

Պոլսահայ Միութեան Յուշահամդէսը Նուիրուած Հրանդ Տինքի եւ Էտվին Մինասեանի



Անցեալ կիրակի Մայիսի 1-ին, 2022 ընտրանի հասարակութիւն մը փութեցած էր Լոս Անձելոսի Պոլսահայ Միութեան հանդիսաբահնը, ներկայ գտնուելու հանդիսութեան մը նուիրուած Պոլսոյ «Ակոս» թերթի նահատակ խմբագիր Հրանդ Տինքի սպանութեան 1օրդ տարելիցին եւ միութեան հանգուցեալ նախագահ իրաւաբան էտվին Մինասեանի լիշտատակին:

Իր բացման խօսքին մէջ Տոքթ. Յովհաննէս Գուլակ Աւետիքեան ջերմօրէն ողջունեց ներկայ հասարակութիւնն ու հայ զաղութի հոգեւոր առաջնորդներու եւ տարեկը կազմակերպութեանց ներկայացուցիչները, որոնք եկած էին յարգելու արդարութեան եւ ազատութեան ուահվիրայ Հրանդ Տինքի լիշտատակը, նահատակութեան 15 ամեակին առթիւ:

Յուշ երեկոն սկսաւ մէկ վայրկեան յոտնկայս լուռութեամբ եւ հոգեանգատեան արարողութեամբ, ի լիշտատակ Հրանդ Տինքի, էտվին Մինասեանի եւ այլ դեկավարներու:

Օրուան հանդիսավարուհի Տիկին Ռոզալին Մատուեան, ձեռնասորէն վարեց յայտագիրը հայերէն եւ անդելին լեզուներով: Առաջին խօսք առնողն էր ծանօթ գործար Մարք Զէնեան: Ան իւրայտուկ մեկնաբանութեամբ արտայացուեցաւ նահատակ Հրանդ Տինքէն իր կրած տպաւորութիւններուն եւ անոր տեսլականին մասին թէ «ինչ պէտք է ընենք եւ ինչ պէտք չէ ընենք» եւ դրականօրէն աշխատիլ խուսափելով՝ ծայրայեղութեններէ ու չափազանցութիւններէ: Միշտ գործել եռանկիւնային ձեւաչափով «Հայրներ-Սփիւռք-Հայութիւն» ուղղութամբ:

Պատմաբան դոկտ. Կարապետ Մոմճեան իր շահեկան ելոյթին մէջ, յատկապէս անդարադարձաւ թուրքիոյ քսանական թուականներու օսմանեան շրջանի եւ Աթաթիւրքի որդեգրած հայ աղջկան Սապիհա Կէօքճէնի եւ թրքական ու թուրք պգտայնական շարժումին մասին: Արդարեւ շարժում մը որ ծայրայեղութիւններու գնաց եւ սուս մեկնաբանութիւններու տեղի տուաւ թուրք պատմաբաններու կողմէ: Այդ շարժումին մէկ շառաւիլը ցարդ կը գործէ թուրքիոյ մէջ, որուն պատճառով հայերը շատ փափուկ հարցի մը առջեւ կը գտնուին: Այդ մէկը հայկական ինքնութեան պահպանման հարցն է: Հրանդ Տինքն ընդհանրապէս չափաւորական էր եւ ծայրայեղութեան գնաց: Նոյն կացութեան մէջ է կարօ Փայլան:

Պլեր Հայկական ճեմարան Հաղորդուելով Նահատակներու Աւանդով



Հայ ժողովուրդի կեանքին առանցքը դարձած ցեղասպանութիւնն ու անոր մէկուկէս միլիոն նահատակները, ամենօրեայ ներկայութիւն են իւրաքանչիւր հայու կեանքին մէջ եւ առարկայականօրէն կը լիշտակուին ամէն առիթով, յատկապէս վարժարաններու կրթական ծրագիրներու ընդմէջն, որոնք աւելի կը շեշտուին եւ կը ծաւալին Ապրիլ ամսուան ընթացքին:

Արդարեւ, Փասատենա քաղաքի Պլեր Հայկական ծեմարանի կրթական ծրագիրը, Ապրիլ ամիսը նուիրաբերեց հայոց ցեղասպանութեան ծանօթացման, սերտողութեան քննարկման շեշտը դնելով պահանջատիրութեան վրայ, այս բոլորին համար օգտագործեց գանագան ծրագիրներ, ինչպէս՝ գրականութիւն, արուեստ, շարժապատկերներ, կայքէջերու ներկայացումներ եւ եղրափակեց պահանջատիրութեան

Քայլարշաւով: Քայլարշաւը տեղի ունեցաւ Ուրբաթ, 22 Ապրիլ 2022ի յետմիջօրէին, աշակերտները սկսան իրենց արշաւը Պլեր վարժարանէն դէպի Փասատինա քաղաքի նահատակաց այգին, ուր տեղադրուած է հայկական ցեղասպանութեան յուշարձան մը:

Կարելի չէր չխանդավառուիլ ու յաղթական զգացումն ու ապրումը չունենալ ի տես աշակերտներուն, որոնք եռագոյն դրօշները բարձր բռնած, իրենց ձեռային աշխատանք կրծքանշանները կրող կուրծքերը? Հպարտօրէն բարձրացուցած, աննահանջ կը քալէին, ժպտուն դէմքերով ու պահանջատէր ողիով. Աշակերտներուն ընկերացան Փասատինայի միացեալ վարժարաններու վարչական պատասխանառու:

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US, Armenia Sign MoU on Strategic Civil Nuclear Cooperation



WASHINGTON, DC — Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken met today with Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ararat Mirzoyan in Washington, D.C. to launch the U.S.-Armenia Strategic Dialogue.

During their meeting, the Secretary and Foreign Minister signed a Nuclear Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding, paving the way for increased cooperation on civil nuclear matters as Armenia looks to diversify its energy supply.

The US State Department issued the following statement at the conclusion of the meeting:

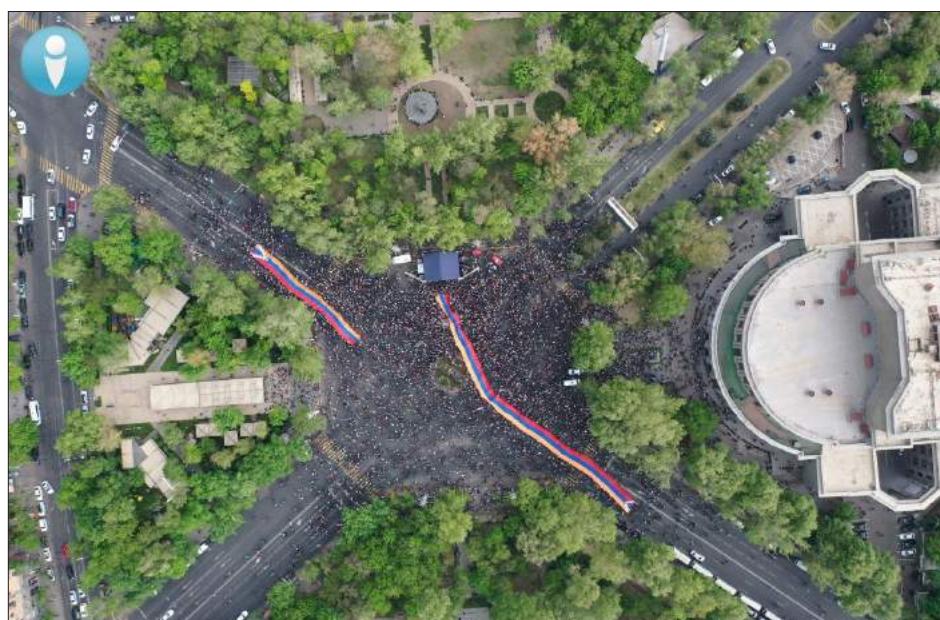
The United States and Armenia maintain long-standing cooperation across the breadth of our relationship,

including in the fields of security, energy, commerce, and nonproliferation. Deepening our cooperation in civil nuclear energy, science, and technology will strengthen our strategic bilateral relationship, and have wide-ranging, positive impacts on how we work together.

Nuclear Cooperation MOUs are diplomatic mechanisms that strengthen and expand strategic ties between the United States and a partner country by providing a framework for cooperation and a mutually aligned approach to nonproliferation on civil nuclear issues and for engagement between experts from government, industry, national laboratories, and academic institutions.

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Armenia's Opposition Fails to Mobilize Population Against Government



YEREVAN — Opposition protesters occupied a small square in downtown Yerevan on Sunday at the start of what their leaders described as a “civil disobedience” campaign aimed at toppling Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

The opposition Hayastan and Pativ Unem alliances pitched tents in France Square, the intersection of four key avenues, as they rallied their supporters there after days of small-scale

protests. They said they will block streets in the city center and other parts of the Armenian capital on Monday to step up the pressure on the Armenian government.

Some participants of the rally marched in small groups from four different directions of Armenia: Tigranashen, Ijevan, Sardarapat and Aparan to joined the groups carrying

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Armenia Leads the Region in World Press Freedom Index

REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS FOR PRESS FREEDOM

PARIS — Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has published its Press Freedom Report 2022, which covers 180 countries and territories. Armenia has improved its position climbing to the 51st place and leads its regional neighbors.

In the previous Index it was ranked 63rd. Armenia's immediate neighbors Georgia is ranked 89th, Turkey is 149th, Azerbaijan is 154th, Russia is 155th and Iran is 178th.

According to the Index, despite a pluralistic environment, the media remains polarized. The country is facing an unprecedented level of disinformation and hate speech, especially concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The main news sources in Armenia are social networks, which two-thirds of the population access daily. The Index says polarization of the media mirrors that of the political scene: most outlets are close to political leaders who surfaced after 2018, while others remain faithful to old oligarchs.

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Pallone Leads 63 Caucus Members Fight for Inclusion of Robust Funding for Armenia and Artsakh

WASHINGTON, DC — Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues Co-Chairs Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06), Gus M. Bilirakis (FL-12), Jackie Speier (CA-14), Adam B. Schiff (CA-28) and 60 Members of Congress sent a letter today requesting significant economic assistance for the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) in the Fiscal Year 2023 State and Foreign Relations funding legislation.

The lawmakers requested a minimum of \$100 million to bolster Armenia's democratic, economic, energy reforms, and rule of law reforms and \$50 million in funding for humanitarian assistance to the people of Artsakh. The letter also includes a request for a full prohibition of U.S. security assistance to Azerbaijan and calls for the immediate release of all Armenian prisoners of war.

"The people of Artsakh continue to face severe hardships caused both by the deadly 44-day war Azerbaijani forces provoked in 2020 and their ongoing provocations against innocent civilians to this day. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for



Refugees (UNHCR), 88 percent of the approximately 90,000 refugees displaced to Armenia were women, children, and the elderly. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) also acknowledges that an “acute humanitarian crisis” continues for many of these families, including those who have been able to return to Artsakh. Unfortunately, the \$5,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2021 funding USAID

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Joint Session of Security Councils of Armenia and Artsakh Held in Yerevan



YEREVAN -- The policy of peace is not a policy of defeat, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan told a joint session of the Security Councils of Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) held in Yerevan on Friday.

"I want to say that the agenda of peace is not an agenda of defeat," he told Arayik Harutyunyan, the Karabakh president, and other senior Karabakh officials. "The agenda of peace is an agenda of overcoming the horrors of war and the difficulties that followed the war and guaranteeing the security, rights and future of the people."

"A very important principle is that the Artsakh people should live in Artsakh, consider themselves Armenians, and this is the agenda that we should promote together," he said.

The prime minister also noted that the first beneficiary of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement is Artsakh and the people of Artsakh.

"We are always in direct communication with the president of Artsakh, our other colleagues are working to-

gether with our colleagues from Artsakh," he said.

Harutyunyan confirmed his support for the "agenda of peace." But he also stressed: "On the other hand, I want to make clear that we see no way of deviating from our right to self-determination."

He stressed that any topic or document must be discussed with the Artsakh authorities and proceed from the sentiments of the people.

"Otherwise it is simply impossible. We also understand that there will be a long political struggle," he said.

He also attached importance to the social and economic programs implemented in Artsakh, saying they must be continued.

Pashinyan noted that a large layer of joint work concerns socio-economic issues. "It is fundamentally important that we do everything to ensure that people live in Artsakh, feel safe. It is also about the residents of Armenia, of course, and I am confident that we are moving in the right direction," he said.

Armenia Completes \$415 Million Three-Year Loan Deal With IMF



NEW YORK — The International Monetary Fund has disbursed a fresh \$35 million loan to Armenia, completing a three-year lending program designed to bolster macroeconomic stability in the country.

The IMF's "stand-by arrangement" was worth \$248 million when it was first approved in May 2019. The Washington-based fund increased it to \$415 million a year later to help Armenia cope with economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

Announcing the latest installment of the program at the weekend, the IMF said the Armenian authorities have carried out important structural reforms in the last three years. It cited their efforts to improve tax collection, strengthen governance and combat corruption.

"The authorities have also devel-

oped an ambitious medium-term reform program that, if successfully implemented, could lead to stronger and more inclusive growth," it added in a statement.

"Armenia's economy continued to recover in 2021 and early 2022, largely thanks to the authorities' economic management efforts," added the statement.

Still, the IMF again predicted that economic growth will slow down to about 1.5 percent this year due to the fallout from the war in Ukraine. It said inflation in Armenia will remain "elevated" for the same reason.

The World Bank likewise forecast last month that the Armenian economy will likely grow by just 1.2 percent in 2022 because of its dependence on Russia hit hard by Western sanctions.

Armenia Opens Trade Office in Mumbai India



MUMBAI -- Armenia's Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, who was in India on a working visit, attended April 27 the opening ceremony of the Armenian Trade Office in India's financial center - the city of Mumbai, the Armenian Foreign Ministry reported. It said the Trade Office will operate under the Armenian Honorary Consulate in Chennai.

Mirzoyan and members of his delegation visited India's largest port in Mumbai, which handles more than half of India's maritime cargo, and the headquarters of the port's operator, PSA Mumbai.

They were introduced to the history of the port, its operations, cargo opportunities in different directions, and its connections with different cen-

ters of the world. There was also a discussion on using the possibilities of Mumbai port for cargo transportation to Armenia and related technical details.

On the same day the Armenian and Indian business people had B2B discussions in Mumbai. Armenian business people had a meeting with the vice-president of IHCL company, which is part of India's biggest transnational conglomerate Tata Group.

Mirzoyan led an Armenian business and investment delegations that traveled to India to participate in Raisina Dialogue Conference, India's flag conference on geopolitics and geo-economics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community.

Azerbaijan Defiles Armenian Church in Hadrut, Cross Removed Inscriptions Erased



STEPANAKERT — Azerbaijan has defiled an Armenian church in the Nagorno-Karabakh town of Hadrut by dismantling the cross from the dome and erasing all Armenian inscriptions, Karabakh Records reports.

On April 27, pro-government news outlets in Azerbaijan published a series of articles about alleged Easter celebrations in Hadrut, also posting fresh photos of the Church of the Holy Resurrection in the city, which came under Azerbaijan's control during the Second Karabakh war.

Analysis of the fresh photos showed that the cross has been removed from the dome. In addition, the Azerbaijanis have removed a plate at the entrance to the church, which contained information about the most recent renovation of the building.

Carpets and ritual utensils appear to have been looted, while images of saints have been removed from the walls. Besides, Azerbaijani names have been spray painted on the outer walls of the temple.

In February, Yerevan "strongly condemned" Azerbaijani Minister of Culture Anar Karimov's decision on the establishment of a working group for the destruction and alteration of the identity of the Armenian religious and historical-cultural monuments fallen under the control of Azerbaijan.

Concerns about the preservation of cultural sites in Nagorno-Karabakh are made all the more urgent by the Azerbaijani government's history of systemically destroying indigenous Armenian heritage—acts of both warfare and historical revisionism. The Azerbaijani government has secretly destroyed a striking number of cultural and religious artifacts in the late 20th century. Within Nakhichevan alone, a historically Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan, Azerbaijani forces destroyed at least 89 medieval churches, 5,840 khachkars (Armenian cross stones) and 22,000 historical tombstones between 1997 and 2006.

The Zoryan Institute Launches New Genocide Education Program in Ontario High Schools



The Zoryan Institute is pleased to announce the launch of a new Genocide Education Program titled, Promoting Equity, Tolerance and Reconciliation Through Genocide Education, funded by the Ontario Ministry of Education. This program, developed by the Zoryan Institute, will provide secondary school students across the Greater Toronto Area with a foundational understanding of the numerous, complex, and often emotional issues related to genocide and crimes against humanity.

With the support of the Zoryan Institute Board of Directors, genocide education specialists, secondary school level educators, and curriculum consultants, the Institute developed an effective and impactful lesson plan for this program. Megan Reid, the Zoryan Institute's Deputy Executive Director, when asked about the reasons behind the development of this program, stated:

"The Zoryan Institute is the largest independent research institute focused on genocide and human rights research, scholarship, and education. With this new undertaking, our mission is to now bring this work to younger generations, and have them recognize the dangers associated with an "us" versus "them" mentality. This program will teach the negative consequences of hate, and emphasize the obligations of individuals of all ages to help prevent violence and promote equity, tolerance and understanding."

This program is designed to be delivered to classrooms between May

and June 2022, and will be led by notable graduates of the Zoryan Institute's Genocide and Human Rights University Program (GHRUP) at the University of Toronto. Each presentation will open with an interactive discussion introducing human rights and genocide, and will explore select cases of genocide, such as the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, the cultural genocide of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, among others, in a comparative and multidisciplinary manner. This will be done using both written and oral testimonies and first-hand accounts of those impacted by genocide. This approach will also allow students to compare and understand commonalities in the processes and experiences of genocide and will contribute to a better understanding of the universality of the phenomenon.

Alison MacAulay, a PhD Candidate in History at the University of Toronto, and graduate of the Zoryan Institute's 2017 GHRUP, is working closely with the Institute on this initiative. She had this to say about the program's impact:

"The Promoting Equity, Tolerance and Reconciliation Through Genocide Education program is an opportunity for high school students across the GTA to think critically about what it means to be active and engaged global citizens. Zoryan's innovative, multi-media approach to human rights and genocide education encourages students to confront difficult pasts and presents with empathy, understanding, and intellectual rigor. This

program can take students beyond their classrooms and into their daily lives to work towards making a more equitable and tolerant world."

The Zoryan Institute is thankful for the consultation it has received from Ontario educators, Sossy Terzian-Kheir of William Berczy Public School of the York Region District School Board, and Christine Zaghlakian the Curriculum Support Leader of Guidance at Earl Haig Secondary School of the Toronto District School Board, on the program's structure and method of delivery to a high-school audience. Reflecting on the new program Ms. Zaghlakian said:

"As our world continues to be plagued by ethnic violence and political unrest, it is important, now more than ever, to learn about the roots of genocidal events, and how concepts such as exclusion, intolerance and dehumanization can create a platform for hate crimes and violations of human rights. Through this program, students will learn about the causes and consequences of genocide, recognize injustice and be engaged in combatting hate at a local level such that these kinds of atrocities are never repeated."

On this occasion, the Zoryan Institute's Co-Chairs, Prof. Roger Smith, Prof. Maureen Hiebert and Prof. Varouj Aivazian, wish to express their sincere appreciation to the Ontario Ministry of Education, and particularly Minister of Education, Hon. Stephen Lecce, for funding this program through the 2021-2022 Anti-Hate Initiatives Fund offered by the Indigenous Education and Well-Being Division. The President of the Zoryan In-

stitute, K.M. Greg Sarkissian, also wishes to extend his gratitude to MPP Aris Babikian, representing the Scarborough-Agincourt riding, for his ongoing support in promoting the Zoryan Institute and its work to the Ministry of Education. He stated:

"Mr. Babikian, in collaboration with the Zoryan Institute, has been instrumental in bringing genocide education to Ontario high schools since 2008, through the development of the Grade 11 TDSB Course, Genocide: Historical and Contemporary Implications. With his continued support, we are confident that we can now expand the work achieved through this program to a wider audience in high schools across the GTA through Promoting Equity, Tolerance and Reconciliation Through Genocide Education program."

The feedback that the Zoryan Institute and the Ministry of Education receive from this new program will be utilized to inform the development of a lesson plan and complimentary educational materials for Ontario secondary school teachers and students in future school years. The Zoryan Institute's long term goal with this initiative is to train teachers and extend the program's reach beyond the province of Ontario, and deliver these presentations nationwide.

We invite all educators or parents in Ontario, who are interested in hosting the Promoting Equity, Tolerance and Reconciliation Through Genocide Education Program to a public high school in the GTA, please contact the Zoryan Institute at admin@genocidestudies.org.

Armenia's Opposition Fails to Mobilize

Continued from page 1

out actions in the capital.

"We will not leave this place until we achieve victory," said Anna Grigoryan, a lawmaker affiliated with Hayastan.

"These authorities have no mandate to lead the country to new concessions," Ishkhan Saghatelian, a Hayastan leader, told the protesters before announcing the "large-scale actions of disobedience."

The opposition set up the protest camp amid heightened security, with scores of riot police deployed nearby. They did not attempt to disperse the protesters.

Earlier on Sunday, Armenia's Office of the Prosecutor-General warned the opposition against "provoking mass disturbances."

In a separate statement, the National Security Service (NSS) claimed that there is a "real danger" of such violence. It said it will not hesitate to counter "any kind of actions destabilizing Armenia's internal stability."

Representatives of the ruling Civil Contract party denounced opposition efforts to bring down Armenia's government through street protests and

said they will end in failure.

Accordingly, they ruled out Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's resignation demanded by the parliament's two opposition blocs.

Artur Hovannisyan, a parliament deputy from Civil Contract, accused the opposition of exploiting the Karabakh issue for political purposes.

"This narrative ended after 2018," Hovannisyan told RFE/RL's Armenian Service. "They are now trying to revive it because they have no legitimate source of coming to power — namely, the people's support — because we can see that their actions are not accompanied by strong support from citizens."

Hayk Hakobyan, another pro-government lawmaker and Pashinyan's brother-in-law, also said that the opposition forces will fail to unseat the current government.

"The [average] guy sitting at home and following their actions hears only negative messages and will not participate in those actions," he said.

Both lawmakers rejected any parallels between the ongoing opposition campaign and the 2018 mass protests that brought Pashinyan to power.

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Armenia Leads the Region

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market remains under-developed, which limits the financial independence of private media. State-owned media refrain from any criticism of the government. Enforcement of a new legal framework which guarantees the transparency of media ownership has yet to begin.

As a profession, journalism is disparaged and subject to especially troubling hate speech. Anti-media rhetoric from political elites, who accuse journalists of "corruption" and of being in the service of their adversaries, creates a climate of intolerance

that hinders reporters' work.

They are constantly insulted, assaulted and subject to abusive prosecution for calumny, which reinforces self-censorship.

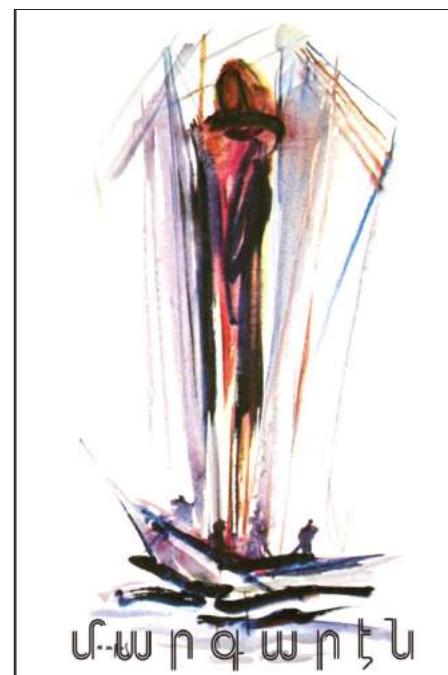
The year 2021 was difficult for the media and for journalists because of the Nagorno-Karabakh war, scheduled elections and the pandemic. A government minister's assault on a journalist from an opposition outlet, followed by months of investigation that ended in judicial failure to recognize the minister's guilt, represents a major setback for press freedom. In general, violence against journalists goes unpunished.

Vahe-Vahian's Armenian Translation of Kahlil Gibran's The Prophet To Be Presented By Abril Bookstore

GLENDALE — Poet, spiritualist Kahlil Gibran's world-renowned work, *The Prophet*, translated into Western Armenian in 1984 by author and teacher, VAHE-VAHIAN, has been republished and will be presented on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 7:00pm at the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America - 3325 N. Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank, CA. The book will be presented by Dr. Arpi Sarafian. Segments will be read by Hasmig Kitsinian. Event will be held in Armenian. Admission is free with reception to follow. For more information, call (818) 243-4112. The evening is organized under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America.

The Prophet is a literary work that has been popular reading around the world ever since its publication in 1923. Yet, a translation that is considered by many to be the best rendering into Western Armenian of the celebrated classic, has not been available for over thirty-five years now. This second edition is a response to the numerous requests for the Vahe-Vahian translation, following the publication in the Armenian press of several articles about the Armenian translations of the Gibran classic.

This second edition is an exact paperback replica of the 1984 first



edition, except for the addition of a Preface by Arpi Sarafian. *The Prophet* is a collection of poetic essays that are philosophical, spiritual, and, above all, inspirational. Gibran's musings cover such sprawling topics as love, marriage, children, giving, eating and drinking, work, joy and sorrow, housing, clothes, buying and selling, crime and punishment, laws, freedom, reason and passion, pain, self-knowledge, teaching, friendship, talking, time, good and evil, prayer, pleasure, beauty, religion, and death. Each piece reveals deep insights into the impulses of the human heart and mind.

US, Armenia Sign MoU

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"We just had a very good dialogue, exchange between us, and indeed a big part of the purpose of these meetings is to relaunch the Strategic Dialogue between the United States and Armenia that was suspended because of COVID. This is a very important vehicle by which we can continue to deepen and strengthen our relationship to pursue new areas of cooperation and collaboration, and we're very pleased to be able to do that now," Secretary Blinken said.

He noted that the Memorandum of Understanding on nuclear cooperation opens new cooperative paths for Armenia and the US and can also serve to strengthen very much the bilateral relationship.

"I just want to take this opportunity as we're sitting here to, in the first instance, praise the leadership of the prime minister and his government, the democratic reforms that they've been pursuing, the progress that continues to be made – but also to very much welcome the dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and to express real appreciation for the vision and the courage and the flexibility that the prime minister and Armenia have been showing in this process working toward what we all want, which is a lasting peace," Antony Blinken said.

The Armenian Foreign Minister said, in turn, that during the 30 years of diplomatic relations the two countries have succeeded to build very

strong relations based on common and shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

"Now after the democratic Velvet Revolution of 2018, through joint efforts, we elevated the level of our collaboration, cooperation to Strategic Dialogue. And it is very significant that I am here also in scope of the capstone session of the Strategic Dialogue. And during this session, we focused on our democratic reforms, justice reforms, cooperation in banking sphere, looking ways of deepening cooperation in the sphere of defense, and of course prevention and fight against corruption, and many other areas. And we appreciate United States efforts to support our reforms," Minister Mirzoyan stated.

He stressed that Armenia also appreciates United States support for developing Armenia's energy sector.

"And I also want to note that we value our partnership aimed at peace and stability in our region, and in this regard I want to highlight the important role the United States of America play as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, which has a mandate from the international community to facilitate a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. I also appreciate United States support through the Armenia-Turkish normalization process and United States strong stance on the recognition on the condemnation of the Armenian genocide and confirmation of this stance this year, too," the Armenian Foreign Minister said.

Asdourian Family Lends Their Support To Help Realize The Dream Of Kindergartens In Jajur And Keti Communities



SHIRAK — the communities of Jajur and Keti in Armenia's Shirak Region now both have newly established and operating kindergartens thanks in part to the generous support of longtime Paros friends and supporters, Mark and Charlene Asdourian. More than 70 children and their families will receive the benefits of early education thanks to this important project.

In early 2021, the Armenian government working with the consolidated Community of Akhurian in Armenia's Shirak Region, launched the complete renovation of buildings to house a kindergarten in each of these two communities. Short on funds, they approached The Paros Foundation and Focus on Children Now for support to complete these two kindergartens. The Paros Foundation completed the kitchen renovation and outfitting necessary appliances, furniture and kitchen cooking supplies. Focus on Children Now furnished the kindergarten with the necessary furniture and bedding. Mr. & Mrs. Mark and Charlene Asdourian agreed to generously underwrite the budgets for both kitchens through The Paros Foundation.

"In the next month or so the kindergarten in the neighboring community of Marmarashen will also be

Pallone Leads 63 Caucus Members

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has committed to date is insufficient to address the overwhelming needs of these people.

"The U.S. has historically promoted peace in Artsakh through U.S. government-funded landmine and unexploded ordnance clearance efforts and enabling rebuilding by investing in similar humanitarian assistance initiatives. We are requesting a robust humanitarian assistance package for Artsakh that lives up to American humanitarian commitments."

"The United States remains uniquely positioned to make important diplomatic advances in the South Caucasus. This is especially true in Armenia, an ancient nation with a modern democracy that continues to make democratic reforms in a region dominated by autocratic leaders," the lawmakers wrote. "Providing significant assistance to Armenia will help make its people more secure, bolster its de-

ready to open and launch operations," said Peter Abajian, Executive Director of The Paros Foundation. "The benefits of early education for these children and their families, and the economic impact of the new jobs created at these three kindergartens is huge. I am pleased that we were able to partner and help resolve issues at these three community's kindergartens."

Ms. Jeanette Boras, another friend and supporter of The Paros Foundation, is sponsoring the kitchen completion for the kindergarten in Marmarashen. Once opened, this kindergarten will serve at least 25 children and create at least four more full-time employment positions.

The Paros Foundation has a long history of supporting rural communities and their kindergartens. To date, the Foundation has supported with either partial or full renovations, more than 20 kindergartens throughout Armenia. Currently, the community of Nerkin Tsaghkavan is next in line for the creation of a new kindergarten. For more information or to help sponsor this project please visit www.parosfoundation.org. As with all our projects, 100% of donor contributions will be applied directly to this project with no hold back for administrative expenses.

mocracy, sustain economic development, stabilize its civil society, and aid its ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This critical investment will build on past support for Armenia and Artsakh by the Subcommittee and will help strengthen the U.S.-Armenia strategic partnership, solidify our presence, and grow our influence in the region."

In September 2020, Azerbaijan, actively aided by Turkey and foreign mercenaries, initiated a deadly invasion of Artsakh that led to six weeks of devastating fighting that killed more than 5,000 people and forced more than 100,000 ethnic Armenians to flee their homes. Artsakh and Armenia continue to grapple with an ongoing humanitarian crisis that resulted from the invasion. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan continues to provocatively station troops in Armenian territory while falsely declaring the land as its own and illegally holding ethnic Armenians as detainees and prisoners of war in contravention of international human rights law.

