



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, April 30, 2010

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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POLITICS

1. Canadian prime minister sends message to Armenian community of Canada on occasion of 95th anniversary of Genocide [Noyan Tapan, 04/28/10]

A commemoration of the Armenian Genocide victims took place at the Armenian embassy in Canada on April 24. Leaders of two dioceses of the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Armenian Catholic Church, and the Armenian Evangelical Church, heads and representatives of Canada-based Armenian parties, organizations and unions, pupils of local Armenian schools, reporters, numerous people from Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal attended the ceremony. Armin Wegener's son - Mikele Wanger was the guest of honor.

Flowers and wreaths were laid at "Immortal Armenia" Monument near the embassy. Speeches were made by Charge d'Affaires of Armenia to Canada Arman Hakobian and Bishop Bagrat Galstanian.

A church service in memory of the Genocide victims was held. It continued in front of the Canadian parliament where several MPs joined it.

The RA MFA Press and Information Department reports that on the occasion of the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper sent a message to the Armenian community of Canada.

2. Events dedicated to 95th anniversary of Armenian Genocide held in Strasbourg [Noyan Tapan, 04/28/10]



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Events dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide were held in Strasbourg on April 24. A commemoration of the innocent victims of the Genocide took place at Monument aux Morts (Monument of Victims) in Republic Square of the city. Among those present were Armenian Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanian, Head of the Armenian delegation in the PACE David Harutyunian, Armenian Judge at the European Court of Human Rights Ms. Alvina Gyulumian, a representative of the Strasbourg Mayor, leaders of Strasbourg-based Catholic, Protestant and other churches, heads of the Jewish and Kurdish communities, and numerous representatives of the Armenian community.

Speeches were made by Z. Mnatsakanian, representatives of the Armenian, Kurdish and Jewish communities and the city authorities.

The RA MFA Press and Information Department reports that the commemoration ceremony was followed by an ecumenical liturgy in Saint-Pierre-le-Jeune Church.

3. President of Uruguay Jose Mujica attends event to mark 95th anniversary of Armenian Genocide [Noyan Tapan, 04/28/10]

The President of Uruguay Jose Mujica on April 24 attended an event in Montevideo to mark the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, during which a khachkar carved in Armenia was erected in Armenia Square of the Uruguayan capital. The head of the Uruguayan Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Hakob Glnjian consecrated the khachkar.

Uruguay's Education and Culture Minister Ricardo Ehrlich and Sport and Tourism Deputy Minister Lilian Keshishian delivered speeches. The messages of the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II and the Armenian Ambassador to Uruguay Vladimir Karmirshalian were read at the event.

According to the RA MFA Press and Information Department, the khachkar was erected with the assistance of Uruguayan Armenian benefactor Karlos Ketsoyan and on the initiative of Uruguayan structures of the Armenian General Benevolent Union and the Social Democrat Hunchak party, as well as the Armenian National Center and the commission of Armenia Square. The khachkar's author is Ruben Nalbandian from Armenia.

4. Armenian Genocide anniversary marked in Moscow [Noyan Tapan, 04/28/10]

A ceremony of laying wreaths in memory of the 1915 Genocide victims took place on April 24 at the khachkar erected on the site of a new cathedral under construction in Moscow.

Among the participants were Armenian Ambassador to Russia Oleg Yesayan, President of the Union of Armenians in Russia Ara Abrahamian, representatives of Moscow-based Armenian NGOs, as well as a lot of Armenians residing in Moscow. A liturgy was held, followed by a speech delivered by Yezras Nersisian, the Head of the Russian and New Nakhijevan diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

The RA MFA Press and Information Department reports that an event in commemoration of the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide took place in the evening. Opening remarks were made by Oleg Yesayan who said that the year 1915 was a watershed in the fate of the Armenian people. In his words, the genocide committed 95 years ago in the Ottoman Empire is the most painful wound of all the Armenians today. Because of the genocide, two thirds of the Armenians currently live outside their historic homeland.

5. President Barack Obama again used the Armenian term for the Armenian Genocide Meds Yeghern [Noyan Tapan, 04/28/10]

In his just issued April 24, 2010 statement, President Barack Obama, expanded on his 2009 statement, again used the Armenian term for the Armenian Genocide Meds Yeghern. We present below the full text of the president's statement which is reported by "Erkirmedia" TV.

"On this solemn day of remembrance, we pause to recall that ninety-five years ago one of the worst atrocities of the 20th century began. In that dark moment of history, 1.5 million Armenians were massacred or marched to their death in the final days of the Ottoman Empire. Today is a day to reflect upon and draw lessons from these terrible events.

I have consistently stated my own view of what occurred in 1915, and my view of that history has not changed. It is in all of our interest to see the achievement a full, frank and just acknowledgment of the facts. I salute the Turks who saved Armenians in 1915 and am encouraged by the dialogue among Turks and Armenians, and within Turkey itself, regarding this painful history. Together, the Turkish and



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Armenian people will be stronger as they acknowledge their common history and recognize their common humanity.

Even as we confront the inhumanity of 1915, we also are inspired by the remarkable spirit of the Armenian people. While nothing can bring back those who were killed in the Meds Yeghern. The contributions that Armenians have made around the world over the last ninety-five years stand as a testament to the strength, tenacity and courage of the Armenian people and it is a lasting triumph over those who set out to destroy them.

Many Armenians came to the United States as survivors of the horrors of 1915. Over the generations Americans of Armenian descent have richened our communities, spurred our economy, and strengthened our democracy. The strong traditions and culture of Armenians also became the foundation of a new republic which has become a part of the community of nations, partnering with the world community to build a better future.

Today, we pause with them and with Armenians everywhere to remember the awful events of 1915 with deep admiration for their contributions which transcend this dark past and give us hope for the future."

6. A. Vardanyan says number one issue of Armenian foreign policy is regulation of Nagorno Karabakh conflict [Armenpress, 04/29/10]

Number one issue of the Armenian foreign policy is the regulation of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, Member of the ARF Bureau Aghvan Vardanyan said today at a press conference. According to him, we must concentrate all our attention on that issue, for the Armenian-Turkish protocols are not in the first plan any more.

A. Vardanyan attached great importance to the speech of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan delivered on April 22, just after a year from the day, when it was declared about the "traffic chart" existing between Armenia and Turkey. "Armenia should continue to exert efforts in order Europe strengthens the pressure on Turkey to open the border closed by the latter, irrespective of the protocols," he noted.

The member of the ARF Bureau does not exclude that in the negotiations on regulation of the NKR conflict the same situation can be created as in the issue of the Armenian-Turkish protocols, because, according to him, there is a huge difference and incompatibility between the statements of the Azerbaijani president and national and state profits of Armenia.

A. Vardanyan does not share the viewpoint, according to which after suspension of the ratification of Armenian-Turkish protocols the international community will start exerting pressures on Armenia for extorting concessions in Nagorno Karabakh issue.

"We have reached the consciousness of not conceding in issues of top importance, which will not allow implementation of similar steps," A. Vardanyan said excluding the mediation of Turkey in Armenian-Azerbaijani negotiations.

A. Vardanyan considers it positive that many have started speaking not only of recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide, but also of deprivation of the homeland and compensation.

7. Turkish National Security Council to discuss the issue of the Armenian-Turkish protocols [Armenpress, 04/29/10]

Turkish National Security Council will discuss the issue of the Armenian-Turkish protocols April 29. At tomorrow's session Turkish NSC will discuss the process of the Armenian-Turkish protocols and issues connected with Iraq elections.

Turkish agency reports that on the same day changes are expected in Turkish National Security Council.

8. The issue of Armenian Genocide recognition on the agenda of Israeli Knesset [Armenpress, 04/30/10]

Israeli Knesset involved on the agenda the issue of recognizing the mass murder of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire of 1915 as genocide. 8 members voted against, and 12 members voted for making the issue an agenda item. Armenpress reports citing the 'izrus.co.il' website that the Knesset assigned a task to make clear the concrete committee, which is to be engaged in examining the issue. The issue was placed on the agenda due to the strong efforts of Haim Oron, leader of the "Meretz" social-democratic party of Israel. Yuri Stern exerted active efforts in bringing the Armenian Genocide recognition



resolution on the agenda. After his death Zeev Elkin, leader of the parliamentary coalition from “Likud” party, and Haim Oron have been exerting efforts in that direction as well.

9. Statement on Armenian Genocide issued at PACE plenary session [Armenpress, 04/30/10]

Statement on the Armenian Genocide recognition and condemnation was issued today at the plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). Naira Zohrabyan, member of the Armenian NA delegation to the PACE, informed Armenpress that the Armenian delegation to the PACE had initiated a proclamation of a statement on recognition of the Armenian Genocide a day before and collected the signatures of more than 20 representatives of various delegations. As a result the statement was officially published during the session of the summit. "Taking into account the fact the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide has completed this year and stating that the recognition of the Genocide contributes to the respect for human dignity and prevention of crimes against humanity, attributing to the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by a number of countries, the members of the Assembly put their signatures and by this call on all the members of the Assembly to undertake necessary steps for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide committed by the Ottoman Empire in 1915.

This will contribute to the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Turkey, which, in turn, will contribute to the normalization of the relations between Armenia and Turkey and establishment of peace in the region," the statement says. According to Naira Zohrabyan, representatives of more than 16 PACE member-states, among them from such states that have not recognized the Armenian Genocide yet (for instance the Great Britain), joined the statement. Naira Zohrabyan also informed that the statement was published by French MP Jean-Claude Mignon, who chaired the session. According to Naira Zohrabyan, Jean-Claude Mignon said was open for signature and anyone could join it. 'I also want to stress the fact the session, as it was expected, was not chaired by the PACE President Mevlüt Cavusoglu. He did not chair the session to ! avoid publishing such a statement,' Naira Zohrabyan said. She expressed his gratitude to those members of the Assembly, who signed the statement and emphasized the importance of the discussion of the issue of the Armenian Genocide recognition at the PACE session. The authorities of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic sent an official invitation to the PACE Chairman Mevlut Chavushoglu to cordially invite him to be present May 23 at the NKR parliamentary elections. Naira Zohrabyan said she will address a speech April 30 at 11 o'clock (local time) during which she will read the invitation.

10. NA factions share the same opinion – the signals of regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations must come from Turkey [Armenpress, 04/30/10]

Heghine Bisharyan, head of NA “Orinats Yerkir” faction attaches great importance to suspension of the ratification process of Armenian-Turkish protocols by Armenia from the viewpoint of displaying a principality. H. Bisharyan said today at a briefing in the National Assembly that Armenia has repeatedly mentioned the process must move forward exclusively without preconditions, but the preconditions voiced by the Turkish party resulted in such a decision of Armenia.

“Armenia will wait for some period of time till Turkey definitely shows that it is ready to continue the process without preconditions,” H. Bisharyan said. According to her, steps directed toward establishment of Armenian-Turkish relations of such a level had never been registered; hence “Orinats Yerkir” party highly assesses Armenian President’s acts directed toward the establishment of bilateral relations. H. Bisharyan is sure that there will come a time, when Turkey itself will recognize the Armenian Genocide and will be ready to ratify the protocols without preconditions.

Member of “Heritage” faction Armen Martirosyan suggests that in near future the Armenian-Turkish protocols will again be involved in the agenda of 4 day sessions of the National Assembly. “Turkey must be the first to undertake steps for opening the borders unilaterally. The Armenian-Turkish process must move forward exclusively without preconditions,” the representative of the opposition said.

Aram Safaryan, secretary of “Prosperous Armenia” faction, said he is of the opinion that the suspension of the ratification process of Armenian-Turkish relations enables Turkey to reconsider its own position of proposing preconditions and to establish diplomatic relations in a reasonable timeframe.

“If in near future this approach prevails in Turkey, then I am sure that the ratification process of the protocols will run in the Armenian parliament smoothly. The protocols will never be included in the agenda of 4 day sessions if Turkey continues to yield to the pressures of Azerbaijan for extorting unilateral concessions from Armenia in Karabakh issue,” Aram Safaryan said.

According to him, in near future the signal of regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations must be voiced by Turkey itself. “The international community – the USA, the European Union, Russia have no doubt that the negative signals of regulation of relations do not come from Armenia. In this regard the



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calls of the international community will first of all be directed to Turkey,” the member of the NA “Prosperous Armenia” faction said.

Member of the NA Republican faction Artak Zakaryan said that the Armenian-Turkish protocols do not contain negative elements - preconditions, so there cannot be an issue of reconsideration of the protocols. The ratification of the protocols was suspended, as the Turkish authorities started to voice preconditions. We are waiting for distinct steps by Turkey, only after which the process will move forward and the relations will be regulated,” he noted. According to A. Zakaryan, the Armenian-Turkish process has given new impetus to Diaspora to join the resources and efforts once again, as a result of which currently the issue of recognition of the Armenian Genocide is being actively discussed in parliaments of many countries.

11. Youth wings of RA parties are consistent in fair solution of Armenian Cause [Armenpress, 04/30/10]

In the issue of the Armenian Genocide the claim of the ARF party does not end only with its recognition; Turkey must also compensate, Arthur Ghazaryan, representative of the ARF Central Department of the Armenian Youth Association, said today at a meeting with journalists.

“Our claim will end only by the time our compatriots of Diaspora come back to their homeland and live in free, independent and united Armenia,” A. Ghazaryan said. According to him, as long as Turkey has not recognized the Armenian Genocide and has not compensated, the youth wing of the ARF will continue to burn that country’s flag. He also said that if Turkey respects its state symbols, it must recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Secretary of the youth affairs commission of “Prosperous Armenia” party noted that for reaching the fair solution of the Armenian Cause the party is ready to implement such steps which will stem from the national profits.

Gagik Melikyan, head of “Sargis Tkhruni” student youth association of “Social-Democratic Hunchakyan” party, said the Hunchakyan Party, too, stands up for that claim, and Armenia must demand from Turkey not only the lands, but also a compensation.

BUSINESS

12. “Virage Logic” company contributes to development of IT sphere in Armenia [Armenpress, 04/29/10]

The Armenian branch of “Virage Logic” company is rich in experienced specialists and has extended a serious activity in the republic since its foundation. It has 135 employees and cooperates both with Armenian and foreign IT sphere companies, Deputy Chairman of the company Yervand Zoryan told Armenpress.

“We do our best for development of the IT sphere in Armenia,” Y. Zoryan said. He added that for this very purpose classes on the IT sphere are conducted in Yerevan State University (YSU) with participation of the students of the relevant faculties of the YSU and of other higher educational establishments and specialists of the sphere. The classes are organized by the specialists of the company’s Yerevan branch and by the lecturers of the university.

“Virage Logic” enables participants of the classes who have displayed the best results to get employed in the Yerevan branch.

“We provide programs, techniques and specialists wishing to prepare high-class specialists, who will replenish the IT sphere of Armenia,” Y. Zoryan said. According to him, similar classes will be possibly conducted in other Armenian universities, too.

Y. Zoryan said that the last 6 months have been favorable for the company; the number of the employees has been doubled, as well as the types of the products have been added. “We felt the impact of the global crisis, too, but managed to get over it,” Y. Zoryan said.

13. Eurasian Development Bank positively assesses anti-crisis program of Armenia [Armenpress, 04/29/10]

Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) assesses the anti-crisis program of Armenia positively, Igor Finogenov, chairman of the EDB Executive Board, told journalists today after signing an agreement on the conditions of EDB operation in Armenia. ‘Striking illustration of the assessment is the fact we signed today a number of mutual cooperation memoranda, within the framework of which 20 million USD will be



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invested to assist in the development of small and middle-sized business. We are always ready to support Armenia in case some negative tendencies are registered in the economy of the state. Yet we do not notice any negative tendency in the Armenian economy,' Mr. Finogenov said.

RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan represented the indices of the first 3 months and mentioned that over 5.5% growth was registered. The Prime Minister emphasized the indices and growth registered in the sectors of industry, export (60% growth), import (22% growth), electricity and agriculture. Despite the 5.5% general growth, the construction sector is in decline.

The Prime Minister mentioned that some positive indices were registered in the economies of Russia and Ukraine as well. He added that these indices prove that the economies of CIS member-states are under development. 'If such indices are registered in the second half of the year as well, we will surely say that the crisis falls back. Some economists say that the growth may be a temporary phenomenon and that the world economy may face a decline again, but the analysis of the international press shows the restoration of the world economy is evident. This inspires us with some optimism,' Mr. Sargsyan said.

DIASPORA

14. S. Danielyan says passage to classical orthography will contribute to strengthening of Armenia-Diaspora ties [Armenpress, 04/29/10]

The necessity of returning to the classical orthography of the Armenian language first of all has a political background, Director of "Diaspora" scientific center Suren Danielyan said today at a meeting with journalists. According to him, the return to the classical orthography will contribute to strengthening of Armenia-Diaspora ties.

"Returning to the classical orthography, we will promote unification of the Eastern and Western Armenians," S. Danielyan noted. He also said that the change of the Armenian orthography was a big political mistake; it was a direct way of separating us from the Western Armenians," said the speaker noting that the passage will not be very easy; it will take years.

Another participant of the meeting – Linguist Davit Gyurjinyan, is against the restoration of the classical orthography. According to him, the current orthography completely meets the requirements of the Armenian language mentality, and the passage to the classical orthography will create a chaos in the educational system. "It will result in serious difficulties. The absence of that orthography still does not mean that the Western Armenian literature is alienated," the linguist said. In his opinion, the return to the classical orthography is meaningless, and will bring forward new problems.

ARTS

15. "Renaissance" international contest-festival to be conducted in Gyumri [Armenpress, 04/30/10]

"Renaissance" international contest-festival of musician-performers will be conducted May 5-13 in Gyumri on the initiative of Gyumri branch of Yerevan State Conservatory after Komitas. The festival is dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Rita Aghayan, musicologist, responsible secretary of the organizational committee of the contest-festival told Armenpress that the festival will be conducted with the blessing of Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II and with the support of Armenian First Lady Rita Sargsyan. The festival will open May 5 in V. Achemyan Dramatic Theater of Gyumri.

Within its frameworks contests will be conducted in 6 nominations. A scientific conference will be conducted as well.

The cultural event entitled "Renaissance" is conducted from 2007, but it has been expanded only from the last year becoming an international festival. About 700 performers of 10-28 year old will participate in the event in 3 age groups both from Armenia and abroad.

According to R. Aghayan, this year the staff of the jury is more authoritative; honored art figures from Armenia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Iran, Belarus and Cyprus are involved. The participants are many, too; in 2009 not all the provinces participated, and this year all were presented, moreover, applications have been received from all the Yerevan art and musical schools.

This year the event is conducted within the frameworks of the "International Year of Bringing Cultures Closer to Each Other" proclaimed by the UNESCO.



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16. Armenian pavilion in “Shanghai Expo 2010” world exhibition opens with the participation of the Armenian president [Armenpress, 04/30/10]

At the invitation of the President of People’s Republic of China Hu Jintao Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan has left April 29 for China to take part in the opening ceremony of “Shanghai Expo 2010” world exhibition.

Presidential press office told Armenpress that with the participation of the Armenian president opening of the Armenian pavilion of the exhibition took place after which Serzh Sargsyan toured in the pavilions of the USA, Russia and China.

RELIGION

17. After decades Armenian prayer and Armenian church psalm was heard in the Baku St. Grigor Lusavorich Armenian Church [Armenpress, 04/29/10]

His Holiness Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II met April 26 with the Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev. Holy See press department told Armenpress that at the meeting president were head of the Caucasian Muslims Seikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh, Archbishop, responsible of the Etchmiadzin Foreign Relations Yeznik Petrosyan. During the meeting the participants spoke about the summit of religious leaders conducted in Baku, necessity of dialogue of religions and cultures. They also referred to the Karabakh conflict regulation process welcoming the peaceful efforts directed toward the settlement of the issue.

On the same day the Armenian Catholicos visited Baku’s St. Grigor Lusavorich Church which is currently operating as book depository. His Holiness got acquainted with the condition of the church which has been damaged after the 1990 fire. The Catholicos expressed hope that with the mercy of God the church will open its doors before the believers, continuing its mission. After the decades Armenian prayer and Armenian church psalm was heard in the church.

Catholicos of All Armenians returned back home and Archbishop Yeznik Petrosyan and Bishop Hovakim Manukyan remained in Baku to continue participation in the works of the Baku summit.

SOCIAL

18. Public Council says status of “Moscow” summer hall must be restored [Armenpress, 04/30/10]

The Public Council finds that the summer hall of “Moscow” cinema must be restored in the list of the historic-cultural values preserved by the state. This decision was made today at the session of the Public Council. Chairman of the Council Vazgen Manukyan said the issue was discussed in 4 sub-commissions of the council and few suggestions have been presented.

Chairman of the Public Council’s urban development and architectural issues sub-commission Grigor Azizyan, presenting the results of the discussion over the issue, noted that the summer hall of the “Moscow” cinema built in 1960s is one of the best works of the Armenian architecture. He said that the sub-commission has unanimously made decision to annul the decision of the government on taking it out of the list of historic-cultural values and restore the status of the monument of republican importance.

Chairman of the council on religion, diaspora and international integration affairs Ruben Safrastyan noted that this sub-commission too discussed this issue and it was suggested to abstain from making any decision calling to continue the talks between the Armenian Apostolic Church and architects.

Member of the Public Council Khosrov Harutyunyan said that the architects fact that the summer hall is one of the valuable works of architecture and it must be preserved. He also spoke in favor of restoring the former status of the hall.

Another member of the council Karen Bekaryan suggested that besides restoring the status of the hall, hand it to the Armenian Apostolic Church for using it as a cultural, spiritual center.

“We do not want to create an impression that we are against the church, not at all. We wish to discuss the issue on destroying or not destroying the summer hall. I have met His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II, and I want to say that he too is concerned with the issue,” chairman of the Public Council said.

As a result of hot discussions the Public Council put the issue for voting - whether to restore the former status of the “Moscow” cinema’s summer hall or abstain from making any decision, calling to the Armenian Church and architects continue negotiations. As a result of the voting decision has been made to restore the status.



19. Republican Students Workshop on 95th anniversary of Armenian Genocide goes on [Armenpress, 04/30/10]

Republican Students Workshop on the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, organized by YSU Student Scientific Society, still goes on at Yerevan State University, Faculty of Philology. Students from various higher educational establishments made speeches at the workshop. The speakers particularly touched upon the process of international recognition of the Armenian Genocide; the causes, reasons, lessons and the denial of the Armenian Genocide by the Turkish historians.

Today's session was headed by Serzh Srapionyan, assistant professor of philological sciences. According to him, quite valuable speeches were represented during the workshop both on the process of Armenian Genocide recognition and the normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations. 'The students were prepared well enough, so that they managed to express their thoughts and point of view boldly,' Serzh Srapionyan said. He added that all the participants of the workshop will be awarded April 29.

YSU Student Scientific Society is a subdivision of Yerevan State University, which unites students and PhDs and is aimed at promoting the scientific, creative and spiritual developments of students. Student Scientific Society organizes academic meetings, workshops, conferences, seminars and lectures, and assists in printing of younger scientists' and students' academic works.

20. Results of the research on 'Armenia and the Armenians, Turkey and the Turks in Armenian Mass Media' represented [Armenpress, 04/29/10]

The results of the research on 'Armenia and the Armenians, Turkey and the Turks in the Armenian Mass Media' were represented today at the Caucasian Institute. The research was carried out from December 1 to 31, 2009 by 6 young researches of the Caucasian institute in assistance with UNDP. More than 200 articles of various Armenian mass media were involved in the research. Hrant Mikayelyan, head of the research group, mentioned that the research was aimed at making clear the opinion of the Armenians about themselves and the Turks in the context of the Armenian-Turkish relations. The research showed that the representatives of the Armenian authorities expressed the same opinions, and the opinions of representatives of the opposition varied from each other. The articles proved that the process of the normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations is quite important for the political life of Armenia. According to the representatives of the opposition, Turkey would be the winner in the process, and the coalition members said Armenia would win. In that period the opinions and statements on Turkey were mostly negative. Opinions and statements, such as 'The Turk remains the same Turk', 'Turkey always cheats us', etc. were made quite frequently. Hrant Mikayelyan said it is quite strange that the statements of the Turkish Prime Minister hold quite a firm place in the Armenian mass media. Opinions on the Armenian Genocide were quite various. There were some statements, according to which 'the Genocide is the fault of the whole Turkish nation'. As to the position of Armenia about the process, it was mentioned that 'Armenia should lead a tougher policy'. The results of the research will be available on the website of the Caucasian Institute in Armenian, Russian and English.

21. New statutes of the Armenian ministries to be soon established [Armenpress, 04/30/10]

New statutes of the Armenian ministries will be soon established. Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said today at the session of the government that in parallel to it works are being carried out toward the description of business processes. In the Culture and foreign affairs ministries the descriptions have already ended. The prime minister said as a result of this work it becomes clear that there is an issue of optimization and it is possible to get rid of many functions and reduce many working places. As a result, the additionally gathered financial means will be left to the ministries and be directed to award funds.

"This is an important circumstance. In the near future integration of all the offices affiliated to the ministries and implementing programs must be carried out," the prime minister said. He noted that the ministers must take this work under their control.

"Discussions must be conducted! in ministries to clear out the functions which they can leave out and direct the means toward awarding the best employees or increase of salaries. These works must be ended during this year so that parallel to it involve new specialists from program implementation agencies to the staff of the ministry," the prime minister said.



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Established in 1906, AGBU (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.