



## Policy Forum Armenia

Cordially invites you to attend a reception on the occasion of

### **The Independence of the First Armenian Republic**

to be held at the University Club of Washington, DC at 6 PM on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Keynote Presenter**

Dr. Rouben Adalian

Director of the Armenian National Institute

Speaking on: *“Armenia’s Independence and Importance of the Battle of Sardarapat”*

#### **Guests of Honor**

Tigran Khzmalyan and Garegin Chugaszyan

Members of the Sardarapat Movement’s Initiating Group

Wine and cheese will be served. This event is open to public. However, RSVPs are required at [forum@pf-armenia.org](mailto:forum@pf-armenia.org) due to limited capacity.



**About the venue:** With superior location (only a block from the White House) and recreational facilities, the University Club of Washington, DC has established itself as one of the premier private city clubs in the country. **Dress code** is business casual for men and comparable attire for ladies (no denim, please).

**When:** Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 6:00-8:00 PM

**Where:** The University Club of Washington, DC  
1135 Sixteenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

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**Policy Forum Armenia** ([www.pf-armenia.org](http://www.pf-armenia.org)) is an independent professional non-profit association aimed at strengthening discourse on Armenia’s public policy.

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## About Our Guests



**Dr. Rouben Adalian** is Director of the Armenian National Institute (ANI) in Washington, DC. He is the compiler and editor of *The Armenian Genocide in the U.S. Archives, 1915-1918*, a 37,000-page collection of American documents. He was an associate editor of the *Encyclopedia of Genocide*, and has contributed to numerous publications, including *America and the Armenian Genocide*; *Century of Genocide*; *Studies in Comparative Genocide*; *Pioneers of Genocide Studies*; and *Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa*. Dr. Adalian has taught at George Washington, Georgetown, and Johns Hopkins universities.



**Tigran Khzmalyan** is an award-winning film director, author of four feature and thirteen documentary films. In 1992-1994, he worked as a war correspondent in Karabagh, being also an information advisor for the Chairman of NK parliament. In 1995-1997, he was a deputy director of the Public Information Department of the UN Mission to Armenia. From 1997 to 2005, he headed Film Studio “Yerevan.”



**Garegin Chugaszyan** is one of the leading IT experts in Armenia with experience in government, business, civil society, and academia. He is a member of the Bureau of the Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services (CDMC) of Council of Europe, member of the High-level Panel of Advisers of the UN Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID), member of Armenia’s Presidential IT Development Support Council, and executive director of Information Technologies Foundation (ITF) in Yerevan.

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## About Sardarapat Movement

We created Sardarapat movement as our answer to the Armenian Question. We, the men and women of the Republic of Armenia—Karabagh War veterans, school teachers, economists, human rights activists, and artists—came together in late-2010 to resist the ongoing political and economic crisis, to build a country that generations of Armenians have dreamt about, a country of freedom and social justice, of equal rights and responsibilities, a country of hope and opportunities for each and every Armenian worldwide. We realized that citizen-oriented domestic policies and independent foreign policy are far too important for be trusted to the current illegitimate ruling regime. That is why we decided to take charge now, just as we did 20 years ago, when we rose and won the war for Karabagh against all odds; and just like our ancestors did 90 years ago, by pushing back the advancing Turkish armies in the battle of Sardarapat. There were no political parties involved then, no regular army to speak of, and not a state in charge—just the free will of free people of Armenia, Armenians and non-Armenians alike. The name of our movement thus bears a direct reference to the Sardarapat victory, a critical turning point of our modern history.

Indeed, today’s Armenia is facing a new Sardarapat: the nation is divided by terrible polarization and injustice, when people are deprived of their basic rights of free vote and independent due process; when a handful of corrupt individuals has “privatized” the heritage of generations and bargains with adversaries on the terms equivalent to conceding our independence and our victories. Sardarapat movement stands for strong and vocal Armenia-centric foreign policy; against any territorial concessions in Karabagh, which would be equivalent to jeopardizing safety of people who live there and the security of the country as a whole. No reconciliation with Turkey is possible unless Ankara accepts its responsibility for the Genocide and takes credible steps for addressing its implications. On the domestic front, we believe that our economy can no longer be a hostage to a few oligarchs, while the overwhelming majority of population is being humiliated by poverty and unemployment. We have to rebuild a strong export-driven economy in Armenia instead of maintaining the current deeply flawed model of overreliance on foreign transfers and import. Thousands of small and medium sized businesses should sprawl where at present a few monopolies choke the economy. We have to cherish our land and use its agricultural potential properly, no matter if it is in Armenia proper, Artakh, or the liberated territories. In rebuilding our economic potential we have to rely on all our resources, first and foremost on the human capital of those in Armenia and the Diaspora. Together we can achieve a lot. Together we will!