



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, November 2, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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POLITICS

- 1. Edward Nalbandian: The two sides have committed themselves to ratifying protocols as soon as possible [Noyan Tapan, 10/31/09]**

The ratification of Armenia-Turkey protocols has no connection to the Karabakh problem, and this is not a statement made for the domestic use, but the official position of the Armenian authorities, RA Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian declared at the October 30 press conference.

"It is not only Armenia that says that these issues are not linked. The Co-Chairs have repeatedly made statements about that, and when the three Co-Chairs came to Armenia recently, they said once again that the issues cannot be and are not linked in any way. In other words, these are not only Armenia's statements made for the domestic use, but this is also the position of the international community, and it shows that the processes are not linked and cannot be linked," the RA foreign minister said.

As regards the ratification of the protocols, E. Nalbandian said the two sides have committed themselves to ratifying them as soon as possible and to implementing the agreements.

Commenting on the presentation of the resolution on the Armenian Genocide at the U.S. Senate, the foreign minister said that the official Yerevan has always welcomed the Genocide's recognition by other countries. In his words, "about 20 countries have already recognized this historical fact which is related not only to the Armenian people, but also to the whole humanity. The recognition of the Armenian Genocide may later prevent such crimes against humanity".



2. Peter Semneby, "Regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations and Karabakh conflict settlement are different processes" [Armenpress, 11/02/09]

The regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations and of Karabakh conflict are two different processes, and one should not connect them with each other, Special Representative of European Union to South Caucasus Peter Semneby stated in the interview to "Vremya Novostey" newspaper.

He noted that the ratification of Armenian-Turkish relations will take place, as it stems from the benefits of the two countries, "Turkey has started that process not because it has a kind attitude toward Armenia, but because it stems from its own interests. This became one of the examples of Turkey's policy toward its neighbors. Of course, for Turkey it is also important to have in the center of its attention Azerbaijan's interests, to hear how Azerbaijani people respond and what they speak, but in the end, the end of the process stems from the interests of Turkey", the European official said.

According to him, the regulation of relations between Armenia and Turkey will open new opportunities and will have a favorable impact in regard of the security of the region, as well as will influence on economy positively.

Underscoring that one should not connect Armenia-Turkish relations and Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation with each other, Semneby said, "these are two different issues; one should not connect them with each other. Otherwise it is possible to easily appear in such a situation, when the opportunities of normalizing the relations will close again. Nevertheless, it is obvious that the development of one of the mentioned issues affects the general atmosphere. It is necessary to do so that they influence on each other as positively as possible."

BUSINESS

3. Armenian companies win 4 out of 12 nominations at award ceremony of 2nd Regional Georgia IT Innovation Conference [Noyan Tapan, 10/31/09]

The Second Regional Georgia IT Innovation Conference and an award-giving ceremony took place in Tbilisi, Georgia on October 29-30. Ten Armenian companies, including E-dram, CHS Verisel Service, Strategic Partners, E-works, Spyur, IDS Design and Technologies, Grant Thornton Amyot, and Macadamian AR participated in the event.

Their participation was organized and coordinated by the Union of IT Enterprises (UITE) with the assistance of the USAID CAPS Project.

The purpose of this regional IT event was to establish and encourage cooperation among the state and private sectors, various associations and companies engaged in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector of Central and Eastern European, Caucasian and Middle East countries, as well as Baltic states and to promote their competitiveness and innovations. The event's organizers were the Georgia ICT Business Council and the State Commission of e-Governance Development of Georgia.

Armenian companies won 4 out of the 12 nominations which were divided into two groups: solutions for the state and private sectors. The ID cards and e-Signature System project of the Nork Information and Analytical Center won "The Best IT Project" nomination; www.Hayland.am of Strategic Partners company won "The Best Integrator of the Year" and "The Best Multimedia Project"; and Spyur company's Armenia Business Directory and Yellow Pages project won "The Best B2B Solution" nomination.

ARTS

4. Krzysztof Penderecki awarded Order of Honor of Armenia [Noyan Tapan, 10/31/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on October 29 received Krzysztof Penderecki, the world-famous Polish composer and conductor of Armenian descent, who has come to Armenia with the "Days of Krzysztof Penderecki in Armenia" Program in connection with the 10th International Music Festival "Perspectives of the 21st".

Welcoming the distinguished composer, S. Sargsyan said: "It is a great honor for us to receive you in our country. Our people values your art and works, also your devotion and your Armenian roots". The president stated that taking the people's opinion into consideration and fulfilling the wish of music lovers, he signed on October 28 a decree to award an Order of Honor to Krzysztof Penderecki.



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Accepting this high state award of Armenia, Krzysztof Penderecki said he considers it as a great honor and perhaps, he owes this award to his Armenian grandmother as well. "I am always delighted to see so many young people among the audience, which means that my art belongs to the future," the world-famous musician said.

According to the RA presidential press service, at the meeting S. Sargsyan and K. Penderecki also spoke about Armenian-Polish cultural ties and new initiatives regarding the cooperation.

5. Famous Jazzman George Benson To Give A Concert In Yerevan [Noyan Tapan, 10/31/09]

On the occasion of opening its head office, Ameriabank will present jazz lovers with an exclusive concert: for the first time in Armenia, the famous U.S. musician George Benson will give a concert.

The concert will start at 7:30 pm on November 12 at the Karen Demirchian Complex in Yerevan. The concert is being organized under the high patronage of Armenian president, with the support of the RA Ministry of Culture, and will be held within the framework of the 10th International Music Festival "Perspectives of the 21st".

George Benson is a Grammy Award winning American musician, whose recording career began at the age of 21 as a jazz guitarist. He is also known as a pop, R&B, and scat singer. In the 1980s George Benson was one of the most renowned musicians in the United States. Today he continues to rank high and tours the world, performing over 100 shows a year.

6. "Cultural Policy, Policy for Culture" conference to be held in Yerevan [Armenpress, 11/02/09]

"Cultural Policy, Policy for Culture" conference will be held November 6-8 in Yerevan organized by the Armenian Ministry of Culture with the support of UNESCO Yerevan Office.

An official from the Armenian Culture Ministry told Armenpress that representatives from CIS countries will participate in the event. The conference will give an opportunity to Armenian and foreign cultural figures elaborate dialogue over core cultural-policy issues, establishment of cooperation among different countries in the sphere of culture.

7. Exhibition of works of Sergey Parajanov opened October 28 in Slovakia [Armenpress, 11/02/09]

Official opening of the exhibition of works of Sergey Parajanov took place October 28 in the Culture Ministry of Slovakia. The arrangement over it has been achieved during the Armenian Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan's visit to Slovakia in July.

The culture ministries of the two countries carried out the works for the opening of the exhibition in collaboration with Armenian embassy in Vienna and Parajanov museum.

Armenian Foreign Ministry's Media and Information Department told Armenpress that Culture Minister of Slovakia Marek Madyaric, Armenian ambassador to Slovakia Ashot Hovakimyan and director of Parajanov museum Zaven Sargsyan delivered speeches. Political, public and cultural figures of Slovakia, representatives of Armenian community, diplomats were present at the event.

RELIGION

8. Catholicos of All-Armenians Karekin II awarded with St. Mesrop Mashtots Order [Armenpress, 11/02/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan signed October 30 a decree on awarding Catholicos of All-Armenian Karekin II with St. Mesrop Mashtots Order for his exclusive contribution to the preservation and development of spiritual merits, Armenian presidential press service told Armenpress.

SOCIAL

9. Stricter penalties to be introduced for hindrance to professional activities of journalists [Noyan Tapan, 10/31/09]

At the October 29 sitting of the RA National Assembly, member of "Orinats Yerkir" faction Hovhannes Margarian presented in the first reading a bill envisaging amendments and additions to the RA Criminal Code. The bill was drafted by him and the faction's head Heghine Bisharian.



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The bill proposes introducing stricter penalties for hindrance to the legal professional activities of a journalist with the aim of increasing the level of protection of journalists or those carrying out journalistic activity. Under Article 164 of the RA Criminal Code, hindrance to the legal professional activities of a journalist or forcing a journalist to disseminate information or not to disseminate information is punished with a fine of 50-150 thousand drams. The bill proposes increasing the fine to 200-400 thousand drams.

It is proposed imposing a fine of 300-700 thousand drams (the current fine is 100-250 thousand drams), or imprisonment of up to 3 years (the same penalty is envisaged by the current Code) for the same actions committed by an official abusing his (her) official position.

Besides, the bill envisages adding a new part to the above mentioned article of the Criminal Code: "the same actions committed by using violence dangerous for life or health of a journalist or his (her) close relative or by making threats to use violence is punished with imprisonment of 3-7 years".

10. The deadline for receiving applications for the involvement in National Youth Policy Council prolonged till November 5 [Armenpress, 11/02/09]

The deadline for receiving applications for the involvement in National Youth Policy Council adjunct to Armenian prime minister has been prolonged till November 5. Vice-Minister of Armenian Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs Arsen Karamyan told Armenpress that the application deadline has been prolonged taking into consideration the requests of numerous NGOs, higher educational establishments and individual citizens. As of today, 41 applications have been submitted. It is worth of mentioning that the deadline for receiving applications was October 26.

A. Karamyan noted that the results are to be summed up during a week beginning from November 5. Six places are extended for NGOs in the council, three places – for the representatives of student self-governing bodies of higher educational establishments, local and international experts and researchers of the spheres of youth policy and youth work, and for the representatives of NGOs operating in Armenian provinces.

11. EU to provide 16 million euros for judicial reforms in Armenia for 2009-2011 [Armenpress, 11/02/09]

The EU is expected to provide this year 8 million euros for the implementation of judicial reforms in Armenia and in 2010 and in 2011 four million.

Armenian Justice Minister Gevorg Danielyan said today at the joint session of the NA's state-legal affairs and financial-credit and budget affairs standing commissions that the notable part of the sums will be directed toward reconstruction of criminal-execution establishments. In this pre-context the minister underscored the construction of new building of Goris criminal-executive establishment.

The minister said there is also an issue to continue the works with the building of Armavir Goris criminal-executive establishment. The state budget did not release sums for this two important establishments.

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