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ARMENIA HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Digest of the Government of Armenia

April 19-25, 2011

THEMA



ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN ON
THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Fellow Compatriots,
Today is the 24th of April, and we commemorate the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide. In 1915-1923 a crime against the Armenian nation, against humanity and civilization was committed, which at the time had no name. All the names and definitions – moral, legal, or political – given later are only provisional and only in part reflect what had really happened. The true scope and depth of the tragedy is known only to us, and every Armenian, in any corner of the world, feels devastating repercussions of the Mets Eghern on his or her destiny in every sense – moral, cultural, linguistic and political. The Ottoman Empire implemented at the state level the program of elimination and expulsion of the Armenian people. Throughout the process, at its every stage the murders, deportations, conversions and enslavement of the Armenians were viewed as routine trifles. As for foreign interventions, they failed to stop the perpetrators and in some instances pushed them towards even more gruesome acts.

However, despite every devious program and calculations, the Armenian nation survived the Mets Eghern; survived with irreversible losses, fought against other calamities, which befell the nation in the 20th century, and triumphally, with victoriously independent statehood ushered into a new millennium – a statehood that will never again allow the repetition of such a crime, a statehood that will defend its righteous cause and will struggle in the international fora not only for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, but also for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide per se. While in the 20-s of the last century, the task in front of our nation and our country was not to die, not to perish from the face of the earth, and to survive, Armenia of today has other tasks. Wide horizons of restoring historical justice, of development, of progress and creative work are opened before us. The Republic of Armenia has been proving through its resolute steps that despite black pages of history, it strives for peace with the neighbors, including Turkey. Today in Turkey, more than ever, reasonable voices are being heard.
April 24, 2011 full address www.president.am

“QUOTE OF THE WEEK”

“THE GENOCIDE IS AN EPISODE IN BOTH ARMENIAN AND WORLD HISTORY, WHICH CANNOT BE ELIMINATED FROM DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS AND ANNALS OF THE 20TH CENTURY, EVEN FROM MEMORIES OF THOSE PEOPLE WHOSE ANCESTORS PERPETRATED IT.”

TIGRAN SARGSYAN
PRIME MINISTER OF RA

Upcoming Events

APRIL 26: *Georgian FM Grigol Vashadze will pay visit to Armenia*

APRIL 29: *Deputy aide to the US State Secretary on European and Eurasian issues, Tina Kaidenau will meet with PM Tigran Sargsyan*

JUNE 4: *St. Petersburg's Petrovsky stadium will host EURO 2012 Russia vs. Armenia*

USEFUL LINKS

- www.president.am
- www.gov.am
- www.parliament.am
- www.mfa.am
- www.armenpress.am
- www.panarmenian.net
- www.matenadaran.am

PRIME MINISTER ON WORKING VISIT TO SHIRAK MARZ

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan traveled to Berdashen community of Shirak Marz to get acquainted with the course of construction of a guest house and office buildings at Arpi Lich national park. The head of government took the opportunity to meet with the inhabitants of Berdashen community. The eco-region nature protection program in South Caucasus - creation of protected areas



community development programs in the protected zone of the national park (14 target communities), as well as by contributing to cross-border cooperation between Armenia and Georgia. The program has a total budget of euro 2.2 million. Berdashen community Ashotsk region is also included in the program of management by agricultural resources of communities and their competitiveness. This program will help develop necessary actions for improvement of pastures, such as introduction of a system of replaceable use of pastures, water-assisted maintenance of pastures, as well as partial repair of roads conducting to pastures and creation of opportunities for manufacture of forages. During a briefing with journalists, concerning the programs carried out in the region, the Prime Minister said that the development of cattle breeding is seen as a priority. As assured by Tigran Sargsyan, irrigation water and roads are needed to ensure greater accessibility of pastures. According to the Prime Minister, the experts involved in this program say that it will help increase community revenue by at least 20 percent.

20 April 20, 2011 full story www.gov.am

THE ARMENIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER EDWARD NALBANDIAN RECEIVED THE BARONESS CAROLINE COX, MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS



On April 19, the Armenian Foreign Affairs Minister Edward Nalbandian received the parliamentary delegation led by the Baroness Caroline Cox, member of the UK House of Lords. Welcoming the Baroness Cox, Minister Nalbandian highly appreciated the support and humanitarian activity of the Baroness has provided to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh for years and mentioned that the Armenian people is grateful to the Baroness for her activities supporting Armenia. Underlining that since 1988 she has been connected with Armenia and the Armenian people and considers herself as a friend of the Armenian people, the Baroness Cox said that she would continue her activities in favor of

strengthening the Armenian-British relations. The Foreign Affairs Minister highlighted the importance of development of bilateral relations in both bilateral and multi-lateral formats. Possibilities of decentralized cooperation were discussed as well. Minister Nalbandian and the British parliamentarians discussed the perspectives of deepening of the Armenian-British cooperation. The sides discussed also issues related to the Armenian-British parliamentary cooperation. In this context the sides mutually stressed the visit of the Speaker of the RA National Assembly to London in March of this year, as well as the meeting between the heads of the two Chambers of the UK Parliament. In the course of the meeting the cooperation between Armenia and the EU, as well as processes in progress within that format were touched upon. Upon the request of the Baroness Cox, Edward Nalbandian presented the recent developments in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue..

April 19, 2011 www.mfa.am

HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

- **APRIL 19:** **AH** Armenian banks seem to display interest in agriculture
- **APRIL 20:** **AH** Armenia doesn't have Ottoman Turkish language experts to study Turkish archives
- **APRIL 21:** **AH** Jars discovered in St. Mary church territory are transferred to museum
- **APRIL 22:** **KAH** Kardashian calls for Armenian Genocide recognition
- **APRIL 23:** **GAH** cicide.am website's had over 400000 visitors since 2007
- **APRIL 24:** **AH** Lepsius House to open in Yerevan May 2
- **APRIL 25:** **AH** Erdogan again sets conditions for Armenian-Turkish protocols ratification

AH

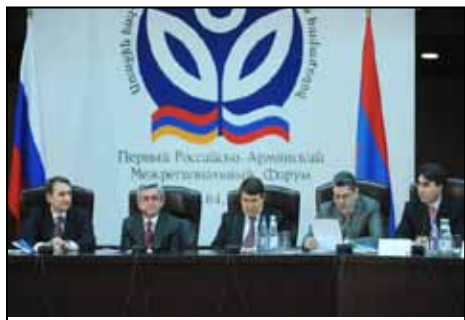
AZERBAIJAN VIOLATES THE CEASEFIRE REGIME ABOUT 150 TIMES OVER THE WEEK



The Azerbaijani side violated the ceasefire regime at the line of contact about 150 times between April 17 and 23. Press Service of the NKR Defense Army reports that the front troops of the Azeri Army fired more than 1 700 shots all along the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan. "After all this the Azerbaijani propaganda machine continued disseminating information last week that the ceasefire regime had been violated by the Armenian side. Furthermore, on April 20 and 22 official Baku rushed to present the killing of three soldiers of its army as the result of attack of the Defense Army. Despite the activeness of the enemy, divisions of the NKR Defense Army maintained the ceasefire regime all along the line of contact and properly fulfilled their military duty," reads the statement of the NKR Defense Army.

April 25, 2011 www.armradio.am

LEVITIN: NEGOTIATIONS ON CONSTRUCTION OF ARMENIAN NPP NEW ENERGY UNIT IMPORTANT



Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan has said that Russia is Armenia's main economic partner. 20% growth was recorded in the trade turnover between the two countries in 2010, Sargsyan said at the opening of First Armenian-Russian Interregional Forum in Yerevan. He noted that in modern times Armenia and Russia have always supported each other in hours of need. Sargsyan also expressed gratitude for the

prompt allocation of a loan by Russia during the global financial crisis. Russian Minister of Transport, Co-Chairman of the Armenian-Russian intergovernmental commission Igor Levitin noted for his part that Armenia-Russia ties have reached a new level over the past years. "We have managed to overcome consequences of the global economic crisis, increase the trade turnover between the countries," he said. Levitin said that Armenia and Russia have implemented many joint programs in both economic and humanitarian fields, attaching importance to negotiations on construction of a new energy unit of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant. The Minister noted that the next sitting of the intergovernmental commission will be held in Russia in the third quarter of 2011.

April 19, 2011 www.panarmenian.net

OBAMA SAYS MEDS YEGHERN AGAIN, AVOIDS TERM GENOCIDE

President Barack Obama on Saturday marked the anniversary of the massacre of Armenians in Turkey nearly a century ago by calling it a "horrific" slaughter, but once again stopped short of branding it Genocide. In a written statement, Obama said the 1915 killings of some 1.5 million Armenians represent "one of the worst atrocities of the 20th century." But for the third straight year, he failed to use the word Genocide to describe it. As a candidate for president, Obama repeatedly vowed to recognize the Armenian Genocide once in office, vowing "a principled commitment to commemorating and ending genocide." But since 2009, Obama has declined to use the word in the face of furious resistance from Turkey, a key NATO ally. In his statement, Obama said "contested history destabilizes the present and stains the memory of those whose lives were taken." He said America knows this



from the dark chapters in its own history. He praised efforts in Armenia and Turkey "to foster a dialogue that acknowledges their common history." But Obama confined himself to using the Armenian name for the atrocities, Meds Yeghern, and paying tribute "to the memories of those who perished." He said his view of what took place hasn't changed since the campaign, adding, "A full, frank, and just acknowledgement of the facts is in all our interests." AP reported.

April 24, 2011 www.panarmenian.net

DARCHINYAN: IF IT WASN'T A HEADBUTT, I'D KNOCK PEREZ OUT

In one of the most powerful performances of his career, two-division world champion Vic "Raging Bull" Darchinyan dominated former IBF bantamweight titlist Yonhny "El Colombiano" Perez en route to winning a fifth-round technical decision and the vacant IBO 118-pound title Saturday on SHOWTIME.... The diminutive

Darchinyan was in total command from the outset of a scheduled 12-round bout at Nokia Theatre L.A. LIVE, scored a knockdown in the second and was ahead 50-44 on the three scorecards when the one-sided slugfest was halted due to an accidental headbutt at 1:44 of the round.

April 24, 2011 full story www.panarmenian.net

LA TIMES: OBAMA'S RELUCTANCE TO RECOGNIZE GENOCIDE NOT PRUDENCE BUT COWARDICE

U.S. President Barack Obama puts aside clarity in an effort to maintain the support of Armenian Americans while not offending Turkey, Tim Rutten of Los Angeles Times writes in an article he titled "Obama's lack of moral clarity on Armenian genocide issue." "The line between prudence and moral cowardice can be a fine one, particularly when it comes to the conduct of diplomacy," the article says. "For Americans, the question of where and how to make such distinctions has a particular urgency this week, as we commemorate the 96th anniversary of the genocide inflicted on the Armenians by the Ottoman Turks. In massacres from 1915 to 1923, more than 1.5 million Armenians were killed and eastern Anatolia was ethnically cleansed of a people whose presence there extended back to antiquity." "Here in California, where the descendants of those who escaped the genocide have made such a vibrant contribution to agriculture, business, the professions and public life, memorials of the tragedy are solemn annual events. What none of the participants at either event heard was a message from President Obama or Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton acknowledging the historical reality of the genocide. That's because this administration, like its predecessors, is straddling a fine line - one that, more than ever, appears to be a distinction without a difference." "For years now Congress has considered in various forms a resolution that would officially recognize the organized mass murder of Armenians that occurred in the Ottoman Empire's waning years as genocide - something many countries have done. But contemporary Turkey, a key U.S. ally and reliable NATO partner, adamantly objects to such a designation. Rather than offend the Turks, who threaten retaliation if Congress approves the resolution, this administration, like its predecessors, opposes the designation," the article continues. "It's an act of expediency that bites with particular sharpness because candidate Obama declared that 'America deserves a leader who speaks truthfully about the Armenian genocide.'" This raises the question of why President Obama declines to do so and why this administration opposes the resolution." The article goes on saying: "Clarity, though, is something the president seems determined to avoid, as he attempts to maintain the support of Armenian voters while soothing Turkish sensibilities. On last year's memorial anniversary, for example, he issued a statement that scrupulously avoided the word genocide."

April 20, 2011 full story www.panarmenian.net

KOMITAS VARDAPET, FORGOTTEN FOLK HERO



Composer Komitas Vardapet survived a genocide and somehow bridged Armenia and Turkey's musical divide. He should be better known. Sunday 24 April is Easter Day, but for Armenians it is also genocide remembrance day. This is when Armenians all over the world will gather to commemorate the anniversary of the 1915 genocide in which 1.5 million Armenians in Turkey were either slaughtered, or died on forced marches into exile. For Armenians, music is memory. And whenever they gather to honour their dead, the songs they sing are by the composer who speaks for the soul of their nation, Komitas Vardapet. He himself was a victim of the 1915 persecution, and though he survived physically, he was driven into madness by it. Outside Armenia he, too, has been swept under the carpet of history. Komitas's output was modest: 80 choral works and songs, arrangements of the Armenian mass, and some dances for piano. But as his better-known compatriot Aram Khachaturian acknowledged, he singlehandedly laid the foundations

He was at once a sensualist and an ascetic: he wanted to submit to discipline, but couldn't deny his artistic calling.

for Armenia's classical tradition. And as a collector and arranger of folksongs, he did for Armenia what Bartok did for Hungary, turning simple material into bewitchingly sophisticated polyphony. After a Komitas concert in Paris, Claude Debussy declared that on the basis of a single song, he deserved to be recognised as a great composer. Yet many classical musicians barely recognise his name. I first became aware of Komitas's existence when recording the Armenian Chamber Choir in Yerevan in 2001. I was intrigued by the songs' vibrant strangeness: folk melodies so deftly arranged that the raw beauty of the originals glowed the more brightly. Sghomon Sghomonyan – his original name – was born in 1869 to Armenian

parents in Turkey, where the Christian minority endured routine discrimination. His parents (who both died when he was young) were noted singers: he inherited their gift and was talent-spotted at 12 by an Armenian bishop, and enrolled at the Etchmiadzin seminary near Yerevan. There, he was the class comedian who could mimic the songs he found in villages on the slopes of Mount Ararat: even in his teens he was a pioneer ethnomusicologist. Using the notation he had learned in the Armenian liturgy, he wrote down what he heard, devised three-part arrangements, and formed a student choir to sing them.

April 21, 2011

full story www.guardian.co.uk April 21,

ARMENIA'S GAMBIT TO BECOME CHESS SUPERPOWER

Armenia is to make chess classes compulsory for children as young as six in a bid to become a chess superpower. The country in the South Caucasus region plans to invest nearly US\$1.5-million into teaching chess to primary schoolchildren. In addition to salaries, the investment will fund textbooks, manuals and boards, as well as proper tables and chairs to outfit the schools, the Armenian education ministry announced. The ministry claims chess will "foster schoolchildren's intellectual development" and improve children's critical-thinking skills. "It's a growing trend," according to Ted Winick, president of the

Chess Institute of Canada, who also teaches chess to children in Toronto. Mr. Winick believes North American schools should "absolutely" adopt Armenia's policy, citing various Soviet countries, as well as Cuba and Quebec, as examples of the game being successfully integrated into various public curriculum levels, though not as a mandatory class. Armenia's decision was made just two months after Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan was re-elected as chair of the Armenian Chess Federation, a position he's held since 2002.

April 19, 2011

full story www.news.nationalpost.com

FIRST BATCHJ-PRODUCED SUPERJET 100 TO BE HANDED OVER TO ARMENIAN AIRLINE



Russian aircraft manufacturing corporation Sukhoi Civilian Airlines /GSS/ is expected to hand over to the customer – the Armenian airline Armavia – the first batch-produced Sukhoi Superjet 100. All in all, Armavia will get two Superjets. April 12, the GSS and Armavia signed an inspection certificate for the jet, which certifies that the Superjet is being transferred to Armavia with a full package of documents and service documentation. The airliner matches the specified operational characteristics, does not have operational limitations, has full airworthiness and is ready for an immediate release on to commercial routes, both international and domestic ones. The Superjet is due to substitute for the old Soviet-era Tupolev-134 jets, which are still in operation. The GSS has a confirmed portfolio of 170 orders for the Sukhoi jets. The first airworthy machine in the family was shown to the public September 26, 2007, at a factory in the Russian Far-Eastern city Komsomolsk-on-Amur and it was also there that it took off on its maiden flight May 19, 2008. It is expected that the first Superjets will be supplied to Russia's major line Aeroflot soon. Along with this Russian Transport Minister Igor Levitin said last week that Aeroflot's management is getting ready to issue sanctions against the GSS, which disrupts the deadlines for the deliveries of new jets. He recalled that, according to initial plans, the first Sukhoi Superjets 100 were to reach Aeroflot at the end of 2010, but a delay in the obtaining of a certificate prompted the company to postpone the deadline several times. "The delivery dates indicated in the contract have expired and now the executives are drawing up on penalties," Levitin said. "They will first send them to the GSS board of directors and then to the government." He also said Aeroflot specialists had questions regarding the technical condition of the new jets. A spokesman for Aeroflot said along with this that Superjets have been included in the airline's summer flights schedules and the management is anxious to get them.

April 12, 2011 www.itar-tass.com

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMEMORATES THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

On Tuesday, April 19, members of the Armenian Council of America joined Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, headed by Supervisor Michael Antonovich to commemorate the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. During the commemoration Supervisor Antonovich presented the Armenian American community of Los Angeles with a proclamation signed by the Board of Supervisors commemorating the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The proclamation declares April 24, 2011 as a "Day of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923" throughout the Los Angeles County in recognition of this 96th Anniversary to keep alive the memory of the victims while recognizing the importance of preventing future atrocities by inspiring discussion and understanding among future generations for the betterment of our community, country, and world. In his remarks, Antonovich reiterated the

need to remember the Armenian Genocide and honor its victims. "To this horrible tragedy, the Armenian community is committed to ensuring that those who died due to their faith, due to their nationality will not be forgotten and that on every April 24th, a day of remembrance of the Armenian Genocide will be recognized throughout the world," stated Supervisor Antonovich "by consistently remembering and openly condemning these atrocities committed against the Armenians, our County once again demonstrates its sensitivity toward the need for the constant vigilance to prevent similar events in the future." In thanking Supervisor Antonovich, ACA Board Members Peter Darakjian, Mehran Khatchadourian, Yeghia Mazmanian noted the deep gratitude of the Armenian American community towards the County's continued efforts of remembrance and recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

April 20, 2011

full story www.massispost.com

KARDASHIAN BLOGS FOR ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RECOGNITION



Kim Kardashian posted a blog note and sent a "tweet" to 7.2 million of her fans today urging the U.S. government to recognize the Armenian Genocide and encouraging her fans to join the Resurrection and Recognition: National Day of Prayer on April 24. Kardashian's tweet amplifies voices from across America calling on the President to honor his pledge to properly commemorate the Armenian Genocide, notably Grammy Award-winning artist, System of a Down frontman, and human rights leader Serj Tankian. "We applaud Kim Kardashian for calling on our government to recognize the Armenian Gen-

ocide. Americans of good conscience are committed to ending the cycle of genocide, and to do that, we have to start by calling evil by its name. That's why we will be demonstrating during President Obama's visit to California in support of a truthful and just resolution of this crime" said Andrew Kzirian, chairman of the board of directors of the ANCA-WR. The Armenian Genocide Task Force is organizing a community-wide April 21st demonstration at the President's fundraiser in Culver City, California. Kardashian's tweet was clear and concise: "It's time to recognize the Armenian Genocide." This is not the first time Kardashian has called on the U.S. government to recognize the Armenian Genocide. In 2010, Kardashian called on Speaker Pelosi to schedule a vote on H.Res 252, the Armenian Genocide resolution. In that message, she said "It's time for America to speak openly and honestly about this horrible crime against humanity, and the only way this will happen is if WE speak up first."

April 21, 2011 www.armenianweekly.com

MORE THAN 1,500 PROTESTERS URGE OBAMA TO KEEP HIS CAMPAIGN PROMISE



With loud chants of "Obama, Keep Your Promise," more than 1,500 community members gathered at the Sony Picture Studios Thursday afternoon for a demonstration urging the president, who is on a fundraising trip to Los Angeles, to keep his campaign promise and recognize the Armenian Genocide. When addressing the crowd that gathered in front of the studio gates, System of A Down frontman and human rights activist Serj Tankian urged protesters to face the gate and by raising their right fist continuously repeat "As President, I will recognize the Genocide," a familiar campaign promise made by then candidate Obama during the 2008 presidential race. For more than 15 minutes, the excited crowd heeded Tankian's call and then urged the president to honor his promises. In his remarks, Tankian thanked the demonstrators and explained that the gathering was not just for the Obama Administration's broken promise about the Genocide, but also to echo collective disappointment in all the campaign promises that the president has not kept. Tankian highlighted that justice and human rights must prevail and urged the community to continue its activism and press ahead. Community activist Hovan Tashdjian addressed the crowd in Armenian and reiterated the community's disappointment in the failure for the Obama Administration to adhere to its promises, while pointing out that the Turkish government, which Obama seeks to appease, is still pursuing the very policies that led to the Genocide.

April 21, 2011

full story www.asbarez.com

"Armenia Highlights" is compiled in association with [PanArmenianNetwork.org](http://www.PanArmenianNetwork.org)

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