



**AZERBAIJAN IN THE WORLD
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STALIN FORCIBLY DEPORTED AZERBAIJANIS FROM ARMENIA

Paul Goble
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As part of his plan to attract ethnic Armenians back to the Soviet Union after World War II and under pressure from both the leadership of the Armenian SSR and from Armenians in the top leadership of the Soviet Union, Joseph Stalin in December 1947

ordered the forcible deportation of 100,000 ethnic Azerbaijanis from Armenia to Azerbaijan, beginning a process which resulted in the departure of all Azerbaijanis from what had been part of their historical space and the creation of a mono-ethnic state in Armenia, according to Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy. [1]

Recently, the *Day.az* news agency reported, one of its constant readers sent in a photograph of a document signed by Stalin on December 3, 1947 calling for “the resettlement of collective farms and other Azerbaijani populations” from the Armenian SSR to the Kura-Araz region of the Azerbaijan SSR. (The news portal reproduced that photograph.) According to Stalin’s decree, this deportation was to be entirely “voluntary,” but both the provisions of the act and the way it was carried out show that it was anything but.

Day.az asked Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, the director of the Baku Institute of Oriental Studies and a member of the Azerbaijani parliament for comment. She suggested that, “this document most probably was signed under the pressure of the Armenian lobby, which at that time was well-represented in the leadership of the USSR.”

The policy outlined in it, she continued, was “a crime against Azerbaijanis. The Armenian lobby of that tie just as was the case with Gorbachev in 1988 step by step provided materials, which showed what they wanted them to in order to incline Stalin to their position. They were in an even better position to do that in the earlier case, because Mikoyan was close to Stalin as were many other Armenian Bolsheviks, his former comrades in arms who conducted their dirty work at the all-Union level. At that time, the Azerbaijani people unfortunately did not have any defender” there.

According to Bakhshaliyeva, Mir-Jafar Bagirov, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijan Communist Party, could not defend his people and the Azerbaijani population was deported from Armenia to Azerbaijan. Those who were moved found themselves in extraordinarily difficult conditions. Accustomed to the mountains, they found it hard to adjust to the heat of the lowlands. As a result, many died.

Bakhshaliyeva pointed out that there was nothing voluntary about this, noting that, “until today there remain people who recall these events who experienced this deportation during their childhoods, and who say that it was a barbarous act toward Azerbaijanis who were indigenous to Armenia. They remember,” she continued, “that this was something unbelievable and a great injustice,” all the more so because their lands were quickly filled up by new ethnic Armenian arrivals.

“Unfortunately,” the Azerbaijani parliamentarian says, “this unjust policy continued for decades and was completed in our times, at the end of the 1980s, after which there were virtually no ethnic Azerbaijanis remaining on the territory of Armenia.”

Notes

[1] See <http://news.day.az/politics/407630.html> (accessed 14 June 2013).

IRAN LAUNCHES A TOP-DOWN POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION

TO PREEMPT OUTSIDERS

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The election of Hasan Rowhani as the new president of Iran is part of a much larger process: an effort by the political elite to recapture authority in the population by launching a top-down political transformation lest outside forces provoke one and create a situation which Tehran might find difficult to control.

That transformation, one not often remarked upon by outsiders, reflects the fact that Iranian nationalism is today a more important force than is Islam and the country's imperial ambitions are more important than Muslim brotherhood, however defined. Those close to the Iranian political elite understand that, and they recognize as well that slogans against Zionism and the United States are no longer enough to satisfy the increasingly poor population of what should be one of the wealthiest countries on earth.

The policies of incumbent Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, which have simultaneously led to international sanctions and massive corruption, have left Iranians angry, because they are bearing the burdens of his policies without gaining any of the supposedly positive achievements he liked to point to. Consequently, they voted for Rowhani, but despite what many observers have said, they did so with the full approval of many around the top leaders who recognize that Iran cannot and must not continue as it has.

One area where change is now likely is the relationship between the religious authorities and the state that was set up by Ayatollah Khomeini more than 30 years ago and has remained largely unchanged. Iranians can be dissatisfied with the religious authorities, but all those with whom I have spoken willingly reassert their love for their government. The national policy of the Iranian state thus rests on an imperial ideology as a necessary response to the ethno-psychology of the population. And that state is prepared to make a correction on religion-state relations by taking that factor into account.

Iranians will not support any actions that they believe harm the interests of the state and thus oppose any moves from the outside to oppose it. That is something the West does not understand, but there is something else the West has failed to notice: the authorities in Tehran have developed political strategies to make mid-course corrections and even fundamental reforms. And right now, as the election shows, they are in the middle of something that we are justified in calling a top-down transformation, a change in the key arrangements of the state without violence.

The first step in this direction was paradoxically made by Ahmadinejad who deprived the Muslim leaders of their immunity. The second was the victory of the United Front of Conservatives in the March 2012 elections, which led Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei to reappoint a number of reformers from the administration of former president Ali Rafsanjani. And the third step in this process was the explicit call by Hasan Rowhani for political and economic reform and direct contacts with the United States, two issues that had earlier been taboo.

Rowhani's election and in the first round at that shows that Iranians are ready for reform, and the support he has received from Ayatollah Khamenei shows that the reformists are winning ever more positions in Tehran and Qum and that the governing structure of Iran that Khomeini put in place after the 1979 revolution is going to change, albeit slowly and carefully lest they trigger instability. As these changes are put in place, the Muslim leadership and the secular politicians will work in parallel, dividing the social-political and economic spheres. Polls of Iranians carried out in Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran show that a majority of them want to live in a secular society, but not to break altogether with their Muslim roots.

Anyone visiting Tehran can see evidence of that: The majority of women there wear not the chadra, but scarves and long dresses, but not those reaching the ground. In some places, it is even possible to observe women who are not covering their heads, something that would have been unthinkable only a few years ago. Such examples could be multiplied, and they suggest that Iran, all the rhetoric notwithstanding, is opening up to secular culture and lifestyle.

Over the course of the last 30 years, a new generation of religious scholars in contemporary European dress has appeared in Iran. Its members speak foreign languages, are not trapped by Muslim dogma, are open to Western scholarship, and are quite tolerant. They and the new generation of Iranians, religious and non-religious alike, are going to lead Iran into a new stage of its history. In sum, Iranians are effecting domestic transformation lest someone from the outside attempt to start that process.

EIGHTY PERCENT OF AZERBAIJANIS NOW LIVE BEYOND REPUBLIC'S BORDERS

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More than 80 percent of the 50 million ethnic Azerbaijanis in the world live beyond the borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan, most because of political divisions imposed on the territory more than a century ago where Azerbaijanis had lived for centuries, but an increasing number because of emigration.

This division reflects the fact that the traditional areal of the Azerbaijanis extends from Derbent in the North and Hamadan in the South and from the Caspian Sea in the East to Anatolia in the West for a total area of 410,000 square kilometers. Of this area, the Republic of Azerbaijan covers only 86,600 square kilometers, slightly more than one fifth of the total. Iran includes 230,000 square kilometers of historical Azerbaijani territory, Armenia nearly 30,000, Georgia about 10,000 and the Russian Federation some 3,600 square kilometers.

In this first category of Azerbaijanis now abroad are the 35 million Azerbaijanis who live in Iran, the 380,000 Azerbaijanis who live in Georgia, and a fraction of the 1.3 million who live in the Russian Federation. Prior to 1988 and the start of the Nagorno-Karabakh war, more than 200,000 lived in what is now the Republic of

Armenia, a territory that for centuries was part of the Azerbaijani areal. Almost all of those have been forced to flee since that time.

In the second category of those living beyond the borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan are a more sizeable fraction of the 1.3 million ethnic Azerbaijanis in the Russian Federation, one million in the US, 170,000 in France, 150,000 in Turkey, 90,000 in Kazakhstan, 60,000 in Ukraine, 50,000 in Kyrgyzstan, 15,000 in Belarus, 10,000 in the Scandinavian countries, 7,000 in Moldova, and 5,000 in the Baltic states. Some of these Azerbaijanis have been in these countries for many years, but most have moved there over the last two decades.

At the same time, there are more than 20 different ethnic minorities in Azerbaijan itself, including the Avars, the Armenians, the Belorussians, the Budugs, the Georgians, the Mountain Jews, the Ashkenazi Jews, the Georgian Jews, the Ingiloy, the Kryzes, the Kurds, the Lezgins, the Germans, the Aysors, the Russians, the Talysh, the Tatars, the Tats, the Akhska Turks, the Udis,, the Ukrainians, the Khinalugis, and the Tsarkhurs.

While the forebears of the Azerbaijanis on that territory were there as long ago as the third millennium BCE and while certain Syrian legends refer to the existence of Adobaygan as early as the 8th century BCE, the first reliable reference to them as an ethno-territorial group appeared in the sixth century CE.

Until the late 18th and early 19th century, Azerbaijanis and their Motherland developed within the framework of local states as a single whole with a common history, language, culture and religion. But in the first third of the 19th century, the Azerbaijani people and their land were divided by the force of arms between the Russian and Iranian monarchies. Two Azerbaijanis appeared, North and South, which like the people itself are on different sides of a state border and have developed according to different political, social-economic and cultural-ideological models.

In the second half of the 18th and the first third of the 19th centuries there were some 20 Azerbaijani khanates, the most significant of which were Baku, Ganja, Garabakh, Guba, Urmia, and Sheki. In modern times, Azerbaijan was completely included within a local state twice, the Ildenizid (1136-1225 CE) and the Safavid (1501-1736). But earlier, there were two longer-lasting Azerbaijani states, each of which existed for more than a millennium, the Albanian which lasted from the third century BCE to the seventh CE and the Shirvan which extended from the sixth to the 14th century CE.

Northern Azerbaijan was initially within the Russian Empire (1828-1917), then existed as the independent Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920), then as the Azerbaijan SSR within the USSR (1922-1991), and since 1991 as the independent Azerbaijan Republic. Southern Azerbaijan, in contrast, has had a somewhat simpler political history. It remained under the Iranian monarchy until 1978 (with the brief exception of the Soviet-sponsored Azerbaijan Peoples Republic at the end of World War II) and has been part of the Islamic Republic of Iran since 1978.

Further adding to the complexity of the ethnogenesis of the Azerbaijanis today is the existence of sub-ethnic groups within that nation. These include in the Azerbaijan Republic, the Shirvan, the Guba-Khachmaz, the Western, the Ganja-Dashkasan, and

the Nakhchuvan, and in Southern, or Iranian, Azerbaijan—the Western Azerbaijan, the Eastern Azerbaijan, the Ardabil, the Hamadan, the Zanjan, and the Kazvin.

But despite this daunting complexity, three things about Azerbaijanis stand out: First, all of them identify as Azerbaijanis. Second, they recognize the diversity, linguistic, cultural and political, among themselves. And third, more than most neighboring peoples, they display an extraordinary level of tolerance toward minorities different than themselves who live among them.

A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

President Ilham Aliyev says that he is happy to be living in an independent Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/407052.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells the AJC Global Forum in Washington that Azerbaijan, although it has a largely Muslim population, "does not have a history of anti-Semitism and today is home to approximately 35,000 Jews" (<http://news.day.az/politics/406074.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that many international organizations, including the European Parliament, display preconceived and incorrect views about Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/408756.html>).

II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan

Andrii Deshchytsia, the special representative of the OSCE for frozen conflicts, says that the situation is complicated and "could explode," especially if Armenia attempts to open an airport there (<http://news.day.az/politics/408317.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, says that the international committee needs to "triple" its efforts to find a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/407777.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says there have been certain steps forward toward a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/407303.html>).

III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

15 June

Fuad Alakbarov, head of the law enforcement department of the Presidential Administration, says that the European Parliament is guilty of a lack of objectivity in its assessments of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/408705.html>).

A group of Milli Majlis deputies visit their Hungarian counterparts in Budapest (<http://news.day.az/politics/408784.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the European Parliament's recent declaration about Azerbaijan is an occasion for regret (<http://news.day.az/politics/408653.html>).

14 June

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives David Pencin Grub, a Mexican parliamentarian (<http://news.day.az/politics/408671.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives outgoing Dutch Ambassador Arien Peter Uiterlind on the completion of his assignment in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/408614.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, deputy head of the Presidential Administration, says that some members of the European Parliament are seeking to blacken Azerbaijan's image in the eyes of the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/408667.html>).

The Fourth Congress of the Women of Azerbaijan calls on the United Nations to enforce its decisions on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/408637.html>).

The Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy graduates 24 new attaches who will serve in the Foreign Ministry after a two-month course (<http://news.day.az/politics/408626.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, welcomes 27 new Peace Corps volunteers to Azerbaijan on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the program there (<http://news.day.az/politics/408528.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, commenting on reports that Armenians are trafficking in illegal drugs in the occupied territories, says that the US is always against the production, sale and transit of illegal drugs (<http://news.day.az/politics/408487.html>).

The German embassy says that the new German ambassador to Baku will be Gudrun Temple (<http://news.day.az/politics/408654.html>).

Toralf Pilts, charge d'affaires at the European Union office in Baku, says that the EU is always ready for joint work with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/408569.html>).

13 June

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives copies of the letters of credence of incoming Saudi Arabian ambassador to Baku, Musaid bin Ibrahim as-Suleimani (<http://news.day.az/politics/408385.html>).

Niyazi Safarov, deputy economic development minister, says Azerbaijan is ready to share its successful economic experience with foreign partners (<http://news.day.az/economy/408306.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that foreign forces are attempting to undermine stability in Azerbaijan, but that they will not succeed (<http://news.day.az/politics/408342.html>).

Orkhan Akbarov, chairman of the Coordinating Council of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that the occupied territories are a threat "not only for Azerbaijan, but for the entire region and the world," because of narcotics trafficking there (<http://news.day.az/politics/408321.html>).

José Mujica, the president of Uruguay, says that Azerbaijan is "an important country" for Uruguay ([HTTP://news.day.az/politics/408378.html](http://news.day.az/politics/408378.html)).

Hun Tsiun, Chinese ambassador to Baku, says that China has never sold and never will sell arms to Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/408288.html>).

The parliament of Peru adopts a resolution decrying the Khojaly massacre and calling for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/408396.html>).

12 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Philippe Lefort, special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia (<http://news.day.az/politics/408090.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Hasan Erbil, prosecutor general of Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/408090.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms a series of agreements with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, India, Sri Lanka, China, Latvia, and Brazil (<http://news.day.az/politics/408106.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov signs a memorandum of cooperation with Abdul Latif ibn Tashid al-Zayan, secretary general of the Cooperation Council of the Persian Gulf Countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/408195.html>).

Defense Minister receives Mohammed Shaker Kargari, Afghanistan's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/408053.html>).

Elshad Iskandarov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, says that, "tolerance is the national achievement of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/society/408142.html>).

Zahid Orudzh, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Armenian occupation regime relies on drug sales for its income (<http://news.day.az/politics/408186.html>).

The Spanish foreign ministry responds to the Azerbaijani note concerning the plans for the illegal visit to the occupied territories by Monserrat Cabalier by saying that the trip was a private one and says nothing about Madrid's position which remains unchanged (<http://news.day.az/politics/408114.html>).

Daniela Ludwig, a deputy of the German Bundestag, says that the international

community is "united" in its support for Baku's position on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/408177.html>).

11 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Malaysian Foreign Minister Anif Aman (<http://news.day.az/politics/407931.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, secretary general of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/407931.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu (<http://news.day.az/politics/407931.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammed Kamel Amir (<http://news.day.az/politics/407931.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Abdul Latif bin Rashin al-Zayan, secretary general of the Cooperation Council of the Persian Gulf States (<http://news.day.az/politics/407931.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Pedro Agramunt and Joseph Debono Grech, co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/407931.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman (<http://news.day.az/politics/407931.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev signs an order dismissing Nazih Gassur Hanna as Azerbaijan's honorary consul in Lebanon (<http://news.day.az/politics/407967.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad al-Maliki and Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kamel Amr (<http://news.day.az/politics/407916.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that efforts to support the Palestinian people are important for the entire Islamic world (<http://news.day.az/politics/407784.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov receives Roland Kobia, on the completion of his assignment in Baku as representative of the European Union (<http://news.day.az/politics/407929.html>).

Education Minister Mikail Jabbarov receives Mark Herevard, UNESCO representative in Baku (<http://news.day.az/society/408164.html>).

Ziyad Samadzade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan and Belarus have moved to a qualitatively new level of mutual partnership (<http://news.day.az/economy/407950.html>).

Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras says that Azerbaijan is Greece's last hope (<http://news.day.az/economy/407926.html>).

Belorussian Foreign Minister Vladimir Makey says that Minsk has no plans to borrow additional funds from Azerbaijan, a country that it views as its strategic partner (<http://news.day.az/politics/407828.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/407849.html>).

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, secretary general of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, says that the donor conference in Baku is a demonstration of the support of the Islamic world for the Palestinians (<http://news.day.az/politics/407792.html>).

Georgian IDPs and Refugees Minister David Darakhvelidze meets with Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/407767.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, says that the international committee needs to "triple" its efforts to find a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/407777.html>).

10 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Riad al-Maliki, Palestinian foreign minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/407707.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Georgian IDPs and Refugees Minister David Darakhvelidze (<http://news.day.az/politics/407707.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Moroccan Waqf Minister Ahmed Tofiq (<http://news.day.az/politics/407707.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Belorussian Foreign Minister Vladimir Makey (<http://news.day.az/politics/407707.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni (<http://news.day.az/politics/407707.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Zlatko Lagumdzija foreign minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina (<http://news.day.az/politics/407707.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natig Aliyev and a group of Milli Majlis deputies take part in an international conference in Vienna on "The Geopolitics of Azerbaijan and the Energy Security of Europe" (<http://news.day.az/economy/407719.html>).

Deputy Taxation Minister Sahib Alakbarov says he has signed a memorandum on cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (<http://news.day.az/economy/407602.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, receives Amirzai Sangi, Afghanistan's communications and information technology minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/407679.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Ankara says that it is secure (<http://news.day.az/politics/407608.html>).

Tatarstan President Rustam Minnikhanov names Alfred Zakirov to be the head of the Tatarstan representation in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/407649.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that the US National Democratic Institute is accounting to the Azerbaijani government its expenditure of one million US dollars in the country (<http://news.day.az/politics/407726.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that the United States will continue to support the development of civil society and democracy in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/407682.html>).

Aleksey Pushkov, chairman of the Russian Duma's foreign relations committee, says that Russia and Azerbaijan are strategic partners (<http://news.day.az/politics/407685.html>).

Mustafa Cemilev, leader of the Crimean Tatars, says that the Verkhovna Rada will not approve a resolution recognizing 1915 as the Armenian genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/407725.html>).

8 June

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says there have been certain steps forward toward a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/407303.html>).

7 June

President Ilham Aliyev says that he is happy to be living in an independent Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/407052.html>).

Prime Minister Arthur Rasi-Zade receives Amgeldy Zhumabadyev, Kazakhstan's incoming ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/407249.html>).

The Foreign Minister says that Yerevan continues to engage in populist rhetoric than honest discussion of the issues (<http://news.day.az/politics/407049.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku welcomes the statement of Herman van Rompuy that stabilization of the Caucasus depends on the maintenance of the principle of the territorial integrity of states (<http://news.day.az/politics/407055.html>).

Farhad Mammadov, director of the Presidential Center for Strategic Research, says that certain kinds of joint projects with Armenia are possible even if the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is not yet resolved (<http://news.day.az/politics/407213.html>).

City leaders of Agdam in Azerbaijan and Tisavashvari in Hungary sign a sister city agreement (<http://news.day.az/politics/407068.html>).

Czech Republic President Miloš Zeman says that the statement of Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg concerning the Khojaly tragedy was insensitive (<http://news.day.az/politics/407020.html>).

James Appaturay, deputy assistant secretary general of NATO, says that Azerbaijan is more independent from Russia than Armenia in conducting its foreign policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/407188.html>).

Roland Kobia, outgoing head of the European Union office in Baku, says the EU should do more to promote a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/407095.html>).

Roland Kobia, outgoing head of the EU representation in Baku, says that there is "enormous potential" for increased cooperation between the European Union and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/407088.html>).

Ten US congressmen send a message of gratitude to President Ilham Aliyev for his hospitality during their recent visit to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/407235.html>).

Matthew Bryza, former US ambassador to Baku, says that the EU and the US made a major mistake in 2009 by not insisting on a clear linkage between progress on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and improvements in Turkish-Armenian relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/407105.html>).

Matthew Bryza, former US ambassador to Baku, says there has been no progress toward a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/407078.html>).

6 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Roland Kobia, head of the EU office in Baku, at the conclusion of his appointment in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/406897.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Hans Dietrich Genscher, former German foreign minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/406897.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the continuing presence of Armenian forces in the occupied territories is the main obstacle to the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/406837.html>).

Ali Hasanov, vice prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for Refugee and IDP Affairs, has information showing that there is drug trafficking through the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/406910.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev signs a cooperation agreement with Russia's Deputy Energy Minister Anton Iniutsin (<http://news.day.az/economy/406971.html>).

Azerbaijani and Russian officials meet in Volgograd for the fourth Russian-Azerbaijani forum on inter-regional dialogue (<http://news.day.az/politics/406635.html>).

Herbert Quelle, Germany's ambassador to Baku, says that economic ties between Germany and Azerbaijan should develop (<http://news.day.az/economy/406813.html>).

Mohsun Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says Iranian officials have arrested Azerbaijani citizen Mikail Kazymi, because the latter violated rules governing possession of guns and ammunition (<http://news.day.az/politics/406847.html>).

Kargar Shaker, Afghanistan's ambassador to Baku, says that the occupied territories must be freed and returned to Azerbaijani control (<http://news.day.az/politics/406865.html>).

Vladimir Yefimov, head of Russia's Volgograd Oblast Duma, calls for the expansion of ties between Azerbaijan and his region (<http://news.day.az/politics/406842.html>).

Oleg Kirsanov, vice governor of Russia's Volgograd Oblast, says that "today Azerbaijan is one of the dynamically developing economies of the world" (<http://news.day.az/economy/406843.html>).

5 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Andrey Klyuev, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/406620.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Vladimir Voronin, former president of Moldova (<http://news.day.az/politics/406620.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan and Georgia have similar priorities regarding stability in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/406578.html>).

Education Minister Mikail Jabbarov receives Antoius Broek, UN resident coordinator for Azerbaijan, and Elizabeth White, director of the British Council in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/406729.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that any visits to the occupied territories without Baku's approval are illegal (<http://news.day.az/politics/406608.html>).

The German government has decided to recall Herbert Quelle, because the latter has come in conflict with the host government (<http://news.day.az/politics/406660.html>).

Günther Oettinger, EU commissioner for energy, says that Azerbaijan is playing an important role in supplying oil and gas to Europe (<http://news.day.az/economy/406558.html>).

Amos Hochstein, special representative of the US secretary of state for energy diplomacy, says that the United States supports the realization of the Southern Gas Corridor (<http://news.day.az/politics/406551.html>).

Charles Hendry, Britain's trade representative, says that the UK, the US and Europe will support any decision by Baku concerning the route of a gas pipeline from the Caspian basin to the West (<http://news.day.az/economy/406554.html>).

Peter Tauber, a member of the German Bundestag, says that Berlin supports the UN resolutions concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and calls on Armenia to withdraw from the occupied territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/406609.html>).

4 June

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva take part in the opening of the International Exhibition and Conference on Oil, Oil Processing and Oil Chemistry in the Caspian (<http://news.day.az/politics/406293.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Charles Hendry, Britain's trade representative (<http://news.day.az/politics/406491.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Amos Hochstein, special representative of the US secretary of state for energy diplomacy (<http://news.day.az/politics/406491.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with US Secretary of State John Kerry at the Global Forum of the Jewish Committee of America in Washington, who stresses how important Azerbaijan is to the United States (<http://news.day.az/politics/406281.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Israeli Justice Minister Tzipi Livni (<http://news.day.az/politics/406337.html>).

Education Minister Mikail Jabbarov receives Swedish ambassador Mikael Ericsson, Polish ambassador Mikael Labenda, and Hungarian ambassador Csolt Chutor (<http://news.day.az/society/406440.html>).

Elshad Iskandarov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, says that the US State Department report on religious freedom concerning Azerbaijan distorts the situation there (<http://news.day.az/politics/406451.html>).

Elshad Iskandarov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, says that Azerbaijan has developed close relations with the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/406404.html>).

The Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy in conjunction with the Maastrich School of Management announces the launch of an executive MBA program (<http://news.day.az/society/406299.html>).

US President Barack Obama says that Azerbaijan is a major international partner of the United States (<http://news.day.az/politics/406316.html>).

British Prime Minister David Cameron says that the energy resources of Azerbaijan will play a vitally important role in European and the international economy in the coming years (<http://news.day.az/politics/406317.html>).

Herman van Rompuey, president of the European Council, says that the principles for an all-embracing solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict must be agreed to now (<http://news.day.az/politics/406426.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan has become a strong state and has made a significant contribution to the world's energy security (<http://news.day.az/politics/406498.html>).

Amos Hochstein, special representative of the US secretary of state on energy policy, says that Azerbaijan is playing a major role in providing energy resources to Europe (<http://news.day.az/economy/406502.html>).

The International Labor Organization says that Azerbaijan has a significantly larger middle class than Georgia or Armenia (<http://news.day.az/economy/406480.html>).

3 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Aleksey Pushkov, chairman of the Russian Duma's international relations committee (<http://news.day.az/politics/406182.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells the AJC Global Forum in Washington that Azerbaijan, although it has a largely Muslim population, "does not have a history of anti-Semitism and today is home to approximately 35,000 Jews" (<http://news.day.az/politics/406074.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan is playing a central role in Eurasia of geopolitical, geostrategic and geoeconomic dimensions (<http://news.day.az/politics/406103.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Iran has released and returned to Azerbaijan the two Azerbaijanis it had held (<http://news.day.az/politics/406270.html>).

Ismail Alper Cosgun, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says that recent events in Turkey will not have a serious impact on economic development and tourism (<http://news.day.az/politics/406087.html>).

Pascual Meunier, the French ambassador to Baku, says that France is committed to a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/406079.html>).

The European Union supports Azerbaijan's efforts to join the World Trade Organization (<http://news.day.az/economy/406048.html>).

Valdas Adamus, the former president of Lithuania, says that, "Europe should follow Azerbaijan's example" (<http://news.day.az/politics/406039.html>).

1 June

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenia is misguided in suggesting that a vote by the legislature in Louisiana represents a shift in US views on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, because American policy is set in Washington (<http://news.day.az/politics/405853.html>).

Fazail Aghamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the West is using the same methods in Turkey and Germany that it criticizes when others use them (<http://news.day.az/politics/405894.html>).

Chingiz Ganizade, a Milli Majlis deputy, calls for Berlin and Ankara to use force against anti-government demonstrations in their countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/405901.html>).

Saadat Bananyarly, chairman of the Azerbaijani National Section of the International

Society for Human Rights, says that the use of force against demonstrators in Germany and Turkey is impermissible (<http://news.day.az/society/405922.html>).

Note to Readers

The editors of "Azerbaijan in the World" hope that you find it useful and encourage you to submit your comments and articles via email (adabiweekly@ada.edu.az). The materials it contains reflect the personal views of their authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.