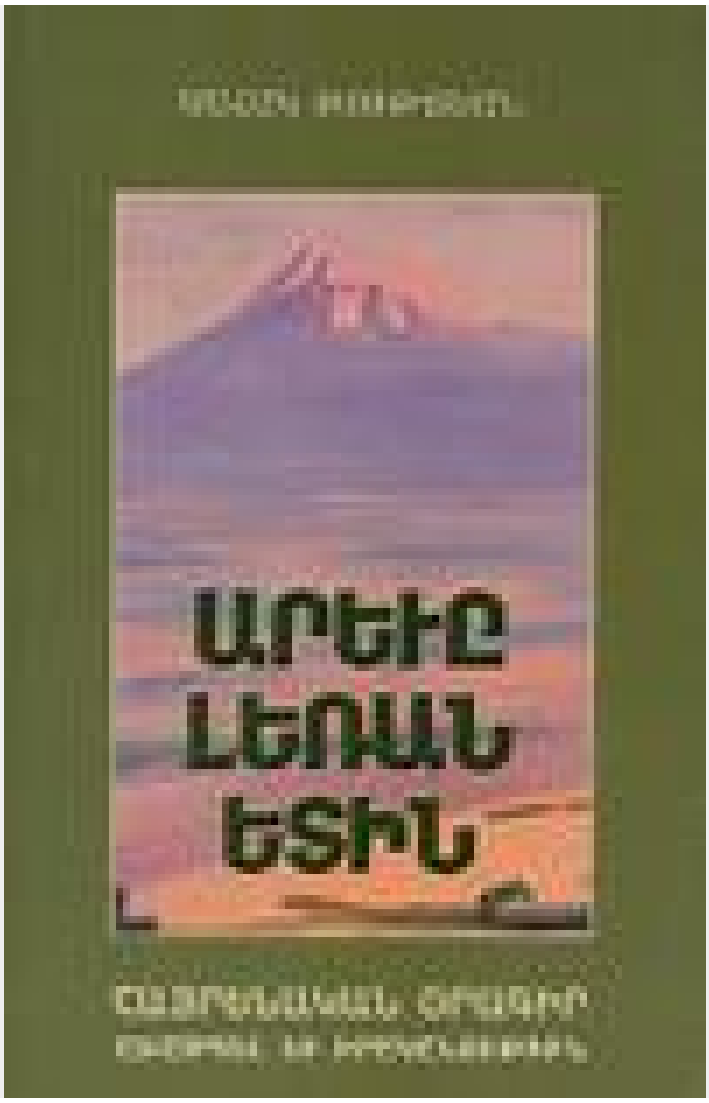
ABETTING THE CRIMINAL GANG IN YEREVAN

Posted on December 26, 2010 by Keghart



Category: Opinions



Sahag Toutjian, 26 December 2010

Mr. Toutjian's piece originally appeared as a comment on Keghart.com. Our Editorial Board decided to run it as a self-standing article because it tackles a crucial challenge which Armenians have to face in Armenia and in the Diaspora. Mr. Toutjian is on the staff of "Massis" weekly in Los Angelos and he is the author of ***Արեւը Լեռան Ետին, Հայրենական օրագիր, Առասպել և իրականութիւն****:* ***Editor***

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At first I was inclined to disregard Nardos' disruptive tirades on a few irrelevant subjects with no bearing on my response to Keghart.com's call for Nicol Pashinyan's freedom. But then I thought it would be instructive to briefly comment on this unhappy occasion.

I refuse to be dragged into the vortex of false challenges "offered" by Mr Apigian (apparently hiding behind halloween masks like Njdeh and Nardos etc just to distract -- knowingly or unknowingly but apparently as directed -- those who are fighting for a cause -- freedom -- so close and dear to the heart of any Armenian, including, I presume, Mr Apigian) to discuss a number of matters unrelated to the central issue of freedom of speech presently raised.
Even the fact that so many different names are being used by the same person renders his disruptive comments highly suspect as to its origin and purpose. Mr Apigian, or Njdeh, or Nardos, or whoever you really are, I am sorry for any person acting as the advocate of the criminals hiding behind the gang that murdered the political leadership of the newly established Republic of Armenia in 1998, who organized the slaughter of innocent and peaceful March 1 demonstrators in 2008, and who are now plundering for their selfish splurge the meager wealth that belongs to the impoverished people of Armenia.

You prefer to arbitrarily deny this sorry state of affairs, as do Armenia's present rulers whom you

have chosen to blindly endorse. The members or abettors of this murderous gang, whom you have chosen as your mentors, have decided that Nikol Pashinyan is a common criminal, to which you have echoed "Amen!" for reasons I do not comprehend. I call for the freedom of speech of everybody, including that of Nikol Pashinyan, and you say he is a common criminal based on the unilateral decision of our nation's murderers or their abettors.

Then you go on, rhetorically challenging me whether "I can tell you about the murders before 1998", and about "democratic elections in 1995 and 1996", and then bombastically asking me if I have the courage to tell who murdered mayor Galstyan and chief of railway station Ghandilyan and members of Hayots Azgayin Panag at the railway station.

What you are really doing, Mr ... Njdeh, is trying to disorient and distract people from the core issue of press freedom by throwing in unrelated peripheral questions to bog down a healthy debate and appeal. Does this ring a bell, Mr ... Nardos? Whether consciously or unconsciously, you are using exactly the same methodology, wiggling through the same deceptive mental process and manipulation of words whereby the Turkish government denies the perpetration of the Armenian Genocide by the Ottoman authorities.

By means of their sly use of the lexicon as reflected in the infamous Protocols, they proposed to settle the Genocide issue through the debates of historians representing both sides. I'm almost sure you agree that the real aim of the Turkish "historians" was meant to kill and bury the Genocide issue in endless Byzantine hairsplitting discussions dragging ad nauseam. Intentionally or just objectively, your baseless and cocksure "verdict" of Nicol Pashinyan being a common criminal aims, similarly, to kill a voice of free speech -- a scream in the solitary darkness of a detention cell -- as the first stage for his "physical liquidation" announced long ago and pursued relentlessly by the respective authorities.

In the presumably free and independent Armenia which we all have dreamed about, the billionaire robber barons who fear free speech more than the plague, are at this very moment, as confessed by them since March 2008, planning to murder an innocent journalist because he dared to perform his duty in defiance of their threats. If you and I and all the Armenian people of good will and sound mind disown those who voice for freedom from external and internal enemies, we all will wake up one of these days and hear that Pashinyan or Hatsbanian or one or more of the valiant political prisoners have died of sickness or suicide -- in fact, cold-bloodedly murdered by one of those "bravely" black-masked black-robed spider-men (in practically real terms) who killed the peaceful demonstrators of March 2008.

Courage, my friend Whatever Your Name, is not hiding behind quaint names of our venerable figures of the past -- as I am left to assume in the absence of clarity of your real identity -- for blurring your traces. It is not to blindly jump to the defense of rulers of the day who do not really need any help since they have the almighty brute force on their side, in their hands, and against their

own people and freedom fighters. It is to stand firm against brute force and the unworthy rulers of the day as Nikol is doing -- never mind if you agree with his opinions or not. I am, at this very moment, acknowledging that same right to everybody, including you, by virtue of this dialogue with you.

Under undemocratic rule, obviously the dissident is always at a disadvantage, while the authorities are, officially, always right since they have the exclusivity of might.

You say my comments are not objective, and you are definitely free to say so. But please listen carefully to what we are saying. We are simply demanding the freedom of Nikol Pashinyan. We are not saying that we support his views; that's beside the point; we are simply demanding his freedom.

Oh yes, I temporarily overlooked your claim that he wanted to create mass disorders. I am quite sure he did not, because a well disciplined human mass of much more than 100,000 people in the compact heart of Yerevan, by their sheer presence, would have paralyzed government centers and services, and would thereby realize their objectives. And, I would remind you (I'm sure you already know), many of the opposition allies were alienated precisely for this reason of not passing to action when the moment was ripe.

The authorities have penalized the demonstrators for this restraint. Thanking them for it would have been more appropriate. Instead of asking me to have the courage to answer a number of your appropriate but ill-timed questions about past events and possible injustice including crimes, I sincerely invite you to display the intellectual integrity (courage, if you so prefer) to stick to the immediate task and join us in demanding Nikol Pashinyan's freedom as a matter of principle, despite your total disagreement with his views.

Time may be running out.