

Massis Weekly

Volume 29, No. 37

Saturday, OCTOBER 18, 2009

Turkish-Armenian Accords Signed After Last-Minute Snag Rapprochement Far From Guaranteed With Turkey Demanding a Pro-Azeri Resolution of Karabakh Conflict

ZURICH -- Armenia and Turkey finally agreed to sign on the Protocols late on Saturday after a last-minute dispute that threatened to derail their unprecedented rapprochement.

The signing ceremony held in Zurich, Switzerland was delayed by more than three hours, with Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian apparently objecting to a statement that was due to be read out by his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu. The content of that statement was not immediately known.

In the event, neither minister made any statements after sealing the two Turkish-Armenian protocols in what appeared to be a compromise arranged by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. She and Nalbandian arrived at the University of Zurich, the ceremony venue, in the same car.

The Armenian minister looked stern as he put pen to paper and shook hands with a smiling Davutoglu in the presence of Clinton, the foreign ministers of Switzerland, Russia and France as well as the European Union's foreign and security policy chief Javier Solana. Their attendance underscored the strong support for the Turkish-Armenian rapprochement shown by the world's leading powers.

The deal needs parliamentary approval in both countries, and Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian in par-



ticular faces vehement opposition from nationalists at home and the powerful Armenian diaspora abroad.

But the greatest threat comes from Turkey's demand for progress in Armenian talks with close Turkish ally Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh which broke away from Azerbaijan after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union in a war which cost 30,000 lives. Armenian-backed forces control Karabakh and a swathe of Azeri territory connecting it to Armenia but Azerbaijan wants the land back.

"Turkey will not normalize rela-

tions with Armenia before a breakthrough in the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process", Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday, raising more questions about the implementation of Turkish-Armenian agreements.

"I want to reiterate once again that Turkey cannot adopt a positive attitude unless Armenia withdraws from occupied Azerbaijani territories," he was reported to tell a news conference held in Ankara after a high-level meet-

Continued on page 3

Orhan Pamuk Back on Trial in Istanbul



ISTANBUL -- The Supreme Court General Judicial Assembly resolved to open the court case against writer Orhan Pamuk, laureate of the Nobel Prize for Literature, reports Turkish news source Bianet.org.

The author faces a fine of 36,000 TL (16,655 •) in compensation because of the following statement he made during an interview published in a Swiss magazine in February 2005: "30,000 Kurds and a million Armenians were killed in these lands and nobody but me dares to talk about it."

According to the U.K.'s Guardian, he was charged and tried for "public denigration of Turkish identity" under Article 301 of the penal code later that year, but the case was subsequently dropped in the wake of international outrage.

Pamuk was awarded the symbolic Grand Medal by Paris Municipality Mayor Bertrand Delanoë on October 6, 2009, reports Bianet.org.

At the ceremony, Pamuk said, "I am receiving this medal also on behalf of the city of Istanbul where I live." In Turkey, where he narrowly escaped from a prison sentence, Pamuk has been facing compensation claims for 4 years now for his ideas.

Recently, however, Turkey's Supreme Court of Appeals gave the green light for a civil case against the country's one and only Nobel Laureate. According to media reports, the court ruled that six nationalists had the right to go to court in order to demand compensation from Pamuk because of remarks made against the Turkish state, reports The National.

They argued that they, as Turkish citizens, had been insulted by Pamuk's statements.

Shishli district court had rejected the case earlier this year, saying that those who filed suit were not hurt by Pamuk's words individually; however, the appeals court ruled earlier this week that the plaintiffs had the right to feel insulted. The Shishli district court in Istanbul now has to restart proceedings.

Armenian Opposition Condemns Signing of Turkish-Armenian Protocols SDHP: Turkey-Armenia Normalization Process is Betrayal of the Armenian People and Statehood

Armenia's leading opposition forces reacted angrily to the signing of the Turkish-Armenian protocols, branding them as a sellout.

By signing the Armenian-Turkish protocols Turkey got what it wanted, and the Armenian authorities got what they deserved, according to a statement issued by the Armenia Board of the Social Democrat Hunchakian Party (SDHP).

The party pointed out that its concerns over Armenian-Turkish relations, as well as over the recently signed protocols, remained "incomprehensible for the incumbent regime, and the disgraceful consequences proved inevitable."

"Both in content and as an accomplished fact, the signed protocols are indicative of the Armenian authorities' political bankruptcy, shortsightedness and disgraceful diplomatic defeat. The centuries-old Turkish crafty diplomacy gained another victory over the illegitimate Armenian authorities, but not over the Armenian people's sober thought.

Turkey got what it wanted

The Armenian authorities got what they deserve

Armenia and the Armenian people did not get anything, but denial of the Genocide

The protocols will make the Artsakh Armenians defenseless in the future

Turkey will dominate in the South Caucasus," the statement reads. The party stressed it will never put up with the "disgraceful and antinational content of the protocols."

"Turkey-Armenia normalization process is betrayal of the Armenian people and statehood". Concludes the statement.

Armenia's largest opposition alliance has officially condemned as "immoral and inadmissible" the signing of landmark agreements to normalize Turkish-Armenian agreements.

The Armenian National Congress (HAK) again accused Serzh Sarkisian of willingly sacrificing greater international recognition of the Armenian genocide in return for what it called false Turkish promises to unconditionally reopen the border between the two

countries.

"No Armenian leader has ever given such big gifts to the Turkish state and nation," Levon Zurabian, the HAK's central office coordinator, charged on Wednesday, presenting the bloc's official reaction to the weekend signing ceremony in Zurich that made headlines in the international media.

"The signing of the Turkey-Armenia protocols is the latest unfortunate proof of the ruling regime's political bankruptcy and diplomatic wretchedness," read a separate statement issued by the HAK.

"Even this immoral and inadmissible deal did not live up to Armenia's expectations," the HAK statement said, pointing to Turkish leaders' continuing linkage between border opening and a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. It said Ankara will achieve its main objectives even if it fails to ensure the mandatory ratification of the protocols by the Turkish parliament.

Zharangutyun party was also

Continued on page 2

Leaders of the Armenian Diaspora Express Dismay Over Serzh Sarkisian's Tour Promoting the Protocols

According to political leaders in the Diaspora, President Serzh Sarkisian's recent visit to the Armenian communities in France, United States and Lebanon were proven to be unproductive and pointless.

In regards to the president's early October meeting held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, Chairman of the US Social Democrat Hunchakian Party's Western Region Dr. Harry Sarafian stated that "Sarkisian's answers were illogical" when asked about the issue of the Armenian Genocide in regards to the protocols and the Armenian government's lack of utilizing the same due diligence towards the establishment of dialogue after the tragic events of March 1st with the Armenian opposition as it has carried out with the Turkish government.

"If the Armenian regime had put in half as much the effort to open a dialogue with the opposition in Armenia to resolve their differences, Armenia would have been in a better bargaining position within the international forum in terms of the protocols." Stated Dr Sarafian and concluded that "In general the President's visit to the U.S. was pointless. The impression he left us with was that his entire visit was to simply say that he met with the Diaspora and listened to their concerns. That was it."

Aharon Shekherdeman, Editor-in-Chief of Lebanon-based "Ararat" newspaper and member of the Social-Democratic Hunchakian party said in regards to the President's visit to Lebanon that, "the Armenian Diaspora has many reservations regarding the signing of the Turkish Armenian agreement. Although President Serzh Sarkisian was very convincing in his answers to the Diaspora regarding the protocol clauses, the Diaspora remains

in the dark regarding the issues that were posed to him for further clarification."

"They assured us that there aren't any clauses in the agreement that would undermine the best interests of Armenia, however, is that really true?" Shekherdeman added that the two hour meeting with the Armenian Diaspora in Lebanon was not enough time to address the Diaspora's concerns.

When asked about the president's visit to Lebanon, Sebouh Kalpakian member of Social-Democratic Hunchak party and Lebanese Parliamentarian stated: "Despite Serzh Sarkisian's convincing speech, the Diaspora's stance regarding the protocols has remained unchanged. The slim minority who support the protocols remained in favor of the protocols and the majority who are against the protocols remain in disagreement of the protocols."

"The issue that remains to be discussed is the mistrust of the government by the people; that should be the central issue for the Armenian government so that the people can regain the trust of their government," said Kalpakian. In the meantime, he is convinced that Armenians are going to pay for the aftermath of the signing of the protocols, however he believes that it is uncertain to what degree.

He continued: "I cannot say that President Serzh Sarkisian's address to the Diaspora regarding the protocols [in Lebanon] was a success or not because the true purpose of his visit is not apparent."

Dr. Sarafian also stated that the three traditional Armenian political parties including the Social Democrat Hunchakian Party, The Armenian Revolutionary Federation and the Armenian Democratic Liberal "Ramgavar" Party refused to attend the banquet in honor of President Sarkisian following the meeting in Los Angeles.

Sarkisian and Gul Meet in Bursa to Watch Armenian-Turkey Soccer Match

The presidents of Armenia and Turkey watched together a match of their national football teams in the Turkish city of Bursa on Wednesday night after holding talks and praising significant progress in their efforts to normalize bilateral relations.

The two men made no public statements before and immediately after the match which Turkey won 2-0. News reports said Sarkisian and members of an Armenian government delegation accompanying him attended an official reception given by Gul before heading back to Bursa airport at around midnight local time.

Gul and Sarkisian began the talks in a local hotel in the company of their foreign ministers and other top officials about four hours before the match. "We are not writing history, we are making history," the official Anatolia news agency quoted the Turkish president as saying during the 40-minute session.

The normalization of Turkish-Armenian relations, continued Gul, is a thorny process that can not be completed "in one day." "We have witnessed together that we can solve difficult prob-

lems during this process," he said.

"A legal platform was prepared. The next step will be to make progress on this platform," added the Turkish president.

According to Anatolia, Sarkisian spoke of "difficulties" he has experienced in selling the Turkish-Armenian agreements signed in Zurich on Saturday to the domestic public and the worldwide Armenian Diaspora. He insisted that most Armenians as well as Turks approve of the deal paving the way for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two states and reopening of their border.

"The number of people thinking positively will increase over time," Sarkisian was reported to say. "We are doing the right thing."

The two presidents then spoke tête-à-tête and had a dinner before watching the game later in the day. Sarkisian smiled and congratulated Gul with a handshake every time the Turkish team scored in front of a capacity crowd of about 20,000 spectators that packed Bursa's Ataturk Stadium amid tight security measures.

Who Determines Armenia-Turkey Preconditions?: True Nature of "Historic" Signing Seen in Hillary's Persistence

Editorial
Armenianow.com

While the western media is reacting to the signing of protocols Saturday as if 100 years of Turkish-Armenian animosity has been whitewashed by however much ink is required to sign foreign minister's names, statements by Turkey's Prime Minister reveal a different and perhaps more accurate picture that demands prudent examination before Armenia's parliament signs off on the documents.

Just a day after Armenia's Foreign Minister did as he was told (by Hillary Clinton and others) to put pen to paper, Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says Armenia must withdraw from the occupied territories bordering Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to news reports Erdogan says Turkey cannot take a "positive step" toward opening the joint border with Armenia until Armenian troops give up ground they overtook in the battle to secure a perimeter for Karabakh.

So there it is.

Let President Serzh Sarkisian say now that there are no "pre-conditions". Let Diaspora organizations who swallowed hard but willingly to support the protocols now back the president and say that he has battled "courageously" to ensure the integrity of Armenia's interests. Where is the justification for their support, in light of these remarkably frank and informative revelations by the Turks?

By signing the protocols Armenia has welcomed Turkey – and more significantly, its backing of the US, Russia, France – to have its way with interpreting history and with shaping a future that Armenia must accept but cannot determine.

If you believe reports coming from American media on Saturday's signing of the Armenia-Turkey protocols, Hillary Clinton deserves more credit (or blame) than Minister of Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandyan or his counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu in getting the deal to the table.

From the seat of a BMW with papers flying and cell phones in both ears and, surely, an appreciation of the absurdity that a woman from Arkansas who grew up in the "Better Dead Than Red" era, should be the matchmaker between these countries must have struck the Secretary of State. Aides aiding and negotiators negotiating, Secretary Clinton

brokered ways for Nalbandyan and Davutoglu to make nice so as not to spoil the glory of a moment that belonged to she and to her co-fixers, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, and French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner.

Like good little boys brought to the principal's office after a dust up on the playground, Nalbandyan and Davutoglu put their marks where they were told then kissed their proxy's cheeks and schlunked off into the Zurich night deprived of the dignity of even making speeches on this day regaled as "historic".

Look at a map.

The United States needs every avenue possible to secure overland passage to its growing points of conflict. An open border between Armenia and Turkey could only enhance its position that now includes over-flight rights with Russia.

Led by the latest Nobel Peace Prize winner, the US is now engaged in two wars on this continent and threatens a third (Iran). Armenia has nothing to offer but its geographic location. More vitally, though, the deal would allow the US military to expand its ties and aid to Azerbaijan – an aggrieved third party – and no longer bound by a sense of parity in security aid to Armenia/Azerbaijan..

This "rapprochement", need we be told, is likely less about Armenia and Turkey relations than America-Afghanistan-Iran-Iraq convenience. (It is even more likely about US and Russian designs and a new-found cooperation in the region, post-Georgian war.)

Previously part of the Silk Road, Armenia is now valued as something far more ominous as it is positioned to become a link for the Russians that bypasses Georgia for commerce and a more direct line for the US that provides access to Iran that so far is obstructed by America's own war in Iraq.

According to big-time US media reporting on Saturday's signing in Zurich, Secretary Clinton was adamant and unrelenting in making sure signatures were secured for the Armenian-Turkish protocols.

Reportedly, she told Nalbandyan and Davutoglu: "This is too important, you've come too far. It has to be seen through."

It has to be.

And so it will be. Like it or not.

Armenian Opposition Condemns Signing of Turkish-Armenian Protocols

Continued from page 1

quick to condemn the high-profile signing of the two agreements welcomed around the world.

Zharangutyun's U.S.-born top leader, Raffi Hovannisian, described it as "the latest entry in the ledger of crimes committed, and covered up, against the Armenian nation."

"As a servant of the Armenian nation ... I am appalled by this latest offense," Hovannisian said in an "open letter to the Armenian nation." "As an Armenian citizen ... I ache as the soul

of our nation is traded away for illusory promises of 'good will' and 'open borders' with Turkey."

Hovannisian condemned Yerevan for pledging to formally recognize Armenia's existing border with Turkey and agreeing to the formation of a joint panel that would look into the 1915 extermination and deportation of the Ottoman Empire's Armenian population. That, he said, "not only challenges the untouchable veracity of the Genocide, but secures the complicity of the Armenian state in absolving Turkey of any responsibility for its genocidal actions."

Book Review

Michael Bobelian's "Children of Armenia"

Michael Bobelian: *Children of Armenia: A Forgotten Genocide and the Century-Long Struggle for Justice.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009. 308 pp.

By Prof. Richard G. Hovannisian

It is said that one of the earliest lessons imparted in schools of journalism is that the first few pages of a manuscript are critical in determining its acceptance or rejection. Those introductory pages must capture the attention of the in-house reader, the literary critic, and ultimately the book-purchasing public. If this is indeed the norm, then Michael Bobelian has met the challenge. His prologue introduces Gourgen Yanikian preparing for the unthinkable in the 1970s—a carefully-choreographed plan aimed at Turkish consular officials. The well-educated, aged survivor hopes to draw attention to the enormous unrequited wrong committed against the Armenian people by engaging in a shocking act of violence against individuals who are innocent except for being representatives of a perpetrator and denialist state. True to a good mystery plot and using the approach of Samantha Power and other well-known writers, the author leaves the reader in suspense as to what actually happens thereafter. Rather, before returning to unravel the mystery much later in the narrative, he dips back into the history of the Armenian Genocide and the efforts of Armenian American advocacy groups to gain recognition and condemnation of the Great Crime and some form of relief and justice. He does this with an engaging literary style and a vivid vocabulary while intertwining the historical and the personal.

The first four chapters provide a historical overview of the Armenian Genocide; the miscarriage of justice in the postwar Turkish courts-martial; the acts of Armenian vengeance seekers who felled several of the chief architects of the genocide; the struggle to create an independent Armenian republic and the advocacy campaigns of the American Committee for the Independence of Armenia, boasting a roster of prominent American political, religious, and educational figures and driven by the tireless attorney Vahan Cardashian. He also addresses the strategies of successive Turkish governments to suppress memory of the Armenian Genocide, a policy so successful that the calamity had become a virtual "Forgotten Genocide" by the outbreak of World War II, barely two decades later.

These developments from 1915 to the 1940s are generally well known to students of the period, but the four chapters are a useful prologue to the main focus of the study. As it happens, however, most but not all of the minor historical errors and other slips appear in this introductory section (inaccuracy or inconsistency in dating, geographic distances and terminology, sequence of events, cited statistical figures, and proper identification). Moreover, many of the passages, with or without ascription, seem all too famil-

iar or derivative. While not detracting greatly from the value of the broader study, such weak spots could have been avoided with the input of a specialist in modern Armenian history and perhaps a copyeditor's more discerning eye.

This observation notwithstanding, the book is captivating and is of particular value to persons interested in U.S. foreign policy, the history of the Armenian American community, and the achievements and shortcomings in Armenian advocacy efforts, especially in the United States Congress. Bobelian not only has gained impressive insight into these matters through his numerous interviews with key individuals but he is also the first, as far as this reviewer knows, to have made use of the now declassified relevant files of the State Department and other agencies for the period from the 1940s onward. He has been able to delve behind the scenes to discover the actual views and attitudes of officials whose tactful public statements might be at great variance from their blunt and even deprecating private assessments.

What becomes clear after the introductory chapters is that United States policy, starting with the presidency of Harry S. Truman and the formulation of the Truman Doctrine to block Soviet expansion by bolstering up Greece and Turkey, was no longer driven primarily by economic interests but equally and even more so by superpower ideological, geostrategic, and military considerations. This position created strong barriers to the rather unsteady attempts at Armenian advocacy, which were regarded as undesirable annoyances by ranking officials of all administrations since the Truman years. The redefinition of U.S. policy is clearly evidenced in a State Department memorandum as early as November 1945: "This Government does not now reaffirm the stand taken by President Wilson . . . This Government does not favor the establishment of an independent Armenian National State at the expense of any country." Another telling State Department memorandum, which rings true up to the present time, includes the observation that the "Armenian case . . . rested too heavily on history and massacres." In other words, Armenians had neither the power nor the geopolitical wherewithal to influence the course of events. Clearly, humanitarian and historical factors were not—and are not—central to the formulation of fundamental U.S. foreign policy.

This negative conclusion aside, 1965 was a watershed year for renewed Armenian advocacy, now with a native American-born generation discovering the ways to take part in the American political process. Bobelian recounts the breakthrough with the erection of an Armenian memorial monument on city property in Montebello, California, the preceding contested and tense public hearings, and the ultimate dedication of the monument in Bicknell Park in 1967 with thousands of survivors and their progeny in attendance. He also describes the increasingly strident responses of both the Turkish and U.S. governments.

The Armenian Assembly of America was formed as an umbrella

organization in 1971-72 and became the primary conduit of Armenian advocacy in Washington D.C., although the Armenian National Committee established its own presence there in the 1980s. With the support of a core of sympathetic Congressmen, some but not all with Armenian constituencies, the Armenian lobby was able to get commemorative resolutions passed in the House of Representatives in 1975 and once again, with the critical leadership of Speaker Thomas 'Tip' O'Neill, in 1984, in memory of the "victims of the genocide perpetrated in Turkey." Bobelian presents both what is in the official record and, from personal interviews, what was happening behind the scenes, assessing the factors that allowed the Armenians to have their way at least twice within one decade despite the mounting pressure of the U.S. Executive Branch as well as paid lobbyists and business partners of the Turkish government.

Armenian advocacy hit a firm ceiling after 1984, as the mobilization of elements profiting from cordial relations with Turkey received the powerful backing of the State Department, the Pentagon, and the White House itself, as one president after another reneged on campaign promises regarding recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Bobelian goes into great detail about the strongest Armenian push in the United States Senate in 1989-90, this time led by Republican Senator and later presidential candidate Robert Dole and his Democratic colleagues Edward 'Ted' Kennedy and Carl Levin. Even though the administration of George H.W. Bush, reinforced by dozens of U.S. corporations, used every means possible to scuttle the resolution, the legislation advanced through the critical Senate Judiciary Committee. It was then that increased political and economic pressure by the Turkish government and concerns about American military bases in Turkey, the economic impact on the American defense industry, the safety of the Jewish community in Turkey, and other issues all came together to deprive the advocates of the minimum number of votes needed to override a threatened filibuster. On the other hand, what

was significant in these debates was that the opponents raised pragmatic arguments and, unlike in previous years, there were no longer voices that questioned the reality of the Armenian Genocide and the pain and suffering of the Armenian people.

Although Bobelian ends the Congressional aspect of his study with 1990, many of the same themes have continued over into the Clinton administration, when the president himself had to intervene directly to remove an Armenian commemorative resolution from the House's agenda, and into the twenty-first century when President Barack Obama had to seek a way to circumvent the issue in his declaration in April 2009.

Since the 1990s, advocates of the Armenian cause have also sought other avenues of action. One such way, following the Jewish model, has been the pursuit of legal recourse by suing companies or governments connected in some way with the Armenian Genocide. A successful example was the filing of a class-action lawsuit against the New York Life Insurance Company on behalf of beneficiaries of policyholders who had perished in the genocide. The case ended in an out-of-court settlement of some millions of dollars that were distributed to descendants of the victims as well as to several Armenian benevolent, charitable, and educational organizations. This approach has now been extended to other cases.

Michael Bobelian has made a significant contribution to an understanding of the potentials and limitations of advocacy groups that may hold the moral high ground but possess only limited economic, demographic, and political strength. It is a saga of persistence against great odds which occasionally has reaped sufficiently uplifting and nurturing benefits for the "Struggle for Justice" to continue.

Note: A slightly different version of this review will appear in the forthcoming issue (18:2, December 2009) of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, edited by Dr. Joseph Kéchichian

Turkish-Armenian Accords Signed After Last-Minute Snag

Continued from page 1

ing of Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).

Erdogan made clear that an internationally brokered agreement on Karabakh acceptable to Azerbaijan is critical for the ratification by the Turkish parliament of the two Turkish-Armenian relations envisaging that the establishment of diplomatic relations and opening of the border between the two nations.

"If the problems between Azerbaijan and Armenia are solved, then it will be easier for the Turkish community to embrace the normalization of the relations between Turkey and Armenia. Also, it will make it easier for the Turkish parliament to adopt the protocols," he said. The parliament and the Turkish public will therefore be closely following Armenian-Azerbaijani peace talks, he added.

Analysts and diplomats differ over how firm the Turkish demand for progress on Nagorno-Karabakh really is. Turkey also stands to boost its credentials as a moderniser in the West and remove another hurdle in its bid to join the European Union.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who signed the protocols with his Armenian counterpart Eduard Nalbandian in Zurich late on Saturday, likewise linked their mandatory ratification with a Karabakh settlement. "We, the government, want the protocols to pass through Parliament but they need to be submitted for approval in an appropriate psychological and political atmosphere," he told the state-run TRT television on Sunday.

"Not only Karabakh but also the seven Azerbaijani districts adjacent to Nagorno-Karabakh are under occupation. That should come to an end," said Davutoglu.

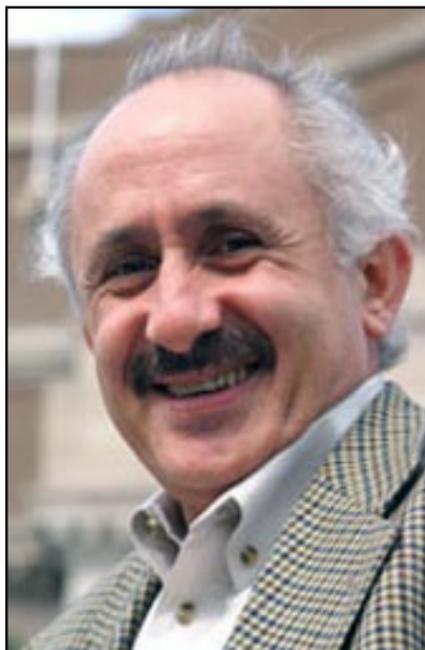
State of the Art of Armenian Genocide Research: Experts, Scholars to Gather at Clark University Workshop in April

WORCESTER, MA -- A groundbreaking workshop on Armenian genocide research will take place at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University on 8-10 April, 2010.

Professor Taner Akçam, Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marion Mugar Chair in Modern Armenian History and Genocide Studies at Clark University, will host "The State of the Art of Armenian Genocide Research: Historiography, Sources and Future Directions." The Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair at the University of Minnesota's College of Liberal Arts (Prof. Eric Weitz) and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) are co-sponsors.

As is common with scholarship on mass murder, the first researchers and scholars to document the Armenian genocide were survivors of it. They gathered documentation, compiled memoirs, and published these materials in a systematic way, initially primarily in Armenian. Following hundreds of publications on the subject in many languages and decades later, study of the Armenian Genocide has transitioned to academically trained specialists. It can now be said that the Armenian genocide, widely known as the "forgotten genocide," has rightfully taken an important place within the area of genocide studies.

Assembling eminent scholars of genocide, The State of the Art of Armenian Genocide Research: Historiography, Sources, and Future Directions will provide an overview of the state of research and the material available in various archives. The organizers aim to create serious discussion around the main problems and the



Professor Taner Akçam

fundamental questions of the field. World events demonstrate that a contested past has the power to influence present-day politics. Cooperation between distinguished scholars will make history a tool for reconciliation rather than an impediment to that end. The Strassler Center workshop, planned to coincide with the annual commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, will make clear that denial is no longer an option.

Further information about the workshop The State of the Art of Armenian Genocide Research: Historiography, Sources, and Future Directions will be available in the coming months. A public program will take place on April 9, while the remaining sessions will be limited to workshop participants.

To contact the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, telephone 508-793-8897; email chgs@clarku.edu; or visit online at www.clarku.edu/departments/holocaust/.

NAASR Academic Director to Discuss Development of Armenian Studies in the U.S.

BELMONT, MA -- NAASR Director of Academic Affairs Marc Mamigonian will give a lecture entitled "From Idea to Reality: The Development of Armenian Studies in the U.S." on Thursday, October 29, at 8:00 p.m., at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA.

This presentation of a work-in-progress will give an overview of the gradual growth of Armenian Studies in the United States, which over the course of about 70 years evolved from the work of a few individuals who were interested in Armenian linguistic and religious issues to an established field of study encompassing Armenian language, church, history, art, and literature, in leading American universities.

Among the episodes to be discussed will be several unsuccessful attempts to establish a center of Armenian Studies in the U.S. in the 1930s and 1940s and the successful efforts of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) to establish permanent programs or endowed chairs in Armenian Studies

beginning in the mid-1950s.

Marc A. Mamigonian is Director of Academic Affairs at NAASR, where he has worked since 1998. Prior to his time at NAASR, he spent two years at Boston University writing annotations for a multi-media edition of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. He is the author or co-author of several articles on the works of Joyce as well as numerous articles and reviews on Armenian subjects. He is the editor of the volumes *The Armenians of New England* and *Rethinking Armenian Studies* as well as NAASR's *Journal of Armenian Studies*.

Admission to the event is free (donations appreciated). The NAASR Center is located opposite the First Armenian Church and next to the U.S. Post Office. Ample parking is available around the building and in adjacent areas. The lecture will begin promptly at 8:00 p.m.

More information about the lecture is available by calling 617-489-1610, faxing 617-484-1759, e-mailing hq@naasr.org, or writing to NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02478.

Artist Emil Kazaz is Slated to be Honored in Pasadena by AGBU

PASADENA -- Taking place in Pasadena in early November is an outstanding three-day tribute to the life and art of Emil Kazaz - world-renowned sculptor and painter. Kazaz, who is known for his juxtaposition of mythical creatures, classic yet modern figures, and a playful view of the world, will be honored by AGBU for his lifetime achievements.

Starting Friday, November 6, and continuing through Sunday, November 8, Emil Kazaz's latest works will be on exhibit at the AGBU Center in Pasadena, California. This will be an exceptional opportunity to meet the artist, view and discuss his works, and purchase his paintings, sculptures, and mixed media pieces.

The climax of the weekend will be a tribute event at the AGBU Pasadena Center on Saturday, November 7, 2009, at 7:30pm. The public is invited to attend this free event and join art connoisseurs, critics, collectors and fellow artists for an evening of stimulation, presentation and musical entertainment.

Especially invited distinguished speakers for the November 7th tribute will include internationally esteemed art historian and author Shahen Khachatryan, who is currently the cultural advisor to His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, and the director of the Arshile Gorky Gallery in Armenia. A graduate of the Leningrad Academy of the Arts, Khachatryan has managed the National Art Gallery in Yerevan, and has served as the director of the highly regarded Martiros Sarian Museum. His vast knowledge of 19th - and 20th-century Armenian art will be a great asset in the night's discussion of Emil Kazaz's art. Most recently, Khachatryan published two prestigious art books on 19th-century Russian-Armenian seascape painter Hovhannes Aivazovsky and early 20th-century modernist painter Martiros Sarian.

Joe Lewis, a nationally known artist, author and educator who is currently serving as Dean of Alfred University's School of Art & Design, in Alfred, New York, will also speak at the event. Throughout his career, he has come across the masterful work of Emil Kazaz. His close association with Kazaz led Lewis to author many articles and essays on his art and the philosophy behind his creations. He will help shed light on Kazaz's oeuvre. Lewis is a graduate of Hamilton College, where he received a Master of Fine Arts degree, and from the Maryland College Institute of Art, as a Ford Foundation fellow. He has likened the characters and situations in Kazaz's art to the "adventurers of Homer, moving through unreal worlds of ap-



Artist Emil Kazaz in his studio

pearances where nothing is what it seems."

The evening presentation will be accompanied by the majestic music of Vatche Mankerian, internationally renowned pianist, composer, conductor, author, lecturer and a dedicated advocate of Armenian music. Mankerian holds a master's degree from the USC Thornton School of Music where he studied with Stewart Gordon, Eduardo Delgado and Nancy Bricard. He has performed as a soloist in the world's most revered venues spanning four continents, including the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra in Yerevan, Armenia.

Adding to the musical interlude will be operatic tenor Bakur Kalantaryan, who started his musical career at the age of eleven at one of Armenia's leading music schools, where he studied under Professor Nona Melkumova. During his four years at the Komitas Conservatory in Yerevan, he received numerous awards and delivered over a hundred performances. More recently, Kalantaryan was awarded the gold medal and named Grand Champion Vocalist of the Year during the World Championship of Performing Arts, held in Los Angeles, California.

His Eminence, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Western), will attend the event and represent His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians. Sinan Sinanian, representing the AGBU Central Board of Directors, and Berj Shahbazian, chairman of the AGBU Southern California District Committee, will also assist.

The three-day celebration is organized by the AGBU Southern California District Committee and the AGBU Kazaz Tribute Committee chaired by Haig Messerlian.

For more information, please call AGBU at: (626) 794-7942. The AGBU Center is located at 2495 E. Mountain St, Pasadena, California 91104.

Event dates are as follows: Art Exhibition: Friday and Saturday, Nov 6th-7th, 7:30 - 10:30 pm Sunday, Nov 8th, 2:00 - 6:00 pm Tribute Event: Saturday, Nov 7th, 7:30 pm



"Քաջ Նազար" հանդեսը եւ հեռուստաժամը
Ներկայացնում է

10-րդ ամեակի ԹԵԼԵԹՈՆ

Ի ՆՊԱՍՏ ՍՈՒՐԲ ԾՆՈՒՆԳԻ ԲԻՄՆԱԴՐԱՄԻ,
ԲԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ԾՆՈՂԱԶՈՒՐԿ ԵՒ ԲԱՇՄԱՆՂԱՄ
ԵՐԵՒԱՆԵՐԻ ԵՒ ՆՐԱՆՑ ՄԱՆԿԱՏՆԵՐԻ
ՎԵՐԱՆՈՐՈԳՈՒԹԵԱՆ ԲԱՍԱՐ
(հիմնադ 1999թ.)

Կիրակի, Նոյեմբեր 1, 2009
Երեկոեան ժամ 4-12-ը

Sponsored by

"KACH NAZAR" Magazine & TV Show

10 ANNIVERSARY

NATIONWIDE **TELETHON**

ON SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 1, 2009

to Benefit **CHRISTMAS FUND FOR ARMENIAN ORPHANS**
and **DISABLED CHILDREN**
and The **RESTORATION OF CHILDREN'S HOMES** (Est. 1999)

ՕԳՆԵՆՔ ՄԵՐ ԵՐԵՒԱՆԵՐԻՆ ՆՐԱՆՑ
ԱՊԱԳԱՆ ԿԵՐՏԵԼՈՒ ԲԱՍԱՐ

HELP OUR CHILDREN TO BUILD THEIR FUTURE . . .

AMGA
CHANNEL 280
Glendale, CA
From 4:00 pm
12midnight

P.O. BOX 250038 • GLENDALE, CA 91225

Tel: 818-246-0125 • 818-239-6880 or 818-606-2070

TAX ID # EIN 26-3208049

E-mail: forourkids99@gamil.com

