Qafqaz Beynəlxalq Münasibətlər və Strateji Araşdırmalar Mərkəzi
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ARMENIA BEFORE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), which has won in the election campaign on May 6, 2012 hasn't formed a coalition government with the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP), as waited, but has formed a domineer government. This changed the internal socio-political situation in the country. The parliamentary election results discussed during several months and then these debates continued around presidential election that will be held on February 18, 2013. In spite of presuming that the other political parties and blocs will participate in the presidential election in 2013, the main political struggle will be between the president Serzh Sargsyan and the leader of PAP Gagik Tsarukyan.

The PAP leader Tsarukyan with a big delegation consisting of the party members visited Brussels on November 4, 2012. It is currently reported that several trusted agents of Tsarukyan secretly met in Brussels with high-ranking officials of USA and EU and discussed in addition to economical, political and security of the North Caucasus, internal socio-political situation of Armenia Republic and problems related to presidential elections.

But after a period of coming back from Brussels refusing of Tsarukyan to participate in the upcoming presidential election has become a reason for the serious rush in the internal socio-political life of the country. There is no doubt that the other political parties have no candidates who can be real opponent for the current president Serzh Sargsyan except Tsarukyan. All the analyses related with the upcoming election results stayed on these two candidates. In spite of that the refusing of the Tsarukyan to participate in the presidential election gave Sargsyan a good opportunity to win the election, there are many hesitations in his legality in case if he will win. The political and financial power of the other candidates is not enough to struggle and win in the upcoming presidential election.

After refusing Tsarukyan to participate in the presidential election “Dashnakcutyun”, “Armenian National Movement” (ANM), People’s Party of Armenia (PPA), Rule of Law Party (RLP), and the other political parties and blocs didn’t suggest for president their candidates.

According to the information of Armenian Central Election Commission only 8 candidates will participate in the presidential election on February 18 – the current president Serzh Sargsyan, Raffi Hovannisian (the leader of the opposite Heritage party), Hrant Bagratyan (the leader of Freedom Party and the ex-prime minister), Paruyr Hayrikyan (Union of National Self-Determination leader), Arman Melikyan (ex-leader of MFA of fictional Nagorno-Karabakh Republic), Vardan Serdakyan (mythologist), Andreas Ghukasyan (political analyst) and Aram Harutyunyan (the leader of National Unity Party). At the first time 15 candidates suggested for president, but then this figure changed to 8.

According to the information of CEC in 41 electoral districts were formed 1988 electoral areas for the presidential election. 2507960 people will use their election law. The election campaign will begin on January 21 and continue until February 16, two days before election.

It is true, that political power of all these candidates is not equal with Tsarukyan’s. As distinct from these candidates Tsarukyan represented the main opposition party which is the second one in Armenian internal socio-political life. The other candidates, except Sargsyan, play only a formal role in the presidential election marathon.

Full text in Azerbaijani: http://www.qafsam.org/page/398/az