

American University of Armenia Receives US Accreditation

YEREVAN - The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) has accredited the American University of Armenia. The American University of Armenia (AUA) received the maximum of seven years initial accreditation from WASC's Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities. WASC is one of six regional associations recognized by the United States Department of Education that accredit public and private universities and colleges.

"We are extremely proud of achieving WASC accreditation," said AUA President Haroutune Armenian. "This is an unprecedented event in the history of Armenian higher education and US accreditation opens new doors for the University. Accreditation will increase regional and Diaspora interest in higher education in Armenia and will create new lifelong linkages to Armenia," continued President Armenian.

Armenian Minister of Education and Science Levon Mkrtchyan explained, "The accreditation of the American University of Armenia by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges will exert considerable influence on Armenia's educational system. AUA is a University that underwent the very complex procedure of Western accreditation and it pro-

vides the assurance of quality at international standards. This success is the result of AUA's consistent work and self-analysis of many years."

AUA was established in 1991 with support from the Armenian Government, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, and USAID and from its founding has been an affiliate of the University of California. The University offers graduate degrees in the health sciences, political science and international affairs, industrial engineering, computer and information sciences, teaching English as a second language, business management, and law.

Accreditation indicates that AUA has undergone a period of intensive and comprehensive self-study followed by on-site evaluations of institutional performance and educational processes, that AUA operates at a high level of quality consistent with WASC Commission standards, and that it has sufficient resources to support existing and planned programs at a satisfactory level of quality.

According to AUA Provost and Vice President Lucig Danielian, "As a young institution that carries the traditions of Western higher education to Armenia and its region, the American University of Armenia has the important responsibility of attaining the high-

est possible standards in education and academic management. The process of accreditation provides us with the opportunity to achieve the high standards that we seek."

AUA began the WASC accreditation process in 1998 and was supported throughout with grants from the US State Department.

Russian Killers of Armenian Citizen Convicted by Moscow Court

MOSCOW (ITAR-TASS) - On March 12, a verdict was rendered against seven residents of the Moscow region, who were accused of the murder of an Armenian citizen out of ethnic hatred in a commuter train in 2005.

According to investigators, six residents of the Odintsovo district aged from 19 to 28, including three students of higher and secondary educational establishments in Moscow, who have radical nationalistic views, "agreed in advance about joint attacks on people of the non-Slavic nationality."

They decided to look for a victim in commuter trains of the Belorussky railway line and video record the scene of beating in order to sell it later. For two hours they came from train to train, looking for people with the non-Slavic appearance, until they found Armenian citizen Samvel Tadevosian.

"Attacking the victim young nationalists started beating him

Armenian Genocide and a friend and consistent supporter of the Armenian community and of Armenian causes, was presented with a plaque naming him an "honorary Armenian."

At the end of his speech, he expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome that he received, and he read a brief statement of friendship in Armenian. He also had an opportunity to circulate, talking to people about their con-

with legs, hands, metal chain, recording the beating on a digital photo camera. They took a mobile phone, money and documents, hit Tadevosian several times in the head and neck with a sharp piece of a bottle, and the victim died on the spot," a source in the Moscow regional prosecutor's office emphasized.

According to investigators, on the same night another two people were victimized in commuter trains, including a lieutenant-colonel of police, from whom the young criminals stole money, documents and other valuables.

The Moscow Regional Court found the six defendants guilty of murder and the premeditated moderate damage to health, committed by a group of people under the preliminary collusion out of ethnic hatred, as well as of banditry, robbery and stealing of the passport.

The Russian Supreme Court heard the appeal against the verdict

major political parties of Canada. The Congress of Canadian Armenians is comprised of the following participating organizations (in alphabetical order): AGBU Alex Manoogian School, AGBU Montreal Chapter, Armenian Democratic Liberal Party, Holy Cross Church of Laval, St. Gregory the Illuminator Church of Montreal, S.D. Hunchakian Party, Society of Armenians from Istanbul, Tekeyan Cultural Association.

and upheld it. Defendants Maxim and Alexei Osipov, Vladimir Maluntsev were sentenced to 11.5, 6.5 and 4.5 years in prison.

Another three defendants, who committed the crimes being adolescents, were sentenced to 9.5, 9 and 4.5 years in a general regime colony.

A seventh defendant, Anton Palamarchuk was sentenced to two years in an open prison.

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