



The Meeting with Mr. Vartkes Mahdessian, the Armenian Community Rep in Cyprus Parliament.

On Friday, August 8, 2008 Melkonian Alumni & Friends board members, Dr. Harout Mesrobian, Vahakn Gharibian and Zohrab Shamassian met with Mr. Vartkes Mahdessian, the Armenian Community Representative in Cyprus parliament, at Beverly Hills Hotel, Los Angeles.

Mr. Mahdessian told us about his achievements in the Armenian Community. He is very eager to see Melkonian Educational Institute to re-open its doors to students. In different occasions during his meeting with Mr. Berge Setrakian, President of AGBU, he insisted about reopening the school, but Mr. Setrakian had refused to do so. Mr. Mahdessian himself does not have any plan to re-open the school, but he assured the board members, that he is always ready to mediate between Melkonian Alumni and AGBU Central Board if there is a logic plan to offer and if B. Setrakian be interested in it. Mr. Mahdessian believes that the existing injunction is a good protection for the Melkonian properties. He wants to see the school reopened with new management, preferably with mixed board of trustees on the top to manage the school. The closing of MEI is not a threat to Nareg Armenian School, just the contrary, the government is spending a lot to renovate the school.

Mr. Mahdessian presented the situation of Armenian immigrants in Cyprus, who are living in different villages for security reasons, and their children are attending local Greek schools, which eventually they may sooner or later be assimilated. He is planning through Cyprus government to secure a bus system to pick up those children and bring them to Nareg School.

The Alumni members expressed their opinions about the future activities and plans, and promised to cooperate with Mr. Mahdessian in the future. Mr. Mahdessian is a great friend for Melkonian Alumni and he is very supportive to our causes. He needs all the popular assistances in Cyprus.

Melkonian Alumni & Friends