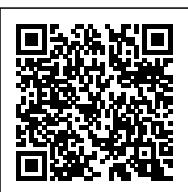


POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED JUSTICE IS NO JUSTICE

Posted on October 6, 2012 by Keghart



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Keghart.com Editor, 6 October 2012

Like other issues, we treat non-governmental foundations, which have appeared recently in Armenia, with a grain of salt. Trustworthiness of these organizations is on shaky ground when the list of non-Armenian foreign donors with questionable political backgrounds and agendas are factored in. We view the Civilitas Foundation, a non-governmental organization (NGO), in this context.

Irrespective of the history and development of the Armenia NGOs, the charges brought against Civilitas head Vartan Oskanian are politically motivated to liquidate a prominent leader of the opposition through the state apparatus. The government of Armenia has set on a course which is reminiscent of the Thirties' Soviet reign of Stalin. Is this what Armenians in the motherland and in the Diaspora have struggled for?

Readers of Keghart, of whatever political background, are invited to listen to Mr. Oskanian's 19-minute speech in the Armenian Parliament on Oct. 1, 2012. Each "accused" person has the right to be heard, and individuals, while trying to formulate their views, are entitled to their expression, without being influenced or coerced by the "mandated" opinion of the establishment in Armenia and in the Diaspora.

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 October 6, 2012

Dear friend,

Of all the newsletters you've received from the Civilitas Foundation over these four years, I think none has been less useful and less good for Armenia and for Civilitas than this one.

Nevertheless, I must tell you that this is where we stand:

On October 8, at noon, Yerevan time, Mr. Oskanian will be charged. The charges most probably will be embezzlement and money laundering. Together, the charges carry possible prison sentences of four to 20 years.

In the meanwhile, the Armenian Tax Service continues its investigation into Civilitas's records. Nothing has been found thus far, but they do and will keep checking.

On the other hand, the popular response as well as the international response has been overwhelmingly supportive. From David Ignatius of the [Washington Post](#), to [Al Jazeera](#), to the [HuffPost](#), the foreign press is saying what must be said – that this is not what Armenia needed at a time when the world's attention is riveted on our region. In [Azerbaijan](#), as we reported on CivilNet, oil production slowed down in 2011, three years earlier than expected. In [Georgia](#), the ruling party demonstrated that it understands democracy. And in [Armenia](#) – our attention and focus has been diverted to a baseless, politically-motivated criminal prosecution.

Our only tools are our voices and our convictions. Towards that end, a petition has been launched at [change.org](#). If you agree with the text there, please sign. But do more than sign. Please share with everyone. No limitations – anyone can sign. Armenian or not, citizen or not. What is important is that real people, caring and concerned individuals, raise their voices about this attack on democracy.

Thank you. Donations are being gladly accepted to facilitate the additional work that these dual investigations demand.



Սիվիլիթաս Հիմնադրամ

Հյուսիսային պողոտա 1, գրասենյակ 26

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Աշխարհահռչակ ռեժիսոր Ատոմ Էգոյանը, որը Սիվիլիթաս հիմնադրամի պատվո խրհրդի անդամ է, իր աջակցությունն է հայտնել Վարդան Օսկանյանին՝ նրա դեմ սկսված քաղաքական հետապնդման գործում: Էգոյանի հայտարարությունը ներկայացված է ստորև:

Ես ճանաչում եմ Վարդան Օսկանյանին երկար տարիներ և համոզված եմ, որ նա փայլուն պետական գործիչ է, Հայաստանի բարգավաճման ու բարօրության նվիրյալ: Նա իրավամբ միջազգային հեղինակություն ունի՝ ունակ ստեղծելու կարևոր կապեր և բերելու ժողովրդավարական բարեփոխման թանկ գաղափարներ, ազատ մեղիա մի երկիր, որը դեռ չի թոթափել խորհրդային ժամանակաշրջանի ավելի քան յոթանասուն տարիների վերահսկողությունը:

Այս գիտակցումով ես առանց վարանելու ընդունեցի Սիվիլիթասի ստեղծման գործում ներգրավվելու պարոն Օսկանյանի առաջարկը: Ես ականատեսն եմ եղել, թե ինչպես է կարևոր այս կազմակերպությունը նպաստել բաց և հրապարակային բանավեճին մի երկրում, որն ինձ համար թանկ է և որով ես հպարտ եմ: Սա է պատճառը, որ ես այսքան ցնցված եմ և վրդովված ներկայիս մեղադրանքներից, որոնք առաջադրվել են պարոն Օսկանյանի դեմ: Վարդան Օսկանյանին հալածելը պախարակելի և քաղաքական դրդապատճառներ ունեցող արարք է, որը չափազանց վտանգավոր է երկրի առողջության համար:

Հայաստանի գլխավոր դատախազին ես հորդորում եմ լրջորեն հաշվի առնել Վարդան Օսկանյանին անձեռնմխելիությունից զրկելու և շինծու մեղադրանքներով դատապարտելու հետևանքները: Այս գործողությանը մեծագույն մտահոգությամբ հետևում են բոլոր այն մարդիկ, ովքեր մտահոգված են խոսքի ազատությամբ իրապես ժողովրդավարական և ժամանակակից երկրում:

Atom Egoyan

Filmmaker

Member of the Civilitas Foundation Honorary Board

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

October 1, 2012

I have known Vartan Oskanian for many years, and believe that he is a brilliant statesman, committed to Armenia's prosperity and well-being. He is a truly international presence, capable of creating important bonds and bringing cherished ideas of democratic reform and free media to a country that is still recovering from over seventy years of Soviet-era control.

With this in mind, I immediately accepted Mr. Oskanian's invitation to lend my name to the formation of Civilitas. I have watched as this vital organization has helped shape the course of open discussion and debate within a country I cherish and so proud of. This is why I am so shocked and upset by the current charges that have been brought against Mr. Oskanian. The persecution of Vartan Oskanian is a deplorable and politically motivated action which is extremely dangerous to the health of the country.

I urge the Prosecutor General of Armenia to seriously consider the consequences of removing Vartan Oskanian's immunity and to charge him with this trumped-up charge. This action is being watched with great concern by anyone who is concerned with freedom of expression in a truly democratic and modern country.

