



# NEWSLETTER

Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

275 Slater Street, Suite 904. Ottawa ON K1P 5H9 Canada

Tel: (613) 288 0497 Fax: (613) 230 8089

E-Mail: [azerbaijan@azembassy.ca](mailto:azerbaijan@azembassy.ca)

June 17, 2009

№ 14

## **Azerbaijan Has the Greatest Per Capita Concentration of Displaced Persons in Europe**

The report "Europe's forgotten people: protecting the human rights of long-term displaced persons" elaborated by John Greenway, rapporteur of PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population is included in the agenda of summer session of PACE (Parliamentarian Assembly of Council of Europe). John Greenway notes that more than 2.5 million Europeans in 11 of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe continue to be deprived of their homes as the result of various conflicts lasting decades without resolution. Greenway touches on the state of the people displaced as a result of Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Armenia-Azerbaijan conflicts. "With estimated 573,000-603,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), Azerbaijan has the greatest per capita concentration of displaced persons in Europe. As a result of continued political deadlock over the future of Nagorno-Karabakh and its surrounding districts, the situation of most Azerbaijani IDPs is at a standstill," John Greenway writes in the report. The rapporteur welcomes the Government's policies to provide adequate living conditions to displaced persons in need as well as its efforts in bringing legislation in line with the UN Principles. In line with the 2004 State Programme on IDPs, the last tent camps of IDPs were closed in December 2007. "The 2007-2011 State Programme for IDPs has the budget of 1 billion USD and foresees further settlement of some 75,000 IDPs into new villages, the construction of new infrastructure and the creation of work opportunities. In 2008 alone, 336.9 million AZN (approx 336 million EUR) were allocated from the state budget, State Oil Fund and other sources to solve the social problems of IDPs and refugees. Greenway says apart from those resettled, about half of IDPs continue to live in harsh conditions.

## **Congress of Nagorno-Karabakh Azerbaijani Community Held**

The first congress of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh discussed organizational issues, as well as reforming of the association. The Azerbaijani community of the occupied region comprises 65,000 people. The delegates were veterans of war, MPS, diplomats and academics. Bayram Safarov, head of the Shusha Region Administration who addressed the congress, said "Armenia violates all norms of the international law, uses violence toward Azerbaijanis and destroys historical and cultural monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, the world community thus far closes eyes to the Armenian aggressive policy". The delegates also appealed to the world community, urging more efforts towards peaceful settlement of the conflict.

## **Informatization of Education System in Azerbaijan**

Conference on "Modern teaching technologies" devoted to the implementation of the "State Program on informatization of education system in Azerbaijan Republic in 2008-2012" was held in Gulustan Palace, Baku. Samir Mammadov, Chairman of Education Ministry's Department for informatization of education system said Data Center, which is unique in the region, has been established within a year; about 200 schools have joined the center. By the end of 2009, 300 more schools will join high-speed Internet. He said the first stage of establishing the education portal ended, and various teaching resources will be placed in the portal. Azerbaijan Education Network has been established within the framework of the state program. The unique education network will make it available to provide the exchange of high-speed Internet among the educational establishments of the country. Minister of Communications and Information Technologies Ali Abbasov said Azerbaijan has become the leader in CIS in providing the education with information and communication technologies.