



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

January 25, 2010

№ 1

20th Anniversary of Black January

This year Azerbaijan marked the 20th anniversary of Black January, a tragedy which became a turning point in the nation's struggle for independence from the former Soviet Union and one of the most tragic events in its recent history. The large contingent of the Soviet Army, commandos and interior troops entered Baku on the night of January 19 and 20, 1990 killing 133 civilians. As a result of state terror act, 611 people were wounded, 841 - illegally arrested and were subject to various forms of physical pressure. Among the victims were a 7-year old boy, a 16-year old girl, an 80-year old man, a young doctor shot in an ambulance while helping another victim, and many other civilians. The Human Rights Watch reported that "among the most heinous violations of human rights during the Baku incursion were the numerous attacks on medical personnel, ambulances and hospitals". The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan held a commemoration event together with the Azerbaijani community in Toronto. Canadian parliamentarians – federal MP Yasmin Ratansi, provincial MPs Reza Moridi and Monte Kwinter attended the event and expressed their sympathy to the people of Azerbaijan commending them for their struggle for the independence.

Azerbaijani and Armenian Presidents Meet in Sochi, Russia

On January 25, under the auspices of the President of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan met in Sochi, Russia to discuss the prospects of the resolution of Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Following the trilateral meeting, the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that the preamble of the document on the basic principles for the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict settlement gained a common understanding of the parties. "Everyone considered such a document useful, as it provides an opportunity to talk not abstractly, but in relation to the specific wording," he added. The Minister refused to specify the details of the

document or at least its preamble. Last year, the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia met six times - in Munich, Chisinau, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Prague and Zurich.

President Presided over Cabinet's Meeting on the Outcomes of Socio-Economic Development in 2009

The President made opening remarks in the meeting, saying Azerbaijan managed to survive the global financial crisis with "minimal losses." The Head of State noted that serious social and economic reforms underway in Azerbaijan create opportunities for comprehensive development in the country. "Our country protected its economic interests in 2009, and improved social welfare of the population." He underlined that according to the results of 2009, Azerbaijan was the most rapidly developing country. The President pointed out, in 2009, gross domestic product (GDP) in the country increased by 9, 3 percent, describing this as a "historical accomplishment". The Head of State noted industrial production grew 8.6 percent, while the agricultural sector saw 3, 5 percent increase. He added the inflation level made up 1, 5 percent. President Aliyev pointed out \$9. 2 billion investments were made in Azerbaijan, 7, 3 billion of which was an internal one. He said the county's currency reserves increased to reach \$ 20, 4 billions. According to the President, 64 schools and 59 healthcare facilities were constructed in the country in 2009. The Head of State also touched upon the country's foreign policy, underlining important steps have been taken in this direction. On the Armenia-Azerbaijan, President Aliyev said that the principle of territorial integrity remained a priority in the issue. President Aliyev in his closing remarks, stressed that Azerbaijan was relying on its resources, and there was a powerful will to strengthen the country even more and to address the outstanding challenges. The Head of State underlined that Azerbaijan was an economy that has completed its transition into a liberal, sustainable and self-sufficient one.

Embassy's Newsletter is compiled from various resources