

## No More Excuses

Last month, during the same week that AIM appeared, the possibility that NATO would intervene in Kosovo because of what President Clinton called the "continued brutality and repression of the Serb forces" was the subject of every news report. We congratulated ourselves on the timeliness of Edik Balaian's March cartoon: The Kosovo Example. Editorial discussions which led to the cartoon, had all revolved around the inevitable parallels which could be drawn between Kosovo and Karabakh. The one similarity which was particularly startling and frightening was that one could be a precedent for the other.

But once the shortsighted NATO bombing campaign began, other parallels became much more obvious. A "tragedy of gargantuan proportions" said one British report. "Indescribable horrors" said an American. Driving to work in the morning, listening to usually-cool journalists suddenly so utterly moved by their own stories, I couldn't help but recall the ordeals and tribulations of genocide survivors. It all sounded so familiar.



All this is an odd way to acknowledge the very valuable work being done by AIM's new Managing Editor Hrach Tchilingirian (left) and to welcome him to AIM, in its 10th year of publication. Any time at all, but especially now, Armenia and Armenians must see -- and make -- their place in the world, and not just in individual self-enclosed communities. Hrach, who has been with AIM since October, is perfectly suited to that task. His professional and academic background is unusual among those with a persistent involvement in Armenian community institutions. Hrach is working on his doctoral dissertation at the prestigious London School of Economics on the construction of a new political and social order in Karabakh since the late 1980s. In addition

to executive positions in Armenian organizations, Hrach was co-founder and co-editor of Window, a quarterly publication which broke new ground in its exploration of topics related to the Armenian church and religion. During the Catholicos elections in 1995, Hrach's daily reports were the primary source for up-to-date information and interpretation on that historic event. On a recent trip to Lebanon, Egypt and the Emirates, Hrach conducted over 50 hours of interviews with more than two dozen figures who are individually and professionally involved in Armenian-related projects. AIM's involvement with Taner Akcam., Dorothee Forma and the film, *A Wall of Silence*, began on Hrach's initiative. AIM and AIM readers will benefit from Hrach's combination of commitment and vision.

As we prepared our pullout section on Building Karabakh, I remembered a few readers strong concern that our October 1998 issue, Karabakh Lives, focused on all that is not right in Karabakh. They stressed that some Diaspora communities and institutions have done a great deal of good in Karabakh's villages and cities. And those accomplishments need to be highlighted so donors (already cautious and sometimes downright cynical) don't find excuses to quit giving. We couldn't agree more.

We want to do away with those excuses, too, and the middle pages of this issue intend to do exactly that. No more excuses. Here are small, medium, large and extra large projects of all types throughout Karabakh's cities and villages. Each one will directly impact thousands of lives. What could be easier? Pick one. Figure out how to finance it. Oversee the project's implementation. Done. You've made a difference

This is the best kind of journalism--advocacy journalism. We believe that the people of Karabakh are entitled to decent lives. With your participation, this issue of AIM will play a part in extending that basic human right to more of Karabakh's population.

*Salpi Harout Ghazarian*

**AIM**

Founded in 1990  
**FOUNDING EDITOR**  
 Vartan Oskanian  
**FOUNDING PUBLISHER**  
 Michael Nahabet

**Armenian International Magazine**  
 207 South Brand Blvd, Suite 203  
 Glendale, CA 91204, USA  
 Tel: 818 246 7979 Fax: 818 246 0088  
 E-mail: aim4m@well.com

**EDITOR-PUBLISHER**  
 Salpi Haroutinian Ghazarian

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
 Hrach Tchilingirian

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**  
 A. H. Alexandrian, Yerevan

**SENIOR EDITOR**  
 Tony Halpin, London

**DESIGN**  
 Raffi Tarpinian

**PRODUCTION AND PHOTO MANAGER**  
 Parik Nazarian

**ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR**  
 Dania Ohanian

**SUBSCRIPTIONS MANAGER**  
 Seta Khodanian

**ADVERTISING MANAGER**  
 Fimi Mekhitarian

**INTERNS**  
 Karina Avedissian, Dina Hovsepian, Ani Shirinian Mesrop Simonyan

**YEREVAN BUREAU**  
 5 Nalbandian Room 24  
 Tel: 583639 Tel/Fax: 151849  
 E-mail: aimarm@arminco.com

**COORDINATOR**  
 Anahit Martirosian

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR**  
 Gohar Sahakian

**DESIGN AND PRODUCTION**  
 Areg Asatryan, Vahan Stepanian

**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**  
 John Hughes, Ronald Grigor Suny, Taline Voskitchian

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
 Artashes Emin, Yerevan; Susan Patti, London; Edik Balaian, Ara Chouljian, Los Angeles; Janet Samuelli, Palm Springs; Mark Maikasian, Rhode Island; George Bournoutian, Lola Koundakjian, New York; Myriam Gaume, Paris; Matthew Karamian, Moorad Mooradian, Washington, DC; Vartan Matiosian, Buenos Aires.

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
 Mkhitaryan Khachatryan, Zaven Khachikian, Rouben Mangasarian, Yerevan; Antoine Agoudjian, Amineh Jolanneh, Aline Manoukian, Paris; Edmond Terakopian, London; Karine Armen, Kievok Djansezian, Raffi Ekmeji, Eric Nazarian, Ara Oshagan, Los Angeles; Garo Lachinian, Massachusetts; Ardem Aslanian, New Jersey; Harry Koundakjian, New York; Berge Ara Zobian, Rhode Island.

**EDITOR EMERITUS**  
 Charles Nazarian

**EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**  
 Minas Kojaian

**INTERNATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION AND ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES**

ARGENTINA: Colegio Mekhitarista, Vitrey del Pino 3511 (1426) Buenos Aires, Phone 541 552 3690 • CANADA: Razmig Hakimian, 6695 Henri Bourassa West, Montreal, PQ, H4R 2E1, Phone 514 339 2517 • UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Gulizar Jonian, P.O. Box 44564, Abu Dhabi, UAE, Phone 971 2 775 721; Fax 971 2 775 191 • UNITED KINGDOM: Misak Ohanian, 105A Mill Hill Road, Acton, London W38JF, Phone 0181 992 4621 • ITALY: Pierre Balsanian, Via Morasca, 61 A4/S, Rome, Phone 995 1235 • HONG KONG: Jack Maxian, RM. A2, 11/F, Block A, 26 Kai Cheung Rd., Kowloon Bay, Kowloon, Phone 852 795 9888 • AUSTRALIA: Varooj Iskenderian, 148 Koola Ave, East Killara NSW, 2071 Phone 02 9251 2882; Alfred Markarian, P.O. Box 370, Harris Park NSW 2150, Phone 02 9697 1846; Vahé Kateb P.O. Box 250, Port Melbourne, Victoria 3207, Phone 03 9794 0009.

**WRITE TO AIM!**  
 We welcome all communication. Although we read all letters and submissions, we are unable to acknowledge everything we receive due to limited staffing and resources. Letters to the Editor may be edited for publication.