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Ter-Petrosian Pushes For Broader Opposition Collaboration

YEREVAN - Armenia's main opposition has again called on all "democratic forces" to join its continuing push for a leadership change in the country, indicating that last month's elections to Yerevan's municipal council swept by the ruling party brought forth no need for changing its further action mode.

Addressing thousands of his supporters at a rally in downtown Yerevan late on Friday, former president Levon Ter-Petrosyan said his Armenian National Congress (HAK) has never intended to establish hegemony for the opposition field or assimilated other political parties.

"The most important thing for us has been not a structural homogeneity, but a common understanding of opposition political forces of the need for solving major problems facing the country," Ter-Petrosian said. "The HAK will never refuse cooperation with any opposition force."

"The opposition field is so wide that it can make room for all. We are ready to welcome any political party to the opposition camp without fearing competition and without missing any opportunity for cooperation."

In his 45-minute speech at the rally Ter-Petrosian made further accusations against President Sarkisian blaming him for "criminalizing" the May 31 vote in Yerevan.

"The criminalization of the elec-

tions could be regarded as an individual case if there were no tendency for a total criminalization of the country's governance," the opposition leader charged.

Ter-Petrosian also criticized the West for effectively conniving at the fraudulent conduct of the elections. Calling on his supporters to get rid of illusions about the "justice" of the West, Ter-Petrosian at the same time said that this skepticism should not spread on western or panhuman values to which, he said, the Armenian people has provided its strong commitment.

The opposition leader also warned political analysts and media pundits against making serious efforts to analyze the officially announced results of the Yerevan vote and thus making far-going conclusions about a possible reshape in the political field "in order not to legitimize the elections that cannot be called such."

Ter-Petrosian said the HAK "has come out of the Yerevan election stronger" and has "no worries" since the election results have no connection with the reality. He added that the opposition will continue to seek a leadership change using only constitutional means, "which has fully justified itself by turning the Congress into a viable institutional force in the past year and a half."

Continued on page 3

U.S. Mission to OSCE Slams Widespread Fraud and Intimidation During Yerevan Municipal Elections

Millennium Challenge Corporation Cuts Aid Over Democratic Governance

The United States mission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in a statement released last Thursday, has slammed the "widespread fraud and intimidation" during Yerevan Municipal elections on May 31st, noting that it "repeated a disturbing pattern of similar violations witnessed in previous elections in Armenia", but urged opposition leaders to "represent their voters through full and active participation in the governance of Yerevan."

"We observed incidents of ballot-stuffing, multiple voting, falsified vote counts, intimidation of party proxies and observers, and the illegal presence of unauthorized and unidentified individuals in polling stations. These clear violations of OSCE commitments – and of the Armenian Election Code – were especially egregious in Yerevan's Malatia-Sebastia district, but were observed in other electoral districts as well," the mission said.

MCA Cuts Aid to Armenia

Earlier this week, the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation said a \$67 million project aimed at reconstructing

and repairing about 1,000 kilometers of rural roads in Armenia, which is part of the \$235.6-million-worth Millennium Challenge Account program, will not be implemented anytime soon.

The agency, which administers

US State Department Freedom and Democracy Report on Armenia Page 3

the U.S. Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) program, froze the project following a harsh government crackdown on the Armenian opposition sparked by the disputed presidential election of February 2008. The MCC board of directors has extended the freeze during quarterly meetings held over the past year.

In a statement issued after its latest meeting in Washington chaired by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the board said MCC "will not resume funding for any further road construction and rehabilitation." "The responsibility for this outcome remains with the government of Armenia, whose actions have been inconsistent with the eligibility criteria that are at the heart of the MCC program," Rodney Bent, the corporation's

US Congress Appropriation Subcommittee Approves Aid for Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh

WASHINGTON, DC -- Today, Rep. Schiff announced that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations approved \$48 million in foreign aid for Armenia and \$10 million in foreign aid for Nagorno Karabagh. Rep. Schiff, a member of the subcommittee, worked closely with Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) to ensure this critical funding was included in the foreign aid bill.

"This is important funding that will help ensure peace and greater economic stability in the Caucasus," said Schiff. "Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh are important partners in a troubled and economically stagnant region, and this funding

Continued on page 4

Iranians Continue Yerevan Embassy Protests



Iranian opposition supporters demonstrate outside the Iranian embassy in Yerevan

YEREVAN -- Several dozen Iranians rallied outside the Iranian embassy in Yerevan for the second day on Tuesday to protest against the official

results of Friday's disputed election that gave victory to the incumbent

Continued on page 2

Six Major US Companies Lobbying Against Armenia Genocide Bill

WASHINGTON, DC -- Five military contractors and an energy company have stepped into the Armenian Genocide denial campaign lobbying against any resolution that could pass by the U.S. Congress. The six companies have strong ties to Turkey.

None would state their position on the House resolution, but industry analysts and others said they likely lobbied against the measure to show support for Turkey, an important market for weapons and industrial products.

"They don't want to be seen opposing a resolution that has a very evident human rights element," said Rouben Adalian, director of the Armenian National Institute, a Washington research organization. "It would put them on the side of denying history and denying genocide."

BAE Systems Inc., Goodrich Corp., Northrop Grumman Corp., Raytheon Co., United Technologies Corp. and energy producer Chevron Corp. spent \$14 million to lobby Congress in the first quarter of this year.

Continued on page 2

Racist Comments on Armenians by KFI Radio What is the Next Target and What We Can Do?

By Simmon Papukyan

On May 13 at 8:33am Bill Handel, Lara Hermanson and Gary Hoffman on KFI 640AM, broadcasted from Burbank CA, suggested reducing the U.S. population by 50% to save the government money. Then came a wisecrack about starting with the Armenians and selling Glendale city. So far, it's just tacky, and par for the shock-radio course. One person (Greg Garabedian) who heard this called and e-mailed to complain. The upshot? On May 14 at 5:10am the e-mail was read and mocked again and that same is suggested to be done with Irish and Italians.... But then came "What the Turks started, Bill will finish." Imagine if similar comments were made against Jews or Blacks! They would turn the world upside down until they got justice! It's time we do the same and stop being so passive. If you are truly offended by this, then take 10 minutes (I've spent days talking and organizing people..met with community organizations) out of your day and do something about it.

You'll certainly want to hear the two clips. Unfortunately, you can't hear the real offender off KFI's website. Why? They've taken down that show from their website. Hmm, wonder why that is. Fortunately, they were downloaded ahead of time and are now available at: <http://www.burbankanc.org/KFI.mp3>

So called "apology" followed on 06/12/2009 at 6:15am (you can listen to it yourself at <http://www.kfi640.com/pages/podcasting/> ...click the 6:00am podcasting tab)

After meeting with their management and Bill himself by Armenian community leaders,

Practically not management, nor Bill himself did not apologize.

In the beginning of 20th century Talat Pasha and his accomplices suggested to do the samewhat happened to them?

Let's flood these people. Let's fill up their voice mail system.

You can find some other numbers for them online too.

KFI station numbers:

Main : (818) 559-2252

Programming: (818) 566-6476

To contact these people, here are some options:

snail mail address: 3400 W Olive Ave Ste 550 , Burbank CA 91505

e-mail: Robin Bertolucci, Program Director, KFI AM640, RobinBertolucci@clearchannel.com

Corporate headquarters:

Clear Channel, 200 East Basse Road , San Antonio , TX 78209

Tel:210/822-2828

[<mailto:webmaster@clearchannel.com>](mailto:webmaster@clearchannel.com)

I urge you to file a complaint with the FCC, the federal agency that oversees all public broadcasts.

I have attached a link:

https://esupport.fcc.gov/form/2000/formE/input.action?form_page=2000E

or

[<http://esupport.fcc.gov/complaints.htm>](http://esupport.fcc.gov/complaints.htm)

Make sure to fill up the form properly:

Station call sign: KFI Radio station frequency: 640

Station location: Burbank, CA

Program name: Bill Handel Date: May 13, 2009 Time: 8:30 AM

Date: May 14, 2009 Time: 5:10 AM

Be sure to hit submit on the bottom.

Iranians Continue Yerevan Embassy Protests

Continued from page 1

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The protesters, most of them university students, also condemned the deaths of seven fellow Iranian opposition supporters who were shot dead during a massive anti-government demonstration in Tehran on Monday.

Organizers said the demonstration was part of worldwide street protests staged by Iranian expatriates supporting Mir Hossein Musavi, the main opposition presidential candidate. The small crowd chanted slogans and held banners accusing the Iranian government of rigging the vote. An Armenian police unit kept it from getting too close to the embassy building.

"Between 2,000 and 2,500 of our citizens voted here [in Armenia] and 70-80 percent of them voted for Musavi," one young man told RFE/RL. "The same

happened all over Iran."

In contrast to Monday's rally, many protesters wore dark sunglasses and medical facemasks. "We want to make sure they don't recognize us by face," one of them explained. "Why? Because our state is such that we may get in trouble. And we, the students living here, don't want to have problems."

Other protesters claimed that Iranian embassy officials phoned Iranians living in Armenia the previous night and warned them against attending further protests against their government. "But we still decided to come here because young people in Iran have been killed," said one young woman.

Armenia, which maintains close political and economic ties with the Islamic Republic, has recognized the vote results, with President Serzh Sarkisian sending a congratulatory message to Ahmadinejad at the weekend.

Armenian Rights Activist Jailed for 'Assault'

YEREVAN -- An Armenian human rights campaigner is facing up to five years in prison for allegedly assaulting two police officers that visited him after he claimed to have been intimidated by government loyalists during the municipal elections in Yerevan.

Arshaluys Hakobian, a member of the Armenian Helsinki Association (AHA), monitored the May 31 vote in the capital along with the chairman of the group, Mikael Danielian. The two men say they were forced to leave a polling station in Yerevan's Malatia-Sebastia district, the main election trouble spot, after witnessing and protesting against vote irregularities.

Hakobian lodged a formal complaint with Armenia's Special Investigative Service (SIS), a law-enforcement agency subordinated to state prosecutors. The SIS responded by summoning him for questioning.

Hakobian was taken to the police department of Yerevan's central Kentron district on June 5 after a bitter argument with two police officers that visited his apartment and handed him a SIS summons. He was charged with assaulting the officers and remanded in pre-trial custody the next day. The accusation carries hefty fines and up

to five years' imprisonment.

A police statement last week claimed that Hakobian punched one of the policemen and slapped the other after they "reprimanded" him for being drunk and wrongly signing the document. The AHA activist strongly denies that, according to his defense lawyer and representatives of Armenia's state human rights ombudsman who visited him in Yerevan's Nubarashen prison.

Danielian likewise insisted on Monday that Hakobian did not attack the policemen and was himself beaten up at the Kentron police. He claimed to have obtained photographs of his comrade showing traces of violence on his face and head.

The official version of events has also been dismissed by several international and regional human rights organizations. In a joint statement issued last week, they demanded the immediate release of Hakobian.

The Moscow-based Memorial Human Rights Center also expressed "outrage" at the case in a separate appeal to the Armenian authorities. "Attacks on independent journalists, members of opposition organizations and human rights activists in Armenia have become a virtually daily occurrence," it said.

Turkish-Armenian Roadmap Deal 'Not Implemented'

A controversial framework agreement on the normalization of Turkish-Armenian relations announced in late April is not being implemented, according to Turkey's ambassador to Azerbaijan.

"There is no progress in the implementation of the roadmap signed between Turkey and Armenia," Hulusi Kilic was quoted by the Azerbaijani

APA news agency as saying on Tuesday. "Nothing is being done. Nothing has changed."

Kilic gave no reasons for that. He reportedly said last month Turkey will not reopen its border with Armenia until the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is resolved, echoing statements repeatedly made by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in recent months.

Six Major US Companies Lobbying Against Armenia Genocide Bill

Continued from page 1

Besides the genocide resolution, the companies lobbied on Pentagon spending, climate change, taxes and more.

United Technologies, which sells Sikorsky helicopters to Turkey, says it provided information to lawmakers "that helped round out their understanding of the international trade and national security interests involved."

But businesses lobbying against the resolution are not being "good corporate citizens," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., its lead sponsor.

Lobbying on human rights issues comes with risks, said Gerry Keim, associate dean at Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business. Several companies halted their efforts opposing restrictions on white minority-ruled South Africa in the 1980s when anti-apartheid activists applied pressure.

"Originally, they were concerned about markets in South Africa. Then they were concerned about markets here," Keim said.

Other analysts say any public backlash against companies lobbying on the Armenia genocide resolution would be minimal because the firms

serve governments, not individual consumers who could boycott their products.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee has not taken up the resolution and the Senate does not have a version. A spokeswoman for the House committee said its chairman has not decided when the resolution — or other pending bills — will be taken up as the House considers legislation on Pakistan, State Department funding and other matters.

But pressure on the six companies to avoid offending Turkey is intense. Among the ventures between U.S. businesses and Turkey are a \$3 billion contract from Northrop to a Turkish company to be a supplier for fighter jets. Goodrich Corp. and a Turkish firm agreed to a joint venture for maintenance and repair work on engine components. BAE Systems and a Turkish company jointly market and supply armored vehicles to the Turkish armed forces.

Chevron holds a stakes in a pipeline that crosses the country. Raytheon has agreed to sell to Turkey Stinger missile launcher systems valued at \$34 million and is working to sell its missile defense systems.

US State Department Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

Freedom and Democracy Report on Armenia

Part 1: Political and Human Rights Conditions

Armenia is a constitutional republic with a population of approximately 3.2 million. The constitution provides for an elected president and a unicameral legislature (the National Assembly). The country has a multiparty political system. The significantly flawed 2008 presidential elections resulted in a political crisis that remains unresolved. On March 1, 2008, the government used force to disperse demonstrators, arrested scores of protestors, and imposed a 20-day state of emergency that severely restricted media freedoms and the right of assembly. Clashes between demonstrators and security forces resulted in 10 deaths. The government's human rights record deteriorated significantly after the March violence. Authorities used harassment and intrusive application of bureaucratic measures to intimidate and retaliate against government opponents. Police beat pretrial detainees and failed to provide due process in some cases. The National Security Service and the police acted with impunity and engaged in arbitrary arrest and detention; courts remained subject to political pressure from the executive branch, with the selective prosecution of political opponents and absence of due process reflecting the judiciary's lack of independence; prison conditions remained cramped and unhealthy; and authorities did not always respect citizens' privacy. Journalists continued to practice self-censorship, the government enacted a controversial two-year moratorium on new TV and radio licenses, and the government and laws restricted religious freedom. Violence against women and spousal abuse, trafficking in persons, discrimination against persons with disabilities, and societal harassment of homosexuals also were reported.

Part 2: U.S. Government Democracy Objectives

The U.S. democracy and human rights strategy focuses on promoting democratic institutions and processes, political pluralism, an independent media, an independent judiciary, the rule of law, a vibrant civil society, respect for human rights, freedom of religion, and institutional capacity of government agencies and NGOs to combat trafficking in persons. U.S. assistance has worked to improve electoral systems, procedures, and infrastructure, as well as to enhance the role of civil society in promoting democratic electoral processes. Continued implementation of the country's Compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) that entered into force in September 2006 depends on progress in democratic practices and on its policy performance on MCC's "Ruling Justly" indicators. This reinforces the importance of promoting democratic and human rights reforms to underpin the broader bilateral relationship.

In response to the flawed presidential elections and other democratic backsliding in Armenia in 2008, the United States has intensified work with civil society, independent media, local government, women and youth activists, and reformers within the government to

reverse negative trends and respond to public demand for reform and democratization. Promoting the engagement of informed citizens in political processes and encouraging a more representative political culture are particularly critical in reversing anti-democratic trends. Through a wide array of assistance programs, the United States seeks to support government watchdogs and human rights organizations to increase accountability and transparency in the government, and to support anticorruption efforts that foster a culture of lawfulness among both the government and the governed. The United States also has continued pursuing its key objective of combating trafficking in persons in the country.

Part 3: Supporting Top Priorities and Other Aspects of Human Rights and Democratic Governance

U.S. officials use diplomatic engagement to promote democracy and human rights-related goals with government officials, political parties, civil society, and media representatives at all levels, and also regularly convey these messages through local media. Key activities included pressing for due process rights for jailed political figures, freedom of assembly, media freedom, and accountability for government actions during the 2008 elections and the ensuing political crisis. U.S. officials repeatedly have warned the government that MCC funding is contingent upon its progress in democratic practices and in meeting the MCC indicators, and the United States withheld some funding during the year when setbacks occurred. The United States continues to implement its three-year democracy promotion strategy, part of which focuses on raising the integrity of the country's electoral processes in the months before Yerevan mayoral elections in May 2009. The United States provided a broad array of assistance to promote free and fair presidential elections in February 2008. This included programs to improve the accuracy of the country's national voter list; strengthen election administration; increase voter awareness of elections-related public policy issues; strengthen the capacity of political parties to develop constituencies and issue-based platforms that respond to citizen interests; improve media coverage of the campaign and public policy issues; promote citizen participation; and enhance the ability of judges, prosecutors, and defense lawyers to handle election-related grievances. U.S. efforts in support of an independent judiciary included providing translations and training to prosecutors and judges on case law supporting the European Convention on Human Rights. U.S. efforts also have been crucial in the drafting of a Judicial Code of Ethics, a law on the defense bar, and an annual bar exam that admits new attorneys in a transparent and objective manner. The United States continues to conduct training programs for judges, prosecutors, attorneys, and police with the aim of bringing law enforcement and judicial practices into line with international standards. These training programs have

focused on a defendant's right to confront witnesses, domestic violence, financial crime investigations, and the investigation and prosecution of corruption.

While the United States continues to support the development of more professional and sustainable media outlets and to promote independent regional media organizations, new emphasis is being placed on supporting the development of alternative sources of information and raising awareness of the law on freedom of information among government officials, journalists, lawyers, judges, NGOs, members of parliament, and political party members. Additionally, the United States provided funding to train journalists in international journalism standards. The United States further supports freedom of information via support of four American Corners that provide information about U.S. democratic institutions. To promote the rule of law and fight corruption, the United States advocates for improved anticorruption legislation that limits judicial discretion in sentencing and increases penalties for perjury, bribery, and related crimes. The United States also provides funding to civil society groups to investigate and expose corruption in schools and the court system. U.S. assistance works to reduce corruption by establishing and supporting Advocacy and Action Centers in four regions. These centers provide support to citizens to help resolve corruption-related problems, offer legal assistance, and provide a mechanism for reporting corruption and directing complaints to government agencies. In addition, the program strengthens anticorruption institutions, including the government's Human Rights Defender (ombudsman). Separately, a U.S.-funded legal socialization project was implemented in over 150 secondary schools to teach students about their rights and responsibilities under the law, and radio series were sponsored to raise awareness on human rights and combating corruption.

U.S. officials promote a vibrant civil society by encouraging the government, independent and opposition political parties, and civil society organizations to engage in constructive dialogue on governance issues. With U.S. funding, local advocacy NGOs pursue initiatives to promote human rights, democratic development, fair and transparent electoral processes, political party development, and civil society.

U.S.-supported NGOs also continue to make inroads in supporting mental health care, building capacity to plan and execute advocacy campaigns, lobbying on major environmental cases, and strengthening dialogue between local authorities and communities on local issues. A grassroots youth community action program in more than 80 communities throughout the country has mobilized youth to address local issues and tackle community problems through advocacy and direct action.

To promote respect for human rights, U.S. officials maintain collaborative relations with local human rights defenders and human rights NGOs. U.S. funding for some of these NGOs helped improve independent reporting of human rights abuses. Other funding allowed for trial monitoring of court cases of opposition members arrested for their role in protests related to the presidential elections. In response to a government request for assistance to set up an independent commission to investigate the March 1-2 violence, U.S. officials suggested, and subsequently arranged and funded, a visit to the country by former members of the U.S. 9/11 Commission staff to share their bipartisan experience on investigating a national crisis. U.S. funding also provided training to youth throughout the country on the themes of tolerance, mutual understanding, human rights, and democratic values. Additional funding supported public awareness campaigns, training programs, and shelters for victims of domestic violence. U.S. officials frequently discuss religious freedom problems with government and religious leaders as part of the overall policy to promote human rights. To combat human trafficking, U.S. officials meet regularly with government interlocutors and members of the international antitrafficking working group to support their efforts. U.S. officials monitor trafficking trials and propose recommendations on antitrafficking policy and funding objectives to the government, and U.S. antitrafficking assistance provides annual funding to a shelter that offers safe haven, medical, social, and legal services for victims of trafficking. U.S. assistance also continues to provide training for the Border Guards Service, the National Security Service, and the police on antitrafficking prevention and detection efforts. Other funding supports raising public awareness about the forms and dangers of trafficking.

Ter-Petrosian Pushes For Broader Opposition Collaboration

Continued from page 1

The HAK announced a break in public rallies until September 18 as its leader repeated his call for all democratic political forces to rally around the opposition platform.

As part of this platform, Ter-Petrosian suggested a dozen points of cooperation, including the demand that the Sarkisian administration stop questioning the fact of genocide by agreeing to establish a joint Armenian-Turkish panel of experts to study the his-

torical background of Ottoman-era killings of more than a million Armenians and efforts to avert great Armenian concessions in the continuing negotiations with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Other points unveiled by the opposition leader included the release of jailed opposition members, a credible international investigation of the deadly unrest of March 1-2, 2008, a major overhaul of the country's electoral system and abolishing economic monopolies, etc.

ABMDR Opens Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan

Facility is a major advance toward life-saving bone marrow transplants

LOS ANGELES -- The Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR) recently unveiled its Stem Cell Harvesting Center in Yerevan with a grand opening celebration. The much-anticipated event was attended by scores of ABMDR donors, sponsors, patients, physicians, and special guests including VivaCell-MTS general manager Ralph Yirikian, a major supporter of the registry; Archbishop Tatev Sargsyan, who conveyed a special commendation from His Holiness

"While it was wonderful to be surrounded by so many friends, supporters, and colleagues, ultimately the most heartwarming sight was that of our patients and stem cell donors finding common ground in the new facility, where hope awaits those afflicted by life-threatening diseases." Accordingly, Dr. Avagyan added, the honor of cutting the ribbon of the Stem Cell Harvesting Center was given to Mrs. Varduh, the ABMDR's latest bone marrow stem cell donor.

Commenting on the opening of the center, Dr. Frieda Jordan, president of the ABMDR Board of Directors, said, "We've been working on this project for the past year, sparing no effort or resource for its realization." After acquiring the facility, the ABMDR recruited top medical talent and began the arduous process of training personnel and securing medical machinery.

As Dr. Jordan explains, the project was made possible by a number of major corporate and individual donations, as well as grassroots support through the registry's first-ever telethon, held on April 13 last year. With a total of \$850,000 raised, the ABMDR was able to renovate the Stem Cell Harvesting Center site, equip it with state-of-the-art machinery, and continue to train personnel.

In 2006, the ABMDR's HLA tissue-typing laboratory passed the inspection of the European Federation of Immunogenetics (EFI). In May this year, the laboratory passed the EFI's second inspection "with flying colors," paving the way for the future accreditation of the Stem Cell Harvesting Center itself.

The only one of its kind in the



A scene from the center's opening (ABMDR photo)

Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians; ABMDR Advisory Board member Nani Oskanian; a representative from Armenia's Ministry of Health; and a group of supporters from Los Angeles who had traveled to Armenia to take part in the celebration.

"The opening of the Stem Cell Harvesting Center was an extremely touching experience for every one of us," said Dr. Sevak Avagyan, executive director of ABMDR Armenia.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Stem Cell Harvesting Center (ABMDR photo)

region, the ABMDR's Stem Cell Harvesting Center can store and harvest stem cells provided by healthy bone marrow donors. The stem cells subsequently can be utilized in transplants for patients suffering from life-threatening blood-related diseases such as leukemia and other cancers. "It was absolutely critical to have a stem cell harvesting center in Armenia, since the majority of the ABMDR's bone marrow stem cell donors are residents of the republic," Dr. Jordan said. "Having this facility in the country means that local stem cell donors will be spared the often exorbitant expense and inconvenience of traveling abroad to donate their stem cells. The center is equipped with cutting-edge medical machinery that allows our staff to perform not only HLA tissue typing, stem cell harvesting, and cell storage, but autologous transplants as well. These latter procedures can be life-savers for cancer patients, as they restore the integrity and function of bone marrows damaged by chemotherapy."

Dr. Jordan added that the Stem Cell Harvesting Center has also fast become an important hub for medical learning, and that it will continue to grow as a provider of workshops for medical students.

"Today, as our next major goal is to establish a dedicated stem cell transplantation center in Armenia, a top priority is to push for the highest pos-

sible standards in the quality and effectiveness of our operations," Dr. Jordan continued. "Now that the dream of having a stem cell harvesting center has become reality, we're working hard toward the next logical step, a full-fledged transplantation center,



A young ABMDR patient (ABMDR photo)

which would give thousands of Armenian patients access to affordable, life-saving stem cell transplants."

According to Dr. Jordan, the transplantation-center project will be showcased during "Match for Life 2009," the ABMDR's annual gala, on July 12. The event, which will be held at the Glendale Hilton in Glendale, California, will honor Ralph Yirikian as Man of the Year, recognize the outstanding services of several ABMDR volunteers, and celebrate the ongoing support of the registry's many benefactors and volunteer assistants.

For reserving tickets to the "Match for Life 2009" gala, call the ABMDR office at (323) 663-3609, Nectar Kalajian at (626) 705-2565, or Ani Azar at (818) 606-6000.

Subcommittee Approves Aid for Armenia

Continued from page 1

will go a long way towards strengthening these emerging democracies."

The \$48 million in economic aid matches Armenia's total in the fiscal year 2009 bill and represents an enormous jump from the Administration's proposal. The subcommittee increased the President's proposal for aid to Armenia from \$30 million to \$48 million, and provided \$10 million in humanitarian assistance for Karabagh. The President's proposal had requested more funding for military assistance for Azerbaijan than for Armenia. However, the subcommittee restored military assistance parity between Armenian and Azerbaijan at \$3 million for each country.

The State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee also strengthened language governing the President's authority to waive Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, a provision that restricts aid to Azerbaijan due to its blockades and other offensive actions against Armenia and Karabagh. The bill requires the president to consult with Congress before he can waive the Freedom of Support Act.

Call for Papers International Conference on the Armenian Communities of Asia Minor University of California, Los Angeles, Saturday-Sunday, March 19-20, 2010 Sponsored by the UCLA Armenian Educational Chair in Modern Armenian History

The 18th in the AEF Chair series on Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces will focus on the Armenian Communities of Asia Minor (Anatolia) from ancient times to the present. The area covered will be from the Asiatic shores of the Sea of Marmara to the borders of Caesarea (Kaiseria; Kayseri) and along the Black and Mediterranean seas to Sinope and Cilicia. There were significant active Armenian communities in Kastamuni, Izmid, Bursa, Bandirma, Adabazar, Bardizag, Eskishehir, Kutahia, Konia, Yozgat, and elsewhere in Asia Minor. Abstracts are invited that cover aspects of the social, economic, art and architectural, educational, musical, religious, administrative, and political history of any single community or the region as a whole. Caesarea (Kesaria/Kayseri), Smyrna/Izmir, Constantinople, and Cilicia are not included as they have been the subject of previous conferences. In case of need, there will be funding for partial air fare and accommodations.

Please submit an abstract of 300 to 500 words by September 1, 2009, together with the following information: (1) Your full name and title; (2) Academic affiliation; (3) mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number.

In the first instance, please inform me of your intent to submit an abstract so that I may determine if there are sufficient materials and interest to organize such a conference.

Please respond to hovannis@history.ucla.edu and send your abstract by Word attachment to the same address.

Richard Hovannisian

AEF Chair in Modern Armenian History,
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