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# U.S. House Passes Genocide Resolution

WASHINGTON – House Resolution 296, recognizing the Armenian Genocide and opposing its denial, passed by the US House of Representatives by a lopsided majority of 405 to 11 (and 3 present votes). This non-legally binding resolution states that the sense of US policy is to 1) commemorate the Armenian Genocide officially; 2) reject attempts to associate the US government with its denial; and 3) encourage education and public understanding of the facts of this genocide, and its relevance to current crimes against humanity.

Turkey's recent incursion into Syria against the Kurds seems to have been a final blow to any American support for Turkish genocide denial. The US House also just passed economic sanctions against Turkey, indicating a shift in policy towards Turkey may be occurring, and the genocide resolution was another tool to be used to pressure the latter.

"I think some of us are a little bit annoyed with Turkey, and we want them to know how much annoyed we are," House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., told National Public Radio (NPR) last week.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), according to the *Washington Post* when see RESOLUTION, page 20



Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian at the hearing, with a wedding picture of his grandparents taken in Marash.

# Public Hearing Held for Genocide Education

BOSTON – Scholars, politicians, historians and concerned citizens testified on October 7 at the State House at a public hearing before the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Education for a bill that if passed by the state legislature, would mandate the teaching of the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide and several other genocides in the state's public schools.

Among those testifying and answering questions were Dikran Kaligian, a member of the Armenian National Committee of Eastern Massachusetts, and Peter Koutoujian, sheriff of Middlesex County.

Kaligian said the hearing went quite well. Many of those testifying were Jewish survivors of the Holocaust as well as several Ukrainians, whose holocaust, the Holodomor, killed millions through an intentional infliction of famine.

see HEARING, page 20

# Armenia Marks 20th Anniversary Of Parliament Killings

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Armenia's top government officials and politicians attended on Sunday, October 27, an official ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of an armed attack on the Armenian parliament which left its popular speaker Karen

ly tried and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Throughout their marathon trial Hunanyan insisted that he himself had decided to seize the parliament without anybody's orders. But many in Armenia still believe that he and his henchmen had powerful sponsors outside the parliament building.



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan (R) greets Aram Sargsyan at a memorial to the victims of the October 1999 deadly attack on the Armenian parliament, Yerevan, October 27, 2019.

Demirchyan, Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsyan and six other officials dead.

They were killed by five gunmen who burst into the National Assembly and sprayed it with bullets on October 27, 1999, six months after parliamentary elections won by Demirchyan's and Sargsyan's Miasnutyun (Unity) alliance. The gunmen led by an obscure former journalist, Nairi Hunanyan, accused the government of corruption and misrule and demanded regime change.

They surrendered to police after overnight negotiations with then President Robert Kocharyan. They were subsequent-

Some relatives and supporters of the assassinated officials still suspect Kocharyan and his successor President Serzh Sargsyan (no relation to Vazgen), who was Armenia's national security minister in October 1999, of masterminding the killings to eliminate increasingly powerful rivals. Both men repeatedly dismissed such suggestions during and after a serious political crisis caused by the killings.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, other government officials as well as leaders of Armenia's main political forces marked the anniversary by laying flowers at a memorial to the victims of the shock attack erected inside the parliament compound in Yerevan. Relatives of the victims also took part in the ceremony.

Vazgen Sargsyan's supporters and comrades-in-arms also visited the Yerablur military cemetery where the slain prime minister was buried. Sargsyan had also served see ANNIVERSARY, page 2

# Deputy Minister Visits US in Effort to Combat Poverty, Social Oppression In Armenia

By Aram Arkun  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Zhanna Andreasyan was in Boston at the end of September on a week-long working visit sponsored by the Women's Support Center of Armenia. With her was the executive director of the latter organization, Maro Matosian and its project coordinator Hasmik Gevorgyan. Lenna Garibian in Boston organized the visit in collaboration with local social workers.

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From left, Liam Lowney, Executive Director, Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA), Lenna Garibian, and Zhanna Andreasyan (photo Aram Kaligian)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Diaspora Minister to Request Security from France for Armenian Institutions

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenia's High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs Zareh Sinanyan said on October 24 that he will demand that French authorities provide security for French-Armenian educational and cultural establishments following the recent attack on the Samuel Moorat Armenian College in Sevres.

The Mekhitarist school was attacked on October 23, the second time it has been vandalized in 2019. "I spoke with Archimandrite Harutyun Pztikian (member of the Mekhitarist Congregation). The damages inflicted to the Samuel Moorat College of Paris are far greater than we could've imagined," Sinanyan said on Facebook.

"In the coming days we will demand from French authorities to provide the French-Armenian educational and cultural establishments with duly security," he said.

Earlier, on October 20, the Paris-based Armenian newspaper *Nouvelles d'Arménie's* office was also attacked and vandalized.

### Paylan Inquiry Into Istanbul Pogrom Rejected

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The parliamentary inquiry into Istanbul Pogrom submitted by Garo Paylan, a Turkish-Armenian lawmaker from the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), has been rejected on the ground of "not being in accordance with the Internal Regulations of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM)," Bianet reported on October 28.

Paylan submitted the inquiry on September 5, requesting the identification of public officials and civil perpetrators who planned and organized the pogrom against Greeks, Armenians and Jews in Istanbul on September 6-7, 1955.

Paylan had written in his petition that: "The pogrom of September 6-7, 1955, is one of the gravest events in the history of the Republic of Turkey that has not yet been confronted. According to official data, only 73 churches in Istanbul, 8 ayazmas, 2 monasteries, 5,538 houses 3,584 of which belonged to Greeks, and businesses were burned down and looted.

Also according to official records, 60 women were raped and many were killed. Following the impunity of the pogrom, tens of thousands of Greek, Armenian, Jewish and Syriac citizens were forced to leave the country against oppression and the threat of life security.

The perpetrators of this pogrom did not receive punishment; on the contrary, the people involved or caused the events were promoted.

## INSIDE

### AMAA Meets in Watertown

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School to Close

PASADENA – In a letter posted online last week, the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School board announced that the school will close as of next year.

“After extensive consideration of a number of factors and, most importantly, thinking about the best interests of our students, we have decided to combine the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School (MHS) with our sister AGBU Manoogian-Demirjian School (MDS) on the Canoga Park campus at the end of this school year,” the letter noted.

The board went on to enumerate the reasons for their decision, while noting that they understand there would be questions.

Among the factors they cite declining enrollment and increasing deficits.

“Since its inception, regardless of enrollment numbers, the school has been heavily subsidized by AGBU and the Manoukian Foundation. Those subsidies have grown significantly every year, nearing almost \$2 million this past year, alone. With its policy of keeping tuition affordable, the \$7,980 tuition



Students at the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School

covers only about a third of the \$20,000 per student cost. AGBU and the Manoukian Foundation have been subsidizing each student between \$10,000 and \$13,000, annual-

ly. There has also been a steadily increasing demand for financial aid. Given its commitment to maintaining high academic standards and attracting the best quality teach-

ers, MHS is facing a financial reality that has become untenable,” the letter added.

The resources, they suggested could be better used to provide quality education while investing in the local community.

“We respect the strong attachment to MHS and the school community, and all it has offered your children. We truly believe MDS will continue to offer these same values and cultural traditions. With an even more robust and excellent educational experience, MDS offers a dynamic learning environment, a significantly larger student body population, many of whom are friends with MHS students, and considerably more resources for students than MHS,” according to the letter.

The MHS board members and administrators will hold a School Placement Fair on Tuesday, November 5 following the scheduled Parent Teacher Conferences, where families can meet with representatives of MDS and a number of other high schools. Further details will follow in a separate correspondence.

## ACEF Welcomes New Members to Board of Directors

By Steve Nigohosian

NEW YORK – The Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF) recently welcomed Greg Amerkian and Aline Khatchadourian to its Board of Directors, while acknowledging the close of an eight-year term by legacy Board member Alyssa Kelesian Bonomo. Amerkian and Khatchadourian will attend the upcoming November 22 Board of Directors meeting at the Diocesan Center in New York City.

“We are very appreciative of Alyssa’s outstanding contribution to ACEF during her tenure on our Board of Directors, and we look forward to her continued involvement as an ongoing member of the ACEF family,” says Chairman Charles A. Demirjian. “We are also very honored to have Greg and Aline join our

Board, as their professional experience and financial acumen will be of the utmost value to the organization.”

Amerkian, a senior vice president at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, has been a lifelong parishioner of St. Thomas Armenian Church in Tenafly, NJ, and joined the ACEF Board in January. His extensive experience in evaluating investments and their rate of return is the perfect fit for ACEF. “Investment policy statements are critical in that they indicate whether or not the funds, and their managers, are meeting the organization’s financial goals and expectations,” says Greg. “Serving on the ACEF Board gives me the opportunity to help oversee the performance of the funds, with the end goal of ensuring continued financial growth and longevity for the Armenian Church and its programs.”

Khatchadourian, who also joined the ACEF Board in January, is a Certified Public



Greg Amerkian

are the launching of the 2017 Annual Report, and the creation of the organization’s new brand identity, including its website and logo. Yet, she is proudest of the ongoing creation of ACEF’s endowments and investment opportunities, which ensure long-term capital is available for Armenian cultural and education programs for the next generation. As a testament to their com-



Alyssa Kelesian-Bonomo and Tom Bonomo

Accountant, with previous positions as Director of Finance at both the Nassau (NY) County Legislature and the Town of North Hempstead, NY. “I am proud and honored to be a part of this wonderful organization,” says Khatchadourian. “Part of ACEF’s unique strength is its ability to



Aline Khatchadourian

bring together funds from many different resources, thereby benefiting churches right down to the local level.” Khatchadourian’s focus includes assisting with ACEF’s auditing process, as well as further tightening financial controls and increasing transparency.

After serving on the ACEF Board from 2010-2018, legacy Board member Alyssa Kelesian Bonomo continues to be actively involved in the organization she refers to as “vital to the Armenian community.” Her father, the late Harry Kelesian, served 15 years on the ACEF Board from 1993 – 2008, and his service had a tremendous impact on Alyssa. “I saw firsthand how seriously ACEF’s Board members take their fiduciary duties, and how their expertise represents the best in governance and business practices,” she said. Among some of the notable initiatives Alyssa reflects upon during her tenure

mitment and support of the Armenian Church, the Kelesian family recently pledged a lead-gift of \$250,000 to the Eastern Diocese Our Church, Our Legacy Campaign, which is managed by ACEF. “Armenian youth like my own children will continue to have a church that they can call home. It gives me comfort to know that ACEF’s efforts make it possible for them to proudly carry on their Armenian heritage far into the future.”

The Armenian Church Endowment Fund is an independent, separately-incorporated, non-profit entity whose mission is to provide professional, highly disciplined, tightly controlled and cost effective asset management services to the various constituent parts of the Armenian Church, parishes and individuals who are creating a legacy through endowments.

The investment objective of ACEF is to earn sufficient returns through time to support stable and growing income distributions for each individual endowment fund to its designated beneficiary, while preserving and enhancing the principal balance of each such endowment fund. ACEF seeks to accomplish this objective by aggregating the individual endowment funds and investing them collectively in a broadly diversified portfolio managed by institutional quality investment managers.

Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church  
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## Food Fair and Bazaar

November 2 and 3

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