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President Sarkisian Invites Turkish President to Visit Armenia on April 24, 2015



YEREVAN -- President Serzh Sarkisian on Tuesday called on the winner of Turkey's upcoming presidential election to visit Armenia next year and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire.

Sarkisian announced his invitation at the meeting of the State Commission coordinating the events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. He scoffed at the official Turkish line that the 1915 mass killings of Armenians should be addressed not by governments but historians having access to the state archives of both countries.

"If Turkey's authorities want to know the truth they should come to Armenia and be with the Armenian people on April 24," Sarkisian said in televised remarks. "I don't think that they will call for visits to the archives after that."

"Using this opportunity, I am officially inviting the president of Turkey, whoever wins the forthcoming elections, to visit Armenia on April 24, 2015 and face up to telling testimonies of the history of the Armenian genocide," he declared.

The invitation was clearly ad-

dressed to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is widely expected to run in and win the presidential ballot slated for August. On the eve of the most recent genocide commemoration, Erdogan extended first-ever Turkish condolences to the descendants of the Armenians massacred in Ottoman Turkey.

"The recognition of the Armenian genocide is the only step which the Turkish leadership should take in order to rid itself of the burden of the past," Sarkisian said on Tuesday. "It's impossible to achieve a serious result with half-measures."

At the same time, the Armenian leader said that there is no animosity towards the Turkish people in Armenia. "Moreover, we try to create conditions in which the Armenian and Turkish people will be able to communicate with each other to find a way of reconciliation. It is with this purpose that we remain committed to normalizing relations with Turkey and opening the Armenian-Turkish border without preconditions," Sarkisian said.

The President also informed that he had sent invitations to the heads of a number of states to visit Armenia in 2015.

Karabakh Repels Azerbaijani Raid

Nagorno-Karabakh's military stopped another reconnaissance-sabotage group from infiltrating into the republic's territory Wednesday night, killing at least two Azeri commandoes and wounding one. The NKR Ministry of Defense said one Armenian soldier, Erik Gasparyan, was killed during the clashes.

According to the statement issued by the Ministry, the incident happened in the southern direction of the Line of Contact at about 2.55 am on May 28.

"The Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Army's frontline units, timely spotting the movement of the special detachment, took retaliatory actions, inflicting considerable losses on the enemy, driving it to its former positions," the

Defense Army press service said.

The NKR Defense Army extended condolences to the family and friends of the killed Armenian soldier. Investigation is underway to establish the details of the incident.

According to the report, the NKR military continues to control the situation along the entire Line of Contact.

At least two Armenian servicemen, including a lieutenant-colonel, have been killed and one wounded along the Line of Contact in southern Karabakh since early last week. In the meantime, last week the Karabakh military already reported one successful repulsion of an Azeri reconnaissance-sabotage group's infiltration attempt. It said at least three Azeri commandos were wounded then.

NKR Thanks Armenian Council of America, Supports Future Endeavors for NKR Independence

In a letter addressed to Sevak Khatchadorian, Chairman of the Armenia Council of America, Speaker of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (Artsakh) National Assembly, Ashot Ghulyan, expressed his gratitude towards Khatchadorian for his hard work and perseverance that led to the successful passage of AJR 32 in the California State Assembly.

Speaker Ghulyan states in his letter that the AJR 32 acknowledges Artsakh's continued efforts towards democratic progress as a free and independent republic, calling upon the President of United States and the Congress to support the right to self-determination of Artsakh. He also stressed the importance of the international community's recognition of Arstakh.

The Speaker acknowledged that Khatchadorian and the ACA will continue their work with the same level of motivation in the future, securing the best interests of the Pan-Armenian community, turning goals into realities.

"I am humbled by the kind words of Speaker Ghulyan regarding our work towards AJR 32," said Khatchadorian. "This is the first legislation passed in California acknowledging the independence of Artsakh. While it has been a great achievement at the State level, it



is our duty and moral obligation to continue working towards passage of similar legislation. I applaud the efforts of my ACA colleagues who worked tirelessly to advocate for this Resolution and most importantly, Assemblyman Mike Gatto who took the courageous steps to author this Resolution."

AJR 32 was passed in the California State Assembly in April of this year. It will be introduced next in the State Senate for consideration.

The Armenian Council of America is dedicated to educating the Armenian-American community in local political affairs, as well as actively pursuing Armenian-American participation in their respective local governments, to support political candidates who share the values of the Armenian American community.

PACE Suspends Committee Meetings in Azerbaijan for Preventing Free Movement of Assembly Officials

Following the Azerbaijani authorities' last-minute decision to withdraw a visa already granted to Vice-President of Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) René Rouquet (France, SOC), effectively preventing him from attending the meetings of the PACE Bureau and Standing Committee in Baku on 22 and 23 May, the Bureau of PACE decided in Baku that no more Assembly committee meetings will be held in Azerbaijan for two years, as of 1 June 2014.

Rouquet's visa withdrawal was apparently linked to the French parliamentarian's earlier visit to Nagorno-Karabakh.

In a statement published on the Council of Europe's official website the PACE added that the decision will not apply in the case of missions to observe elections.

When taking its decision, the Bureau held that there had been a violation of the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Council of Europe, and its Paris Protocol, which enshrine the dual principle of the non-liability of parliamentarians and their inviolability, as well as that of the free



PACE President René Rouquet movement of members of the Parliamentary Assembly.

The Bureau had previously decided, on 5 September 2011, that PACE committees would not hold any meetings for a period of two years in member States that did not honour their commitments regarding freedom of movement of Assembly members on official journeys, particularly in connection with the issue of visas. This provision was applied to Georgia in November 2013.

However, the measure decided

Continued on page 3

Armenian Genocide Museum Collection Supplemented by Over 450 Original Photos



YEREVAN -- The Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute has acquired a unique and a rich collection of photos related to the Armenian Genocide and its aftermath. Highlighting the importance of memory preservation and transmission to future generations, the heirs of Khanikyan family from Greece donated around 450 original photos to the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute.

The collection contains original photos related to orphans' life, the orphanages of the Ottoman Empire, Egypt, Greece and Syria, orphan care activities of "American Near East Relief" organization, as well as photographs related to the special episodes of the history of the Armenian Genocide. The majority of the photos have extremely important informative notes on their back side.

The director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Hayk Demoyan noted that, "on the eve of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide the acquisition of this collection is not only symbolic, but also an exclusive event for our museum, and this photographs will find their special place in the exhibition of the new museum to be open in 2015. Among the photos, the photo of Young Turk leader Ismail Hakki Bey arrested by British soldiers is of unique importance, indeed".

The Armenian Genocide Mu-

seum-Institute extends his gratitude to the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of RA to Greece Gagik Ghalachyan for the acquisition of this unique collection.

In early September 1915, American Ambassador in the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau appealed to the U.S. State Department by a telegraph, in which he considered it very necessary to set up a special committee in order to organize fundraising and finding resources to support those who survived the massacres.

From 1 October, 1915, the fundraising organizations were carried out by the Armenian Relief Committee. Two similar committees in the Middle East operating before that were then united with the Armenian Relief Committee and formed "American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief", which on August 6, 1919 was renamed as "Near East Relief" by the decision of the Congress.

Initially established as a temporary Committee, "Near East Relief" turned into a large organization. Originally it aimed at raising about \$100,000, but during fifteen years of its activity the organization had more than 110 million dollars of investment in saving refugees and orphans. This humanitarian mission was carried out by American figures and missionaries in the Caucasus, the Middle East and the Balkans

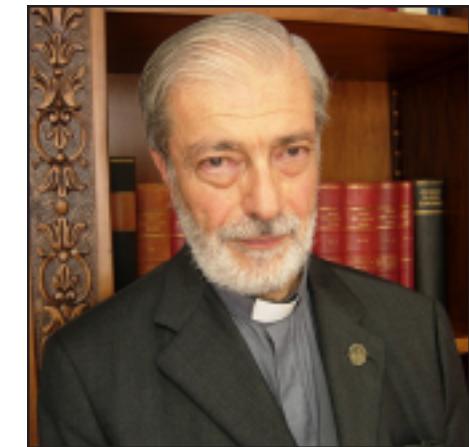
Pope Francis Appoints Boghos Levon Zekiyian as Apostolic Administrator of Armenian Archieparchy of Istanbul

VATICAN CITY -- Pope Francis has appointed Archpriest Boghos Levon Zekiyian, emeritus lecturer at the Universita Ca' Foscari, Venice, as apostolic administrator "sede plena" of the archieparchy of Istanbul of the Armenians, Turkey, elevating him to the dignity of Archbishop, the Vatican Information Service reports.

Boghos Levon Zekiyian was born in Istanbul in 1943, gave his solemn vows in 1964 and was ordained a priest in 1967. He has assumed the pastoral care of the Armenian diaspora and the fraternity of Sts. Nicola and Sergio in the Patriarchate of Venice.

Archpriest Zekiyian is a Professor of Armenian Language and Literature at Ca' Foscari University of Venice and of Armenian Church Institutions at the Pontifical Oriental Institute of Rome. President of the special "Armenian Studies 2004" Committee of AIEA (Association Internationale d'Études Armeniennes) to celebrate the 16th centenary of the Armenian Alphabet.

Author of fourteen monographs and more than one hundred fifty scholarly articles in six languages. Scholarly



Archpriest Boghos Levon Zekiyian

interests regard mainly Armenian studies in their different dimensions such as literature and philology, Church history, Armenian thought and identity, as well as philosophical and theological issues, such as the problem of consciousness, the philosophical idea of humanism, the question of Value and the attempt of a theology of ethnicity.

Archpriest Zekiyian is a member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (since 1994).

Syrian-Armenians Vote in Presidential Election

YEREVAN -- Hundreds of Syrian Armenians lined up outside Syria's embassy in Armenia on Wednesday to vote in a contentious presidential election which is expected to give President Bashar al-Assad a third term amid a continuing civil war in his country.

The election, condemned as a sham by the Syrian opposition, the West and much of the Arab world, is scheduled for June 3 within Syria. For millions of Syrians who have fled the country voting began on Wednesday.

An estimated 11,000 of them are ethnic Armenians who have taken refuge in their ancestral homeland. Over the past month the Syrian Embassy in Yerevan has urged them to register with the mission in order to be allowed to cast ballots.

At least several hundred of them heeded the appeal, as evidenced by a long queue that formed outside the embassy building in the morning. Many of those voters did not make secret of backing Assad's reelection. They said they hope that would help to restore peace and stability in Syria.

Some still hope to eventually return to Damascus, Aleppo and other

armed conflict" with his territorial claims to Armenia. He also accused Aliyev of "disseminating racist hatred towards Armenians" in order to cling to power.

"Consequences of this bellicose

Syrian cities that had affluent Armenian communities before the outbreak of the conflict three years ago. Krikor Stepanian, a former Aleppo-based flower dealer who now remodels apartments and shops in Yerevan, is one of them.

"I moved here two years ago but went back to Syria seven months ago," Stepanian told RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am). "The situation there was terrible. I tried to bring my mother with me but couldn't do that."

Other Syrian Armenian voters said they decided to participate in the Syrian election despite planning to stay in Armenia for good. One of them, Hrayr Agulian, has set up a small furniture manufacturing firm in Yerevan. "I don't think that they are really opposition figures," he said of Assad's two nominal election challengers.

"We have high hopes. Those who live in Syria or outside it, in Armenia and elsewhere, hope that things will get better," said Peggy Barsoumian, a young woman. She said she and her family will soon open a bijouterie shop in the Armenian capital.

policy are well known and another adventure of that kind would have disastrous consequences for Azerbaijan in the first instance," Kocharian said in written comments to the Armenpress news agency.

Aliyev Calls For Regime Change In Armenia

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has urged Armenians to topple their "dictatorial" government, saying that that is essential for establishing peace between Armenia and all of its neighbors.

"As long as Armenia is led by a criminal, corrupt and dictatorial regime the situation in Armenia will continue to deteriorate," Aliyev said in a speech delivered on Tuesday at an official reception held in Baku on the occasion of an Azerbaijani national holiday.

"Therefore, if the Armenian people want to live in peace with neighbors they must first of all get rid of their criminal, blood-thirsty and illegal regime and send it to the annals of history," said the Azerbaijani leader increasingly criticized by Western governments and watchdogs for his government's dismal human rights record.

Aliyev, who inherited power from his autocratic father Heydar in 2003, also repeated his claims that modern-day Armenia was created on "ancient Azerbaijani lands" and again vowed to end Armenian control over Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding territories. "There will be no second Armenian state," he said. "Self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh will never be granted any legal status."

Accordingly, he went on, Azerbaijan will continue a massive military buildup financed from its oil and gas revenues. "The army will receive even greater support and resources," added Aliyev.

Official Yerevan shrugged off Aliyev's statements on Wednesday. Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharian said the Azerbaijani leader is torpedoing the Karabakh peace process and setting the stage for "a new

policy are well known and another adventure of that kind would have disastrous consequences for Azerbaijan in the first instance," Kocharian said in written comments to the Armenpress news agency.

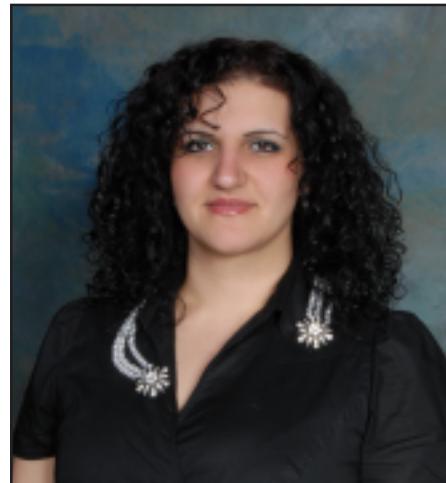
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Dr. Armine Movsisyan Appointed New Principal of AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School

PASADENA, CA — On May 23, 2014, the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Dr. Armine Movsisyan as the new Principal, effective July 14, 2014. "We are very proud of her accomplishments and are confident in her abilities to successfully lead our school," said Mr. Sinan Sinanian, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Movsisyan has earned her Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree in Educational Leadership with a focus in Teacher Education from the University of Southern California. Prior to her doctorate, she earned both her Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Master of Arts (MA) degrees in History from the University of California, Irvine.

Over the past 8 years, Dr. Movsisyan has been an integral part of the AGBU VTM school community. She began her career as a history and social science teacher and with each passing year took on more leadership responsibilities. She has worked closely with outgoing principal Dr. Kargodorian, fellow teachers, parents, staff and students to promote academic excellence, innovation and teamwork within the school family. Founding Principal Mr. Hagop Hagopian, currently principal of AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School, will be assuming the role of Principal Advisor and will be working closely with Dr.



Dr. Armine Movsisyan

Movsisyan.

"It is with immense pride that we promote Dr. Movsisyan to the position of Principal," said Mr. Sinanian. "She not only has the rigorous educational qualifications that we require for such a position of responsibility, but knows and understands our AGBU mission, school culture and values, and has proven her unwavering commitment and dedication to our students and their families. We look forward to a smooth and seamless transition," concluded Mr. Sinanian.

The AGBU VTM Board of Trustees congratulates Dr. Movsisyan on her appointment and has great confidence that she will advance the school's mission for the benefit of its students and community.

Ararat Home Resident Celebrates 100th Birthday



NORTH HILLS, CA -- Zabel Krikorian, a Genocide survivor, celebrated her 100th birthday on May 15, 2014, at Ararat Convalescent Hospital in Eagle Rock, California. The nursing staff and administration prepared a wonderful party in her honor. A few days earlier, she met with members of the Ararat Home Board of Trustees and entertained them with a few recitations and Armenian songs. Board Chairman Joseph Kanimian, Esq., commended her positive Armenian spirit and congratulated her wishing her continued good health.

Born Zabel Kapamagian in Istanbul, Turkey, she was orphaned at the age of eight, along with her sister Ojen, during the Armenian Genocide.

She married Hagop Krikorian at the age of 21, and they had two children and three grandchildren. After immigrating to Romania and then Lebanon, she and her family finally settled in the United States in 1976. Zabel worked as a seamstress in her earlier years. When asked about her secret to longevity, she replies that for her, it has been chasing after her grandchildren. She also loves animals, particularly cats, dogs and the pet chicken she owned in Romania named Violetta. Zabel would like everyone to know: "I'm well and fine living at Ararat Home; I love the nurses who look after me and would always appreciate a bit of chocolate in case you stop by."

Shamlian Tatigian Armenian Evangelical Secondary School in Beirut, Lebanon



When we look back at the history of the Armenian evangelical school, Shamlian Tatigian, we are thankful for the goodness of God and the mission that our forefathers, Reverent Garabed Hasssesian was the founder of the school and several years later in 1964 Shamlian Tatigian, sponsored the school by their generous donation .

The vision they had for the Armenian students was to obtain Armenian and Christian education.

March 29, 2014 was a celebration day for Shamlian Tatigian Armenian Evangelical School's eightieth anniversary.

The alumni association of Shamlian Tatigian of Los Angeles prepared and presented a dinner banquet in Glendale California at Phoenicia restaurant.

Among the guests and the presenters was the representative of the Armenian councilman from Armenia Mr. Souran Vardanyants, council for economic and political affair, the present school's Principal Miss Vartoog Balekjian, past principals Mr. Aram Boulghourjian and Mr. Yesaai Yessayan, teachers of the school, the students, and guests.

The celebration started with welcoming remarks from the chairwoman of the banquet Kohar Jarlekian who gave the history of the school and the biography of our master of ceremony of the evening and invited Danny Geuzubeuyukian which in his turn welcomed the audience and invited Pastor Vache Ekmekjian for a prayer. After the prayer the chairman of the STAA Mr. Zaven Hanessian welcomed the guests and thanked each of the supporters of the school and the STAA board members one by one.

Our alumni is been active for the last three years he said and we are proud to say that we have our own tax ID Number and we are documented by the state of California as an institution.

During the program the principal of the school, Miss Vartoog Balekjian, presented a video that was prepared at the school. As she presented to the

audience the challenges that she faces every day in the school she recounted the blessings of God and that He is the full provider of the needs the school has.

Next, Mr. Levon Filian, representing the AMAA, continued the invitation to give for the school and the upcoming generation.

The STAA honored Dr. Annie Torossian Baghdayan as teacher and Alumnus of the year. She was present from Oklahoma especially for this event.

The keynote speaker of the night was Mr. Mike Youssefian. He stated that education prepares students for the workforce and that it was especially important for Armenian students to keep Armenian heritage alive and flourishing. He mentioned how our grandfathers went through the genocide just to keep our religion and language and how we need to follow in their footsteps in order for our culture to survive. We must continue to love the Armenian culture, language, and school.

The benediction prayer was done by Reverent Dr. John Khanjian

The dinner celebration ended with live music and Armenian dance.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each person that helped make the celebration dinner a success. Thank you to everyone who participated in the realization of our school and the financial support. We kindly ask you prayerfully consider helping Shamlian Tatigian School. The school continues the need of our support. The STAA prepared a donation board which is going to be placed in the school with 80 plaques each with a value of \$1000 with the donors name for the 80th anniversary .We thank God for your contribution. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

If God is putting on your heart to send a donation you can mail the check to

Kohar Jarlekian Chairman
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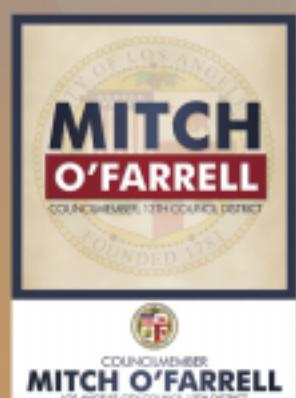
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