

# ***THE AZERBAIJANI PERSPECTIVE:***

*News from the Caspian's West Coast*

April 13, 2007 – Los Angeles, California

## ***Aliyev Addresses Jewish Community...***

President Ilham Aliyev extended his condolences to Azerbaijan's Jewish community on the Holocaust remembrance day. Mr. Aliyev stated that this day marks both tragedy and heroism of the Jewish people. He also reiterated Azerbaijan's commitment to fight anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination.

## ***...and sends Easter greetings***

On April 7, President Aliyev congratulated the Azerbaijani Christians on the occasion of Easter. "The Government pays special attention to protecting the nation's diversity and preserving spiritual and historic heritage of all communities in Azerbaijan," said the President.

## ***FM Mammadyarov in the Middle East***

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov visited Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to discuss regional issues and bilateral ties. During the meetings, leaders of all three nations reiterated their support for territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and called for the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

## ***Azerbaijan-Israel Association Established***

On April 12, the founding congress of the Azerbaijan-Israel Association was held in Tel-Aviv. The event brought together representatives from the Azerbaijani-Jewish community in Israel and visitors from Azerbaijan and was attended by high-level Israeli officials. Knesset member Iosif Shagal, a native of Azerbaijan, was elected the Association's chair. Head of the State Committee on Relations with Compatriots Nazim Ibrahimov spoke at the event and held meetings with Israeli officials, including Acting President Dalia Itzik.

## ***In Other News:***

\*Walter Kalin, the UN Secretary-General Representative on Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, visited Azerbaijan in early April. "Although to date, the efforts and achievements of the Government of Azerbaijan in addressing the problem of internal displacement are impressive," said Mr. Kalin, "we need to...take joint action at the international level to finally reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict." "This is very important because the situation of the IDPs in Azerbaijan is no longer in the headlines," he added.

\*FM Mammadyarov inked a bilateral MOU on Energy Security in the Caspian Region with Secretary Rice. The MOU envisions promoting development of renewable energy resources.

\*Speaking at the Cabinet meeting on April 13, President Aliyev said GDP growth in first quarter of 2007 reached 40%.

\*As the Azerbaijani-Americans celebrated Novruz, the Azerbaijan Society of America co-sponsored the New York City's event with mayor Bloomberg and Houston Mayor Bill White declared March 21 as the Day of Azerbaijan.

\*On May 21-26, the U.S-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce plans an agricultural trade mission to Azerbaijan. For more info: [www.usacc.org](http://www.usacc.org)

\*Georgia's Ambassador to UN Irakli Alasania and Consul General Suleymanov spoke jointly on the Azerbaijani-Georgia partnership at Harvard University and at the Fletcher School on March 29.