

Armenian Opposition Chief on Hunger Strike Over Lost Election

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YEREVAN, Armenia — Former Armenian presidential candidate Raffi Hovannisian began a hunger strike on Sunday, calling on President Serzh Sargsyan to resign and accusing him of rigging his re-election last month.

Hovannisian, leader of the opposition Heritage Party, took 37 percent of the vote in the Feb. 18 election, while Sargsyan was declared the victor with 58.6 percent. Hovannisian objected and filed a complaint with the Constitutional Court.

"This is not just a hunger strike, but a boycott against lies and fraud," Hovannisian told hundreds of his supporters at a rally in the capital Yerevan's central Freedom square.

The Constitutional Court was to start considering Hovannisian's complaint on Monday. The central election commission said last month that there were no legal violations during the vote that could have influenced the outcome.

(Reuters)

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