

Former Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia

Arsen Torosyan



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Report by Veles NGO

Biography:

- 2004 . Graduated from Yerevan State Medical University after Mkhitar Heratsi, Faculty of Medicine, majoring in medical work.
- In 2006 he graduated from the National Institute of Health of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia, majoring in social hygiene and healthcare organization, where in 2006-2009 he continued his postgraduate studies in the field of public health and healthcare organization.
- 2018 He was a member of the "NOW" civil initiative.
- 2018 He has been a member of the "Civil Contract" party since August 2006. On May 12, 2018, by the decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia, he was appointed Minister of Health of the Republic of Armenia.
- On June 16, 2019, during the 5th congress of the "Civil Contract" party, he was elected a member of the CP board.
- On January 18, 2021, by the decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia, Torosyan was relieved of the post of Minister of Health and appointed Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

Examining Arsen Torosyan's annual statement published on the website of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, it becomes clear that he prefers to keep his money abroad.

In fact the former Minister of Health has bought a bond worth 20,550 Euros, in January 2020 from Bank Austria for which has received 428 Euros interest (income) at the end of the year.

The former minister also declared a deposit of 32,000 USD, but it is not mentioned in which bank. Torosyan's bank account balance at the end of the year amounted to about \$ 30,000. It should be noted that if Torosyan had deposited his money in any Armenian bank instead of the Austrian bank bonds, he would have earned at least 600 Euros at the end. If the former minister thought about diversifying his income by taking most of the money out of the country, then how should ordinary citizens trust the banking system of the Republic of Armenia, especially the government?

By the way, in some countries government officials are forbidden to have assets abroad, as those assets can become a factor of external influence on the official. As for the former minister's main income, Torosyan received 18.6 million drams (with taxes) as his salary as health minister. Comparing the amount of the received salary with the calculation coefficient of the official rates of the Minister provided by law, it turns out that only in 2020 . Torosyan received a bonus of about 11.5 million drams (withholding taxes).

Last year, the official received an income of 1116 US dollars for a loan. Torosyan declared a residential house located in Yerevan's Nor Nork administrative district as real estate, as well as a plot of land in Tsakhkadzor community of Kotayk region, which he acquired for 13.6 million drams in 2020. in September.

Mibs Medical Center



Former Minister of Health Arsen Torosyan, who has been accusing the former government of plundering the budget, has now turned his wife's Mibs Medical Center into a privileged center. We have to remind that he was the head of the mentioned center before becoming health minister. The position was then transferred to his wife. "Mibs" Medical Center, which did not receive any state order money in 2017, in 2018 after the revolution became one of the medical centers receiving the most money from the state budget.

The medical center actually owned by Arsen Torosyan and his wife has received 0 drams from the RA Ministry of Health in 2017 but in 2018 . after the revolution, the picture changes: Minister of Health Arsen Torosyan, using the levers officially assigned to him, increased the funding from the state budget to the MIBS Medical Center headed by his wife 7.5 times, only within one program. 71. 2 million drams, which is nothing but corruption. In 2018, Mibs Medical Center received 25.1 million drams (52,130 US dollars).

- In 2019, Minister Arsen Torosyan transferred a very high amount from his budget to his wife - 98.9 million drams (206,800 US dollars), ie 73.8 million drams (154,670 US dollars) more than in 2018.

- In 2020, Mibs Medical Center, owned by Torosyan's wife, received 127.6 million drams (\$ 260,410), which is more than 28.7 million drams (\$ 53,610) than in 2019.

As a justification, it is officially mentioned that the money was transferred for the performance, but it is obvious that the principle of in-law-acquaintance-friend operates here, that is, in the obvious manifestation of kleptocracy and nepotism. There is an impression that before the revolution the medical center with zero state funding started to be in demand thanks to the minister husband and the number of visitors to the medical center has sharply increased.

The connection of Stepan Avanesyan the husband of the Minister of Health Anahit Avanesyan with the former Minister of Health Arsen Torosyan



RA Minister of Health Anahit Avanesyan is a lawyer by profession. For the first time in the history of the Republic of Armenia a lawyer was appointed as Minister of Health. Not being a doctor or at least public health organizer became the minister because her husband's and Arsen Torosyan's friendship and doubtful business deals. Anahit Avanesyan from 2017 until her appointment as Deputy Minister of Health, was the administrative director of "Abovyan 39" LLC, a real estate company and "Armpharmacia" CJSC. Then, until 2016, he was appointed General Director of the above-mentioned organization.

According to the statement published by the Corruption Prevention Commission, Anahit Avanesyan has an apartment in Arabkir administrative district, a garden in Ghazaravan village of Aragatsotn region, and a residential area in Arabkir administrative district again. As income,

Anahit Avanesyan declared 12 million drams as a salary for one year, and 11 million drams as a dividend from "Abovyan 39" LLC. According to the declaration, she is the 50% shareholder of that LLC. That company deals with real estate.

It should be noted that Anahit Avanesyan is the wife of Arsen Torosyan's friend Stepan Avanesyan. In fact, Arsen Torosyan, being the Minister of Health, knowing that Anahit Avanesyan and her husband have certain business interests in this field, offered Anahit Avanesyan to hold the post of Deputy Minister of Health.

Armpharmacia CJSC, a company owned by the Avanesyan family (a well-known pharmaceutical company, which is also a major importer of psychotropic drugs), has recently signed 240 contracts with 44 government agencies worth a total of about 606.7 million drams, more than half of which 137 contracts were signed while Avanesyan was the deputy minister of the Ministry of Health. The company belonging to the Deputy Minister's family has contracts worth 209.5 million AMD (about 400,000 USD) with various state structures, including the Ministry of Health and its subordinate structures.

About 43% of the contracts (262 million drams) were signed with the Ministry of Health, the next largest buyer is the Ministry of Defense - 15% (about 88 million drams), then the YSMU Fund - about 10% (57 million drams).

Anahit Avanesyan's husband, Stepan Avanesyan, and his friend Alan Gogbashyan founded the Leadership Development Center in Armenia in 2000 with the main goal of training new leaders who would "change the course of things." The Leadership Development Center operated under the auspices of the Armenian Evangelical Society. Alan Gogbashyan and Stepan Avanesyan had a great desire to introduce young people to a new model of leadership based on biblical values and Christian principles.

With the efforts of the youth it will be possible to overcome all the social and economic difficulties facing the country. Young people will change everything. "When they come to power, everything will be different," the center's founders said in an interview with the Armenian Evangelical Society of America. In 2008 Alan Gogbashyan starts working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Great Britain and in 2019 Appointed British Ambassador to Armenia.

Training the Future Leaders of Armenia

Many people in Armenia look to the young generation as the panacea for the social and economic difficulties facing the country today. "The youth will change things. Once they are in power everything will be different" is a common phrase on the lips of a tired generation of people yearning to see a ray of hope on the horizon.

Stepan Avanesian and Alan Gogbashian, founders of the Center for Leadership Development which opened in Yerevan in September 2000, agree with this cry of the heart. But they also know that unless the young leaders of tomorrow are trained and shown a new model of leadership, the new generation will simply follow the ways of the old.

Stepan and Alan's desire is to present a new model of leadership, one based on biblical values and Christian principles of service, to young professionals who in just a few years' time will become Armenia's decision makers.

"We currently have about 100 students

skills we teach plus a commitment to God's standards, we believe these future leaders can have a powerful impact in Armenia for the lasting good."

The Center is a vibrant place where students are encouraged to form an active community, brainstorm ideas and pick the brains of visiting faculty. It is also a place of trust and open-

ness. There is a real sense of togetherness and a desire to realize a common dream. Stepan looks back at how God made this all happen: "I was blessed to be able to train in theology at London Bible College. The AMAA paid for my tuition and living expenses during my three years of study and I am so grateful for the opportunities this



Stepan Avanesian (1st left) and Alan Gogbashian (3rd left) with graduating students Khoren Mardoyan and Sona Hovsepyan.

ply wouldn't be able to do what I am doing now in Armenia. That experience changed my life forever."

This strategic ministry needs your prayers. Proverbs 29 teaches that "when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice." Please join with the leaders of the Center in asking God to help prepare a generation of righteous leaders who cause the people of Armenia to rejoice.

Minister of Health Arsen Torosyan also used his position to solve party and political issues, as follows. Arsen Torosyan transferred 2.7 billion drams to Astghik MC, which is owned by Samvel Aleksanyan, (oligarch known as Lfik Samo) increasing the budget of Astghik MC by 1 billion drams compared to the previous year, as a result of which the hospital staff unanimously stated that they are completely in favor of the minister's reforms. to the ruling party, which is nothing but to solve internal political-party problems with state means (taxpayers' money).

Bonuses and rewards (2019)

Arsen Torosyan received a bonus of 14,834,904 drams as the minister of The Health Ministry
Lena Nanushyan (Deputy Minister) received 9,371,014 drams.

Anahit Avanesyan (another deputy minister) received 9,672,612 drams.

Artyom Smbatyan (newly appointed Deputy Minister) received 7,300,757 drams.

Leon Hakobyan (Deputy Minister) received 7,132,109 drams.

Hovhannes Harutyunyan (retired deputy minister) received 5,035,635 drams. Shavarsh Grigoryan (newly appointed Deputy Minister) received 1,661,447 drams.

Vahe Hakobyan (Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry) received a bonus of 2,563,454 drams.

Tsaghik Vardanyan / Head of the State Health Agency of the Ministry of Health / received a bonus of 2,900,107 drams.

Vahe Aleksanyan (head of the licensing agency) received 3,696,628 drams.

On the occasion of March 8, Arsen Torosyan rewarded himself with 2 million 381 thousand drams, which is about 5000 US dollars.