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AMN41892.E

16 September 2003

Armenia: Identities of the presidents and vice-presidents of the Social-Democratic Party (Hunchakian); treatment of party executives and families; state protection (1992-Aug. 2003)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Two political parties in Armenia use the term Hnchakian (Hnchakyan, Hunchak, Hunchakian, Hunchakyan, Hntchagian) or Hnchak (Hunchak)-meaning "bell" (AYF Dec. 1998)-in their party names (OSCE 15 Sept. 2003; ARMINFO 8 May 2002; Golos Armenii 13 May 2003a ; *ibid.* 13 May 2003c). These include the Social Democratic, or Democratic, Hnchakian Party (Sotsial Demokratakan Hnchakian Kusaktutiun, SDHK) (SDHK 14 Mar. 2003; Armenia 31 Jan. 2002; Leftist Parties of the World 10 July 2003; *Political Parties of the World* 2002, 22; CPA 11 Sept. 2000) and the Social-Democratic Party Hnchakian of Armenia (SDPGA) (SPYUR 4 Aug. 2003; Golos Armenii 13 May 2003a; *ibid.* 13 May 2003b). Attempts to contact the SDHK and the SDPGA to clarify their relationship, if any, were unsuccessful.

The Research Directorate found numerous variations of these party names among the sources consulted (BBC Monitoring 9 May 2003; TCC Feb. 2002; CPA 11 Sept. 2000; *ibid.* 20 May 1999; SNARK 10 Oct. 1996; *Noyan Tapan* 28 Jan. 1998; *Political Handbook 1995-1996* 1996, 51; *Political Handbook 1997* 1997, 44; *Political Handbook 1998*, 1998, 49; *Political Handbook 1999* 1999, 52; OSCE 15 Sept. 2003; ARMINFO 8 May 2002; Golos Armenii 13 May 2003a; *ibid.* 13 May 2003c).

Several sources identify the chairman of the SDHK between 1996 and 1999 as Yeghia Najarian (Yegiya Nacharyan) (*Political Handbook 1995-1996* 1996, 51; *Political Handbook 1997* 1997, 44; *Political Handbook 1998*, 1998, 49; *Political Handbook 1999* 1999, 52; *Europa* 1998 1998, 444; *Europa* 1997 1997, 427; *Europa* 1996 1996, 415; SNARK 10 Oct. 1996; *Noyan Tapan* 28 Jan. 1998). In 1999, the SDHK elected George Hakobyan (Dzhordzh Akopyan) as their new chairman (CPA 11 Sept. 2000; OSCE 15 Sept. 2003), and numerous subsequent reports refer to Hakobyan as the SDHK chairman (BBC Monitoring 9 May 2003; HCAV 29 Apr. 2003; OSCE 23 Dec. 2002, 10; Armenia 31 Jan. 2002; *Political Parties of the World* 2002, 22).

Between 1999 and 2002 the *Europa World Year Book* identifies Ernest Sogomonian (Soghonian, Soghomonyan) as the SDHK party's chairman (*Europa* 2002 2002, 528; *Europa* 2001 2001, 507; *Europa* 2000 2000, 480; *Europa* 1999 1999, 466) as did a December 1999 European Forum report (EFDS Dec. 1999). However, sources also indicate