

VILLAINS, HEROES OF 2015

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"Thank you" to Keghart readers who submitted names and provided rationale for their choices.--Editor

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Villains

1. Representatives **Charlie Rent** (R-PA) and **Linda Sanchez** (D-CA) of the U.S. House of Representatives Ethics Committee for their willful blindness in finding "no evidence" that fellow lawmakers and their 30 aides "knowingly" violated congressional rules during a 2013 trip to Baku paid for by the Azerbaijan government-controlled State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic--SOCAR.
2. **The United States media** for the blackout on Prof. Moogalian, the hero who was first to confront

and successfully remove an assault rifle from an Islamic terrorist on board a train traveling from Belgium to France. While the three other (unhurt) Americans were receiving US media's adulation, a wounded Moogalian was being treated in a Paris hospital. Long after the US media's spotlight had moved from the dramatic event, Moogalian, an Armenian-American who teaches at the Sorbonne, received the Legion d'Honneur from President Hollande of France.

3. Turkish stooge and apologist **James Stavridis** who wrote in the Nov. 25 issue of "Foreign Policy" magazine an article titled "Now is the Time for NATO to Rally Behind Turkey". Stavridis, a Greek-American who is the dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, wrote the article immediately after the Turks shot down the Russian plane in northern Syria.


4. **Meline Toumani**, writer-journalist, who in "There Was and There Was Not" book denigrated and mocked Armenian communities in the United States. One Keghart reader said she felt "dirty" after reading the book and described Toumani as the quintessential self-hating Armenian.

5. The **Fethullah Gulen-linked Turkish-American organizations**. They funded 2,000 "familiarization" trips to Turkey for congressmen and their aides. 

6. Actor-playwright **Eric Bogosian**. In "Operation Nemesis" he put down and then dismissed the Armenian heroes who carried out death sentences of the Turkish butchers responsible for the Genocide of Armenians. Bogosian also avoided talking about restorative justice.

7. International law professor **Richard A. Falk** who acted as an apologist for Turkey during the Swiss court case against Turkish politician and self-promoting blowhard Dogu Perincek.

8. US State Department's foul-mouthed **Victoria Nuland** whose manicured fingers were behind the failed attempt to start a color revolution in Armenia.

 9. Former House Speaker **Dennis Hastert** for selling his honour for Turkish liras and for his many multifaceted crimes.

10. **Vladimir Putin** for continuing to sell sophisticated weapons to Azerbaijan intended for use against Armenia, Russia's only ally in the Caucasus.

11. **Matthew Bryza** for advising the setting up a "tribunal" to determine whether Armenia or Azerbaijan are responsible for frequent shootings across the lines of contact and for suggesting a ceasefire should be safeguarded by Turkey. The man's stupidity and hypocrisy have no bounds, neither his nerve.

12. **Georgia**—Armenia's treacherous neighbour--which sleeps with Turkbeijan, oppresses the Armenians of Georgia (particularly those in Javakhk), and refuses to recognize the Armenian Genocide which occurred within sight of its borders.

13. **Robert Walter** of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), a notorious pro-Azeri

politician who is blind to Azerbaijan's many crimes, including its violation of human rights. The so-called British politician, who is married to a Turk, became a Turkish citizen this year.


14. Two despicable writers: **Maxime Gauin** of France and **Justin A. Schwartz** of South Africa. The pair continued to falsify Armenian history and the Armeno-Turkish conflict.

15. Retired **Major Garig Marutian** who passed classified information to the Azeri secret service during his tenure as an intelligence officer in Armenia's armed forces.

Heroes

1. **The senate of Paraguay**, the **Aragon** regional parliament and the cities of **Aldaia**, **Silla** and **Alzira** in Spain for recognizing the Genocide of Armenians.

2. **Australia** for providing the largest share of humanitarian aid to Armenia. Canberra was responsible for 36.3% of the \$30.8 million humanitarian aid Armenia received from donor nations. The U.S. aid was \$5.8 million and China's \$3.5 million.

3. **Kanye West**, **Kim Kardashian** and her sister **Khloé** who spread the good word about Armenia and the Armenians. Also TV host **Conan O'Brien** and his long-time assistant **Sona Movsesian** for their positive portrayal of Armenia on O'Brien's late-night show. 


4. Colorado **Governor John Hickenlooper** for defending human rights and for recognizing the Armenian Genocide. Gov. Hickenlooper received the Armenian National Committee of America Freedom Award.

5. Film makers **Fatih Akin**, **Garin Hovanissian**, **Alec Mouhibian**, **Robert Guedigian**, **Ozcan Alper** and others who produced and directed feature movies about 1915.

6. **The Armenian Self-Defence Forces** which are defending Armenia and Artsakh.

7. **The Camp Armen activists**.

8. The **Tumo Centre Team** for its achievements in Yerevan and for expanding to Gyumri, Dilijan, and to Stepanagerd.

 9. **Selahattin Demirtaş** for his heroic and wise leadership of the Kurds in eastern Turkey/Western Armenia.

10. Armenian-Americans working at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory who were part of the Mars Rover Project and **Prof. Yervant Terzian** who was awarded the NASA Lifetime Achievement Award. Also photographers **Levon Parian**, **Ara Oshagan** and architect **Vahagn Thomasian** who made the list of "FP Magazine" 100 Global Thinkers of 2015.

11. Russian billionaire **German Sterligov** who moved his large family to Artsakh, and started two businesses in Shushi.

12. The U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman **Ed Royce** (R-CA) and Ranking Democrat **Eliot Engel** (D-NY) for urging Washington and the OSCE to end their false parity policy vis-a-vis Armenia and Azerbaijan.

13. **Prof. Mark Moogalian**. See Villains, No. 2. 

14. President of Germany, **Joachim Gauc**, who described the Armenian Genocide as a "planned and systematic mass murder...the fate of the Armenians stands as exemplary in the history of mass extermination, ethnic cleansing, deportations and yes genocide, which marked the 20th Century in such a terrible way."

15. **Pope Francis** who, through his widely-disseminated pronouncements, asserted the veracity of the Genocide and raised awareness among world Catholics and non-Catholics about the Turkish crime.

16. Russia's **Putin**, France's **Hollande**, **Anastasiades** of Cyprus, and **Nikolie** of Serbia who attended the 100th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide on April 24 in Yerevan.

