



# NEWSLETTER

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## Armenians Destroy Azerbaijani Cemetery in Agdam

According to local media, Armenians are destroying Garaji cemetery in the Agdam region of Azerbaijan, occupied by Armenians. 200-year old cemetery is located 6-7 kilometers outside the center of the Agdam region. Various media outlets have repeatedly reported that the Armenians destroy Azerbaijani cemeteries in the occupied territories, take away tombstones and iron bars from the cemeteries to use them as building materials. Apparently, the cemetery in Agdam suffered the same fate. "Destruction of Azerbaijan's cemeteries testifies to a barbaric approach by invaders to spiritual and material values in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan," Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry spokesperson Elkhan Polukhov said. "Armenia has repeatedly carried out barbaric actions against the monuments of cultural history, as well as religious monuments located both on the territory of Armenia and occupied Azerbaijani territories," he said.

## Scholarly Conference on Azerbaijan

On November 12, the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University jointly with the Embassy of Azerbaijan organized scholarly conference "Azerbaijan in the Caspian Geopolitical Context". The agenda included topics, such as Security and Energy Environment in the South Caucasus, the legal framework of Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict settlement, Turkey-Armenian rapprochement and brought together lecturers from USA, Azerbaijan and Canada. The event was attended by the representatives of the DFAIT, Defense Department, Privy Council and Azerbaijani community.

## International Conference on Justice for Children

An international conference on "Justice for Children: Legislation and its Application" held in Baku brought together parliamentarians and international and local justice experts. Co-organized by the Azerbaijan Parliament, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Azerbaijan Lawyers Confederation, the conference

marks the year of child in Azerbaijan and the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Azerbaijani Vice-Speaker Bahar Muradova in her opening remarks said the conference was aimed to discuss juvenile justice which includes protection of the right of children under 20 and their reintegration into society. Mrs. Muradova praised Azerbaijan's democratic experience and achievements. Mark Hereward, UNICEF Representative in Azerbaijan underlined the importance of the conference and Azerbaijani government's efforts in protection of children rights. The international conference culminated with the adoption of Baku Declaration on November 17.

## Reception by the Inter-Parliamentary Group

Canadian-Azerbaijani Inter-Parliamentary Group held a reception in honor of H.E. Farid Shafiyev, newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Canada. The Group Chair Yasmin Ratansi introduced the Ambassador and informed participants about his career achievements. The event was attended by Group members, as well as other senators and MPs, including the Honourable Peter Milliken, Chair of the House of Commons. Ambassador Shafiyev told about different dimensions of Azerbaijani-Canada relationship and the important role of inter-parliamentary cooperation in the development of bilateral links. The Group was established in 2006 and consists of 27 members.

## Baku in the Top 10 Cities to Nightlife

Lonely Planet listed the world's top 10 party cities in its new guide, the "1000 Ultimate Experiences." Along with Belgrade, Montreal, and Dubai, Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan was also included in the top 10 cities (8<sup>th</sup> place) for night life. "Since the 1990s, when it started taking off as a hub for Caspian Sea oil and gas, Baku has been transformed and this newfound economic stimulation influenced urban nightlife. The energy projects, the presence of thousands of international oil workers and wealthy consultants, has turned Baku into an oasis of excess" the survey underlines.

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