

Open letter to the Editor of The Armenian Observer

Okesh@aol.com

From:

Proeducatio@aol.com

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“Enough is Enough!”
But What is Enough?!

Dear Editor,

After reading the one page “Enough is Enough” article by Mrs. Cecile Keshishian, in the Armenian Observer, of July 14, 2004, page 4, which ended with a proposal of trumpeting the AGBU hymn from Hancock Park, some questions come to mind with our answers with respect to the statements of the Most Respectable Madame Keshishian and to all those who would write such an article.

- How could one imagine that opposing the closure of the Melkonian Educational Institute (MEI) is due purely to nostalgia?
- How could one invite all Melkonians to be docile servants of the Armenian General Benevolent Union’s Central Board of Directors (AGBU CBD)?
- How could one consider the AGBU to be the owner of the MEI?
- Has one ever seen or actually read the Deed of Assignment and Transfer (Melkonian Will) official document?
- How could one subordinate All-Armenian Commonwealth Policies of which those related to the Human Resources Development Strategies to some million or billion \$ US benefactors opinion and / or decision?

Most Respectable Madame and others,

The freedom of Education & Culture is independent of everybody’s will, preference or tastes (yours and ours inclusive). For that freedom is amongst the fundamentals of human rights. Closing down the MEI is a direct violation of these Rights. Moreover, the MEI does not belong to the AGBU or to its CBD. While we agree with you that AGBU belongs to everybody; unlike you, we are sure that neither Melkonians nor other people are the belongings of the AGBU and/or its CBD even where they were beneficiaries of Armenian benefactors funds, for which the AGBU therefore its CBD was assigned as manager. The AGBU IS NOT THE OWNER of the MEI, even if its CBD’s components are containing benefactor millionaires or billionaires. As a matter of fact, the manager is not necessarily the owner of the entity for which he / she is assigned manager.

Thus, the AGBU also does not belong to its billionaire (or not) benefactor members of the CBD. Just as, e.g., The All-Armenians Catholicosate of the Holy Etchmiadzin does not belong to His Holiness Catholicos of All-Armenians, or the Republic of Armenia’s entity and the territories of the country do not belong to the President. These personalities are not allowed to act just according to their wishes; they manage the entities and belongings for which they are assigned under strict rules and for strictly defined tasks. Note that there are some people, like us, who do not mind who is managing, but they do mind how a task is managed!

You seem to be relying upon the might of the hundred or so international lawyers’ opinion or capabilities. Please help yourself and ask them: could the Justice and some people’s power be always considered as synonyms? Nonetheless it is a long known fact that in these earthly societies not only the Armenian ones, the power frequently makes the justice. But let us remember that frequently does not mean always! The search of truth is lawyers’ business (although some lawyers look for their own truth and the History has registered many of them). But the search of justice is the duty of judges. Yet one should still avoid the oversimplification of these matters.

You exclaim “enough is enough!” We think so too. However let us wait and see “what is enough”. In the meantime, Most Respectable Madame and others, we remain

Sincerely yours

On behalf of PRO EDVCATIO and GRTASSERE

Sabine.Haas, Koharig Kevorkian, Saritha Shrestha, Vahã© Barsoumian John Arrowsmith, Xavier Coron, Edward, A. Fisher, Kevork Kevorkian , Art Maranci, Philippe Mermoud, Nicholas Nicolaidis, Vartan Ozinian. Souren Sarafyan .