



# NEWS BULLETIN

## Embassy of the Republic of Armenia

Bulletin # 3, March 2005

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### **Presidential News**

**Yerevan, 3 March.** President Kocharyan received Vladimir Rushailo, Chairman of the CIS Executive Committee.

The ongoing reforms of the CIS structures were the main topic of discussion.

Vladimir Rushailo also briefed the President on the up-coming CIS summits to be held this year.

**Yerevan, 5 March.** President Robert Kocharyan received a delegation of the International Monetary Fund to discuss the progress of the IMF programs in Armenia. The IMF delegation presented a program for the improvement of monitoring in the banking system, which is being implemented with the IMF participation.

The importance of continuing reforms in the tax and customs administration and enacting respective legislation was underlined by both sides.

**Yerevan, 7 March.** President Robert Kocharyan received a delegation headed by Ms. Ingrid Udre, the Speaker of the Latvian Parliament (Saeima).

The Speaker of the Saeima stressed that currently Latvia attaches more importance to the three South Caucasus states, in particular to Armenia, which are moving toward integration with Europe.

Robert Kocharyan deemed cooperation with the three Baltic countries

commendable and mentioned that the use of their experience in the South Caucasus could become a strong warranty for stability and peaceful cooperation.

**Yerevan, 11 March.** President Kocharyan had a working meeting with Zurab Noghaideli, Prime Minister of Georgia.

Discussions were held over issues of energy, transportation and cross-border trade. They also discussed perspectives of settlement of the current regional conflicts and prospects for setting up regional cooperation.

**Yerevan, 18 March.** Receiving Vladimir Konoplyev, Chairman of the House of Representatives of Belarus, President Kocharyan noted that friendly political relations between the two countries have had a positive effect on the development cooperation in all areas of cooperation. It was recognized also that though the turnover between Armenia and Belarus has increased three-fold, there is still a good potential to be used.

**Yerevan, March 25.** President Robert Kocharyan had a private meeting with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, who was in Yerevan on a working visit.

The two Presidents discussed issues pertaining to bilateral relations, regional and international issues, enhancement of Russian investments in Armenia, as well as cooperation in the energy sphere.

Robert Kocharyan and Vladimir Putin presided and made statements at the opening ceremony of the Year of the Russian Federation in Armenia, which was held at the National Opera House.

*In an earlier exchange of messages between the two Presidents, Vladimir Putin had written: "Russia attaches great importance to the consistent strengthening of friendly relations with Armenia, its reliable ally and strategic partner. I am convinced that the holding of the Year of Russia will contribute to the further rapprochement of the two countries."*

President Putin was also hosted by the Catholicos of All Armenians Garegin II.

**Yerevan, 30 March.** President Kocharyan received Dimitrij Rupel, the Slovenian Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

The Chairman-in-Office had meetings with leaders of Armenia and also met Arkadiy Gukasyan, President of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

Mr. Rupel welcomed upcoming talks between the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan over rising tensions and said that he hoped that the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia would use this window of opportunity to solve the conflict.

### **Parliamentary News**

**Strasbourg, 9-10 March.** Under a South Caucasus inter-parliamentary initiative, a seminar with the participation of MPs from the Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia took place in Strasbourg.

Forty-five members of respective parliaments discussed prospects of regional cooperation for stability and economic development.

**Yerevan, 16-19 March.** The President of National Assembly received a delegation headed by Vladimir Konoplyov, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Belarus.

At the meeting in which members of the Armenia-Belarus Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee were also participating attention was paid to the establishment of the necessary legislative framework and the progress of efforts aimed at harmonising national laws and relations in other areas was discussed.

Artur Baghdasaryan and Vladimir Konoplyov signed a joint protocol on cooperation, obliging to promote the development of the relations between the administrative -regional entities of the two countries.

The Belarus delegation laid a wreath in Tsitsernakaberd, the memorial complex to the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

**London, 19-25 March.** Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Armenia Tigran Torossian was on an official visit in London, invited by the British Government.

Mr. Torosian met with a range of officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Sir Alan Haselhurst, with the members of the UK-South Caucasus, as well as British-Armenian All-Party Parliamentary Groups.

Mr. Torossian was also hosted at the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, the Overseas Development Institute and the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

**Yerevan, 24 March.** Armenia's Parliament ratified the Armenian-Polish Defence Cooperation Agreement which envisages, in particular, cooperation in forming the Armed Forces, logistics services, assistance to international peacekeeping missions, military medicine, upgrading military hardware, etc.

**Yerevan, 28 March.** Speaker of the National Assembly Artur Baghdasaryan held a meeting with Secretary General of the International Association of Parliaments and Businessmen Frederick Hide Chambers and discussed the possibility of joining the Association by the Armenian Parliament.

*The Association is a nongovernmental organization founded in Great Britain in 1977, which aims at establishing direct contacts between parliamentarians and businessmen, raising parliamentarians' awareness of business affairs and contributing to a dialogue between parliamentarians and businessmen.*

**Brussels, 28 March.** The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly reporter on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict confirmed the fact that the primary question to be settled is that of the status of Nagorno Karabakh. The rest - territories, refugees, etc. - are derivative. The draft report on Nagorno Karabakh by Goran Lenmarker states that without the settlement of the problem of status the rest will be impossible to solve.

Earlier (18- 19 March), Armenian and Azeri parliamentarians had joined the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly representatives in discussing the draft of the Lenmarker report. The Vice-speaker of the National Assembly of Armenia Vahan Hovhannissian and Samvel Nikoyan, MP told the journalists that despite the efforts of the Azerbaijani delegation the draft report by Goran

Lenmarker did not contain the principles of Atkinson's report.

Lenmarker's report will be ready in July and will be presented at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Washington. However, prior to that the document will be sent out to the parties and will be open for suggestions and changes.

**Yerevan, 29-30 March.** The Standing Committee on Foreign Relations of the National Assembly conducted **parliamentary hearings on the theme “The Nagorno-Karabakh Problem: Means of Settlement”**. Members of Governments, heads of foreign diplomatic missions accredited in Yerevan, scholars, representatives of NGOs, as well as Armenian and Russian experts took part in the hearings.

It was the aim of the hearings to clarify, through public debate, the facilities and mechanisms for parliamentary diplomacy, and to systemise and polish the approaches and positions of the Armenian side to be clearly presented during the settlement process.

In his speech on 29 March, Foreign Minister Oskanian divided the decade old cycle of negotiations into four stages. The Minister stated that during the first three stages, from Lisbon to Key West, “there had been fundamental, radical changes in thinking on this issue - changes in sync with contemporary international developments and self-determination processes in different parts of the world. In the fourth stage, the stage we have been in since Azerbaijan's new authorities came to power, there is a clear intent to attempt to reverse the wheel of history... Azerbaijan continues to attempt to simultaneously introduce the Nagorno Karabakh issue into those international forums, which continue to abide by a traditional, conservative approach to the issues of territorial integrity and self-determination,” said the Minister.

After a systemized overview of various ethnic conflicts around the world, the Foreign Minister described the NK conflict as falling in a completely different category. “Azerbaijan has no control whatsoever over those territories, as Nagorno Karabakh has enjoyed, for the

last 15 years, all the attributes of complete sovereignty.”

Mr. Oskanian further stated: “Nagorno Karabakh 's situation is further reinforced and made complete by the following legal facts.

- 1. The self-determination component: It seceded legally, according to the laws of the day.*
- 2. The territorial component: Its people have self-determined on those territories that have never been within the jurisdiction of independent Azerbaijan.*
- 3. The human rights component: Azerbaijan, in perpetrating violence against people that it considered its own citizens, has lost the moral right to custody over those people.*
- 4. Finally, the de facto political reality of 15 years of proven ability to hold elections, govern its people, protect its borders and conduct international relations.”*

In conclusion, the foreign Minister stated: “Armenia remains faithful to its initial premises that there cannot be a vertical link between Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh, that it must have a geographic link with Armenia, and that the security of the people of Nagorno Karabakh must be assured. Today, for us, the basis of the resolution is the affirmation of the right of the people of Nagorno Karabakh to self-determination and the international recognition of that right. Azerbaijan's simply accepting this fact and its formalization in an agreement will make possible the start of a resolution of the matter and the elimination of the consequences of the conflict.”

On 30 March, within the same Parliamentary hearings, Serzh Sargsyan, the Defence Minister and Secretary of the National Security Council, focused on the compromises Armenia could make.

First of all, the Minister said, Armenia regards as a fundamental compromise the fact that it has still not recognised Karabakh's independence, although the Nagorno Karabakh Republic was been established in a lawful, legitimate manner and has existed as an independent democratic state for many years.

Recalling the provision of resolution by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of

Europe of the 25 January, 2005 that a region can break away from a state and become independent only on the basis of the will of the people living on that territory, Sargsyan said that as a second concession, Armenia might agree to conduct a second referendum in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, which would be organized by the OSCE under the aegis of the UN.

The third concession is that the Armenian side can start negotiations regarding the security zone around Karabakh, the minister said. In this regard he also added, "I am not in favour of returning the territories that make up the security zone without taking into account all details of the security of the NKR population."

Sargsyan stressed that concessions could be made at the negotiating table provided that Azerbaijan is clear about not resuming the war and that commitment can be confirmed by guarantees from influential international organizations and states.

### Governmental News

**Brussels, 2 March.** The European Commission made public the Armenia Country Report within the European Neighbourhood Policy. Based on this, the European Council will decide on whether to start negotiations with Armenia on a Joint Action Plan.

Armenia welcomed the European Commission's recommendation to significantly intensify relations and expresses its readiness to embark on drawing the Action Plan immediately.

The purpose of this Country Report is to review Armenia-EU relations, to provide an overview of Armenia's reforms in the political, economic and social sectors and to highlight priority areas in the Action Plan.

*The EU Council decided to include Armenia and the other two South Caucasus countries in the European Neighbourhood Policy in June 2004.*

**Geneva, 15 March.** Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian addressed the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Commission. This is the first year of

Armenia's second term on the 53-member Commission. Minister Oskanian stated that:

*"For Armenians the human rights principle, the concept of man's inalienable rights touches a raw nerve. We spent the greatest part of the last century under a regime that endured solely because of the absence of human rights. Immediately prior to that period, we had the dubious honour of being the century's first victims of genocide. At the end of the century, we were still fighting to secure the rights of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh."*

Then the Minister focused on Genocide and the issue of Nagorno Karabakh self-determination. On Genocide, he commented:

*"For Armenians as a minority, living in the Ottoman Empire, their call for the application of the lofty principles of liberty, equality and fraternity, led to their death sentence. Today, their survivors... expect that the world's avowal of the universality of those same noble principles will lead to recognition that Genocide was committed against Armenians."*

Referring to recent calls by the Turkish leadership for a historical debate, the Minister reiterated Armenia's readiness for dialogue.

*"My immediate response that Armenia would not participate in a historical debate was interpreted as rejection of dialogue. Let's not confuse the two kinds of dialogue. One is a debate about history. The other is a political discussion... The facts are clear. The historical record is clear... Even in the first days of the Turkish Republic, the local Turkish authorities who had actually carried out the genocidal acts were tried and found guilty by their own Turkish courts. The Turks themselves, for their own reasons, put aside that historical record and moved away from that honest, dignified approach to one of denial and rejection."*

*...We commend the Secretary General's 5-point action plan, ... and we believe that governments who commit Genocide must be persecuted and prosecuted.*

*Inability to continue down this path means we have failed structurally and institutionally. It also means we have failed to make the difficult policy choices because of short-term political costs, even though we know well that there will be long-term human and international consequences. A financially bankrupt government is turned over to international organizations until it reforms and renounces its wrongs. Can we tolerate any less of a government, which is morally bankrupt? Do we want successive generations to believe that genocide is inevitable in each generation, on each continent?"*

On the struggle of the people of Nagorno Karabakh for self-determination, the Minister remarked:

*"Ironically, Mr. Chairman, even as societies have learned to support the victims of domestic violence, we have not yet graduated to offering the same support to victims of international or government violence... Just as the perpetrator of domestic violence loses the moral right to custody, so then, does a government that commits and promotes violence against its own citizens lose its rights. It is in such instances that the notion of self-determination is significant and legitimate."*

In conclusion, the Minister stated:

*"Mr. Chairman, for us, defence and protection of human rights is not an abstract principle. It is the difference between survival and annihilation. We believe it is the same for many in the world... In our ever-shrinking world, what is required is resolve on the part of the committed in order to expand the engagement of those still hesitant."*

**Vienna, 17 March.** The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) denied Azerbaijan's allegations that Armenia is encouraging and financing a massive resettlement of Armenians in the Azerbaijani territories around Nagorno Karabakh. The report was officially submitted to the OSCE's governing Permanent Council in Vienna.

"The Fact-Finding Mission has seen no evidence of direct involvement by the authorities of Armenia in the territories," concludes the report cited by the ministry. "There is no clear organized resettlement, no non-voluntary resettlement, no recruitment."

The Armenian Foreign Ministry welcomed the reported findings of the OSCE inspectors led by a senior German diplomat, Emily Haber. "We believe that their detailed, first-hand, objective report clearly describes the situation on the ground in the region," the ministry said in a statement.

The OSCE team found that the vast majority of Armenian settlers live in the Lachin district that serves as the shortest overland link between Armenia and Karabakh. The Armenian side has ruled out Lachin's return to Azerbaijan under any peace accord. The Armenian Foreign Ministry statement said the area is "viewed differently in the negotiation process... This is so because Lachin is Nagorno Karabakh's humanitarian and security corridor," it explained.

*The OSCE inspection was organized as a result of a compromise agreement between the conflicting parties and the mediators and received every support by the authorities of Nagorno Karabakh to accomplish the mission successfully.*

**Yerevan, 21 March.** Armenia has officially applied to the OSCE with a request to send a fact-finding mission to the northern Martakert, Shahumian and eastern Martuni regions.

After the OSCE report released on 17 March, Armenia requested a fact-finding mission for a similarly transparent assessment of those regions which were formerly largely-Armenian populated, and are today under Azerbaijan's control: the Northern Martakert and Eastern Martuni regions of Nagorno Karabakh, and Shahumian. Armenia's Foreign Minister declared that after the OSCE fact-finding mission's report, there should be no more obstacles for the talks to resume.

**Yerevan, 23 March.** In May Armenia will sign the Bologna Agreement and will join the educational zone of 50 European countries. Sergo Yeritsyan, Minister of Education and Science, declared this at a meeting in the Culture Faculty of

Yerevan Pedagogical University. Sergo Yeritsyan mentioned that cardinal reforms in the sphere of comprehensive education have already begun. According to the Bologna agreement, the country's educational reforms at all levels are to be concluded by 2010. Armenia has also ratified the Lisbon Convention on mutual recognition of higher education diplomas in Europe.

**Yerevan, 30-31 March.** General Charles Wald, Deputy Commander, Headquarters U.S. European Command, based in Stuttgart, Germany, visited Armenia.

The Deputy Commander and delegation were received by President Robert Kocharyan, Defense Minister Serzh Sargsian, and members of the Armenian military leadership.

The purpose of the visit was to discuss the developing U.S. - Armenia defence relationship.

*USEUCOM is responsible for all U.S. forces operating across 91 countries in Europe, Africa, Russia, parts of Asia and the Middle East, and most of the Atlantic Ocean.*

### **Embassy News**

**London, 5-9 March.** Mr. Sergo Yeritsyan, Minister of Education and Science was in London on a working visit, organised within the framework of the Public Sector Reform in Armenia Programme, supported by the UK Department for International Development.

During the visit Minister Yeritsyan met with UK Minister of State for Higher Education Kim Howells, MP and Mr David Green, Director-General of the British Council, as well as paid visits to the UK Department for Education and Skills, Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) and Technology College in Rainham, Essex.

During the meetings the prospects of British-Armenian cooperation in the field of education, in particular the possibilities of joint educational projects and mutual recognition of certificates, as well as of exchange programmes for specialists, experts and students were discussed.

Minister of Education was hosted at the Armenian Saturday and Sunday Schools, where he met with the teachers, students and their parents.



Minister Yeritsyan and Ambassador Gabrielyan feel like students again.



Answering questions at the Saturday School



With junior students at the Sunday School



Minister S. Yeritsyan, Ambassador V. Gabrielyan, Counsellor K.Khudaverdian, Ministry Chief of Staff S. Minassyan with the staff of the Saturday School



Minister S. Yeritsyan, Ambassador V. Gabrielyan with David Green, Director-General of the British Council.



Minister S. Yeritsyan, Ambassador V. Gabrielyan, Ministry Chief of Staff S. Minassyan in the Ambassador's office at the Armenian Embassy.

**London, March.** UNEP/GEF, ARMENIA, an environmental project, won the annual Green Apple Award, which is awarded by the Green Organization. The latter is a non-political, non-activist and non-profit-making organization that works with other environmental groups and supports the watchdog role played by some of the major organisations. One of the main thrusts of The Green Organisation's promotional campaign is through the national Green Apple Environment Awards for local authorities, commerce and industry. By recognising and publicising companies, corporations and individuals who are making an effort to preserve and protect the environment for generations to come, they encourage others to follow their good examples.



The award won by the Armenian project.

## Other News

**Yerevan, 17 March.** Vahagn Movsisian, Director of the Armenian Development Agency (ADA) announced that the ADA was recognized by the World Bank as the second best development agency among its counterparts in Central Europe and Central Asia and the fifth best in the world.

**London, 2 February.** On behalf of the British-Armenian All Party Parliamentary Group (BAAPPG), Mr Robert Wareing, Labour MP for Liverpool West Derby, has sponsored Early Day Motion (EDM) 642 entitled '**Recognition of the Armenian Genocide, 1915**'.

Along with Robert Wareing as the primary sponsor, this EDM 642 has secured to date 44 signatures.

The motion urges the Parliament to acknowledge as an act of genocide the mass murder of Armenians carried out in the Ottoman Empire in 1915 and urges the Government to join other countries which have recognised this act of genocide. It also calls on the Turkish Government to acknowledge the actions of its predecessors.

*This is not the first such initiative by the BAAPPG. In 2000, their petition was signed by 2661 people, including 56 MPs and was submitted to Downing 10 by six Members of Parliament, BAAPPG Honorary Secretary Mrs. Odette Bazil and other members of the community.*

**Stepanakert, 7 –17 March.** On March 7, 11:00 am local time an Azerbaijani armed forces group tried to advance into the positions of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic Army at the northeastern sector of the contact line between the Azeri and Karabakh armed forces. The advancement was prevented, fire returned by the Karabakh military and the Azeri group was forced to retreat.

On March 17, the OSCE Mission held regular monitoring at the site of the breach of the ceasefire. The representatives of the NKR Defence Ministry presented to the OSCE Mission the testimonies of the shooting at the Karabakh positions by the subunits of Azerbaijan's Armed Forces, as well as the results of the Azerbaijani party's actions in moving their positions to the front borders of the NKR Defence Army.

NKR Defence Ministry has stated, "any activity by the Azerbaijani military threatening the security of the NKR and destabilizing the situation will be retaliated accordingly. The NKR Defence Ministry calls on Azerbaijan to maintain the ceasefire regime unconditionally and refrain from jeopardizing peace and stability in the region."

**Washington, 8 March.** In a principled stand for U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide, Senator George Allen (Virginia) in his capacity as the presiding officer of a Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee hearing on the Black Sea region, noted, "the U.S. wants to have good relations with Turkey but we are not willing to sweep history under the rug".

Senator Allen dismissed claims that US recognition of the Armenian Genocide must be avoided due to Turkish "sensitivity" towards the subject.

Former Department of Defence official Bruce Jackson, who as President of the Project on Transitional Democracies works closely with the newly independent states of Eurasia, declared at the same hearing: "Just because Turkish officials become indignant at the mention of Genocide [of Armenians] ... does not mean that coming to terms with history should not be discussed between democratic allies. If we are to succeed where democracy is at risk, we must be clear in what we say and do".

Senior US officials, including the late President R. Reagan, have affirmed the Armenian Genocide and President George W Bush has used a textbook definition of the crime in his annual commemorative statements, but under pressure from Turkey, the US does not officially refer to the deaths of over a million Armenians in Ottoman Turkey as Genocide

**10 March.** Harry Gilmore, former Ambassador of the US to Armenia has joined calls for international recognition of the Armenian Genocide, echoing earlier statements on the subject made by the current head of the U.S. mission in Yerevan.

In an interview with Radio Free Europe, Ambassador said the extermination of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians in Ottoman Turkey fits into the definition of genocide set by the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide.

*Gilmore, who served as Ambassador to Armenia from 1993-1995, was the first U.S. government official to visit and lay flowers at the genocide memorial in Yerevan. But both he and his two successors consistently avoided calling the Armenian massacres a "genocide" in line with Washington's policy on the highly sensitive subject.*

*John Evans, the current U.S. ambassador in Yerevan, therefore took many observers by surprise when declared at a series of meetings with members of the Armenian-American community last month that the Turks did commit "the first genocide of the 20<sup>th</sup> century."*

*Although in a later statement Ambassador Evans said that he had expressed his personal opinion, Evans had told the U.S.-Armenian community that he studied the subject in detail and consulted with a State Department lawyer before going on record.*

**Yerevan, 23 March.** The Jewish community of Armenia called the Jewish organizations around the globe to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

"The Holocaust may have been avoided if the world had united against this brutality as it does now to fight terror," the appeal states, adding that no political or economic interest should become an obstacle for recognition of this tragedy.

The appeal also stresses that the recognition of the Genocide is not directed against the Turkish people. "In fact, it would only elevate them in the eyes of the civilized world as it was the case with Germany which admitted to the killings of 6 million Jews under Nazis," reads the appeal.

**Yerevan, 28 March.** A delegation of the leaders of 12 Arab tribes of Syria, accompanied by representatives of the Armenian Church's Beria Prelacy, arrived in Yerevan.

The tribal leaders, some of whom reside in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq and Qatar, are in Armenia to take part in the events commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and pay tribute to the Genocide victims.

**Paris, 12 March.** Miss Armenia, Lusine Tovmassyan became victorious when Paris hosted "Miss Europe 2005," the famous Beauty Pageant. "Miss Europe" is one of the most reputable beauty contests in the world. During previous competitions

Armenian beauties had managed to place in the top fifteen, but this year "Miss Armenia", the 18-year-old winner of "Miss Armenia 2003" came a remarkable second in the contest, first place going to Miss Germany.

Lusine is the most recent Miss Armenia winner, as the contest has not taken place since 2003, and she has also worked as a model in the fashion industry for the past two years.



### **Announcements**

.. **Colours of Armenia**, an exhibition of pictures by Alex Pemberton, organised by BibleLands, a Christian Charity Organisation will be held in London **11-19 April**, 10am – 4pm, Monday—Saturday. Having accompanied the pilgrimage of *BibleLand* to Armenia, Alex has produced a unique insight and interpretation of the land and the people where *BibleLand* first began its work in 1854. The venue is: All Hallows by the Tower, Byward Street, London EC3R (Nearest Tube Station: Tower Hill).

.. **10 April. Chilterns Armenian Society**, a newly created organization established by Armenians living in Buckinghamshire and surrounding areas will be officially launched on Sunday by a service at the St. Mary and All Saints Church,

Beaconsfield and a following ceremony at the Church Hall. Ambassador Gabrielyan will address and welcome the Society at the ceremony to be hosted by Mayor Alan Walters, Dominic Grieve, the local Member of Parliament and Rev. John Wynburne.

.. **11 April.** A concert in commemoration of the victims of the 1915 Genocide of Armenians, the "Spring Remembrance Concert", will be held in the Wigmore Hall, Central London. It will feature pieces from Shostakovich, Puccini, Komitas, Bellini, Leoncavallo and Verdi, performed by the famous tenor Gegham Grigorian, soprano Asmik Grigorian and the ConTempo String Quartet. The annual remembrance concerts are made possible thanks to the efforts of Regina Pargev, the organizer. The concert is sponsored by the Benlian Trust and the AGBU-London.

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