



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, November 9, 2009

---

## **TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES**

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

1. **NZ party to support Nikol Pashinian's candidature in NA deputy by-elections**
2. **If Turkey does not ratify Armenia-Turkey protocols, Armenia has no unilateral obligation to do so, Edward Sharmazanov says**
3. **Taner Akcam lectures on the Armenian Genocide at La Salle University**
4. **Armenian Assembly of America holds Youth Roundtable Discussion on Armenia-Turkey Protocols**
5. **Ilham Aliyev and Serzh Sargsian accepted to organize their next bilateral meeting before the end of November**
6. **France Telecom pins serious hopes on Armenia**
7. **Armenian PM says "ArmTech" is an opportunity to review and upgrade IT programs in Armenia**
8. **Production processes going on in the "Nairit" factory**
9. **Internal Documents Reveal UK Officials Misled Parliament on Armenian Genocide**
10. **Lebanese Armenian painter Zohrap's exhibition opens**
11. **"Cafesjian" art center opened in "Cascade" complex**
12. **"Youth Involved in Society" program carried out in Armenia**

### **POLITICS**

1. **NZ party to support Nikol Pashinian's candidature in NA deputy by-elections [Noyan Tapan, 11/07/09]**

Nor Zhamanakner (New Times) party Board on November 5 made a decision to support the candidature of Haykakan Zhamanak newspaper's editor-in-chief Nikol Pashinian, accused of organizing mass disorders in 2008 March, in the NA deputy by-elections by majority system to be held on 2010 January 10 at Yerevan electoral district N 10. NT was informed about it by NZ party Press Office.

2. **If Turkey does not ratify Armenia-Turkey protocols, Armenia has no unilateral obligation to do so, Edward Sharmazanov says [Noyan Tapan, 11/07/09]**

If the Foreign Relations Committee of the Turkish parliament does not release a positive recommendation about the Armenia-Turkey protocols by December 7, the Turkish prime minister will not be given a cordial welcome in Washington, moreover, he will not be received at all. Spokesman for the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) Edward Sharmazanov made this statement at the November 6 press conference. In his words, the fact that U.S. has always welcomed RA President Serzh Sargsyan's policy full of initiative and has repeatedly said that Armenian-Turkish normalization should proceed without any preconditions gives an occasion to think so.

"To establish relations with Turkey at any price is not our goal," E. Sharmazanov said. According to him, in the 21st century, it is necessary and appropriate for any European country to have open borders. "Let Turkey decide whether it corresponds to the standards of a European state or not," RPA's spokesman noted. He said that if Turkey does not ratify the protocols, Armenia has no unilateral obligation to do so.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, November 9, 2009

---

Speaking about the Karabakh conflict, E. Sharmazanov said he does not see its resolution in the near future because the problem is very complex. "The issue of status is the most important one. The Azerbaijanis should put the idea of Karabakh's being part of Azerbaijan out of their heads," he declared. E. Sharmazanov also advised the Turks to think about the fact that they have occupied 37% of the territory of Cyprus, and only after that to demand some territories for Azerbaijan from Armenia.

### **3. Taner Akcam lectures on the Armenian Genocide at La Salle University [Noyan Tapan, 11/07/09]**

Before a standing-room only audience at La Salle University (Philadelphia), Taner Akcam, the first scholar of Turkish origin to publish on the heretofore-taboo topic of the Armenian Genocide, explained the historical background and causes of the genocide.

Dr. Cornelia Tsakiridou, an associate professor of philosophy at the university, explained that the idea of bringing Dr. Akcam there was to expose students to the historical arguments of the case and do so by inviting a prominent historian who has specialized on this subject.

Akcam is an associate professor of history at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. Since 1990, he has focused his research on Turkish nationalism and the Armenian Genocide, with 11 books and numerous articles to his credit, starting with his first book, *Türk Ulusal Kimliği ve Ermeni Sorunu* (The Armenian Question and Turkish National Identity), published in 1992.

### **4. Armenian Assembly of America holds Youth Roundtable Discussion on Armenia-Turkey Protocols [Noyan Tapan, 11/07/09]**

Last week the Armenian Assembly of America, in collaboration with the Armenian American Action Committee of Washington, DC, (ARAMAC-DC) organized "Protocols & Progress: A Youth Roundtable Discussion on Armenia-Turkey Relations." The discussion took place in the main hall of the future home of the Armenian Genocide Museum of America in downtown Washington, DC. Over 25 members of the community were in attendance, mostly from local student and youth groups.

Throughout the discussion many important issues were raised, touching upon such topics as broader Armenia-Turkey relations and the opening of the border, the Armenian community's response and the importance of dialogue, diplomacy and the Diaspora moving forward.

### **5. Ilham Aliyev and Serzh Sargsian accepted to organize their next bilateral meeting before the end of November [Noyan Tapan, 11/07/09]**

According to OSCE.org, the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Ambassadors Yury Merzlyakov of Russia, Bernard Fassier of France, and Robert Bradtke of the United States, released the following statement:

"The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs (Ambassador Yuri Merzlyakov, the Russian Federation; Ambassador Bernard Fassier, France; Ambassador Robert Bradtke, United States) visited Azerbaijan and Armenia November 4-6. They met Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev November 5 in Baku before traveling to Yerevan November 6 to meet Armenian President Serzh Sargsian. They returned to Baku November 6 for a second meeting with President Aliyev.

In Baku and Yerevan, both presidents reiterated their commitment to continue their discussions, with the objective to make further progress toward reaching an agreement on the basic principles for the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. They accepted the proposal of the Co-Chairs to organize their next bilateral meeting, the sixth such meeting this year, before the end of November at a time and place to be confirmed."

## **BUSINESS**

### **6. France Telecom pins serious hopes on Armenia [Noyan Tapan, 11/07/09]**

Orange Armenia company held a reception in Yerevan on November 5 in connection with the start of its activities in Armenia. Orange Armenia represents France Telecom in our country. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan attended the reception.

Director General of Orange Armenia Bruno Dutois stated that the company will provide the best services in Armenia. President of France Telecom Didier Lombard expressed satisfaction at the fact that



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, November 9, 2009

---

a new country is joining France Telecom. In his words, the reason for the company's entrance into Armenia is "the intimacy that we feel exists between Armenia and France".

RA Minister of Transport and Communication Gurgen Sargsyan said the entrance of this French company into Armenian market will contribute to the development of Armenia's economy, especially its communication sector, and will strengthen the friendship of the two countries. The company has already made investments of 90 million dollars and is among the ten biggest taxpayers in Armenia. France Telecom pins serious hopes on Armenia, while Armenia expects this company to provide high quality mobile phone and Internet services.

## **7. Armenian PM says "ArmTech" is an opportunity to review and upgrade IT programs in Armenia [Armenpress, 11/09/09]**

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan wrapped up his working visit to USA. Within the framework of "ArmTech 2009" prime minister received representatives of the "Renaissance" and "Mentor Graphics" companies, discussed with them programs carried out in Armenia. The prime minister received our compatriot, Senator John Simityan.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that during the gala reception of "ArmTech 2009" congress Tigran Sargsyan addressed to the participants and guests of the event.

In his speech he pointed out that during the stay in Silicone Valley it became clear that changes must be made in the government's IT programs as they have become outdated. According to him, "ArmTech" is an opportunity to review and upgrade IT programs in Armenia.

During the meetings conducted by the prime minister he referred to issues on Armenia-Diaspora partnership, Armenian-Turkish relations, presented Armenia's position in the issue and initiative of the Armenian president to normalize Armenian-Turkish relations.

On the last day of the visit Tigran Sargsyan visited Plug and Play computer companies' incubator, got acquainted with its programs and opportunities. During the negotiations with the leadership of the Incubator an agreement has been reached over cooperation of the Armenia's Enterprises Incubator Foundation and Plug and Play as well as over development and implementation of joint programs.

## **8. Production processes going on in the "Nairit" factory [Armenpress, 11/09/09]**

Certain production processes are going on in the "Nairit" factory, which deals with the production of rubber. Press secretary of the factory Anush Harutyunyan told Armenpress that the first rubber will soon be received and after it, steps toward using whole productive powers will be undertaken.

A. Harutyunyan said that about 50 people are in obligatory stoppage, the majority is already working.

According to her, the factory continues supplying its partners the stored product until the chief production starts.

The work of the "Nairit" factory has been suspended after the May 14 explosion in one of the workshops of the factory. Now the factory is being re-operated.

## **DIASPORA**

## **9. Internal Documents Reveal UK Officials Misled Parliament on Armenian Genocide [Noyan Tapan, 11/07/09] By Harut Sassounian Publisher, The California Courier**

A prominent legal expert, Mr. Geoffrey Robertson, exposed this week the false and inaccurate statements on the Armenian Genocide made by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The international jurist revealed that for many years the FCO (Foreign Ministry) had misled the British Parliament on the facts of the Armenian Genocide in order to curry favor with the Turkish government.

The 40-page meticulously-researched report, commissioned by the Armenian Centre of London, is based on hitherto secret documents obtained from the Foreign Office through the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Robertson, the author of a report titled, "Was there an Armenian Genocide?" served as first President of the UN War Crimes Court in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Robertson had to make repeated requests over several months to the British government in order to obtain internal documents that the Foreign Office was legally obligated to release. According to the FCO, some of the documents were not released at all, while those eventually made public were partially blacked out, in order not to damage Britain's relations with Turkey.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, November 9, 2009

---

In his report, Mr. Robertson explains that the Armenian Centre had asked him "to consider the attitude of the British government in refusing to accept that the massacres of Armenians in 1915-16 amounted to genocide, and whether its reasons for taking this position are valid and sustainable in international law."

Regrettably, today's British officials have forgotten their government's declaration, issued jointly with France and Russia on May 28, 1915, warning that "in view of the crimes of Turkey against humanity and civilization," the three great powers would hold responsible "all members of the Ottoman government" who are implicated in the Armenian massacres.

The recently obtained internal documents reveal the Foreign Office's misleading, false and sinister intent. In a 1999 memorandum, addressed to Minister of State for Europe Joyce Quin and others, the FCO stated that it is not the British government's obligation to decide what constitutes genocide: "Investigating, analyzing and interpreting history is a matter for historians." In contrast, Attorney Robertson points out the government's "basic error" in relying "on historians to decide a legal issue." He explains that "deciding what amounts to genocide is a matter for judgment according to international law, and not at all is a matter for historians. Historians establish facts: lawyers must judge whether those facts amount to a breach of international law."

In the same memorandum, the Foreign Office states that there is no documentary evidence proving that the mass killings of Armenians were a result of deliberate state policy. Mr. Robertson calls this statement "another canard -- that appears routinely and repeatedly" in internal FCO communications -- "the notion that there must be some written document that records a government or leadership decision to exterminate the Armenian people." Mr. Robertson points out that "no such document, of course, exists in relation to the Nazi Holocaust."

Clearly, the Foreign Office is more concerned about the domestic and overseas ramifications of acknowledging the Armenian Genocide than the crime of genocide itself. Mr. Robertson points out: "the memorandum goes on rather cynically to consider the clout of the campaign to recognize the genocide and notes that 'the campaign does not appear at this stage to have enough support or direction to seriously embarrass HMG Her Majesty's Government.'"

The Foreign Office also places a higher premium on appeasing Turkey than on the moral issues arising from the attempted extermination of an entire nation. "HMG is open to criticism in terms of the ethical dimension," the FCO readily admits. "But given the importance of our relations (political, strategic and commercial) with Turkey, and that recognizing the genocide would provide no practical benefit to the UK or the few survivors of the killings still alive today, nor would it help a rapprochement between Armenia and Turkey, the current line is the only feasible option." Mr. Robertson sarcastically, yet sadly, remarks: "This particular genocide could not be recognized -- not because it had not taken place, but because it was politically and commercially inconvenient to do so."

Another false argument advanced by the Foreign Office in several memoranda is the contention that the UN Genocide Convention of 1948 has no retroactive effect and therefore, does not apply to the Armenian Genocide. Mr. Robertson, a top expert in the field of international law, quickly quashes this "bad point," because "the rule against retroactivity applies to criminal charges, made against individuals, of offences which were not against the law at the time they were allegedly committed. Nobody is suggesting that criminal charges should be brought now against long dead individuals -- the question is whether the massacre of the Armenians is correctly described as 'genocide,' according to the definition adopted by the UN Convention in 1948."

British Minister of State for Europe, Joyce Quin, was so incensed by her government's extremism in "genocide denial," and its allegation that there was no evidence of a Turkish intent to commit genocide that, in an April 13, 1999 memorandum to the Foreign Office, she pointed out that the issue of intent had never been examined by government officials.

Mr. Robertson's report then relates the diplomatic scandal involving Thorda Abbott-Watt, the British Ambassador to Armenia, who shamelessly questioned the veracity of the Armenian Genocide during a 2004 interview in Yerevan. She stated that the evidence regarding the Armenian Genocide "was not sufficiently unequivocal" to be categorized as genocide under the UN Genocide Convention. In response to several columns I wrote at that time, thousands of readers worldwide inundated the British Foreign Office and the Armenian Foreign Ministry with letters of complaint. The Armenian government finally delivered a "Note verbale" (protest note) to the British government. Mr. Robertson uncovered an internal FCO memorandum written during that controversy, suggesting that the British government maintain its denialist policy, since Turkey "devotes major diplomatic resources to heading off any possible recognition. Turkey would react very strongly indeed to any suggestion of recognition by the UK."

In his examination of the hundreds of pages of recently released documents, Mr. Robertson came across "only one obscure and dismissive reference" by the Foreign Office to the "one credible



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, November 9, 2009

---

international inquiry" that classified the Armenian mass killings as Genocide. This unique study was carried out in 1985 by the British Special Rapporteur, Benjamin Whitaker, at the request of the UN Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. To his chagrin, Mr. Robertson found out that the Foreign Office had issued a memorandum advising government ministers to dismiss the UN 1985 report by stating that "since then, we are not aware of it being mentioned in any UN document or forum."

Even after several European countries had recognized the Armenian Genocide, the Foreign Office continued to stubbornly cling to its denialist policy by advising Minister of State for Europe, Geoff Hoon, that "Turkey is neuralgic and defensive about the charge of genocide despite the fact that the events occurred at the time of the Ottoman Empire as opposed to modern day Turkey. There were many Turks who lost their lives in the war and there may also be an element of concern over compensation claims should they accept the charge of genocide. This defensiveness has meant that Turkey has historically stifled debate at home and devoted considerable diplomatic effort to dissuading any further recognition."

Finally, in October 2007, when the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee adopted a resolution acknowledging the Armenian Genocide, the Foreign Office wrote an alarming memorandum, expressing concern that "the Armenian diaspora worldwide lobbying machine" would now "go into overdrive!" Mr. Robertson, based on his examination of the released internal documents written over a 10-year period, concludes that the advice given by the British Foreign Office to government ministers "reflects neither the law of genocide nor the demonstrable facts of the massacres in 1915-16, and has been calculated to mislead parliament into believing that there has been an assessment of evidence and an exercise of judgment on that evidence."

Mr. Robertson further establishes that the "parliament has been routinely misinformed, by ministers who have recited FCO briefs without questioning their accuracy. HMG's Her Majesty's Government real and only policy has been to evade truthful answers to questions about the Armenian genocide, because the truth would discomfort the Turkish government!"

In view of revelations of such misconduct and misrepresentation, the British Parliament should hold formal hearings and investigate the conduct of all officials who provided false and misleading information to Parliament members for well over a decade. Those found to be either negligent in carrying out their duties or complicit in providing outright falsehoods, should have charges filed against them or dismissed from their governmental posts..

In addition, Mr. Robertson, a pre-eminent international jurist, should be asked to file legal action against the Turkish government in British courts, and more importantly, in the European Court of Human Rights.

This extremely valuable report should be translated into several major languages and disseminated worldwide.

## ARTS

### **10. Lebanese Armenian painter Zohrap's exhibition opens [Noyan Tapan, 11/07/09]**

A solemn opening ceremony of the 37th personal exhibition of Lebanese Armenian painter Zohrap's works took place on October 31 at the Le Simaz exhibition hall of Lebanon. According to Azdag, 72 paintings made with oil paint, ink, watercolor, acrylic paint and guash were presented at the exhibition under the title Love.

The axis of Zohrap's works is the man with his feelings and emotions. His paintings are on the subjects of love, family, and nature. The painter in his works also touched upon Armenian people's sufferings and pains, which make part of his feelings.

Speaking about his plans for the future the painter expressed the hope that he will organize an exhibition on other subjects in this season.

### **11. "Cafesjian" art center opened in "Cascade" complex [Armenpress, 11/09/09]**

"Cafesjian" art center opened November 7 in "Cascade" complex with the participation of the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, His Holiness Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II and American-Armenian businessman Gerard Cafesjian.

The art center presents the personal collections of G. Cafesjian – more than 5000 works. The collection includes canvases and paintings, sculptures of Archil Gorky, Fernando Botero, Jenifer Batlet.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, November 9, 2009

---

The President and the Catholicos accompanied by G. Cafesjian walked in the center, got acquainted with the art pieces.

G. Cafesjian told the reporters that the opening of the center is a big holiday for people loving art. "I see happy faces, who are admired with this rich art collections. I am happy that works of big masters found their place in Yerevan," he said.

Executive director of "Cafesjian" center Michael de Marsh said that the opening of the center opens a new page in the cultural history of the republic. He said many participated in this wonderful initiative but from the beginning it has been guided by one person – G. Cafesjian.

Greeting the opening of the center, Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan said that wide cooperation will be established between the center and the ministry.

## SOCIAL

### **12. "Youth Involved in Society" program carried out in Armenia [Armenpress, 11/09/09]**

«Youth Achievements» non-governmental organization is carrying out «Youth Involved in Society» program sponsored by the Armenian Education and Science Ministry.

The goal of the program is to develop the civil society through establishing centers for debates in 98 schools of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, Armavir, Abovyan, Hrazdan, Ashtarak, Artashat and Massis towns.

The deputy head of the NGO Andranik Martirosyan said that as compared with the past year the level of awareness of pupils has increased. Children freely express their thoughts and voice issues they are concerned with.

The theme of this year's debate is Armenian-Turkish relations and the pupils, Martirosyan said, are ready to express their viewpoints.

In collaboration with the «Legal Guideline» organization and financing of the EU, «Youth Achievements» NGO is carrying out «Rights of an Interactive Person» program the goal of which is to support human rights protection in Armenia through interactive and attractive instruments.

---

Produced by AGBU Armenian Representation

*Please be advised that the AGBU Armenia News Bulletin is for general reference only and should not be reprinted in any form without the explicit written permission of AGBU. All rights reserved.*

*Established in 1906, AGBU ([www.agbu.org](http://www.agbu.org)) is the world's largest non-profit Armenian organization. Headquartered in New York City with an annual budget of \$36 million, AGBU preserves and promotes the Armenian identity and heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programs, annually touching the lives of some 400,000 Armenians on six continents.*