

# HISTORIC RECEPTION IN ROMANIA

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H. E. Omer Birzinji, Iraq's ambassador to Romania, hosted on Jan. 27, a diplomatic reception and lunch in Bucharest in honor of the 1,200-year-old Armenian community of Romania and on the occasion of the visit to Romania of International correspondent Hamo Moskofian of Lebanon's Tidag magazine and Canada's Keghart.com website.



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Although a heavy snowstorm prevented the attendance of several prominent personalities, Ambassador of Armenia H.E.Hamlet Gasparyan made it to the reception. Ambassador Gasparyan is a former editor of Azg and other publications in Armenia and abroad. Ambassador Omer Birzinji, an Iraqi Kurd, warmly welcomed the spiritual leader of the Armenians of Romania Bishop Datev Hagopian, who is from Iraqi Kurdistan, the leader of minorities' parliamentary group MP Varujan Pamboukjian, journalist and editor Karen Baboyian (Diplomat Club), H.E. Nicolae Tanase, head of the Middle East department at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and diplomats, political figures, businessmen, and Iraqi and Armenian embassy staff.



Ambassador Omer Birzinji praised the Armenian mass media and the Armenian communities of Romania and Beirut, where he was ambassador. He highlighted the centuries-old brotherly relations in Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan where all minorities live and prosper in safety and respect. Bishop Hagopian invited the ambassador to visit the Armenian church, the Armenians' Union offices, and the Armenian museum on Strada Armeanasca (Armenian Street) in Bucharest. MP Pamboukjian made an impressive speech about the historical relations between Armenia and Iraq. Ambassador Gasparyan presented the Iraqi ambassador with souvenirs from Armenia.

Lunch menu was composed of traditional Iraqi, Kurdish, Armenian and Romanian dishes. Many toasts were made for a bright future for Iraq, Armenia, and Romania.

In late afternoon the guests parted, promising to meet in the near future.



## **Beirut Lecture on Kurds, Zazas, Kurdified Armenians**

In recognition of the Kurdish factor and the promising pro-Armenian steps taken by Kurdish

organizations and the Iraqi Kurdistan regional government toward the Armenians in the Middle East and in Europe, our Zaza and Kizilbash brothers, and the awakening of Kurdified Armenians, Ararad daily of Lebanon, the central organ of the Social Democratic Hnchag Party, will present a trail-blazing lecture in Beirut by well-known journalist Hamo Moskofian.

An expert in Kurdish, Zaza, and Kurdified-Armenian affairs, Moskofian will comment on the above developments. The gathering will take place at the St. Kevork Church compound in New Hajn on Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. Slides, and live music by legendary Mikail Aslan and Cemil Kocgiri will also be featured for the first time in Beirut.

**Enjoy excerpts from "Petag"**

**[Legendary Zaza Composer, Intellectual Mikail Aslan](#)**

