



NEWSLETTER

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15 Years Passed Since the Occupation of Shusha

On May 8, 1992, Armenian forces seized Shusha, the historically Azerbaijani majority populated city within Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenian forces eventually succeeded in occupying almost all of Nagorno-Karabakh and large areas in southwestern Azerbaijan by October 1993. Shusha was occupied while Azerbaijani and Armenian leaders were negotiating a possible peace agreement in Tehran. This city is viewed as one of Azerbaijan's major ancient scientific and cultural centers. The Armenian authorities ruined most of historical heritage of the city and now try to reshape and deface its cultural and architectural attributions. To ensure the implementation of this distortion of reality Armenia with the assistance of Armenian diaspora has established the so-called "Shusha" fund. The Azerbaijani community in Washington, D.C. and New York staged demonstration in front of the Armenian Embassy and the UN to demand the immediate withdrawal of occupying forces from the whole Azerbaijani territory, including Shusha.

Heydar Aliyev's Anniversary was Commemorated

The 84th birthday of Heydar Aliyev was commemorated in Azerbaijan. National leaders of Azerbaijan laid a wreath at the tomb of Heydar Aliyev. The round table and discussions about the domestic and foreign policy designed and conducted by Heydar Aliyev took place in various institutions in Baku. Heydar Aliyev ruled Azerbaijan as independent country from 1993 to 2003. During his tenure the war with Armenia was ceased, country's economy stabilized and political and economic reforms were implemented. Large transregional projects like Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, was initiated and realized under his stewardship.

Foreign Ministry Comments Peace Negotiations with Armenia

On Tuesday Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov commenting on the peace negotiations with Armenia told that "Armenia and Azerbaijan are as close to resolving the conflict as never before". "I would say that never before have we been so close to a settlement," Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov said, speaking at the Carnegie Center in Moscow. "Having said that, there is a danger that we may move away from peace at any moment," he cautioned without elaborating. Mr. Azimov arrived in Moscow to hold bilateral consultation with Russia on security affairs. Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Armenia are meeting today in Strasbourg in the framework of negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group dealing with the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

Parliament Adopts Bill on Amnesty

On May 8, following a minute silence in the memory of those killed during the occupation of Azerbaijan's Shusha city by Armenian armed forces, the Milli Majlis (Parliament) adopted a bill on amnesty. The amnesty bill dedicated to the memory of Heydar Aliyev and applies to some 9,000 convicts; 1500 of which will be freed from imprisonment and 7500 to receive reduced term.

Azerbaijan to Double Troops in Afghanistan

Azerbaijan plans to double the number of its soldiers serving with US-led coalition forces in Afghanistan from 22 to between 40 and 44, the foreign ministry said on Wednesday. Azerbaijan has contributed forces to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo