecologically vital Lake Sevan. The then Environment Minister Vartan Ayvazian has repeatedly accused the Indians of fraud and mismanagement.

Der Spiegel Interview With Turkish-Armenian Editor Etyen Mahcupyan Dink's Murder Was 'Planned by a Bigger Network'

Etyen Mahcupyan, the editor-in-chief of the Armenian-Turkish weekly Agos, spoke to DER SPIEGEL about the trial of the alleged killers of his predecessor Hrant Dink.

The Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink was gunned down on Jan. 19 this year. Now, six months later, the trial of his alleged killer and 17 other suspects has started. The trial is being carried out behind closed doors because the accused gunman, Ogün Samast, is a minor.

Dink was hated by ultranationalists for describing the mass killing of Armenians in the early part of the 20th century as genocide. He was prosecuted for his comments under Article 301 of Turkey's penal code, which bans insults to Turkish identity.

Critics have accused the authorities of failing to act on reports of a plot to kill Dink. Two of the suspects, Yasin Hayal and Erhan Tuncel, even claim they were working for the security forces. The current case is seen as an important test of whether the Turkish judiciary is capable of investigating claims of official negligence.

DER SPIEGEL spoke to Etyen Mahcupyan, Dink's successor as editor-in-chief of the Turkish-Armenian weekly Agos about the trial.

SPIEGEL: The trial against Dink's alleged 17-year-old murderer and his accomplices has started. But now the investigation is to be continued. Were there other people involved?

Etyen Mahcupyan: This type of attack must have been prepared by a bigger network than just the gang that is currently on trial. There had to be political connections, people who pulled strings, paid money or laid the ideological groundwork. So far only two members of the nationalist Great Unity Party (BBP) have been charged.

SPIEGEL: One of the accused claims that they were controlled by a group within the police force.

Mahcupyan: A number of police officers knew what was going to happen. But they didn't prevent the murder. Were they acting of their own accord, or did someone give them orders? That is unclear.

SPIEGEL: What was the



Agos editor-in-chief Etyen Mahcupyan

perpetrator's motive?

Mahcupyan: There is a link here between ultra-nationalism and criminal gangs. The aim was probably to cause unrest in the election year with the intention of torpedoing Turkey's chances of joining the European Union. Presumably a whole series of attacks was planned, but the public reaction was too strong to go ahead with them.

SPIEGEL: In general, politically motivated crimes are seldom solved in Turkey. Will it be different this time?

Mahcupyan: In the past the judges were usually afraid to take risks. None of them wanted to expose the links between the military, the government and the judiciary. But in this case there is the potential to really get to the bottom of things. The judges are flexible and are working with the lawyers.

SPIEGEL: You are Dink's successor as editor-in-chief at Agos. Are you and your colleagues still being threatened?

Mahcupyan: Yes, but that is the usual hatred that we have to face. The Armenian community and their patriarch often receive threats from the nationalists as well.

SPIEGEL: Dink was pulled up before judges on several occasions because of his articles. Have you also been hampered in your work?

Mahcupyan: Not at the moment, but if it were politically desired then someone could find an old article and file charges. I have already been put on trial for allegedly insulting state institutions.

**Interview conducted by
Annette Grossbongardt**

Trial of Karabakh War Veterans In Turmoil

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and Vahan Aroyan. However, the order further infuriated the audience, which defied police orders and held an improvised rally on the spot in support of the three defendants.

Rafael Ghazarian, an ailing academician who had been a member of the country's first post-Communist leadership, delivered an emotional speech, condemning the "disgraceful trial." "We all know very well that they are innocent," he said of the three war veterans. "They said things which have been said by all of us. I have spoken in even stricter terms. Why aren't they imprisoning me?"

Yervand Manarian, a prominent Armenian actor also present at the trial, likewise accusing the authorities

of unjustly imprisoning "national heroes." "In five years from now ... they will be sitting in the same dock," Manarian said, referring to the country's current leaders.

Sefilian and Malkhasian were arrested by the National Security Service (NSS) in December just days after presiding over the founding conference of a new organization opposed to the return of any of the occupied Azerbaijani territories surrounding Karabakh. They stand accused of calling for a violent overthrow of the government during the gathering. Both men strongly deny the charges.

Aroyan, was arrested as part of the same criminal case later in December after NSS investigators claimed to have found an arms cache in his village in southern Armenia.

Turkish Media

Erdogan Aide, US House Speaker's Secret Meeting on Armenian Bill

By Ümit Enginsoy
Turkish Daily News

WASHINGTON, DC -- Cüneyd Zapsu, a top adviser to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, lobbied against an Armenian genocide bill pending in Congress during talks in February with Nancy Pelosi, Democratic speaker of the House of Representatives, a meeting that had been kept secret until now, sources here said.

Richard Holbrooke, a Democrat and a former top diplomat, arranged and attended the meeting, one source said. Holbrooke is known for his role in putting an end to the war in Bosnia as assistant state of secretary in former president Bill Clinton's administration.

Zapsu voiced the Ankara government's concerns over the resolution, saying its passage by the House would seriously hurt bilateral ties with Turkey, said the source.

The Pelosi-Zapsu meeting took place shortly after Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül also visited the U.S. capital in early February. But neither Güll nor three Turkish parliamentary teams visiting Washington one after another to lobby against the bill had talks with the House speaker.

Nabi Sensoy, Turkey's ambassador to Washington separately met with Pelosi in May.

Pelosi at the time told Sensoy that she would not stick to an Armenian timetable in deciding how to handle the resolution, another source said.

Pro-Armenian groups had been pushing House leaders for the passage of the resolution around April 24, declared by U.S. presidents each year as a day of remembrance for the World War I-era Armenian killings in the Ottoman Empire.

House Resolution 106, originally introduced by Democratic Representative Adam Schiff and Republican lawmaker George Radanovich in late January, calls for formal recognition of the Armenian killings as genocide.

Turkey braces for more trouble:

Turkish and U.S. administration efforts to prevent the measure's passage have so far been successful, but the future is not bright for Ankara, with a number of worrying developments taking place in recent weeks.

A majority of lawmakers in the

The Number of Members of the UK Parliament Recognizing the Armenian Genocide Passes 150

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concern. Including other MPs who have signed the Genocide Motion in previous years but unable to do so this year for parliamentary technical reasons, the total now approaches 200. The majority of MPs who are eligible to sign the motion, and unconstrained by their party, have now done so. Of the 460 MPs who are eligible to sign, 180 are members of the Conservative Party who provide a central, ready-made answer explaining why their members will not sign. Few Conservatives have dared to break with the Party's authority. Of the other 280 MPs of the Labor (the party of government), Liberal Democrat, Scot-



Speaker Nancy Pelosi

House, lower chamber of Congress, are now supporting the Armenian genocide resolution. The number of representatives cosponsoring the measure in late June rose to 218 in the 435-member House.

Obtaining the support of 218 lawmakers does not automatically enable the Armenians to force a House floor vote for the resolution, but means the overcoming of a psychological threshold.

Another group of at least 218 representatives signing a separate and special petition calling for a floor vote is required to push Pelosi to do that, and it would be hard for the Armenians to collect that number of signatures, because most Democratic lawmakers would not want to confront their congressional leader in this way.

But psychological pressure is building up on Pelosi, and analysts said the resolution likely would reach the House floor agenda any time after early September, when Congress returns to work after a summer recess in August.

But still this would come after critical parliamentary elections in Turkey on July 22.

A similar resolution is also pending in the Senate, Congress' upper chamber, with 31 senators out of a total of 100 backing the measure. But Armenian efforts focus on moving on the House side first.

Before last year's congressional elections in which the Democrats won a landslide victory, Pelosi had pledged to work for the passage of the genocide measure. But after taking office, she has adopted a more responsible position, Turkish diplomats said.

Project Discovery! Awards Grant for Archaeological Research at Suburb of Ani

Project Discovery! awarded a grant of \$7,175 to Dr. Hamazasp Khachatrian, Director of the Shiraz Regional Museum in Gyumri, to conduct archaeological research at the cave site of Haikadzor. Haikadzor was occupied during the Middle Ages when it was a suburb of Ani, the famed medieval capital of Armenia. It is located in front of the monastery of Horomos, situated about 15 kilometers north-east of Ani, beside the Akhurian River on the Armenian-Turkish border. Horomos, founded during the reign of King Abas the First (943-953), was one of the most important religious and cultural centers within the Kingdom of Ani. Haikadzor is the only

commercial ties with the cities of Byzantium, Persia, Southern Russia and Central Asia.

The city comprised dozens of religious structures (churches, chapels, monasteries and mausoleums) and secular buildings (royal palaces, mansions, baths, markets, caravanserais) and defensive structures (the citadel and double line of ramparts) as well as bridges, aqueducts and sewer systems. While the urban center of Ani was being developed, so too was an underground Ani being built, whose remains testify to the existence of hundreds of houses, dozens of chapels and tombs, monastery complexes, and city service facilities such as



Monastery of Horomos

suburb of Ani located within the territory of the Republic of Armenia, making it the only part of Ani open to archaeological investigation by Armenians. Thus, this grant affords a unique and important opportunity to study the material culture of Ani.

Ani, built on a spectacular site – a plateau enclosed by deep ravines – was once the capital of a medieval Armenian kingdom that covered much of present day Armenia and eastern Turkey. Renowned for its splendor and magnificence, Ani rivaled the great cities of Constantinople, Baghdad and Cairo. At the height of its glory, Ani's population reached between 100,000 – 200,000.

Ani is first mentioned in Armenian chronicles in the 5th century as a possession of the Armenian Kamsarakan dynasty. By the early 9th century, Ani had become part of the Armenian Bagratuni dynasty. By the end of the 10th century, the Armenian Catholicosate had moved its seat to Ani. The city reached its apogee at the start of the 11th century, when it was known as “the city of forty gates” and “the city of a thousand and one churches”. Located at various crossroads of trade, Ani developed strong

stables, mills, cellars, reservoirs, stores and food shops, all essential in the event of a siege of the city.

The city's economic, social and cultural boom was accompanied by the expansion of its building and architecture. Its numerous religious structures, palaces and fortifications were among the most technically and artistically advanced in the world at that time. Ani's architects were of such renown that the influence of the Ani school of architecture extended over the whole of Armenia.

But Ani's glory was soon to fade. The city fell victim to waves of conquerors over several centuries, and later was devastated by an earthquake. Ani was finally abandoned and largely forgotten until the late 1890s when Toros Toromanyan and Nikolai Marr undertook to excavate at Ani. Their research was interrupted by the First World War.

The site Dr. Khachatrian will study was first discovered in 1998. Later, it was used as a stone quarry which destroyed part of the site. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Khachatrian, the mining activities were terminated and the site was saved from destruction.

Who Profits From Deforestation in Armenia? New Economic Study of Deforestation and Potential Solutions Released

YEREVAN -- A new alliance released an unprecedented economic study on June 27 that unveils the system of profits from illegal deforestation in Armenia. The event held at Yerevan's American University of Armenia was initiated by EcoArmenia alliance with support from the British Embassy in Armenia and OSCE office in Yerevan.

Armenia is one of the world's 70 countries where forests cover less than 10 percent of the country's area. In today's Armenia, deforestation is largely due to illegal logging of forests for obtaining construction and fuel wood. For the last decade the amount of incomes received from illegal wood businesses inside Armenia as well as export of unprocessed wood and wood products reaches millions of US dollars in Armenia.

As the deforestation in Armenia has reached a critical level, the issue is a priority for local environmental groups and international organizations. Four organizations—World Wildlife Fund Armenia, American University of Armenia's Environmental Conservation Research Center, Armenia Tree Project, and Armenian Forests NGO—formed the EcoArmenia alliance in 2006 to help shift Armenia from a mode of deforestation to reforestation.

In winter 2007, with the involvement of OSCE Armenia office and financial support of the British Embassy in Armenia, the coalition initiated and financed a preparation of an unprecedented study that would unveil the economics of the illegal wood businesses in Armenia.

The study, “The Economics of Armenia's Forest Industry,” prepared by the Economy and Values Research Center, exposes the financial flows in the sphere of unprocessed wood utilization and wood processing industries, the volumes of export of unprocessed wood and wood products, pinpointing the existing environmental issues, and presenting recommendations towards solving the deforestation problem in Armenia.

“This unique report helps bring light to one of the darkest areas of Armenia's economy,” stated Jeffrey Tufenkian, President of Armenian For-

During 2003-2006, excavations were carried out both within and outside of the caves. As a result of these investigations, the archaeological team was able to glean incredible insight into the lifestyle of the people who populated Ani. One of the caves had been occupied by 6-8 horned cattle, indicating that the people were engaged in cattle breed-

ests NGO. “We see this not as an end in itself, but an excellent point from which we can all move forward to help shift Armenia from a mode of deforestation to reforestation.”

Underlining the stance of international organizations towards the problem, Jeanette Klotzer, Economic and Environmental Officer at OSCE Office in Yerevan said “To support Armenia's authorities and civil society in sustainable forest management is in the focus of our activities in view of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to environment and security. Raising awareness and national capacity building are important steps on the way to prevent illegal logging and to restore Armenia's forests as an environmental and economic category.”

A staunch supporter of stopping deforestation in Armenia, the British Embassy expressed its full support for the study by co-financing it. Quoted on the decision to support the initiative, Richard Hyde, Charge d'Affairs of the British Embassy in Armenia stressed that “The future of Armenia's forests are at a critical juncture. We hope this study will help in the process to save Armenia's forests for current and future generations.”

The study shows that nine percent of households in Armenia use wood as fuel for cooking and heating, and more than 300 small, medium, and large wood processing companies operating in Armenia utilize 10 times more wood than the volumes set by the state for annual cutting. Overall annual income from wood business operations equals \$132 million US within Armenia, including the profits received from the export of unprocessed high quality wood.

The study recommends addressing the problem of deforestation on economic by expanding natural gas supplies to remote villages via micro-credits, exempting of taxes for importing wood to Armenia, a ban on export of unprocessed wood from Armenia, supporting alternative energy resources, and developing eco-tourism.

The report is available from the Economy and Values Research Center in English and Armenian at the following link: <http://ev.am/research.htm>

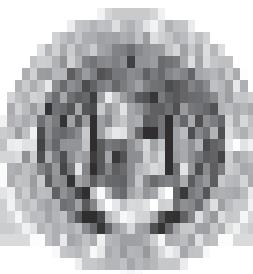
ing. The archaeologists uncovered a bakery with 20 ovens for baking bread, indicating that the local residents not only made bread for their own consumption but also for sale to the larger population of Ani. Copper and silver coins discovered in the caves and nearby territory indicate robust commercial activities.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2007

ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY
VERDUGO PARK, GLENDALE Festival

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Պատմական
հայոց հայրենիք



Հայություն
Հայոց պատմությունը

AGBU SOCIETY DINNER - OCTOBER 13, 2007

AGBU Pasadena Chapter Cultural Committee

Art Classes

Bring out the inner artist in your child.
Ruth "Rhi" Beqadjian, Instructor

Ages 6 and Up

ARTS & CRAFTS FOR THE YOUNG ARTIST

Session One (Sept 1 - Oct 6)

Session Two (Oct 13 - Nov 17)

The Art Room - AGBU Pasadena Center
2000 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, CA 91107
For more information, please call 626-795-7992

AGBU Pasadena Chapter

SUMMER BASKETBALL CLINIC

Learn the game of basketball

Improve your technique

Play with friends or family fun

TRYOUTS NEEDED.

Deadline June 1st - July 1st
Sessions June 1st - Aug 1st

Males - 6th-8th 6-8th grade boys & girls
9th-12th 9th-12th grade boys & girls
13th-16th 13th-16th grade boys & girls

OVER 2000 FREE SPOTS
Participation is guaranteed

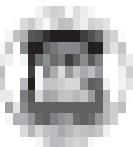
AGBU Pasadena Center

2000 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, CA 91107
626-795-7992

See Photo above the AGBU Center
For more information,
please see website at www.agbu.org

YOGA CLASSES CONTINUING

For more information, contact Ruth Rhi Beqadjian



AGBU / AYA SCOUTS Glendale / Pasadena Chapter



SCOUTS SUMMER CAMP 2007

Lake Isabella / Kern County

August 6 to 12, 2007

Cubs, Webelos, Juniors & Seniors Ages 7 to 11

Boy Scouts & V.I.T. Scouts Ages 12 to 17

Join our new and updated
summer camp with the travel!

"Hike" every Saturday 10am - 4pm pm

AGBU Pasadena Center,
2000 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, CA 91107
For more information, please call 626-7992

Խաղաղ և սպուռնակական

AGBU HIGH SCHOOL

ԽԱՂԱՂ ՎԵՐԱԲԵՐՅԱԼ ՄԱՍ

NOW STUDENT ENROLLMENT GRADES 9-12

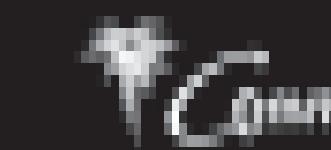
Open enrollment to Young Adult College Diploma Program

For more information, please call
626-795-7992 or visit our website

An Unprecedented Art Show in Southern California! NINE CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS FROM ARMENIA

September 28-30, 2007 - Boston Hall, AGBU Center, Pasadena

AGBU Pasadena Chapter



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The Kia Red-Tag Lease-A-Thon

With Low Down Payment



#1 VOLUME KIA DEALER IN CA!

All advertised prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document preparation charge and any emission testing charge. All vehicles are on approval of credit. Rebates are not to be used with any special APR programs. Kelley Blue Book prices are based on July/August '07 Kelley Blue Book. Offer ends the close of business date of publication.



Pre-Owned Vehicle	MSRP Retail	Buy Price	Buy For	Pre-Owned Vehicle	MSRP Retail	Buy Price	Buy For
'04 Kia Spectra LS SUN (K703268/303945)	\$970	\$695	\$75 Mo	'03 Infiniti I35 SUN Auto, Air, PPKg, Loaded. (P60112/103945)	\$19,465	\$18,465	\$308 Mo
'05 Ford Focus ZX4 SE Auto, Air, PPKg, More. (K703364/231204)	\$13,505	\$10,665	\$155 Mo	'04 Lincoln LS V8 SUN Auto, Air, PPKg, Lthr & More. Previous Rental. (P50106/616632)	\$23,475	\$19,995	\$333 Mo
'03 Mitsubishi Diamante LS SUN Auto, Air, PPKg, & More. (K610264/01735)	\$14,685	\$10,995	\$163 Mo	'04 Ford Expedition 4WD Air, Auto, PPKg, More. (P70459/B14590)	\$24,735	\$20,995	\$356 Mo
'02 Toyota Camry SDN Alt., Auto, PPKg, & More. (P60715/040786)	\$14,30	\$11,995	\$182 Mo	'02 Mercedes-Benz C230 WGN Air, Auto, PPKg & More. (P50745/151085)	\$22,050	\$21,495	\$387 Mo
'03 Nissan Sentra SE Alt., Auto, PPKg, & More. (P60715/040786)	\$15,210	\$13,495	\$208 Mo	'03 Toyota Sequoia SR5 Air, Auto, PPKg & More. (P50465/159694)	\$24,205	\$22,495	\$385 Mo
'04 Honda Accord LX Alt., Auto, PPKg, More. (P70621/037740)	\$17,380	\$13,995	\$220 Mo	'02 Lexus RX300 SUN Air, Auto, PPKg, & More. (P60211/238779)	\$25,435	\$22,995	\$396 Mo
'04 Chevrolet Express 1500 Cargo Alt., Auto, PPKg, More. (P70671/166720)	\$17,290	\$14,495	\$227 Mo	'04 Acura TSX SUN Air, Auto, PPKg, Navigation, More. (P70428/008817)	\$25,565	\$23,995	\$411 Mo
'06 Mazda RX-8 Coupe Alt., 6-Speed, Loaded. (P70518/108675)	\$18,165	\$14,495	\$230 Mo	'04 Infiniti G35 CP Auto, Air, Loaded. (P70541/803738)	\$28,125	\$24,495	\$420 Mo
'06 Mazda 3 S Alt., PPKg, ABS, & More. (P60567/1115665)	\$20,255	\$16,495	\$265 Mo	'05 Chrysler Crossfire Limited Air, PPKg, Loaded. (P70635/057759)	\$26,300	\$24,495	\$424 Mo
'03 Toyota Highlander SUN Alt., Auto, PPKg, More. (P60644/499232)	\$19,675	\$16,495	\$269 Mo	'05 Ford Thunderbird 50th Anniversary Auto, Air, PPKg, Loaded. (P70310/106369)	\$35,910	\$28,495	\$502 Mo
'06 Suzuki XL-7 SUN Alt., Auto, PPKg, Loaded. Previous Rental. (P70373/105206)	\$20,805	\$16,495	\$269 Mo	'04 Infiniti FX45 SUN Auto, Air, PPKg, Loaded. (P70540/040383)	\$35,310	\$28,995	\$507 Mo
'06 Scion tC Coupe Alt., Auto, PPKg, More. (P61198/070951)	\$19,330	\$16,995	\$279 Mo	'04 BMW 525i SUN Auto, Air, PPKg, More. (P70345/117499)	\$35,640	\$32,995	\$589 Mo
'05 Jeep Wrangler SUN Alt., Air, CD, More. (P70288/315604)	\$21,190	\$18,495	\$304 Mo	'04 BMW 745Li SUN Loaded, Navigation, Low Miles. (P70356/054963)	\$55,850	\$45,995	\$841 Mo
<small>*Per month. 36-month closed-end lease on approved above average credit. Cash from customer \$2000.00 + \$100 Security Deposit + \$1500 Lease Capital + \$150 Dealer Finance Fee. Total Due at signing: \$1790. Total monthly payments \$3580. Total due at end of lease: \$3580. Total due at end of term: \$3580.</small>				<small>*All pre-owned big 3 options are at \$300 monthly payments. ABOVE-AVERAGE CREDIT. 100% DOWN PAYMENT.</small>			

