

THE AZERBAIJANI PERSPECTIVE:

News from the Heart of the Silk Road

January 28, 2008 – Los Angeles, California

Remembering January 20, 1990

In the early hours of January 20, 1990 the Soviet troops attacked Baku and launched an indiscriminate massacre of peaceful residents of the city. The Human Rights Watch described the massacre as an exercise in “collective punishment” and a warning to Azerbaijanis and others in the former Soviet Union seeking independence.

The Soviet regime failed to stop the quest of the Azerbaijani people for freedom and independence, and, instead, accelerated its own collapse. Though most violent among the collapsing regime’s attacks on its own citizens, the massacre in Baku had been preceded by similar events in Kazakhstan and Georgia; and followed by attacks in Lithuania.

This year, on January 20, the Azerbaijani-American Council and the Consulate General jointly brought the members of community and friends of Azerbaijan together to commemorate the 18th anniversary of the tragedy in Los Angeles.

President Aliyev Visits Davos

On January 23-27, President Ilham Aliyev participated in the World Economic Forum in Davos, where he met with his Swiss and Ukrainian counterparts, Couchepin and Yushchenko, respectively; as well as with PM Gyurcsány of Hungary and PM Berisha of Albania. Mr. Aliyev also held meetings with the African National Congress President Zuma and Israeli FM Livni. Additionally, his meetings included AJC President Harris, Microsoft VP Mundie, CISCO CEO Chambers, BP CEO Hayward, CITIGROUP Chairman Bishoff and EBRD President Lemierre.

Congressional Delegations Visit Baku

Earlier this month, President Aliyev and other government officials met with the visiting members of US Congress, including Rep. Robert Wexler and Rep. Bill Shuster, who co-chairs the Congressional Azerbaijani Caucus. Also visiting Azerbaijan in January was Senator Richard Lugar. Speaking in Baku, Senator Lugar expressed his appreciation for Azerbaijan’s strong partnership with the United States and called for appointing a US President’s special representative on Caspian energy issues.

Azerbaijan International Turns 15

On January 24, the Azerbaijan International magazine celebrated 15th anniversary of the publication at the Beverly Hills Country Club. Editor Betty Blair and publisher Pirouz Khanlou talked to the guests about the magazine’s history and objectives. Azerbaijan International, an independent California-based publication, was established in 1993 and it can be accessed at www.azer.com

In other news:

*On January 23, the 100th anniversary of Uzeyir Hajibayov’s opera “Leyli and Majnun” was marked in Baku. Staged in 1908, this Azerbaijani musical masterpiece became the first ever opera written and performed in the Muslim world.

*The Wall Street Journal published an op-ed by FM Elmar Mammadyarov on January 21. “The Caspian Moment,” is available at www.azconsulatela.org.

Also available at our website is a recent LA Jewish Journal article by Gabriel Lerner on Azerbaijan’s vibrant Jewish Community.

The Azerbaijani Perspective is compiled from various news sources and is edited by the Consulate General of Azerbaijan, 11766 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1410 Los Angeles, CA 90025 tel: (310) 444-9101; fax: (310) 477-4860; email: office@azconsulatela.org www.azconsulatela.org