

OPEN LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Mr. Prime Minister,

Do not you think that the new "revolutionary" decision of the Government is a result of a highly unmanageable, unprofessional and inhuman conclusion (for socially vulnerable layers of pensioners and population) of defining order for prescribing medical prescriptions and providing medicine (about 70 percent)?

The "professionals" that have developed and approved this government decision have actually shown their incompetence and ignorance about the daily lives of the country citizens. They do not know about the shadow mechanisms and technologies that "flourish" in our health-care system.

De jure, as in any democratic country, our citizens also have the right to quality medical care, but de facto this right has turned into a financial "strip" of patients, with massive ignorance and deep indifference of the majority of medical staff.

Have you or your healthcare minister ever been a regular visitor in the capital polyclinics (do not even mention regional and rural medical institutions), have you been in a queue, paid for every medical service or reference, have you used as an ordinary citizen state-order services? Do you know what kind of temporary norms and prices are in our health-care system? Do you know about "shady" connections between individual doctors and pharmacies and diagnostic commercial centers where your doctor will send you to a medical examination for your "welfare", justifying that there are no diagnostic equipment in the polyclinic?

On the one hand, by implementing this decision of the Government of Armenia the number and quality of penalties of socially insecure populations will increase, and on the other hand, it will open new ways for medicine falsification and smuggling, in the interest of "shadow" revenues of customs officers.

We can assume that our supreme power is living on "the laws of quantum mechanics", where there is a real universe in which the majority of the population lives, and many universes created by every high-ranking official for his own welfare.

In the end, I would like to give an example: during the years of the earthquake in Armenia, the USSR government decided to establish an operative headquarters (headed by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Mr. Ryzhkov), which should coordinate the work of all ministries and departments of the union and republican subordinations. And at one of the above-mentioned headquarter sessions the newly appointed Minister of Communications of the Armenian SSR (who was the Deputy Minister of Communications of the Armenian SSR) was reporting on the situation. Being a professional in the field of construction, he was a

dilettante in the organization of communication. After his report, N. Rizhkov asked one question: "Which ... appointed you as a minister. "

This issue is also urgent in our times, "Who and why has appointed the current Minister for Health Care to this position?" Maybe he was a professional in his field before this appointment.

Will there ever be a time in our country when our position will be based on the professionalism of the candidates and not on other evaluation criteria ...

Levon Nersisyan

The A.D.Sakharov Armenian Human Rights Protection Center Director