

**GALA TO HONOUR PRESIDENT TCHURUK**

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**W A R N I N G**

**Head Hunters for Fund Raising**

(Organiser The AGBU – CBD)

**WHAT FOR ? ANNIHILATION OF THE ARMENIAN DIASPORA ?**

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**In spite of the sorrow due to the dismal crisis**

(Fomented by the AGBU-CBD against the Armenian Diaspora),  
**Let us cordially welcome Mr Serge Tchuruk,**  
**A hearty welcome to the home of his roots.**

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Armenian General Benevolent Unions Central Board of Directors (AGBU-CBD), headed by Mr Berj Setrakian and approved by Mrs Louise Manoogian-Simone, is continuing its “highly patriotic” activities, trying to dismantle the human resources development structures of the Western Armenian Diaspora – the Armenian Schools of the Middle and Near East, amongst whom the most important being the Melkonian Educational Institute (MEI) based in Cyprus. Thus the AGBU managers are carrying out the good-old time “head hunting” activities in the All Armenian Commonwealth, apparently honouring here and there Armenians who are eminent personalities in the field of world politics or economy, even fine arts, in the hope that some of their eminence will rub off on them and obscure the dark deeds that they are committing in the meantime; using these individuals to cloak their very moral nakedness

This, a well known marketing technique, is used by many organisations – Armenian ones being no exceptions.

Do these personalities, becoming Mannequins, know how useful they are to the organisations to which they are lending their names and/or presence?

We suppose most of them do not know what kind of prestige they are lending to these organisations, such as the AGBU, organisations which in the past had prestige in their own right.

In fact the CBD of the AGBU together with the Catholicosate of Etchmiadzin, officials and political leaders of the Republic of Armenia, and some other organisations are busy draining the financial resources of the Western Armenian Diaspora, thus hindering the auto financing so badly needed by the local communities and structures.

This draining is implemented in the name of “the mother-fatherland” Armenia. That is the premise on which the AGBU-CBD has decided to close and sell the MEI – a vital organ of the Diaspora and also of Armenia.

Yet nobody knows in which legal capacity the aforementioned CBD made this decision.

Thus it is no surprise that there are already judicial challenges against this decision taken by the CBD.

Dismantling the Armenian Diaspora in order to “save” the Republic of Armenia is just an illusion – may be full of innocent good will. May be ...! Let us pray : God save the republic of All Armenians ! Not just the Republic of Armenia.

Meeting the needs of the Republic of Armenia, and similar countries, could indeed be implemented in other ways, take for example the foreign aid already extended to the Republic of Armenia itself for its social and economic development.

Since 1993 Armenia has received as aid in one form or another a sum exceeding THREE BILLION US Dollars. This figure does not include the (much smaller) aid given by the Armenian charitable organisations and individuals of the Diaspora – amongst whom is of course the AGBU. This approximately three billion US Dollars worth of assistance has come from non-Armenian sources and is given as grants rather than loans, thus not adding to the level of public debt of the Republic of Armenia.

This assistance will continue to be given to Armenia and it is worth noting that this assistance was initiated and realised by one, only one, Western Armenian – educated in the Diasporan schools of Western Armenians.

The Political, economic and social impact of this assistance far outstrips all the aid contributions of the Armenian Diasporan efforts put together – i.e.: contributions of the AGBU, All Armenian Funds, Kirk Kirkorian’s Lincy, Chêne, etc. etc, thus it is worth reiterating that in terms of money these Armenian efforts fall far, far behind that which is given to the Armenian Republic as multi and bilateral international assistance.

However in the Armenian microcosm, it is the donations by the Armenian institutions that grab the headlines and publicity, far more that they warrant.

On Saturday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2005, the AGBU will honour an Armenian: Mr Serge Tchuruk. He is an immense personality in the globalised world economy. Once the Prime Minister of China publicly suggested to a captain of industry : “follow Mr Tchuruk’s method in China”! We applaud intensely Mr Tchuruk’s success, successes due to his personal capabilities and human qualities. The Armenian organisations do not have any share therein.

It would indeed have been strongly desirable to enjoy such a gala honouring Mr Tchuruk; welcoming him amongst the Armenians, the home of his roots, were it

to have been organised by a transparent and legitimate Central Board of the AGBU – something that is badly missing at present and urgently needed by the All Armenian Worldwide Commonwealth.

Yet we are informed that, Mr. Robert Kotcharian – The President of the Republic of Armenia will be present at the gathering on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

Will he be there to receive some funds?

With his very silences he agrees with the AGBU CBD's dismantlement of the MEI which is an integral and valuable part of the Armenian Diaspora.

Does he not realise that draining the financial and structural resources of the Armenian Diaspora will necessarily deprive the Republic of Armenia of one of its most reliable assets, and not just in terms of money?

Nevertheless nobody here will accept the annihilation of Armenia and the Armenian worldwide Diaspora. Never.

That is why we warn everybody concerned – including H.H. the Catholicos Karekin II, H.E. Mr President Kotcharian and all the other followers of their own “short cuts”.

On the occasion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July gathering, the administrators of savemelkonian.org took the liberty of appraising Mr Tchuruk, who is the personality being honoured on the day, of the issue of the Melkonian's closure – see attached letter.

We also take this opportunity to do our civic duty and extend our concerns to you.

Vartan Ozinian

Spokesman of the Pro Edvcatio

1<sup>st</sup> of July 2005