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Wounded Armenian Candidate Will Not Delay Election

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YEREVAN, Armenia — An Armenian presidential candidate who was shot last week will not seek a postponement to this month's election to avoid the risk of further instability in the former Soviet republic, his lawyer and other backers said.

Paruyr Hayrikyan, an outsider in the race in which President Serzh Sarksyan is widely expected to win a new five-year term, was shot in the shoulder on Jan. 31 near his home in Yerevan.

He could have asked the Constitutional Court for a two-week postponement of the Feb. 18 vote, which would have raised the prospect of instability in the country. Hayrikyan did not want to let that happen, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Violence flared after Sarksyan's election in 2008, leaving 10 people dead.

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